

Session Title: Nature-Based Solutions for Transformative Change: Catalysing Systemic Shifts Toward Sustainability

Session outline: Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), which harness natural processes to tackle societal issues, are emerging as crucial tools for building resilient economies, promoting healthy ecosystems, and fostering equitable societies. This session will foster interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge exchange, aiming to advance the science and practice of Nature-Based Solutions in the face of urgent global environmental and social issues. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we hope to catalyse innovative approaches that can reshape our relationship with nature and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

We invite presentations that address a range of themes related to NBS. We welcome research examining the complexities and trade-offs in implementing NBS, including potential conflicts between ecological and social goals. Investigations into scaling up NBS, exploring barriers and opportunities for expanding implementation, are of particular interest. The session also encourages presentations on methodologies for evaluating NBS, assessing their ecological, social, and economic benefits through cost-benefit analyses and effectiveness studies. We seek case studies of NBS applications in diverse contexts, especially from under-studied areas such as low-income countries or rapidly changing urban landscapes. Analyses of governance and policy aspects, including political dimensions, adaptive governance models, and policy frameworks that influence NBS implementation, are welcome. The session is also interested in explorations of societal dimensions, including attitudes, value systems, and cultural perspectives that affect NBS adoption and success.

We will discuss key principles for NBS implementation, emphasizing multifunctionality, inclusivity, and evidence-based approaches. We aim within this session to showcase real-world examples while stressing the importance of maintaining local relevance and stakeholder inclusivity. As such, we welcome contributions from researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders working on NBS.

Chair: Philip Roche, INRAE

Duration: 2h20, 8 presentations + final discussion.

Format: presentations 10min/5min questions.