



# NbSI NEWSLETTER

February 2022, Issue 12

Last year saw world leaders, state delegations, heads of corporations and financial institutions make bold pledges during the major climate change and biodiversity summits and global policy fora. In 2022, this ambition must be realised with robust, ethical, science-based delivery mechanisms to ensure good finance gets to the people and the projects that need it most. COP26 in particular saw an unprecedented coverage of NbS, from headline announcements for funding and commitments to end deforestation and enable more sustainable agriculture, to the inclusion of NbS in intense negotiations around the text of the 'Glasgow Climate Pact'. However, the conference also revealed major tensions around NbS. The term 'nature-based solutions' was eventually dropped from the text, largely over concerns about greenwashing, the commodification of nature, and violations of human rights. In 2022, the NbS community must address these concerns and to this end, we will be hosting an international conference. In this newsletter, you will find more information about this and other key events in 2022, as well as some of the latest highlights from NbS research, policy and practice, and several job opportunities.

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.

## NbS CONFERENCE 2022

### Ensuring that NbS support thriving human & ecological communities

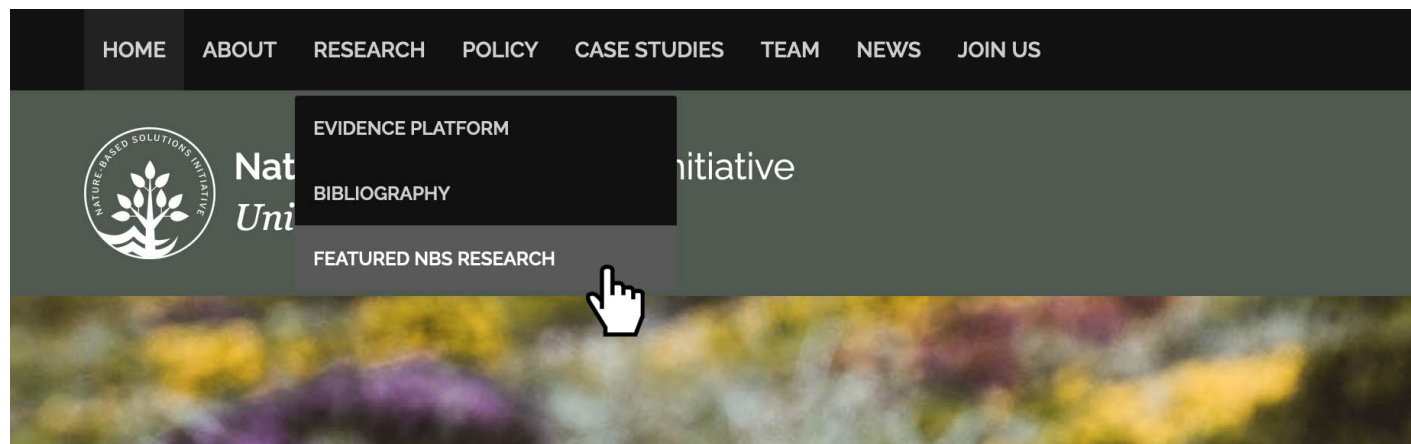
5-7th July 2022

Natural History Museum, University of Oxford (+remote)

It is our pleasure to announce that on the 5-7th of July we will be hosting our [Nature-based Solutions Conference 2022](#), bringing together leading researchers from the social and natural sciences, engineering and economics, along with practitioners, policymakers, civil society actors and business leaders. The mission of the conference is to enhance understanding of the value of nature-based solutions to societal challenges and to help ensure they support thriving human societies and ecosystems without compromising efforts to keep fossil fuels in the ground. A cross-cutting theme will be the need to encompass the multiplicity of stakeholders that are involved and/or affected by NbS, including their diverse values, interests and rights.

The conference will consist of 11 2-hour sessions across three days, with each including diverse speakers from across research, practice, and policy, and case studies that encompass the global north and south, urban and rural. There will also be opportunities to share work during in-person and virtual poster sessions each day. The conference venue at the Oxford Natural History Museum will also include immersive art and nature experiences. Some of the confirmed speakers to date include Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Marc Palahi, Director of the European Forest Institute, and Musonda Mumba, Chair of the Global Partnership for Forest & Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).

For information on the programme, speakers, and registration, [please visit our conference website](#).



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-dependent people: Mapping human direct use of nature for basic needs across the tropics.](#) A recent study in *Global Environmental Change* led by Conservation International Europe investigated where people depend the most on locally available natural resources for their basic human needs, such as energy, water, housing and livelihoods.

[Protect, manage and then restore lands for climate mitigation.](#) A recent study in *Nature Climate Change*, led by scientists from The Nature Conservancy, outlines a hierarchy for decision-making regarding protecting, managing, and restoring natural systems for climate mitigation.

[What influences the implementation of natural climate solutions? A systematic map and review of the evidence.](#) A new study in *Environmental Research Letters* presents a systematic review of the contextual factors that influence the implementation of natural climate solutions (NCS).

[Co-benefits of forest carbon projects in Southeast Asia.](#) A new study in *Nature Sustainability* reveals the social and environmental benefits of forest protection in Southeast Asia.

We have these and other new studies to [our online bibliography](#), featuring over 500 publications, which you can filter for habitat type, location, and societal challenge addressed by the NbS.



# NbS IN POLICY

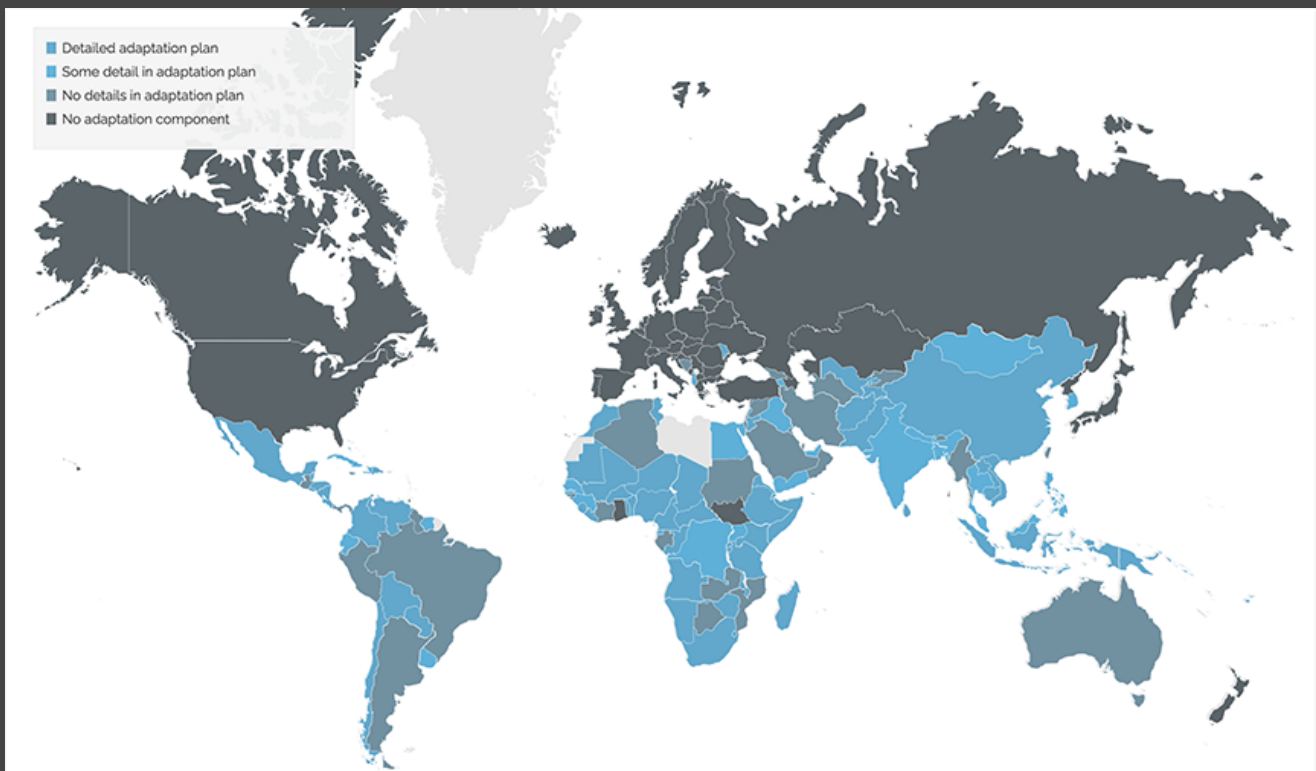
On our [Featured NbS in Policy](#) page, we summarise recent NbS-related developments in national and international policy. Below are some highlights.

[New Science and Technology Committee publication - Nature-based solutions: rhetoric or reality? - The potential contribution of nature-based solutions to net zero in the UK.](#) A new report on nature-based solutions for climate change from the Science and Technology Committee, based on written and spoken evidence from NbSI was published on 27th January. The report concludes that without policy clarity, urgent investment in research, skills training and the introduction of a new advisory service for farmers and land managers, the Government's ambitious plans for nature-based solutions are at severe risk of failure. Failure puts the goal of net zero by 2050 at risk and would undermine the agricultural sector.

[UNDP report - Creating a Nature-Positive Future.](#) A report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presents a path to enhance protected and conserved area coverage and quality to secure global nature, with multiple co-benefits for people, including recognition of Indigenous Peoples' territories and the need to secure tenure rights.

## Updated NbS Policy Platform

Our [NbS Policy Platform](#) has been updated with the results of our latest analysis of the second round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted in the lead-up to COP26. Read our [news article](#) of our key findings or go directly to the Policy Platform.



[Visit the platform](#)

# NbS IN ACTION

Explore our [interactive global platform](#) and the [Case Studies](#) page of our website to find summaries of a rich variety of examples of NbS in action from around the world.

[Peatland restoration to protect water supplies in the Garron Plateau.](#) The Garron Plateau, Northern Ireland, has been undergoing restoration by The RSPB, Northern Ireland Water, and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, since 2010. By 2016, 28% of the site had been restored to a favourable condition, and a further 27% to a recovering condition, increasing its climate mitigation capacity, quality water provisioning & ecological resilience. Restoration efforts are continuing, aiming to return the whole site to a favourable condition by 2045.

[Indigenous council practises community-based conservation and natural resource management.](#) An indigenous council representing the communities of an exceptionally biodiverse region of the central Tropical Andes has successfully gained a collective title to manage several hundred thousand hectares of land, allowing for greater control and management more aligned with their identity as the original stewards of the land.

[Coastal mangrove restoration using a community ecosystem-based adaptation approach.](#) The Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation (CBACC-CF) programme is reforesting mangroves on vulnerable coastal areas of Bangladesh, where the intensity of weather events exacerbated by climate change is very high, and where such events often strip people of their livelihoods.

## NbS IN THE NEWS

### TRILLION TREES GUIDE TO INVESTING IN FOREST RESTORATION



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

[Wageningen University nature-based solutions challenge.](#) Wageningen University & Research (WUR), is running a worldwide student Nature-based Solutions Challenge, where entrants come up with a nature-based solution proposal to face a panel of experts. The jury will select the teams that receive funding of €2500 as well as mentoring to support implementation of the winning project. Registration deadline: 13 April 2022.

[New expert panel on Future of UK ecological research.](#) The British Ecological Society (BES) has launched a new project to identify the grand challenges for ecology. A panel of 9 experts, including NbSI Director Professor Nathalie Seddon, will guide the project, oversee consultation with the community and report the outcomes.

[New Trillion Trees Guide to Investing in Forest Restoration.](#) A new tool from WWF, WCS and BirdLife International provides guidance for private, corporate, and institutional organisations undertaking restoration programmes by asking a series of questions to better understand the potential of any given restoration programme.

[New UNEP Frontiers Report on emerging environmental issues.](#) The 2022 Frontiers' report, Noise, Blazes and Mismatches?, looks at urban soundscapes, wildfires and phenological shifts as three areas of concern that have the potential for profound effects on our society, economy and ecosystems.

# OUR NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

[Agile Initiative announced to provide rapid solutions to critical environmental issues](#). A new research programme led by NbSI Director Professor Nathalie Seddon will deliver high-impact interdisciplinary research and contribute urgently-needed answers to inform environmental policy, including how to scale-up NbS across UK landscapes. Based at the Oxford Martin School, the new Initiative has received £10 million of funding from the Natural Environment Research Council.

[Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery in Oxford](#). The Leverhulme Trust has awarded £10 million to a new Oxford nature recovery centre. Led by Prof Yadvinder Malhi and co-directed by NbSI's Prof Nathalie Seddon and the Environmental Change Institute's Michael Obsersteinder, the centre will carry out a wide range of studies on nature recovery, covering ecological, social, cultural and health and wellbeing dimensions, and will use technology to deliver and monitor progress of nature recovery at scale.

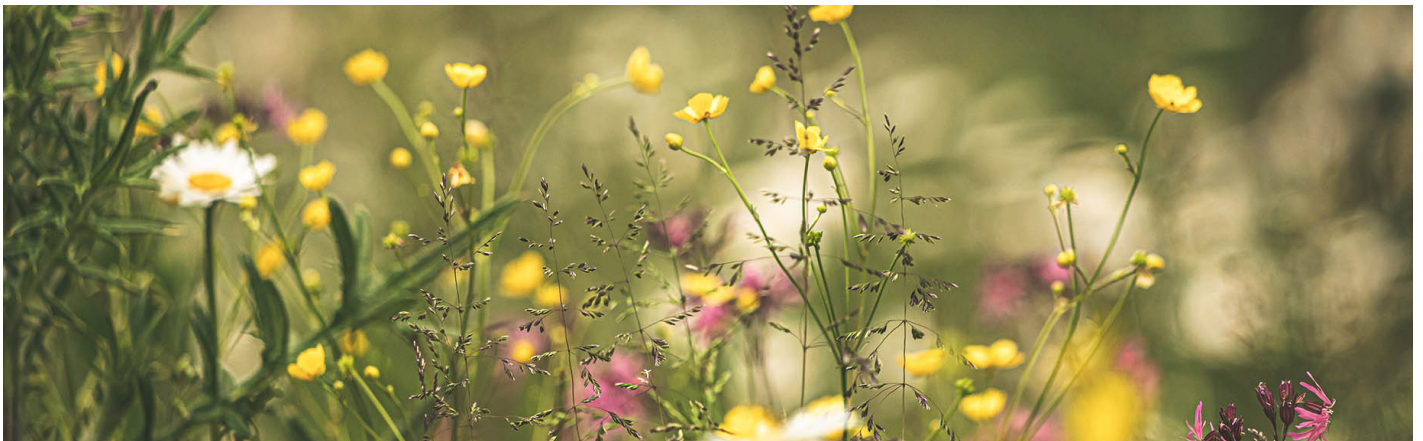
[Interactive Global Map of NbS](#). Our global interactive platform of best practice nature-based solutions across the world, funded by the British Academy, was launched in November at COP26. Since its launch, the portal continues to grow; now including 110 case studies and new functionalities with many more case studies to be added in the coming weeks. 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. We thank the British Academy for funding phase 2 of the development of the platform.

Q&A: [Can 'nature-based solutions' help address climate change?](#) An explainer on NbS from Carbon Brief featuring Nathalie Seddon, examining the history of the term "nature-based solutions", the debates surrounding their effectiveness, and the place they currently hold in global climate negotiations.

[Nature-based Insetting launches](#). A new Social Venture of the University of Oxford that translates cutting-edge science into practice by working with a range of clients on the most high-profile environmental issues of our century: climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development goals.

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## WEBINARS & PODCASTS



[Oxford Martin School Panel Discussion: "Towards COP27: moving forwards after COP26"](#). In conjunction with the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment, Oxford Net Zero, Oxford Climate Research Network & Oxford Climate Society, a panel of academics, including NbSI Technical director Dr Cécile Girardin, share their thoughts after attending COP26 and look forward to what it means for COP27 and the world over the coming years.

["Capacities for knowledge co-production in transdisciplinary teams"](#) by NbSI Senior Research Alexandre Chausson. This Oxford Biodiversity Network seminar presents research on capacities for knowledge production in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teams from the Sentinel research partnership which brings together academic and development organisations across the UK, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Ghana.

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# NbS BANGLADESH NEWS

In an article in the Daily Star, [Mainstreaming nature-based solutions into development in Bangladesh](#), Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah captured the progress made in 2021, and what opportunities are coming in 2022 along four interconnected threads: planning, practice, capacity development, and knowledge.

The [International Centre for Climate Change and Development](#) organised a panel discussion with its “NbS Bangladesh Network” on Reconnecting Water, People and Nature as part of [World Wetlands Day 2022](#) in February. The panel discussion provided an insightful discussion on the vital role of water for people and nature.

ICCCAD announced that the virtual [2nd Gobeshona Global Conference](#) in March will focus on ‘Locally - Led Adaptation and Resilience for COP27’ and will include sessions on nature-based solutions, adaptation and resilience.

## KEY EVENTS

[2nd Gobeshona Global Conference](#) | 27th March - 1st April | Online

[Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP15\)](#) | [United Nations](#) | 11-15 October 2021 (hybrid online and Kunming, China), 25 April-8 May 2022 (Kunming, China).

[URBiNAT International Conference - Nature for Innovative and Inclusive Urban Regeneration](#) | 16 & 17 June 2022, Milan, Italy.

[Nature-based Solutions Conference](#) - How can NbS support thriving human & ecological communities? | 5-7th July 2022 | Natural History Museum, University of Oxford (+remote)

## JOBS

The [Agile Initiative](#) will implement a series of 1-year ‘Sprint’ interdisciplinary research projects that will provide cutting edge analyses directly relevant to environmental policy-makers. The programme is currently seeking to recruit:

[Impact Facilitator](#): to ensure effective engagement with key stakeholders, policy & decision-makers, deliver policy engagement activities, & lead monitoring & evaluation. Closing date: 25th February 2022.

[Sprint Coordinator](#) x2: to manage operations & admin that underpin the programme. Closing date: 25th February 2022.

Three posts linked to Sprint 1 ‘Operationalising Treasury Green Book guidance on biodiversity’, which focuses on improving measurements of the impacts on biodiversity of business and governmental investments such as new housing and transport infrastructure.

- [Sprint project PDRA](#): to carry out core research to explore land-use scenarios using Mitigation Hierarchy to understand trade-offs and possible futures for an Oxfordshire case study region, and develop a generalisable framework. Closing date: 12.00 noon, 1st March 2022. Further details.
- [Research Assistant](#) to carry out core field-based research on the wellbeing impacts of land use change, collecting data in Oxfordshire, and exploring how to integrate wellbeing with biodiversity net gain in real-world systems. Closing date: 12.00 noon, 1st March 2022. Further details.
- [Research Assistant](#) to undertake, coordinate, and oversee fieldwork in a case study landscape (the Oxford-Cambridge arc), collecting data on key biodiversity indicators for plants and animals at a range of sites. Closing date: 12.00 noon, 1st March 2022. Further details.

Freelance [Research Associate](#) to join [Nature-based Insetting](#). The RA will have expertise in data analysis and spatial analysis and will work with a range of local and global datasets for complex natural resource supply chains, to help inform biodiversity strategies - using the best science with some of the biggest supply chain companies. Closing date: **4th March 2022**.

# COP26

COP26 saw an unprecedented coverage of NbS, with everything from headline announcements for funding and [projects particularly focused on forests](#) and agriculture, to inclusion of NbS in intense negotiations between ministers and heads of delegations when forming the new “Glasgow Climate Pact”. Highlights included:

- [COP26 Week One Round Up](#): major announcements on nature and climate
- [COP26 Week Two Round Up](#): negotiations and decisions made on nature and climate
- NbSI launched [three short documentaries](#) showcasing UK NbS in action. Produced with filmographer [Matthew Mullholland](#), the films explore working with nature from rivers to coast, in cities and in the highlands of Scotland.
- We also launched [three new policy briefings](#), based on new studies on the role of nature-based solutions (NbS) in addressing climate vulnerability in Bangladesh, across rural Global South, and on ensuring NbS support both biodiversity and climate change adaptation.



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

## Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change

### Key messages for decision makers



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 continue to build momentum around this we are inviting additional signatories from research, conservation and development organisations across the globe. [Watch an overview of the guidelines](#) 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).

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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