

NetworkNature Science- Policy Event

Monday 15th September 2025

Outline Concept V1.0

Finance for NbS

**How can policy direct financial flows to
Nature-based Solutions for a nature
positive economy in the European Union?**

About

NetworkNature is pleased to welcome registrations for the upcoming Science-Policy Workshop on:

How can policy direct financial flows to Nature-based Solutions for a nature positive economy in the European Union?

15th September 2025 – 11h00 to 17h30 CET – Brussels (*Venue TBC*)

The aim of the event is to co-create policy-focused recommendations that can help increase financial flows to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and support a nature positive economy, based on the evidence and research from European Union (EU) funded projects. The event will explore which current policies are effectively supporting NbS, which are not, and how policy frameworks can be shaped to further support private investment in a nature positive economy. Areas of discussion will include the [EU taxonomy for sustainable activities](#), among others.

The workshop is targeted specifically at the following audiences in the EU:

- *Policymakers responsible for financial planning, budgeting, and economic decision-making under different themes (e.g. green finance and investments, sustainable finance, natural capital etc) and in different sectors (e.g. agriculture, economics, infrastructure etc).*
- *Financial institutions involved in or interested in financing NbS, including in sectors like infrastructure and agriculture.*
- *Experts from EU funded projects working on various aspects of financing and funding NbS, including insurance, cost-benefit analysis and different financial mechanisms.*

This is the third in a series of Science-Policy Workshops convened by NetworkNature to highlight the latest research from European Union (EU) funded projects and its relevance for policy.

Please register [here](#) to join us in exploring how research can inform policy to help direct financial flows to NbS.

For more information about the event, please contact: events@unep-wcmc.org

Background

“Inaction is too costly. But swift and effective action makes economic sense. Every dollar invested in ecosystem restoration creates up to thirty dollars in economic benefits. We are Generation Restoration. Together, let’s build a sustainable future for land, and for humanity.”

António Guterres, UN Secretary General, [World Environment Day 2024](#)

NbS play an essential role in tackling multiple societal challenges, including climate change, pollution and the vitally needed transition to a nature positive economy. A huge gap still exists between the current funding and financing available for NbS and the amount required to meet global goals. This Science-Policy Workshop will:

- *Present the recommendations for investors developed by NetworkNature and associated EU funded projects to help scale up and out finance for NbS.*
- *Explore the implications and applications of these recommendations for policy and policymakers.*
- *Strengthen the science-policy interface by translating scientific evidence into actionable policies that can guide and accelerate investments in NbS.*

The session will include an overview of the current state of finance for NbS in the EU, innovative / emerging finance mechanisms and the latest research and tools on finance for NbS coming from EU funded projects. Participants will be invited to explore and co-create recommendations for policymakers working on different themes and sectors on how these approaches and tools can both inform policy and contribute to achieving policy objectives in the EU, including the [European Green Deal](#).

This event is targeted at:

- **Policymakers** in the EU working on different themes (e.g. green finance and investments, sustainable finance, natural capital etc) and in different sectors (e.g. agriculture, economics, infrastructure etc) who are interested in, involved in designing or are already using financial instruments and regulation to facilitate appropriate investments in NbS (including the use of public funds to leverage private finance).
- **Banks and investors** operating at different levels in the EU interested in or actively engaged with NbS and the policy context for them.

Objectives

- *Explore experiences of where the policy environment supports NbS, where it does not, and opportunities to better integrate NbS into policy.*
- *Highlight the vital importance of policy in creating an enabling environment for private investments.*
- *Showcase the work of selected EU funded projects on upscaling finance for NbS.*
- *Share the recommendations for investors from the NetworkNature Guide to the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Finance Landscape.*
- *Discuss the applicability and implications of these recommendations for policymakers.*
- *Develop a set of recommendations for policymakers on how to more effectively mobilise finance for NbS.*

Topics

The event will draw on the latest research and thinking on how to scale up and out investment in NbS, with a particular focus on increasing the contribution of the private sector in an appropriate and sustainable way. The workshop will be structured around different themes (e.g. green finance and investments, sustainable finance, natural capital etc) and sectors (e.g. agriculture, economics, infrastructure etc).

Potential discussion topics could include how EU policy and national and regional implementation can:

- *Capitalise on opportunities to adjust tax and subsidy structures and remove unintended negative consequences / barriers.*
- *Require consideration of NbS as an alternative or complementary approach in public procurement.*
- *Expand public private partnerships / guarantees to de-risk opportunities.*
- *Ensure relevant safeguards are embedded within policy.*
- *Support growth of the insurance and reinsurance market for NbS.*
- *Provide financial support to businesses to scale up availability of NbS related services*
- *Support financial decision makers to understand the risks and opportunities for NbS in their portfolios.*

Policy Context

EU policies are increasingly explicit about the need to leverage private investments to meet environmental and other goals, especially through NbS. For example:

- The [*EU climate adaptation strategy*](#) calls for action to support the private sector to identify risks and steer investment towards action on adaptation and resilience (and avoid maladaptation).
- The [*EU Nature Restoration Law*](#) acknowledges the “utmost importance” of adequate private and public investments to meeting the targets of restoring degraded ecosystems and their services.

The EU policy and legal framework aims to enable a significant increase in the direction of private sector finance towards NbS by requiring major companies and investors are to disclose how their investments align with the taxonomy and define corporate strategies to reduce their footprint on biodiversity and climate. Some examples include:

- The [*EU Taxonomy Regulation*](#) directs investments to defined economic activities that can be considered environmentally sustainable, such as NbS for flood and drought risk prevention and protection and sustainable urban drainage systems. Investments that make a substantial contribution to the climate risk category should “rely on nature-based solutions or rely on blue or green infrastructure to the extent possible.”
- The [*EU Green Bonds Regulation*](#) applies the taxonomy requirements to the use of the label 'European green bond,' with the aim to make it easier for both investors and companies to identify environmentally sustainable investments and to guarantee their credibility.
- The [*EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\)*](#) sets European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) which define a structured approach for companies to communicate their sustainability initiatives and impacts and ensure CSRD compliance. These standards are aligned with the taxonomy.

These policies are currently being reviewed to simplify and reduce administrative burdens. At the same time, the EU is debating how to better target and simplify EU budgeting and use of funds in the next multi-annual financial framework from 2028. This is an opportunity to strengthen the policy drivers of private investments in NbS and remove barriers to investment.

Outline Agenda

Time (CET)	Session
11h00 – 11h30	Arrival and registration
11h30 – 11h40	Welcome and icebreaker
11h40 – 11h50	Keynote: Finance for NbS and why it is important
11h50 – 12h20	<p>Panel: How can policy direct financial flows to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for a nature positive economy in the EU? <i>A moderated discussion between policymakers and financial institutions.</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
12h20 – 12h45	<p>Lightning talks: How the latest research, tools and resources from EU funded projects contribute to scaling investment in NbS</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12h45 – 13h45	Networking lunch
13h45 – 13h55	Presentation: Mapping the finance landscape for NbS in the EU
13h55 – 14h00	Introducing the breakout groups
14h00 – 15h00	<p>Breakout group discussions</p> <p><i>Drawing on experiences from policymakers, financial institutions and research project representatives. Topics to be confirmed.</i></p>
15h00 – 15h30	Refreshment break
15h30 – 15h50	Report back from breakout groups
15h50 – 16h15	Exercise: Prioritizing and synthesising recommendations
16h15 – 16h45	Discussion: Exercise outcomes and reflections
16h45 – 17h00	Close: Next steps and thanks
17h00 – 17h30	Reflections: Time to discuss the day and outcomes informally with other participants



NetworkNature is an expanding ‘network of networks’ working together to raise awareness, share knowledge and build capacity about nature-based solutions to accelerate their uptake in business, science, policy and practice along the policy priorities of the European Green Deal. It will maintain and add to a diverse and science-based repository of evidence on NbS, strengthen partnerships and foster new relationships around a clear, strategic framework for action. This work is underpinned by an up-to-date EU Research & Innovation NBS Roadmap and NetworkNature’s six priority themes: Biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem restoration; Sustainable food systems; Zero Pollution; Climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience; Sustainable finance, investment and just transition; Sustainable urban and regional transformation



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UK Research
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