



Connecting Nature Impact Summit

#connectingnaturesummit

28 – 29
April 2022
Thor Central
Genk

Talks
Expo
Summit

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connectingnature.eu



This Summit is part of a project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No. 730222.

Connecting Nature Impact Summit



Thursday 28th April Streamed sessions **LIVE**

All times are in CEST

9:00- 9:10

Welcome & Introduction

- **Wim Dries**, Mayor of Genk (Belgium)
- **Siobhan McQuaid**, Coordinator Connecting Nature (Ireland)

9:10 - 9:45

Theme: Thinking with Nature

Keynote: The Innerview Effect. Shifting perspective by rediscovering how life works.

A thought-provoking reflection on the *Innerview Effect* where Leen will share the latest breakthrough insights from the natural sciences and make a solid case for why Natural Intelligence (NI), not Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be at the forefront of societal innovation. Leen will explain how nature-based solutions fit into this shift in perspectives.

Leen Gorissen, founder [Centre4NI](#) (Belgium)

09.45-10.30

The Connecting Nature Framework for achieving Impact from nature-based solutions (NBS)

Stuart Connop, UEL and **Carien van der Have**, DRIFT will take us through the Connecting Nature Framework for the implementation of NBS and we'll hear from cities on their experience, lessons learned and challenges remaining.

- **Stuart Connop**, Associate Professor in Sustainability at University East London (UK)
- **Carien van der Have**, Researcher and Adviser, DRIFT (Netherlands)

10.30-11.00

Coffee break

11:00-12:15

Theme: Policy for upscaling nature-based solutions - where do we go from here?

Policy for upscaling NBS

Join us to hear from European, national and city policy makers about the policies needed and planned to upscale nature-based solutions towards a nature-positive, carbon neutral and equitable economy.

Speakers include:

- **Zuhal Demir**, Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment, Energy and Tourism (Belgium)
- **Wim Dries**, Mayor of Genk (Belgium)
- **Philippe Tulkens**, Head of Unit, Climate and Planetary Boundaries, DG Research and Innovation, EC (Belgium)
- **Sander Jacobs**, Scientific Researcher for the Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) (Germany)

The policy dialogue will include the launch of a new EC Expert Publication "The Vital Role of Nature-Based Solutions in the Nature-Positive Economy"

Chair: Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director for Europe at ICLEI

12:15-13:00

Theme: Thinking with Nature

Keynote to be delivered by Jan Rotmans, Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Jan Rotmans translates theories of transition into concrete action and advice for businesses, governments and organizations, both at home and abroad. He focuses in his keynote on the challenges for the transition towards a green city and how nature-based solutions can make a difference.

13.00-14.00

Lunch

14.00-14.15

Reflexive Monitoring: an introduction - put into practice!

Facilitator: **Carien van der Have**, Researcher and Adviser DRIFT (Netherlands)



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14.15-15.45

Thinking with Nature

UrbanByNature Regional Hubs: sharing knowledge on nature-based solutions with the world

Hear from UrbanByNature Hubs all over the world (Brazil, Korea, the Caucasus, China, Spain, Scotland, Flanders, South Eastern Europe) about their experience with promoting and implementing nature-based solutions.

Panel:

- **Leta Vieira**, ICLEI South America
- **Youde Tang**, ICLEI East Asia
- **Yeonhee Park**, ICLEI Korea
- **Shushanik Asmaryan**, CENS - Yerevan (Armenia); Mamuka Gilava, GeoGraphic - Tbilisi (Georgia)
- **Maja Jovanovic**, City of Belgrade (Serbia)
- **Antonio Prieto**, City of A Coruña (Spain)
- UrbanByNature Scotland Hub: **Gillian Dick**, Glasgow City Council (Scotland)
- **Joost Venken**, City of Genk (Belgium)
- **Giorgia Silvestri**, DRIFT and Marieke Verhagen, DRIFT (Netherlands)

Chair: Daniela Rizzi, Senior Officer for Nature-Based Solutions and Biodiversity, ICLEI Europe (Germany)

15.45-16.15

Coffee break

16:15-17.30

Building with Nature

Exploring the role of technology in upscaling Nature Based Solutions

Technology plays an important role in today's society. But how is it applied for nature-based solutions (NBS)? And what is the potential for using technology for upscaling NBS? In this session, we explore the role of technology for improving NBS effectiveness and decision-making, human-nature connections, citizen engagement for NBS, and the role of technology in the NBS market.

Panel:

- **Nadina Galle**, Ecological Engineer, technologist and entrepreneur (Bahamas)
- **Nicola Andrighetto**, Unit Director, ETIFOR Srl (Italy)
- **Gillian Dick**, Spatial Planning Manager, Glasgow City Council (Scotland)
- **Isobel Fletcher**, Horizon Nua and Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform (Ireland)

Chair: Professor Thomas Andersson, IKED (International Organisation of Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development) (Sweden)

17:30-18:00

Reflexive Monitoring: Feedback and Review

Facilitator: Carien van der Have, Researcher and Adviser DRIFT (Netherlands)

Thinking with Nature

The Economic Impact of Nature Based Solutions

Join the coordinators of four Horizon 2020 projects to discuss the economic impact of nature-based solutions on cities across Europe following the launch of a new EC Expert report on "The Vital Role of Nature-Based Solutions in the Nature-Positive Economy"

Keynote:

Siobhan McQuaid, Connecting Nature Coordinator (Ireland)

Panel:

Sophie Sheil, GrowGreen Coordinator (UK)
Laura Wendling, UNaLab Coordinator (Finland)
Raúl Sánchez, URBAN GreenUP Coordinator (Spain)

Chair:

Marcus Collier, Trinity College Dublin, Chair of Connecting Nature Advisory Board (Ireland)

Living with Nature

Keynote: Drinkable Rivers as a compass for the 21st century

Li An Phoa explains how drinkable rivers could be used as a guiding compass for societies, as a replacement of our current focus on economic growth. When we have drinkable rivers again, it means that the watershed, and all natural life in it, is healthy and in balance.

Nature-Based Solutions play a key role in contributing to this.

Li An Phoa, founder of Drinkable Rivers & Spring College and Lecturer at Nyenrode Business University and the International School of Philosophy (Netherlands)



Connecting Nature Impact Summit



Friday 29th April Streamed sessions



All times are in CEST

09:00 - 9:15

Welcome

Toon Vandeurzen, Alderman of the Economy, Sustainability and Spatial Planning, City of Genk (Belgium)

Marcus Collier, Chair Connecting Nature High Level Advisory Board (Ireland)

09.15- 9.45

Thinking with Nature

Keynote: Plural values and the socio-politics of Nature Based Solutions

People assign highly diverse values to nature: nature is valuable in itself, for the economy and for our personal life. Depending on the future political scenario, nature's values can further plummet or recover, and this depends on how we succeed in including diverse values in decisions. Nature-based solutions might become nature-based problems if we don't succeed in realizing a 'plural valuation'.

Sander Jacobs, Senior Researcher at INBO (Institute for Nature and Forest) (Belgium)

Building with Nature

Keynote: No nature-based solutions without Wetopia

Wetopia starts from new alliances between people who never or rarely meet to work together on what binds them: the place, neighbourhood, city they share.

The potential of that place and its roles for the world form the basis of the "story of place" where culture is an inherent part of nature.

Joke Quintens, founder of Wetopia (South Africa)

09.45-10.45

Building with Nature

Leveraging Nature Based Solutions to stimulate entrepreneurship and job creation

Some of the greatest barriers for implementing nature-based solutions (NBS) in cities are a lack of funding and finding skilled suppliers. Two Connecting Nature cities, Poznan and Nicosia, will share their journey on how they secured innovative forms of financing for their nature-based solutions and developed new support strategies for nature-based entrepreneurship. We meet Kimia Witte, graduate of the first Glasgow Nature-based Accelerator Programme where they will present their new nature-based enterprise: Vertical Forest.

Panel:

Kimia Witte, Vertical Forest (Scotland)

Agnieszka Osipiuk, City of Poznan (Poland)

Jędrzej Damski, Green-up/ Reforest'Action (Poland)

Eleni Malekiddou, Nicosia Development Agency (Cyprus)

Chairs: **Isobel Fletcher**, Horizon Nua and **Esmee**

Kooijman TCD (Ireland)

Theme:

Nature for health and well-being | Green Care

Green Care has emerged as a distinctive field of study and practice that contributes to solving some of the negative health and well-being impacts associated with growing trends like urbanization, global warming and social exclusion. However, while the benefits of nature on health and wellbeing have been known for centuries, it is only recently that they have been studied consistently. Green Care refers to a "range of activities that promotes physical and mental health and well-being through contact with nature and nature-based solutions".

Panel:

Tadhg Macintyre, Go Green Routes Coordinator (Ireland)

Shirley Gleeson, Ecowellness Consulting (Ireland)

Chair: **Colm O'Driscoll**, Etifor (Italy)

10.45-11.15

Coffee break

Connecting Nature Impact Summit



Friday 29th April Streamed sessions



All times are in CEST

11:15 - 12:00

Building with Nature Exploring the environmental impacts of nature-based solutions

Struggling to understand how, or even why, to evaluate the impact of your nature-based solutions? Join us at this session to hear more about how the Connecting Nature Impact Assessment Element can help you address these challenges.

Panel:

- **Caroline Nash**, Specialist researcher, University East London (UK)
- **Barbara Goličnik Marušić**, Head of research at the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Iwona Zwierzchowska**, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań (Poland)

Chair: Stuart Connop, Associate Professor in Sustainability at University East London (UK)

11.15 - 13.10

Theme: Thinking with Nature

Keynote: Nature-based solutions: the urban innovation opportunities and challenges ahead

Niki Frantzeskaki provides the latest insights into how nature-based solutions challenge and transform urban planning and governance and presents a radical proposition on the development and deployment of nature-based solutions as urban interventions.

Niki Frantzeskaki, Chair Professor in Regional and Metropolitan Governance and Planning Human Geography and Spatial Planning Professor, Utrecht University (Netherlands)

Moderator: Francis Turkelboom, INBO (Belgium)

12.00-13.15

Building with Nature:

Design and development for nature based solutions

Book launch and workshop presenting a methodology and tools to manage complexity in implementing nature-based solutions projects by Osmos Network

Chair: Adrian Vickery Hill, co-founder Osmos Network (Belgium)

13.15 - 14.15

Lunch

14.15 - 15.15

Living with Nature

Sharing experiences in allotment gardening to create social impact

Join us for an interactive session designed to inspire cities to create allotment gardens. Building on the experiences of the cities of Poznan and A Coruna we hear how they identified restricted and unused green space to create shared community allotments.

Speakers:

- **Natalia Madajczyk**, Poznan City Hall (Poland)
- **Antonio Prieto**, City of A Coruna (Spain)

15.15 - 16.00

Outlook: Actions for research and innovation

This session is all about looking back at the sessions of the Summit, and then looking forward to future directions for research and innovation for increasing uptake on nature-based solutions.

Joint Chair:

Siobhan McQuaid, Coordinator Connecting Nature (Ireland)
Marcus Collier, Chair, Advisory Board, Connecting Nature (Ireland)

Speakers include:

- **Toon Vandeurzen**, Alderman of the Economy, Sustainability and Spatial Planning, City of Genk, (Belgium)
- **Sven Oliver Knabe**, Helix Pflanzen (Germany),
- **Jennifer Selnick**, Rutgers University (US)

Connecting Nature Impact Summit



Thursday 28th April On-site sessions

Outdoor activity all day

Outdoor (all day)

All times are in CEST

Green living room (Helix)

Artistic portraits of the Stiemervalley by Valerie Van Leersum

Central Hall (all day)

Stiemerexhibition Connecting Nature Exhibition

Registration desk
Information desk

13:00-14:00

Lunch

Activity

Schansbroek Park
Site Tour Thor Park

14.15-15.45

Theme: Building with Nature

Green infrastructure and bacteria: mother nature by our side for healthy cities

Sabine Hubrechts gives an overview of the research on Nature- Based Solutions completed by the Centre for Environmental Sciences. EcoCities is a project on green walls and roofs that is carried out by Hasselt University, UAntwerp, PXL and WTCB and is financially supported by the FWO

Sabine Hubrechts, project coordinator of EcoCities (Centre for Environmental Sciences, UHasselt) (Belgium)

Theme: Building with Nature

Urban planning inspirations: Future proof urban design and spatial planning (NL)

Eva Heuts presents the new book of case studies.

Eva Heuts, architect-urbanplanner at VRP (Flemish Association of Space and Planning) (Belgium)

Case study: Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Stiemervalley in Genk

Bart van Gassen, Architectural Engineer at Tractebel (Belgium)

Theme: Thinking with Nature

Reflexive Monitoring Workshop Learning Process

Learn about the Reflexive Monitoring Process - an innovative monitoring and evaluation method. It aligns daily activities with long-term ambitions and the impact of a project. The method enables users to gain insight into the progress and direction of their project in real time. Reflexive Monitoring helps to evaluate day-to-day activities and to respond to them while considering the bigger picture. This is especially helpful when addressing complex challenges.

Chair: Carien van der Have, Researcher and Adviser DRIFT (Netherlands)

16:15-17.30

Theme: Building with Nature

Green infrastructure and bacteria: mother nature by our side for healthy cities

Sabine Hubrechts gives an overview of the research on Nature- Based Solutions completed by the Centre for Environmental Sciences. EcoCities is a project on green walls and roofs that is carried out by Hasselt University, UAntwerp, PXL and WTCB and is financially supported by the FWO

Sabine Hubrechts, project coordinator of EcoCities (Centre for Environmental Sciences, UHasselt) (Belgium)

Theme: Thinking with Nature

@ stiemerhub: *Lancing UrbanByNature Hub Flanders 'Natuurweefselhuis' Een regionaal netwerk rond 'natuurweefselplanning'; een cocreatieve aanpak om stedelijke natuur te maken, te beheren en te borgen (NL)*

Keynote: 'Natuurweefselplan' - Horizontaal regionaal samenwerken rond natuurweefselontwikkeling met de Genkse Stiemerhub als vitrine.

Panel:

- **Pieter Van den Broeck**, Professor at KULeuven
- **Gert De Keyser** (CTLF regisseur stedelijke natuur VL, ANB)
- **Liesbet Huybrechts**, Postdoctoral researcher, UHasselt
- **Véronique Claessens**, directeur sector Ruimte, stad Genk
- **Sofia Saavedra Bruno** Complex Projects Manager @ ORG Permanent Modernity & Postdoctoral researcher KU Leuven & Supersudaca

Moderator: Toon Luypaert, Strategisch beleidsraadgever bij Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos

Connecting Nature Impact Summit



Friday 29th April On-site sessions

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9.15-12.15

Theme: Experience the EM | Path Approach - a new arts-based co-production process.

The session will explore what nature means to us; using memory work, body-mapping, creativity and creative activity, we will build nature-based narratives, and reflect on how these can shape nature-based solutions.

Dimitra Xidous, Research Fellow in Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

(max. 12 persons)

10:00 – 11:00

Theme: Building with Nature

'Flanders Breaks Out!'

The Flemish department of Environment explains in this session the desealing project 'Flanders Breaks Out' and helps you to create your own desealing project.
(max. 40 persons)

- **Laurens Vanden Eynde**, Department of Environment and Spatial Development
- **Henri Lebbe**, Department of Environment and Spatial Development

Living with Nature

From co-production to new forms of multi actor governance models for NBS

Governance is often a challenge for the implementation of NBS. This session explores co-production methods and approaches to overcome this, illustrated by best practice examples.

Chair: Carien van der Have, Researcher and Adviser, DRIFT (Netherlands)

11:15 - 12:00

Keynote: The Economic Impact of a National Park

Keynote: Economic impact of a National Park

The national park provides a high added economic value to the region. This strong economic impulse leaves a favourable environment for additional efforts in landscape care, nature restoration and biodiversity conservation, increasing opportunities for nature-oriented tourism and stimulates support for investment.

Ignace Schops,
director, ngo Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland. (Belgium)

Side session:

UrbanByNature: Policy Brief Outcomes

Join representatives from ICLEI Europe and dive deep into three policy briefs written over the course of the Connecting Nature project. Work in small teams to identify relevant policy outcomes for your local context and provide authors with constructive feedback. Topics include: mainstreaming the co-production of nature-based solutions in European cities; challenges and enablers to financing nature-based solutions in Europe; and upscaling nature-based solutions towards a nature-positive, carbon neutral, and equitable economy.

Chair: Kassia Rudd, ICLEI (Germany)

12.00 - 13.15

Theme: Building with Nature

Stiemerdeals: Lessons on social innovation

In this workshop we will collectively brainstorm about the possibilities and difficulties of social innovation using Genk's Stiemerdeals as a case study.

Chair: Selina Schepers,
projectmanager social innovation,
stad Genk (Belgium)

Theme: Building with Nature

Hackathon - bedrijven voor meer natuur (NL)

Hoe realiseren we 1 m² groen voor elke m² grijs op bedrijventerreinen?

Keynote: History of Talea by founder **Filip Vanlommel**

Panel:

- **Steven van Onckelen**, Expert Partnerschappen, Departement Omgeving
- **Barbara Roosen**, Postdoctoral researcher, UHasselt

Discussant: Bernd Bormans, Coördinator Dienst Bedrijfsleven, stad Genk (Belgium)