



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



Connecting
Nature

Thursday 28th April Streamed sessions **LIVE**

All times are in CEST

9:00- 9:10

Welcome & Introduction

- **Wim Dries**, Mayor of Genk
- **Siobhan McQuaid**, Coordinator Connecting Nature

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 makes a solid case for why Natural Intelligence, not Artificial Intelligence, should be at the forefront of societal innovation. Leen will explain how nature-based solutions fit into this vision.

Leen Gorissen, founder [Centre4NI](#)

9:45 - 10:45

The Connecting Nature Framework for achieving Impact from 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
- **Carien van der Have**, Medior Advisor and Researcher at DRIFT

10:45-11.00

Coffee break

11:00-12:15

Theme: Thinking with Nature

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.

Keynote: To be announced

Panel members:

- **Zuhal Demir**, Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment, Energy and Tourism
- **Wim Dries**, Mayor of Genk
- **Sander Jacobs**, Scientific Researcher for the Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)

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.

13:00-14:15

Lunch

14:15-14:30

Introduction and Instruction to a Reflexive Monitoring Exercise
Facilitator: DRIFT



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14:30-16:00

Thinking with Nature

The Economic Impact of NBS

Join the coordinators of four H2020 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”

Panel

- **Marcus Collier**, Trinity College Dublin, Chair of Connecting Nature Advisory Board
- **Laura Wendling**, UNaLab Co-ordinator
- **Sophie Sheil**, GrowGreen Coordinator
- **Raúl Sánchez**, UrbanGreenUP Co-ordinator

Chair: Siobhan McQuaid, Coordinator Connecting Nature

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 NBS.

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

16:00-16:15

Coffee break

16:15-17.30

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. NBS 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

Building with Nature

Exploring the role of technology in upscaling NBS

This session explores how different types of technologies contribute to support decision making, increase effectiveness of NBS, develop the market for NBS, raise awareness and engages citizens, and finance of NBS.

Panel includes:

- **Nadina Galle**, Ecological Engineer, technologist and entrepreneur
- **Thomas Andersson**, IKED (International Organisation of Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development)
- **Isobel Fletcher**, Horizon Nua and Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform

Chair: Esmee Kooijman, Researcher, Trinity Centre for Social Innovation, Trinity College Dublin

17:30-18:00

Review of the Reflexive Monitoring exercise for participants

Facilitator: DRIFT



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9:00 - 9:30

Welcome

Toon Vandeurzen, Alderman of the Economy, Sustainability and Spatial Planning, City of Genk
Marcus Collier, Chair HLAB

9:30 - 10:00

Thinking with Nature

Keynote: Plural values and the socio-politics of NBS

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

Building with Nature

Keynote: No NBS 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

10:00 - 11:00

Building with Nature

The Economic impact of NBS: Leveraging NBS to stimulate entrepreneurship and job creation

Panel includes:

- **Kimia Witte**, Vertical Forest
- **Helen Denny**, Good Ideas Scotland
- **Agnieszka Osipiuk**, City of Poznan
- **Eleni Malekiddou**, Nicosia Development Agency
- **Clever Cities Representative**

Chair: Isobel Fletcher, Horizon Nua and Esmee Kooijman TCD

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, Medior Advisor and Researcher at DRIFT

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00

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

Moderator: Francis Turkelboom, INBO

11.15 - 13.10

Building with Nature

Exploring the environmental Impacts of NBS

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

- **Caroline Nash**, Specialist researcher, University East London
- **Barbara Goličnik Marušić**, Head of research at the Urban planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Iwona Zwierzchowska**, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
- **Connecting Nature cities**

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

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12:00-13:15

Living with Nature

Sharing experiences in allotment gardening to create social impact

The session is about increasing accessibility to allotment gardens and facilitating groups of local residents to use common spaces. In this session we present a case study of two allotment gardens in Poznań developed using the Connecting Nature Framework. We hope to inspire other cities to create their own plans of developing unused and restricted green areas for city citizens. The session will include an interactive discussion of other allotment experiences and we discuss the role of allotment gardens as an important social driver in cities.

Chair: Natalia Madajczyk, Poznan City Hall

13:15-14:30

Lunch

15:00-16.00

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 NBS. Closing remarks based on visual harvesting will be made by Siobhan McQuaid and Marcus Collier.

Chair: Siobhan McQuaid, Coordinator Connecting Nature



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

Registration desk
Information desk

13:00-14:15

Lunch

Sport Activity

Schansbroek Parc
Site Tour Thor Parc

14:30-16:00

Theme: Building with Nature

Citizen science and Nature Based Solutions – Participatory action for nature monitoring and research

Interactive workshop on challenges in citizen science

Chair: Jef Van Laer, SCIVIL (Knowledge Centre for Citizen Science Flanders)

Citizen Science projects involved:

- Selina Schepers, Stiemerlab
- Iris Stiers & Sven De Boeck, Bugs 2 the rescue
- Soy in 1000 gardens (max 30 persons)

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)

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

Bart van Gassen, Architectural Engineer at Tractebel

Theme: Thinking with Nature

Reflexive Monitoring Workshop Learning Process

Learn about the Reflexive Monitoring Process

Chair: DRIFT

16:15-17.30

Theme: Building with Nature

*Title**

Sabine Hubrechts gives an overview of the research on Nature Based Solutions done in the Centre for Environmental Sciences.

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

Theme: Thinking with Nature

@ stiemerhub: Lancering 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 KU Leuven
- **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

17:30-18:00

Reception

Guided walk in national parc with ranger (1,5h)

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9.30 - 12.00

Theme: Living with Nature

The EM|Path Approach

A co-creative arts-based engagement approach workshop

(max. 12 persons)

Dimitra Xidous, Research Fellow in Trinity College Dublin

Within a workshop, the participants get the opportunity to explore their relationship with nature and to create narratives out of their reflections, which shape individual nature-based solutions in a city.

10:00 – 11:00

Theme: Building with Nature

'Flanders Breaks Out!'

The Flemish department of Environment explains in this session the desealing programme '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

Theme: Living with Nature

Nature for health and well-being | Green Care

Colm O'Driscoll, Etifor

A presentation on the impact of nature on health and well-being

11:15 - 12:00

Keynote: The Economic Impact of a National Park

Keynote: Economic impact of a National Park

The national park gives to 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

Ignace Schops, Director, NGO Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland.

Side session:

UrbanByNature: Policy Brief Outcomes

Kassia Rudd, ICLEI

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

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

Theme: Building with Nature

Design and development for nature based solutions

Book launch and workshop presenting a methodology and tools to manage complexity in implementing NBS projects by Osmos Network

Chair: Adrian Vickery Hill, co-founder Osmos Network

16:00-17:00

Reception

Evening

- 20u: Campfire Schansbroek + foodtruck
- 21u: Outdoor movie 'Marcher sur l'eau'