Scaling-up the implementation of Nature-Based Solutions for climate change adaptation

AGENDA

24 May 2022

13:00-16:00 (Paris time)

Online video conference

Supported with funding by the European Union via the Structural Reform Support Programme and in cooperation with the European Commission's DG Structural Reform Support'

■ Date, time and venue

Tuesday 24 May 2022, 13:00-16:00 (CEST)

Zoom registration link: https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlduyuqD0uHdecBtWtoVaVIyoK1sWepfjc

	Bogotá	London	Budapest	Tokyo
Time zones	7:00-11:00 am	12:00-15:00 pm	13:00 -16:00 pm	21:00-24:00 pm

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Overview of this meeting

Nature-based Solutions (NbS)[1] have significant potential to support adaptation to climate change while providing a range of co-benefits, as a complement or substitute for traditional ("grey") infrastructure. For example, increasing tree cover and green spaces can reduce the urban heat island effect and strengthen resilience to urban flooding, as well as improve air quality. The appropriate use of NbS can build resilience to climate change at lower overall cost and with greater flexibility than would be possible with sole reliance upon grey infrastructure. Despite this potential, the use of NbS remains limited and there is an urgent need to scale-up the use of NbS to be commensurate with the challenges posed by climate change.

An underlying challenge to increasing the use of NbS for adaptation is that these approaches are not "plug in" replacements for conventional infrastructure, but instead have different characteristics: for example, protecting watersheds can reduce the need for treatment infrastructure, but these interventions have very different spatial implications, technical requirements and financing needs. As a result, NbS do not always fit neatly within existing policy and institutional frameworks that default to the use of grey infrastructure.

Scaling-up the use of NbS for adaptation will require concerted efforts to understand how NbS can be integrated within existing frameworks, and to identify where policy reforms could unlock the use of high-quality, effective and sustainable NbS. Municipalities are an essential actor in this process, given their critical role in land-use planning, provision of public services and infrastructure investment. The OECD, with financial support from the European Union, is collaborating with the Hungarian Ministry for Innovation and Technology (MIT) in the framework if the "Promoting green and blue municipal infrastructure" project to identify the main barriers to using NbS at the local level and propose reforms to overcome those barriers, inspired by international good practices.

The workshop brings together leading international experts to explore how three key barriers to NbS can be overcome: building capacity and increasing awareness for NbS, strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks and providing revenue streams for NbS, in particular for operation and maintenance.

The virtual international workshop aims to:

- Share insights and experiences about scalable solutions for NbS
- Provide a platform for experts and country representatives to exchange best practices for unlocking the potential of NbS at the municipal level.

[1] NbS are actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural capital, with the goal of preserving and enhancing /ecosystem services to help address societal goals. NbS is an umbrella term that encompasses the concept of green infrastructure, which is defined by the European Commission as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services.

Tuesday 24 May 2022

13:00-13:10 Opening: Welcome and meeting objectives

The Chair, **Michael Mullan**, Programme Lead for Adaptation Finance in the Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, will introduce the objectives and the agenda for this meeting.

Speakers

- **Michael Mullan**, Environment Directorate, OECD
- **Leticia Lopez-Joya**, DG REFORM, European Commission

13:10-13:30 Session 1 – Emerging findings and key takeaways from the project "Promoting Nature-based Solutions in Municipalities in Hungary"

Hungary is facing a range of interlinked environmental pressures, which will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Climate-related events such as heat waves, drought, and flooding are projected to become more frequent and severe. Hungary has recently prioritised the use of NbS in strategic policy documents to help manage these pressures. However, implementation at the municipal level remains at an early stage.

The "Promoting Nature-based Solutions in Municipalities in Hungary" initiative, convened by the Hungarian Ministry of Innovation and Technology and the OECD, with financial support from the EU, targets the implementation of NbS. The project aims to support national authorities in enhancing their capacity to formulate, develop and implement reform policies and strategies while pursuing an integrated approach ensuring consistency between goals and means across sectors. It also supports the efforts of national authorities to define and implement appropriate processes and methodologies by taking into account good practices and lessons learned by other countries addressing similar situations.

This session will provide an overview of the state of play of NbS in Hungary, initial findings and next steps. Following the intervention, there will be a Q&A session.

Speaker **Noémi Dálnoky**, Head of Unit, Ministry for Innovation and Technology in Hungary

13:30-14:20 Session 2 – Raising awareness and strengthening capacity for the successful implementation of nature-based solutions

Building institutional capacity and awareness for NbS is a critical ingredient for scaling-up the use of NbS. Although NbS is often promoted in various policies and plans at the national and international levels, local capacities are not always sufficient to enable implementation. The promotion of NbS requires a multi-sectoral collaboration between different government structures, at the local and national levels, and a wide range of stakeholders. This also

requires collaboration with stakeholders from sectors that are traditionally less involved in climate change adaptation.

Knowledge generation and sharing among actors at the national and sub-national levels is essential to fill knowledge gaps, and to drive and support implementation. Knowledge sharing at the international level can also help to inform national actors about international best practices which can inspire reforms at local level. Rising public awareness about the benefits of NbS is also key to create a positive perception of decision makers and communities toward NbS.

The session is focused on discussing the potential for overcoming capacity constraints through collaboration to enhance capacity for implementing NbS including examples of EU-wide collaboration on data and tools.

Moderator

Delia Sánchez Trancón, Junior Water Economist, Environment Directorate, OECD

Speakers

- **Anna Bruen**, Project Officer, Sustainable Resource Management and Integrated Service Solutions at ICLEI
- **Todd Bridges**, Senior Research Scientist**,** US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Timo Persson**, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Discussion questions

- How can peer-learning and support be mobilised to enhance capacity for NbS at the local level?
- What is the role of national administrations in building awareness, providing access to data and supporting capacity for NbS?

14:20-15:00 Session 3 – Strengthening multi-level governance and regulation for NbS

Although the use of NbS is often highlighted in national strategies and plans, this does not always translate into the existence of conducive regulatory systems and governance arrangements.

Regulatory and governance reforms are necessary to overcome the lack of systematic consideration and create the enabling environment for NbS. In many countries, regulatory incentives are used to promote the implementation of NbS. Sector-specific regulations and technical standards have a huge potential to facilitate the use of NbS in key areas like building codes, land-use regulation and zoning, permitting, procurement policies and environmental protection regulation.

This session will bring together cities to explore how countries can facilitate an effective regulatory environment for the successful uptake of NbS in municipalities. It will present good practices for strengthening the multi regulatory framework to consider NbS on an equal basis to conventional infrastructure.

Moderator

Tadashi Matsumoto, Head of Unit, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Speakers

- **Gonzalo Delacámara,** Director, IE Centre on Water & Climate Adaptation
- **Rosa Huertas**, Director of the Innovation, Economic Development, Employment and Commerce Department, Valladolid City Council, Spain

Discussion questions

- How can national and subnational governments cooperate in the development of regulatory frameworks?
- How can policy alignment and collaboration between national and subnational governments be enhanced to encourage the uptake NbS?

15:10-15:50 Session 4 - Leveraging and unlocking finance for the implementation and maintenance of nature-based solutions

Globally, one of the biggest barriers related to the implementation of NbS is limited access to appropriate finance.

NbS can be cost-effective solution compared to traditional built or grey infrastructures and has various co-benefits. However, it is heavily reliant upon constrained public funding for implementation and maintenance. It is critical to create funding structures that can help to attract predictable and reliable funding streams from a range of sources, including the private sector.

This session will explore how to leverage and unlock finance for the implementation and maintenance of NbS in municipalities. The discussion will focus on the development of viable, scalable financing models for NbS, including the blending of public and private finance.

Moderator

Michael Mullan, Programme Lead for Adaptation Finance, Environment Directorate, OECD

Speakers

- **Rachel Morrison**, Nature-Based Solutions Advisor, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, UK
- **Dean Muruven**, Global Policy Lead for Freshwater, WWF
- **Roy Brooke**, Executive Director, Municipal Natural Assets Initiative**,** Canada

Discussion questions

- What financially sustainable models can be found to support the creation, operation and maintenance of Nature-based Solutions in different country contexts?
- What are the main opportunities for securing private finance to support the uptake of NbS at the municipal level?

Speaker biographies

Name and affiliation	Bio	Picture
Michael Mullan, Programme lead for Adaptation Finance, Environment Directorate, OECD	Michael Mullan leads the OECD's programme on Adaptation Finance and Investment, as well as serving as Special Advisor for COP27. He recently spent two years developing the Global Centre on Adaptation's Programme on Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions. Prior to joining OECD, he was an Economic Advisor in the UK Government, working on a variety of issues relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation. He studied at Oxford and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.	
Delia Sánchez Trancón, Junior Water Economist, Environment Directorate, OECD	Ms Delia Sánchez Trancón works as a Junior Water Economist at the Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, Environment Directorate at the OECD. Her work focuses on water and adaptation, in particular economic and regulatory instruments. Previously, she worked at Aguaconsult, a UK-based consulting company providing advisory services to public, private and international organisations to improve water, sanitation and environmental services.	
Tadashi Matsumoto, Head of Unit, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD	Tadashi Matsumoto leads OECD's work on sustainable urban development. He provides strategic leadership and oversees the research and analysis on the zero-carbon transition, climate resilience in cities, sustainable urban design and planning, integrating housing and transport policies, urban green growth, role of intermediary cities in urban systems, localising SDGs, decarbonising buildings and urban biodiversity. He currently leads the OECD programme on A Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience and coordinates the National Urban Policy Programme, a global partnership with UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance. He has also led OECD's contribution to World Urban Forums and climate COPs. Tadashi is a lead author of Compact City Policies (2012), Urban Green Growth in Dynamic Asia (2016), Building Resilient Cities: An Assessment of Disaster Risk Management Policies in Southeast Asia (2018), Global State of National Urban Policy (2021) among many other OECD reports. Before joining the OECD in 2009, Tadashi worked for the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for more than 10 years. Tadashi holds a MUP (Urban Planning) from New York University and a Ph.D. from Tokyo University (Engineering). He lectures at Tsukuba University, Japan, and SciencesPo, France.	
Anna Bruen, Project officer - Sustainable Resource Management and Integrated Service Solutions at ICLEI	Anna Bruen is a project officer with ICLEI Europe: Local Governments for Sustainability. As part of the sustainable resources, climate, and resilience team, Anna focuses on nature-based solutions and biodiversity, food systems, and climate neutrality. She holds a masters in community and regional planning and sustainable agriculture.	

Dean Muruven,
Global Policy Lead for Freshwater at WWF

Dean is currently global policy lead for freshwater at WWF International. He holds a MBA from Maastricht University, a Master in Environmental Science from the University of South Africa and is part of the University of Cambridge Master of Social Innovation program. He has worked across the consulting and mining industry in Africa before joining WWF to lead their source water protection program in South Africa. Over the last 5 years Dean has led WWF global policy work on water, engaging with UN agencies and governments across the world.

Gonzalo Delacámara,
Director, IE Centre on Water & Climate Adaptation

Gonzalo Delacámara is a senior academic and water resources management specialist (PhD – MPhil). He is currently the Director of the IE Centre on Water & Climate Adaptation, and was previously Senior Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Department of Economic Analysis of Water of the IMDEA Foundation. His main areas of research are related to economic analysis of biophysical flows of ecosystem services, economic analysis of aquatic ecosystems in areas subject to water scarcity and drought risk, and analysis of environmental policies. His current roles include water policy advisor to the EC DG ENV as part of the WFD CIS Working Groups on Economics and Water Accounts and to the European Parliament (2014-2018). He is also water policy advisor for the World Bank as part of the 2030 Water Resources Group (WB, IFC, WEF – 2013-2016) framework contracts in which he has led the hydroeconomic analysis of water investments. He was the Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean at the DG ENV service contract on Integration of NWRM in RBMP and he also coordinated the economic valuation of ecosystem services in Spain. He is an international consultant on water and energy economics for UN agencies such as ECLAC, FAO, WHO-PAHO, UNDP (on the UNDP LAC Biodiversity initiative on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems in economic growth and equity) and UNESCO, and international development banks (WB, IFC, IDB).

Noémi Dálnoky,
Head of Unit at the Ministry for Innovation and Technology in Hungary

Noémi Dálnoky is a Head of Unit the Ministry for Innovation and Technology in Hungary. Noémi has studied economics and in the past, she has worked for the European Commission (DG REGIO). Noémi has wide experience with EU funding, environment, and other relevant fields that help to embrace green-blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

Rachel Morrison,
Nature Based Solutions Advisor at Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Rachel Morrison is a Senior Nature-Based Solutions Advisor at Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) working on climate adaption and local nature recovery, as part of the IGNITION project. IGNITION is a €4.5 million project, funded by the Urban Innovation Actions Fund, that aims to establish innovative nature-based solution funding and delivery mechanisms to adapt the city-region to climate change. As part of the IGNITION project, Rachel works on the research and development of opportunities to accelerate finance for nature-based solutions. Rachel has a doctorate from the University of Manchester and has worked on financing green infrastructure in both the government and academia in the UK and Ireland since 2014.

Rosa Huertas González, Director of the Innovation, Economic Development, Employment and Commerce Department, Valladolid City Council, Spain

Rosa is Director of the Innovation, Economic Development, Employment and Commerce Department, Valladolid City Council, Spain. This area is responsible for economic promotion through innovation, entrepreneurship, funding, EU project management, and the international projection of the city.

Previously, she was Director of Finance, Public Function and Economic Development in the City Council of Valladolid and has held various positions of responsibility in the State Administration, such as Deputy Secretary General of the Government Delegation of the autonomous region of Castile and León, and Deputy Commissioner of the Duero Hydrographic Confederation, supporting the Water Commissioner in the direction and management of the Water Commission.

Roy Brooke, Executive Director at Municipal Natural Assets Initiative

Roy is the Executive Director of the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative, a national not-for profit.

He served as Director of Sustainability for the City of Victoria between 2011-2013. Prior to this he worked for the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, United Nations Environment Programme and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. During his time with the UN he was based in Geneva, Switzerland, and later in Rwanda, where he was UNEP's Environment Programme Coordinator. Roy also served as a political advisor to Canada's environment minister.

Timo Persson, Climate Adaptation Coordinator at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Timo Persson works as a climate adaptation coordinator at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and has managed the development of Sweden's first national guide on nature-based solutions.

Todd Bridges, Senior Research Scientist at the US Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. Todd Bridges is the U.S. Army's Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science. He is the National Lead for the USACE Engineering with Nature® Initiative (www.engineeringwithnature.org), which is advancing the delivery of nature-based solutions. Dr. Bridges received a Distinguished Presidential Rank Award from President Biden in 2021 for exceptional leadership, accomplishments, and service.