



# NbSI NEWSLETTER

May 2021, Issue 10

Despite the ongoing turmoil caused by the pandemic, the last couple of months have been packed with developments in the world of nature-based solutions. As governmental and private sector climate commitments ramp up, and in preparation for the major climate, biodiversity and adaptation summits this year, the tireless work of the NbS community is crucial to ensure that NbS are implemented at scale, with the best possible outcomes for people, climate and the natural world. In particular, continued communication between stakeholders is needed to ensure that a common understanding of NbS is reached, in which local people lead interventions, and which support resilient, biodiverse ecosystems. In this newsletter you will find some of the latest highlights from NbS research, policy and practice, as well as some of our own recent and upcoming publications and activities.

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, please [sign up on our website](#), where you can also find an archive of past issues.

## We are hiring!

[Research Coordinator](#): we are seeking a new team member with communications experience to work on evidence synthesis and dissemination, communications and outreach. Apply by 14th May.

Postdoctoral Researcher: later this month, we will also be advertising for a 12-month postdoctoral researcher to undertake critical work to understand the economic costs and benefits of working with nature, in particular the short-term economic recovery potential of NbS. Check our website and twitter feed for updates.

## NbSI PUBLICATIONS

[Nature-based Solutions can help cool the planet - if we act now](#) This new publication in *Nature*, led by NbSI's Cécile Girardin and co-authored by Nathalie Seddon, amongst others, presents the projected effect of worldwide implementation of NbS on global temperatures.

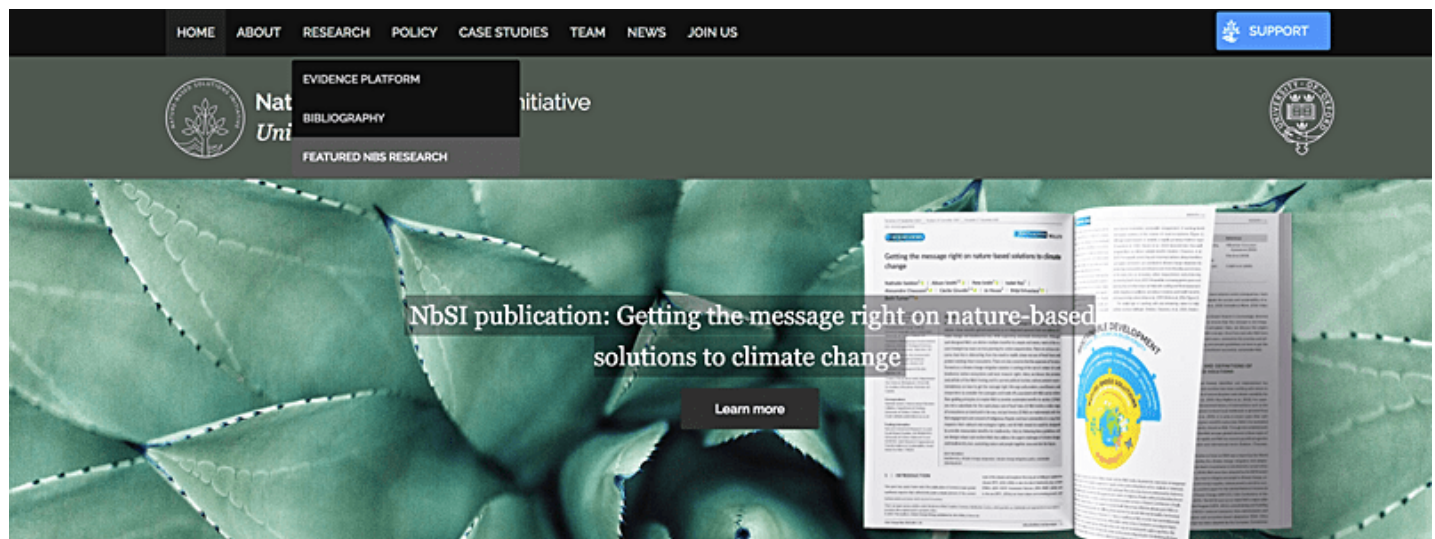
[COP26 Universities Network Briefing: NbS for climate change, people and biodiversity](#) NbSI co-authored this briefing providing key messages on how the UK government can implement NbS and through UK-funded initiatives abroad.

[Why efforts to address climate change through nature-based solutions must support both biodiversity and people](#) Essay by Nathalie Seddon published by the Royal Society explaining the potential of working with nature to address the causes and consequences of climate change.

[On the misuse of nature-based carbon 'offsets'](#) NbSI briefing explaining why the use of NbS by polluting industries is greenwashing and outlining the risks associated with the use of nature-based 'offsets'.

[Leveraging nature-based solutions to reconnect people and nature](#) Alexandre Chausson co-authored a perspective piece on the importance of breaking down the dichotomy between humans and nature for NbS to realise their transformative potential.

## NbS RESEARCH



Take a look at our [Featured NbS Research](#) page where we add digestible summaries of recent studies which make important contributions to the body of knowledge on NbS. Below are some recent highlights from the peer-reviewed literature:

[The value of US coral reefs for flood risk reduction](#) *Reguero et al.* 2021 *Nature Sustainability*

[Assessing People's Values of Nature: Where Is the Link to Sustainability Transformations?](#) *Stålhammar* 2021 *Frontiers in Evolution and Ecology*

[The economic consequences of conserving or restoring sites for nature](#) *Bradbury et al.* 2021 *Nature Sustainability*

[Seagrass ecosystem contributions to people's quality of life in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories](#) *McKenzie et al.* 2021 *Marine Pollution Bulletin*

[Biodiversity and the challenge of pluralism](#) *Pascual et al.* 2021 *Nature Sustainability*

We have also added new studies to [our online bibliography](#), which you can filter for habitat type, location, and societal challenge addressed by the NbS.

# NbS IN POLICY

On our [Featured NbS in Policy](#) page, we summarise recent NbS-related developments in national and international policy. Below are some highlights.

[Net-zero commitments globally represent 61% of emissions](#) A global assessment of net-zero targets from countries, states, regions, cities and companies finds that only 20% of targets meet basic robustness criteria.

[NDC updates: 82 Parties have submitted updated NDCs, with 75 enhancing ambition](#) Some countries have strengthened both the mitigation and adaptation components of their NDCs, but the new NDCs lead to only a 0.5% reduction in global emissions by 2030 compared to 2010 levels.

[Recent national climate commitments from the big emitters](#) China and the US agree to cooperate on climate change, Brazil backtracks on forest protection, the UK broadens the scope of emissions cuts, and Germany's climate legislation is ruled unlawful.

# NbS IN ACTION



[Explore the NbS Case Studies](#) page of our website to find summaries of a rich variety of examples of NbS in action from around the world. These examples show how NbS can be implemented successfully to provide multiple benefits for nature and people, but also demonstrate barriers to success and how these may be overcome.

[Liberty Market urban forest](#) A densely planted urban forest in the centre of the second-largest city in Pakistan has been designed to be inclusive of marginalised local people, creating a safe place to socialise, enjoy nature and harvest fruit.

[Seagrass Restoration, Plymouth Sound, UK](#) The first major seagrass restoration project in England is now underway, with eight hectares set to be restored over four years.

[Stormwater management in Norway's abandoned airport](#) An area that was once heavily polluted and covered in tarmac has been transformed into a multi-functional landscape that purifies water, reduces flooding, supports wildlife and is open to the public for recreation.

[Landscape management in the Scottish Highlands](#) Through improved habitat management, revitalisation of natural processes, and creation of businesses following the circular economy model, this project aims to improve the health of ecosystems across the landscape whilst creating sustainable livelihoods and improving the quality of life of local people.

## NbS IN THE NEWS



Here we are featuring some recent NbS news. For more, explore [NbS in the News](#).

[Designing, implementing and monitoring NbS for adaptation](#) Conservation International provides guidance for practitioners planning to implement nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation.

[Re-thinking nature-based solutions: seeking transformative change through culture and rights](#) A briefing for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, examining where increased clarity and rigour are needed in order for NbS to be successful in supporting indigenous people and local communities.

[The economic costs and benefits of nature-based solutions](#) RSPB and Cambridge Econometrics report assessing the costs and benefits of restoring peatland, salt marsh and woodland in the UK for the purpose of climate change mitigation.

[Public International Funding of Nature-based Solutions for Adaptation: A Landscape Assessment](#) The first assessment of public international funding for NbS for climate change adaptation; funds totalled \$3.8–8.7 billion in 2018, which was just 0.6-1.4% of total climate finance flows.

[Corporate Financing of Nature Based Solutions: What Next?](#) A blog from the World Resources Institute on how to ensure investment in NbS for climate change mitigation doesn't delay climate action.

[Consideration of NbS as offsets in corporate climate change mitigation strategies](#) A World Resources Institute report providing guidance on developing holistic corporate climate change mitigation strategies, and examples both of actions to avoid and investments in NbS that carry no or limited risk.

[State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021](#) A report from the Woodland Trust on the extent and health of UK woodlands and how this has changed over time.

[Carbon storage and sequestration by natural habitat in England](#) Natural England give an overview of carbon storage and

sequestration rates of different habitats, highlight research gaps, and outline key principles for using NbS for mitigation in the UK.

[NbS in agriculture: management, adoption and investment](#) Three reports from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and The Nature Conservancy which collectively explore the potential of NbS in agriculture to address issues of food security, climate and biodiversity.

[Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance \(LEAF\) Coalition](#) The LEAF Coalition will provide public and private finance to national governments for tropical forest protection, with \$1b to be mobilized this year.

[Peru's Environment Minister highlights NbS at Leaders' Summit](#) The Peruvian government acknowledges the importance of nature for Peru's sustainable and climate-resilient development.

## NbSI NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### New Executive Education Course

The [Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges Foundation Course](#) will be run as an online 8-week course from mid-Jan to mid-March 2022. The goal is to enhance awareness and understanding of the science, policy, practice, financing and governance of nature-based solutions. Aimed at current and future public servants, executives and civil society actors, the course will involve a series of interactive lectures and workshops delivered by world-leading experts on nature-based solutions and will draw on examples from a wide range of ecological, socioeconomic and political contexts from across the world. [Read more about the course here.](#)

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## Guidelines for successful, sustainable NbS

We are promoting the [NbS Guidelines](#) to encourage their broad adoption by businesses and governments. The goal is to ensure investment in NbS is channeled to the best biodiversity-based and community-led NbS and does not distract from or delay urgent action to decarbonise the economy. To build momentum around this in the run-up to the UNFCCC's CoP26, we are now inviting additional signatories from research, conservation and development organisations across the globe. If you would like to add your organisation as a signatory to this letter please contact *Nathalie Seddon*: [nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk).

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Keep up to date with the activities of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative on our [announcements page](#). Below are some recent highlights.

[Seagrass Seeds of Recovery](#) We will soon be advertising a 6-month post doctoral position to work on creating a carbon code for seagrass restoration in the UK, as part of an exciting new project to restore seagrass on the east coast.

[NbS Peru to join the Instituto de Montaña](#) The Nature-based Solutions Initiative in Peru is to be hosted by the Instituto de Montaña, a non-profit organization which supports Andean communities to thrive in healthy environments through approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation, based on their own culture and spirituality.

[Artist in Residence](#) We are delighted to be working with Alice Hackney, a concept-driven artist and student at the Ruskin School of Art, over the coming weeks to create a thought-provoking art piece inspired by nature-based solutions.

[NbS Bangladesh update](#) Articles on urban NbS in Bangladesh, and clarity on what counts as NbS and information on joining the NbS Bangladesh Network.

[What is transdisciplinarity, and how can we achieve it?](#) NbSI researcher co-authored a blog exploring how transdisciplinary teams can achieve research impact

[Net Zero tool Library](#) Oxford Net Zero have launched an online library allowing you to search and filter hundreds of free tools designed to help businesses, policymakers and organisations to achieve net zero emissions.

[NbSI Director speaks on Energy Policy Podcast](#) Nathalie Seddon spoke about the promise, challenges and potential moral hazards of nature-based solutions to climate change.

[Panel discussion on Working with Nature for Sustainable Development](#) Nathalie Seddon featured alongside Sir Robert Watson and Dr Susan Chomba to discuss how a shared agenda can be produced for biodiversity and climate change.

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# KEY EVENTS

## Climate Exp0 | 17-21 May

[Climate Exp0: a fusion of science and policy; advancing a resilient, zero-carbon world](#)

COP26, Universities Network and Italian University Network for Sustainable Development

This free online conference is open to all, marking 6 months to COP26. Over five days the conference will cover: green recovery; nature-based solutions; mitigation solutions; adaptation & resilience; finance & regulation. Several members of the NbSI team are featuring: Nathalie Seddon will speak in the opening session on NbS, Cécile Girardin is chairing the panel on finance, Alexandre Chausson will speak on a panel on benefits and potential risks of implementing NbS, and Issy Key will present a poster on the biodiversity outcomes of NbS. We are also hoping to show our new animation on NbS during the event.

[Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change: Reconciling the Good, the Bad and the Ugly](#) | World Resources Institute | 10 May

[Aligning Carbon and Biodiversity Offsets](#) | University of Alberta | 10 May

[Restoring Africa's Drylands: Accelerating Action on the Ground](#) | GLF Africa | 2-3 June

[Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change \(CBA15\)](#) | 14-18 June

[UN Food Systems Pre-Summit](#) | United Nations | 19-21 July

[Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP15\)](#) | United Nations | Postponed to 11-24 October

[Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP26\)](#) | United Nations | 1-12 November

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**Nature-based Solutions Initiative**  
Department of Zoology  
University of Oxford  
OX1 3PS

email: [nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk)  
tel: +44 (0)1865 774 432