



# NbSI NEWSLETTER

October 2021, Issue 11

The United Nations CoP26 climate change summit starts on Monday in Glasgow and nature is high on the agenda. 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. We also highlight our hopes for the nature agenda at COP26 and provide a guide for delegates on key side events on nature. NbSI Director Nathalie Seddon is an official "Friend of COP26" and a member of the UK delegation and we will be covering key events at the summit very closely, in person and remotely, so do stay tuned by [following us on Twitter @NatureBasedSols](#).

*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.*

## OUR HOPES FOR NATURE @ COP26

- 1.** The COP26 decision text acknowledges the critical importance of intact, biodiverse ecosystems in general (not only forests) in climate change mitigation and adaptation and commits to joint work programs on climate change and biodiversity loss by the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 2.** Parties commit to increasing ambition for nature-based solutions in their revised or new Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans—in addition to, and not instead of, increasing ambition on GHG emissions reductions. Such commitments would involve evidence-based targets for improved protection and restoration of a wide range of ecosystems, with an emphasis on both biodiversity and human rights, underpinned by tractable, verifiable, and properly financed action plans.
- 3.** Widespread adoption of clear, evidence-based standards for demand and supply of carbon sequestration by nature-based solutions, such as those outlined in the [NbS Guidelines](#), to ensure long-term carbon storage and benefits for biodiversity and local communities.
- 4.** Robust commitments to defund ecosystem loss and damage from commodity supply chains by 2025.
- 5.** Pledges for increased finance for biodiversity-based and people-led nature-based solutions from governments, multilateral development banks, funding mechanisms under the UNFCCC, among others.



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

# NbS AT COP26

The COP26 Climate summit holds genuine promise for the nature agenda, but several things need to happen to ensure a successful outcome (see above). At the summit, we will be launching a series of briefings for policymakers based on our recent research on the importance of NbS for biodiversity and climate change adaptation; three short films highlighting NbS in action around the UK; and a new interactive map of best practice examples of NbS from across the globe. We have put together a schedule of [NbS-relevant side events](#) including those where the NbSI will play a role. As a member of the UK delegation, Nathalie will be working to ensure negotiators understand nature's role in addressing the drivers and impact of climate change, including the fact that they must be implemented in tandem with rapid GHG emissions reductions. Meanwhile, our Technical Director Cécile Girardin will be painting a mural on the outcomes of the negotiations in the blue zone and urging delegates to come and participate in drafting the key messages. You will be able to watch the painting of the mural live from the 7th to 15th November.

[Watch our new trailer](#) for three short documentaries showcasing NbS in action around the UK. We will be launching them on COP26 Nature Day (6th November) and showing them at various venues around Glasgow.

*We will make these documentaries, and the mural painting, available on our website. Stay tuned.*

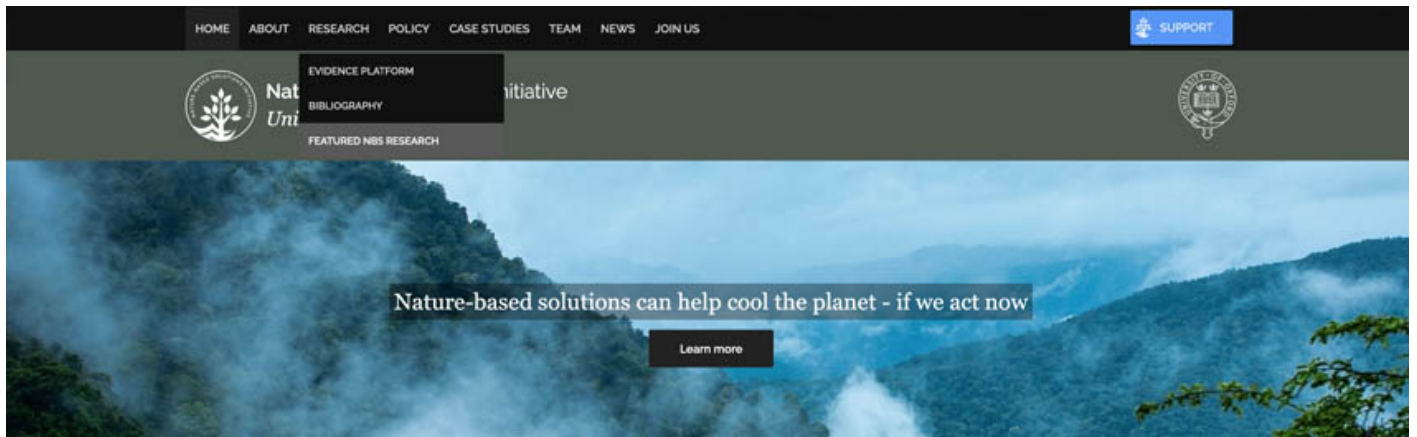
## The future we must chose

An [animation explaining the potential of nature-based solutions](#) to address multiple global challenges. Illustrations by Cécile Girardin and Isabel Key; animation by [Matthew Mullholland](#); narration 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:

[Nature-based Solutions in Bangladesh: evidence of effectiveness for addressing climate change and other sustainable development goals.](#) Smith et al. 2021. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*.

[Biodiversity needs every tool in the box: use OECMs.](#) Gurney et al. 2021. *Nature*.

[Effects of large herbivores on fire regimes and wildfire mitigation.](#) Rouet-Leduc et al. 2021. *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

[Coastal wetlands mitigate storm flooding and associated costs in estuaries.](#) Fairchild et al. 2021. *Environmental Research Letters*.

[Time to integrate global climate change and biodiversity science-policy agendas.](#) Pettorelli et al. 2021. *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

[Land-based measures to mitigate climate change: Potential and feasibility by country.](#) Roe et al. 2021. *Global Change Biology*.

We have these and other 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 UK's Footprint on Global Biodiversity – UK Government report](#). An Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) report – The UK's Footprint on Global Biodiversity – states that unsustainable consumption is threatening biodiversity and must be tackled by the Government and businesses in order to protect species.

[European Commission report on evaluating the impact of Nature-based Solutions](#). A report from the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation provides a high-level summary for practitioners and policy-makers for assessing the impact of NbS.

[Climate change and biodiversity: Interlinkages and policy options](#). The Royal Society has compiled evidence in a briefing which highlights how climate change and biodiversity are interlinked and sets out the key actions and principles to guide a UK response that addresses the climate and biodiversity crises together. NbS Director Prof Nathalie Seddon was a member of the working group behind the report.

[Nature-Based Solutions and the Green Economy](#). A briefing from the British Academy synthesizes evidence from research and practice, as part of the COP26 Briefings series.

[Nature-based Solutions Policy Platform update](#). We are in the process of updating our NbS NDC Policy Platform. Read 3 key examples of best-practice for integration of NbS into revised NDCs.

NbSI Technical Director Cécile Girardin contributed to the upcoming Chatham House briefing: 'Communicating nature's contribution to climate action'. Soon to be published by the Global Strategic Communications Council network.

Cécile also lead-authored the [Potsdam Institute](#) chapter on NbS in the [10 New Insights in Climate Change \(10NICs\)](#) reviewing recent climate-related research findings and launched at the climate COP every year. The 10NICs are presented in an academic article and a report targeted at policymakers and the informed public. In 2021 the 10NICs cover megafires, tipping points, climate justice and more. Look for the report's release at COP26 and [watch a teaser trailer now](#).

## 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.

# NbS IN THE NEWS



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

[IPCC report affirms need for Net Zero](#). The much anticipated global climate science report 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science' by Working Group I of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) brings together the latest advances in climate science, combining multiple lines of evidence from paleoclimate, observations, process understanding, and global and regional climate simulations.

[Sir David Attenborough animation marks Royal Society biodiversity launch](#). In a new animated short film from the Royal Society, Sir David Attenborough explores why we need biodiversity and what we must do now to protect it. The film premiered on 11 October 2021 to coincide with a Royal Society Biodiversity project launch to mark the start of COP15.

[IUCN Congress builds momentum on nature-based solutions for biodiversity conservation and climate action](#). The IUCN World Conservation Congress held 3-11 September 2021 tackled the world's most pressing environmental challenges, with essential insights addressing the climate and biodiversity crises, as well as focusing on nature-based recovery.

[Pledges made on Transformative Action for Nature and People](#). At Nature For Life Hub's 'Transformative Action for Nature and People' event coinciding with the 76th meeting of the UN General Assembly, nine organisations have pledged US\$5 billion over 10 years to support the creation, expansion, management and monitoring of protected and conserved areas of land, inland water and sea, working with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society and governments.

[COP26 Universities Network briefing: net-zero solutions and research priorities for the 2020s](#). A new briefing paper published by the COP26 Universities Network sets out the key net-zero solutions and policy actions that can be implemented now, as well as the priority areas for research to focus on during the 2020s in order to achieve the required emissions reductions for net zero.

[Natural Climate Solutions Alliance releases Carbon Credits corporate guidance](#). A new guide published by the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance (NCS Alliance), Natural Climate Solutions for Corporates, provides direction on the use of Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) carbon credits as part of a climate strategy to help corporates meet their climate commitments and steer a pathway towards net zero, whilst also channelling much needed investment into nature.

# OUR NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 channelled 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 for COP26 we are inviting additional signatories from research, conservation, and development organisations around the world.

[Watch an overview of the guidelines](#) and [our asks for nature at COP26](#) to learn more.

*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).*

### New interactive global map

A [new interactive global map](#) of best practice examples of nature-based solutions across the world, funded by the British Academy, will be launched on 8th November at COP26. Many thanks to 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), and to Urban Nature Atlas who we have worked closely with.



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

Three briefings for policymakers have been created for new research outputs from NbSI members, for dissemination at COP26:

(1) '[Tackling climate change with nature-based solutions in Bangladesh](#)'. Based on: [Nature-based Solutions in Bangladesh: evidence of effectiveness for addressing climate change and other sustainable development goals](#). Smith et al. (in press) *Frontiers in Environmental Science*.

(2) '[Ensuring Nature-based Solutions support both biodiversity and climate change adaptation](#)'. Based on: [Can nature-based solutions deliver a win-win for biodiversity and climate change adaptation?](#) Key et al. 2021. Preprints 2021, 2021100336.

(3) '[Reducing people's vulnerability to climate change using nature-based solutions in the rural Global South](#)' Based on: [Contributions of nature-based solutions to reduce peoples' vulnerabilities to climate change across the rural Global South](#). Woroniecki et al. 2021. Preprints 2021, 2021100403.

In addition, our report [NbSI-WWF-RSPB report on Nature-based Solutions in UK Climate Adaptation Policy](#), was released on 30 September, commissioned by the RSPB and WWF. It summarises evidence on the many ways in which NbS can address climate impacts in the UK, and explores the barriers and enabling factors that influence their wider uptake.

[What Can Nature offer COP26, and vice versa?](#) As COP26 nears, Nathalie Seddon features in a new video from the University of Oxford discussing the NbS guidelines and our hopes for nature at COP26.

[How We See It - Artwork by NbSI Artist-in-residence Alice Hackney](#) was commissioned as part of the exhibition 'Among the Garbage and the Flowers' created by the Art, Biodiversity, and Climate (ABC) Network. It is on display in Paris.

[NbSI feature in international news in COP15 and COP26 buildup.](#) We provided commentary to a range of news outlets including *The Economist*, *The Independent*, and *Reuters* as coverage builds on biodiversity as part 1 of COP15 (11-15th October 2021), and COP26 nears.

[Guidelines for Successful, Sustainable, Nature-Based Solutions.](#) Our Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Digest outlines the rationale for the [NbS guidelines](#), along with what is needed by and at the UN climate summit, COP26, to help ensure NbS can be taken to scale.

## WEBINARS & PODCASTS



[COP26 NbS goals in Oxford COP Conversations event.](#) During the first edition of the Oxford University 'COP Conversations' Series, Nathalie discussed the role of NbS in addressing climate change and the need for their inclusion in COP26 commitments.

[Future Focus: Nature-based solutions in the race to net zero.](#) Our Technical Director Cécile Girardin took part in the Future Focus webinar exploring NbS from financial, biodiversity and societal points of view. Cécile cautioned against focussing on carbon as the main metric of success for nature-based projects, highlighting the need for metrics that capture the benefits for biodiversity and society, as well as the climate.

[Deforestation-Free Finance at Climate Week NYC.](#) Nathalie spoke at Climate Week NYC in a panel hosted by Conservation International, Nature4Climate, Tropical Forest Alliance, Global Canopy, and Climate Champions. Moderated by Danielle Carreira of WEF Tropical Forest Alliance. The panel also included Climate Champion Nigel Topping, and Emine Isciel, Storebrand Head of Climate and Environment.

[Going in reverse—how can greenhouse gas emissions be removed from the atmosphere?](#) Nathalie took part in a podcast with *The Economist*, to discuss the role of nature in achieving net-zero.

# NEW TEAM MEMBERS

The NbSI team is growing! We welcome two new research fellows: [Dr Aline Soterroni](#) and [Dr William Thompson](#). Aline joins as a Research Fellow at Oxford Net Zero Initiative, where she will investigate the socioeconomic and ecological outcomes of different pathways to net zero. William joins as a NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellow to lead the development of the High Agricultural Reforestation Potential (HARP) Toolkit, designed to facilitate sustainable reforestation in tropical agricultural landscapes.

We also welcome three new DPhil students: [Katie Hutchinson](#), [Katrina Kendall](#) and [Robyn Harris](#). Katie's research will explore the biodiversity outcomes of nature-based solutions; Katrina's aims to support leadership decision-making and financing to scale up nature-based solutions, with a focus on the Philippines and wider ASEAN region. Robyn's research will centre on optimising nature in decisions on national-scale development and resilience in order to progress the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

And last but not least, we welcome two new master's students: [Lucy Scruton](#) and [Megan MacGillivray](#). Lucy will be conducting a meta-analysis looking into the effectiveness of agroforestry practices as nature-based solutions; Megan will be synthesising the results of scenario modelling studies of effectiveness of nature-based solutions to address climate impacts in montane ecosystems.

We thank interns [Darinka Szigeccsan](#) and [Ebba Mark](#) for their excellent contributions to NbSI projects. Darinka worked on updating the NbS Policy Platform with revised National Development Contributions (NDCs), Ebba has helped write synopses of nature-based solutions projects for the new global online map.

## NbS BANGLADESH NEWS

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) is working on a project "Building back better with nature: clarifying the economic recovery potential of nature-based solutions in the Global South" with Instituto de Montaña ([NBSI Peru](#)) and NbSI. The project involves studying the local economic outcomes of implementing NbS at a range of sites in Bangladesh and forms part of the Oxford Martin School's Programme on Biodiversity and Society.

For further information on the project and to join the 'NbS Bangladesh Network', please email [tasfia.tasnim@icccad.org](mailto:tasfia.tasnim@icccad.org)

In a Daily Star article, Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah addressed the question: [Can we be bold enough and integrate Nature-based Solutions into Blue Economy?](#) The article discussed how Bangladesh can create the enablers for promoting the blue economy with sustainable management of marine and coastal resources by integrating NbS.

## NbS PERU NEWS



On September 23, Solution Search announced Instituto de Montaña as the [winner of the global Water Pollution and Behavior Change contest](#) in the Public Vote category. Our NbS initiative, which seeks to restore the water quality of the Río Negro in Ancash, was announced as the solution most voted by the public during BE.Hive: Behavioral Solutions to Water Pollution, a virtual summit organized by Rare's Center for Behavior & the Environment (BE.Center). Read more here: [Instituto de Montaña news item](#).

With the support of the Oxford Martin School, the NbS Peru is working with NbSI and NbS Bangladesh (see above). Through this project, we expect to enhance understanding of the short and long-term economic recovery potential of investments in nature and inform the design of economic, climate, and development policy.

NbS Peru at [COP26](#): Instituto de Montaña will participate at the UNFCCC COP26 Side Event 'Sustainable food systems to support recovery from COVID-19 in mountains' organized by the Mountain Partnership. We will share our experience and evidence of the potential of nature-based solutions for recovery in the Andes.



# KEY EVENTS

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

[Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP26\)](#) | [United Nations](#) | 1-12 November 2021  
[Development and Climate Days 2021](#) | 9-10 November 2021

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

*Copyright © NbSI 2020*

**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