



NbSI NEWSLETTER

August 2021, Issue 11

Recent weeks have seen a wealth of developments in the world of nature-based solutions as momentum builds in the run-up to the CoP26 climate change summit in November. G7 leaders agreed on commitments to biodiversity and sustainability following the Cornwall Summit in June, yet the first draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework omits nature-based solutions in its 21 action targets and a recent House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee report found that existing UK Government policy and targets were inadequate to address plummeting biodiversity loss. The NbS community continues to advocate for the inclusion of nature across climate, biodiversity and social justice agendas, with evidence-based targets and robust guidelines integrated into international policy processes. In this newsletter, we include 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.

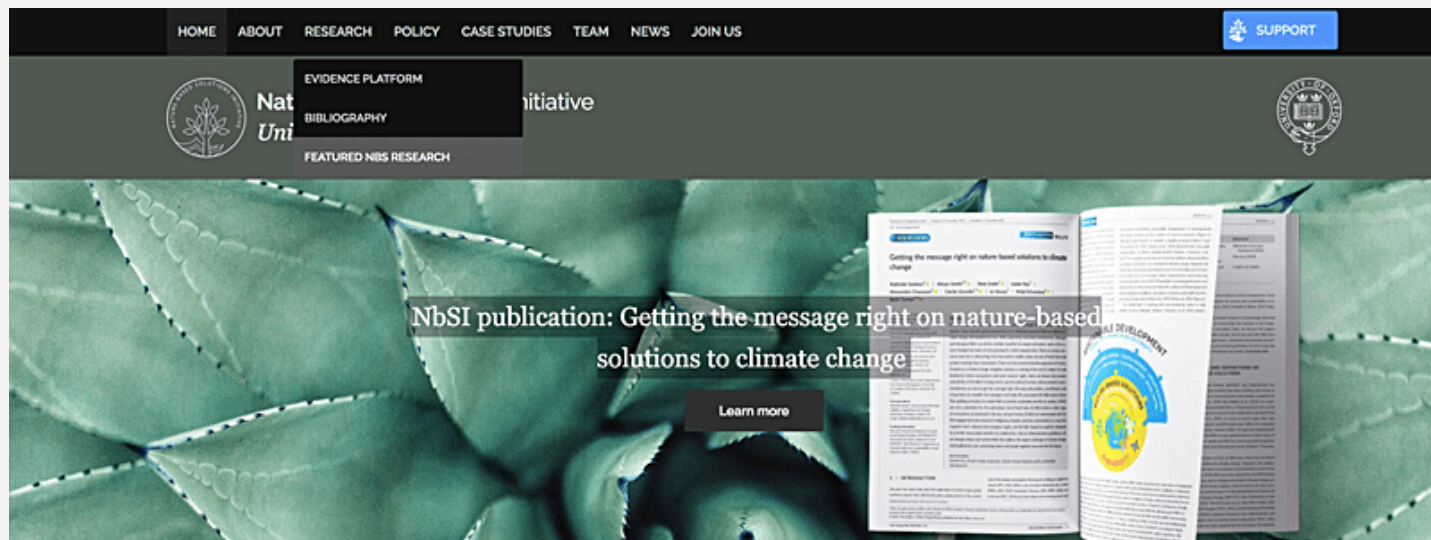
New NbS Animation

An [animation exploring the potential of nature-based solutions](#) to address multiple global challenges and to be implemented sustainably worldwide. If NbS is to support sustainable development, including human health and wellbeing, the ecosystems that provide NbS must be healthy, functional and biodiverse. Illustrations by Cécile Girardin and Isabel Key; animation by Matthew Mullholland; narrated by Nathalie Seddon.



[Watch the animation](#)

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:

[Framing “nature-based” solutions to climate change.](#) *Osaka, S. et al. 2021 WIREs Climate Change.*

[A trade-off between plant and soil carbon storage under elevated CO₂.](#) *Terrer, C. et al. 2021 Nature.*

[Biodiversity-productivity relationships are key to nature-based climate solutions.](#) *Mori, A. S. et al. 2021 Nature Climate Change.*

[Coral Reef Restorations Can Be Optimized to Reduce Coastal Flooding Hazards.](#) *Roelvink, F. E. et al. 2021 Frontiers in Marine Science*

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.

[The 1st Draft of The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework debuts.](#) With 21 action targets, the draft proposes new goals, while underlining the urgent action needed to reduce threats to biodiversity.

[G7 leaders agree commitments to biodiversity and sustainability in Nature Compact.](#) The Compact outlines key commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and tackle climate change, deforestation, marine litter and the illegal wildlife trade.

[Call for Evidence on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change.](#) The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee is conducting an inquiry into Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change to assist in achieving the UK’s target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The committee invites written contributions by 12noon on Friday 10 September 2021.

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.

[Ecosystem-based adaptation in Lake Victoria Basin, Kenya.](#) Using selected ecosystems in the Lake Victoria region, key EbA approaches and their trade-offs and synergies are explored.

[Coastal Wetland restoration in the UK and France.](#) Restoration of coastal wetland at two pilot sites will aid flood management, absorb carbon, and provide benefits for people and wildlife.

[New Community Forest in the North East of England.](#) The initiative will bring together six local authorities to increase canopy cover across the region to 30% by 2050.

NbS IN THE NEWS



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

[Climate Action Network UK “Nature-based Solutions in Action” report released.](#) The report, with contributions from 15 organisations, highlights successful best-practice examples of NbS in different landscapes across the globe, in a collection of stories documenting NbS in action, on the ground.

[New biodiversity algorithm risks devaluing valuable wildlife habitat.](#) The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric 3.0, recently published by Natural England, must urgently be improved to avoid penalising rewilding and classifying some valuable wildlife habitat as 'degraded'.

[Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\) launched.](#) The taskforce aims to provide financial institutions and corporations with guidance on their environmental risks and opportunities.

[IUCN launches Nature-based Solutions professional certificate.](#) This programme will provide individuals with IUCN-certified credentials, covering the necessary skills and knowledge to assess and start designing Nature-based Solutions.

[Launch of IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change.](#) The report examines the synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

[British Ecological Society 2021 report on Nature-based Solutions.](#) The report undertook a complete assessment of the potential of nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change and benefit biodiversity in the UK.

[New £12.5m pilot programme on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale.](#) The new Defra – BEIS project is supported by the UK Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund and led by Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and RBG Kew.

Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change

Key messages for decision makers in 2021 and beyond



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.*

Many thanks to recent signatories: University of Cambridge (Conservation Research Unit), University of Edinburgh, Seaweed Alliance, Send a Cow, MIT Environmental Solutions, CORDIO East Africa, University of Salford, Plymouth Marine Laboratory and Queen's University, Belfast (Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action).

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

[Biodiversity in the UK: bloom or bust?](#) NbSI Director Nathalie Seddon provided extensive evidence to the recent House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) report, which found that existing Government policy and targets were inadequate to address plummeting biodiversity loss.

[New Oxford Martin programme on Biodiversity and Society](#). The recently announced Oxford Martin Programme on Biodiversity and Society aims to address the accelerating loss of biodiversity, stemming the tide and developing opportunities for biodiversity recovery in a way that supports efforts to address climate change and poverty.

We have received funding from the British Academy to develop an online **interactive global map of best practice** examples of nature-based solutions across the world. We will be working closely with Urban Nature Atlas, and our project partners IIED (Dilys Roe and Ebony Holland), UNEP-WCMC (Val Kapos), University of Aberdeen (Pete Smith), University of Durham (Harriet Bulkeley), and the University of York (Robert Marchant).

[Investing in nature for development: do nature-based interventions deliver local development outcomes?](#) New joint publication between NbSI and IIED exploring how investments in nature can be a 'win-win' for biodiversity & people.

[From a forest track to the corridors of power: the wild lives of Nathalie Seddon](#). An engaging profile piece on the Oxford News Blog about our Director Nathalie Seddon.

In June, Nathalie visited the [Bunloit](#) and [Cairngorms Connect](#) projects to learn about and film the challenges and rewards of landscape restoration and rewilding work in the Scottish Highlands. Thanks to Jeremy Leggett and his team at Bunloit and Ian Sargent at ScotNature for their time and insights. Both projects will feature in one of four short films on NbS in Action around the UK we are preparing for CoP26.

We welcome three new wonderful team members: [Georgia Melodie Hole](#), [Audrey Wagner](#) and [Darinka Szigescan](#). Georgia is our new research coordinator leading on communications, Audrey will be working on the interactive global map of NbS, and Darinka will be working on the role of NbS in the new iterations of the Nationally Determined Contributions of the signatories to the Paris Agreement and to update our [NbS Policy Platform](#).

WEBINARS & PODCASTS



NbSI's Nathalie Seddon and Cécile Girardin joined [London Climate Action Week](#) in panel discussions on co-beneficial approaches and utilising the restoration economy, highlighting the need for investment in NbS and adherence to key guidelines to ensure effective NbS.

[Nathalie Seddon on biodiversity, why extinction matters, and what's needed at COP26](#) Nathalie conversed with Cameron Hepburn, Professor of Environmental Economics, for the last in a series of webinars on the Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity.

[Net Zero Nature summit: Can carbon offsets be credible?](#) Nathalie discussed the growing carbon market at the Business Green's summit.

In a recent edition of the ['Conversation with Mami' podcast](#) series by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Nathalie joined Mami Mizutori, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Dr. Krishna S. Vatsu, India's National Disaster Management Authority member, to discuss the importance of nature-based solutions for disaster and climate resilience.

Nathalie recently took part in the [Centre for Climate Repair](#) series on Greenhouse Gas Removal, in a discussion of ['Nature-based and Hybrid Solutions'](#). The promise and pitfalls of nature-based and hybrid greenhouse gas removal solutions were discussed, including 'seaforestation', ocean iron fertilisation, and agricultural production systems.

NbS BANGLADESH NEWS

An article by Tasfia Tasnim, Lead Researcher of NbS Bangladesh, explores how [Bangladesh Adapts to Climate Change through Local Solutions](#). Disaster-prone and vulnerable, Bangladesh is one of the most at-risk nations to the effects of climate change. National and local governments, NGOs, communities and individuals are implementing various adaptation measures to survive the threats of climate change. The article thus talks about the paradigm shift away from top-down climate action to locally led adaptation.

In the recent issue of Crisis Response Journal, Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah wrote a piece on [Capitalising on Nature-based Solutions](#) exploring the history and growing popularity of the ecosystem-based approaches as a means of mitigating the damaging effects of climate change and preventing biodiversity loss.

Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah captured Bangladesh's fascinating stories on Floating Agriculture which has passed 6 phases over the last 100 years in this article on [What will the next phase of floating agriculture look like?](#), and asking how would the 7th phase look like under the changing climate.

NbS PERU NEWS



We are delighted to announce that NbSI Peru is now formally hosted by [Instituto de Montaña](#), a non-governmental organization that for more than 25 years has been dedicated to conservation, research, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development in the Andes. The Institute's inclusive approach bridges modern science and traditional knowledge, supporting Andean communities in their efforts to become more resilient in a context of increasing uncertainty and rapid change.

An article by Florencia Zapata, Co-Director of Instituto de Montaña and Leader of NbSI Peru, explores [Ecosystem and culture-based adaptation in the Peruvian Andes](#). She discusses how ancient technologies, adjusted to meet current social and environmental contexts, represent an opportunity for adapting to climate change. Florencia concludes that the extraordinary cultural heritage that allowed Andean people to thrive for thousands of years today serves as an inspiration to find solutions to the present challenges faced by humanity.

In other news, a nature-based solution implemented by Campesino Community Cordillera Blanca and Instituto de Montaña to restore water quality in the Negro River in Ancash is a finalist among more than one hundred applications for the "[Solution Search: Water Pollution & Behavior Change](#)" contest. Meanwhile, at the 5th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Instituto de Montaña-NbSI Peru and ICCCAD-NbSI Bangladesh, along with UICN-Sur, Practical Action, IIED, and GIZ, organized the workshop "[Putting communities in the driver's seat of NbS for climate-resilient food systems](#)". NbSI Peru's Florencia Zapata and Nicole Chabaniex presented experiences from the Peruvian Andes.

KEY EVENTS

[UN Food Systems Pre-Summit](#) | United Nations | 26-28 July 2021

[IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) | 3-11 September 2021

[G20 Heads of State and Government Summit](#) | 30-31 October 2021

[Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP15\)](#) | United Nations | Date to be confirmed

[Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP26\)](#) | [United Nations](#) | 1-12 November 2021