

Connecting Nature Impact Summit

#connectingnaturesummit

28 – 29
April 2022
Thor Central
Genk

Talks
Expo
Summit

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connectingnature.eu



The Connecting Nature Impact Summit will bring together a wide range of local, regional and international participants to demonstrate how nature impacts our lives, socially, environmentally, economically and how nature-based solutions (NbS) can provide a positive impact for urban environments and protect biodiversity.

The event programme is centred around the building blocks of the [Connecting Nature Framework](#) and is grouped under three themes:



Thinking with nature explores the larger scale policy, strategy, planning and theoretical implications under the umbrella theme of nature-based solutions. Discussions include the impact of nature-based solutions on different policy levels; on the impact on climate resilience; etc.



Building with nature focuses on translating ideas into action. It looks at the design and development process, from defining a project to the design and development process. The integrated approach needed because of the layered character of nature-based solutions has an impact on the organization of a city administration.



Living with nature is about the governance, communities and stewardship of nature and natural environments. It is about the impact of nature-based solutions on the neighbourhoods and citizens involved. It will particularly offer community leaders to look at the longer-term care and management.

This hybrid event will include both online and in person presentations, workshops, round table discussions, site visits, exhibitions and performances, all in a creative and festive atmosphere.

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| Time | Streamed sessions | On-site sessions |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 9:00-9:10 | Welcome & Introduction By Wim Dries, Mayor of Genk, and Siobhan McQuaid, Coordinator of Connecting Nature. | |
| 9:10 - 9:45 | Keynote "Thinking with Nature" Dr. Leen Gorissen is the founder of Centre4NI which specializes in ecology, transition science, regenerative design and bio-inspired innovation. | - |
| 9:45 - 10:45 | The Connecting Nature Framework for achieving NbS impact Dr. Stuart Connop, UEL* and Marleen Lodder, 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 gaps. | |
| <i>Coffee break</i> | | |
| 11:00-12:15 | Policy for upscaling NbS: Where do we go from here? In this high-level policy dialogue, we will hear from European, National and City policymakers about what policy is needed for upscaling NbS towards a net zero carbon economy. | |
| 12:15-13:00 | Keynote "The role of NbS innovation in the sustainability transition" Jan Rotmans is a professor at Erasmus University and founder of ICIS, DRIFT, Urgenda and Nederland Kantelt. He has published on climate change, climate models and sustainable change. | - |
| <i>Lunch</i> | | |
| 14:15-14:30 | Reflections of the morning Reflexive Monitoring exercise for participants organised by DRIFT. | - |
| 14:30-16:00 | From Nature-based Solutions to the Nature-Based Economy Launch of the EC Expert Publication followed by panel discussion on the experience of NbS economic impact from four H2020 demonstrators. Organised by Siobhan McQuaid, Trinity College Dublin. | Sharing experiences on NbS to achieve impact globally Hear from UrbanByNature Hubs all over the world about their experience with promoting and implementing NbS. Organised by Daniela Rizzi, ICLEI*. Thinking with Nature Learn more about the Reflexive Monitoring process, organised by DRIFT. Building with Nature Co-production Learning Workshop with citizens, organised by OSMOS. |
| <i>Coffee break</i> | | |
| 16:15-17.30 | Keynote "Living with Nature: Drinkable rivers" Li An Phoa talks about her documentary on 'Drinkable rivers' as an indicator of ecosystem health, and how her organisation is engaging with citizens, government bodies and networks to make this happen. Discussant: David Maddox, The Nature of Cities* | Economic impact of NBS: Leveraging NbS to stimulate entrepreneurship and job creation Hear about CN strategies, tools and guidebooks for supporting nature-based entrepreneurship, and from entrepreneurs – including the winner of the TNOC NbS Pitchfest. Organised by Esmee Kooijman, Trinity College Dublin, and Isobel Fletcher, Horizon Nua. Launch UrbanByNature Hub Flanders Organised by Daniela Rizzi, ICLEI*, and Mien Quartier, City of Genk. |
| 17:30-18:00 | Reflections of the afternoon Reflexive Monitoring exercise for participants organised by DRIFT. | - |

Note: All times are in CEST. This is a draft programme, * to be confirmed.



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Friday 29 April



| Time | Streamed sessions | | On-site sessions |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 9:00-9:30 | Welcome By Alderman Toon Vandeurzen and Marcus Collier, Chair Connecting Nature Advisory Board. | | |
| 9:30 - 10:00 | Keynote "Climate without Borders" Jill Peeters is a Flemish meteorologist, a pioneer in creating impactful climate communication and founder of "Climate without Borders". | Keynote "Wetopia"* | Living with Nature: Sarajevo Process Workshop Organised by Dimitra Xidou, EM Path |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | Future technologies for upscaling NbS* This session will focus on technology for upscaling NbS, with speakers on innovative financing approaches, platforms, big data and AI. Organised by Esmee Kooijman, Trinity College Dublin* | From co-production to new forms of multi-actor NbS governance 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. Organised by EM Path & DRIFT* | |
| <i>Coffee break</i> | | | |
| 11:15-12:00 | Keynote "Social Impact of NBS" Niki Frantzeskaki* is a professor in Regional and Metropolitan Governance and Planning at Utrecht University, NL. Discussant: Sander Jacobs, INBO* | Keynote "Environmental impact of NBS" Organised by Stuart Connop, UEL* | Keynote "Economic Impact of a National Park" Organised by Mien Quartier, City of Genk. |
| 12:00-13:15 | Social impact through sharing experiences in allotment gardening An interactive session with experiences from Connecting Nature Cities Genk, Poznań, Glasgow, and A Coruña* | Building with Nature: Measuring impact on biodiversity Measuring impact of NbS on biodiversity is challenging and often results to making trade-offs. Hear from experts about ways to measure impact, and be the first to see a live demo of the CO-Impact tool! Organiser: Connecting Ecology, UDC | Building with Nature: StiemeerDeals workshop Building with Nature Desealing in practice in Flanders |
| <i>Lunch</i> | | | |
| 14:30-15:00 | Reflections of the day Reflexive Monitoring exercise for participants organised by DRIFT. | | |
| 15:00-15:30 | Conclusions: Future directions for research and innovation to increase impact and uptake on NbS 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. Chair: Siobhan McQuaid, Coordinator Connecting Nature. | | |
| 15:30-16:00 | Closing remarks By Siobhan McQuaid, Coordinator of Connecting Nature, and Mien Quartier, City of Genk. | | |
| <i>Reception</i> | | | |

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