



Annual Event

25th September 2024

Busting myths



Busting myths: *People ~~or~~ with nature*

This year's NetworkNature Annual Conference will focus on 'busting myths' in relation to ecosystem restoration and management. This event will revolve around myths that practice, research, policy making, and business are busting or that need to be busted to bring about transformative change and reverse biodiversity loss. The concept of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and their features will arise from busting the myths, acknowledging that restoring nature is not a luxury but a necessity and an opportunity that brings many advantages, including in economic terms, and highlighting the potential of NbS to identify, capture and build on synergistic relationships between nature and people. Through case studies, personal and professional insights, research advancements and governance initiatives, the attendees will explore inspiring approaches for people and nature, with people and nature.

The widespread idea that people and nature are necessarily conflicting will be debunked through guiding experiences where people and nature exist through and benefit from each other.

The audience, including policymakers, local authorities, researchers, innovators, land planners and managers, investors and businesses, educators, artists, and society at large will be challenged by different presentations. They will debunk preconceived notions regarding the restoration, conservation, protection, management, and use of land and seas. The agenda will be structured in such a way to cover three key elements, namely the regenerating nature actions, governance and policy, and economy and valuation. Additionally, participants will be invited to engage in active debates and will have the opportunity to propose their own myths to bust.

Through a series of panel discussions, presentations as well as interactive activities and artistic components, the event will look at common myths about ecosystem management, while providing insights and knowledge on how NbS contribute to busting these myths and provide opportunities. This will be framed within current EU policy developments. The definition of the

myths and presentations will be shaped through a dedicated open call as well as with a lineup of great speakers. The open call will invite NbS projects' representatives and other relevant stakeholders to bring forward common myths they have encountered in relation to ecosystem management with respect to the three abovementioned elements, and the solutions they have put in place, with a clear emphasis on the synergistic relationship between nature and people and the role of NbS.

Agenda

Busting myths: *People ~~or~~ with nature*

8h45 9h00	Registration	
Introduction		
09h00 09h15	Start of conference	NetworkNature
09h15 09h30	Welcome speech on NbS performance	Luís Rodríguez TPoNbS
09h30 09h50	European Commission keynote speech	Humberto Delgado Rosa DG ENV, European Commission

Busting myths

Regenerating nature

Existing beliefs on land management and technical solutions to societal challenges may ignore or even go against ecological processes, causing trade-offs and degradation of ecosystems in the long term. Encouraging actions to regenerate nature need a deep transformation in the way we see and understand soil, water and land, in order to ensure that interventions and ecological principles are aligned.

09h50 Short busting-myth presentations

10h10 Regenerating nature: Soil and water

Myth	Under climate change, dams are more needed than ever	Carlos García de Leaniz AMBER Swansea University
Myth	To have high yield we need to fight nature	Marco Anselmo L'ortò 'n'te fasce
Myth	Too small to be considered	Anna Terrats <i>Invited by</i> PONDERFUL Catalan Water Agency
Myth	Nature is only about living organisms	José Francisco Martín Duque LIFE Ribermine Universidad Complutense de Madrid

10h10 Short panel + Q&A

10h35 A change of paradigm in water and soil management

Same speakers as above

Coffee- break

11h05 Short busting-myth presentations

11h25 Regenerating nature: Land uses

Myth	Natural forests must be the target for forest restoration	Jo O'Hara SUPERB European Forest Institute
Myth	Urban sprawl can go on for ever	Annelaure Wittmann Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et la Cohésion des Territoires, French Gouv.
Myth	Nature-based carbon removals are inevitably greenwashing	Christian Holzleitner DG CLIMA, EC
Myth	Drained forests as climate win	Mari Palolill WaterLANDS University of Tartu, Estonian Fund for Nature

11h25 Short panel + Q&A

11h50 Sharing landscapes

Same speakers as above

Busting myths on nature governance

Actions for regenerating nature are implemented across different ecosystems and at different scales, often resulting in diverse and unequal influences on people's lives. While these actions are highly debated among stakeholders, there is a growing concern and call to action to ensure that the social perspective is taken into account, that people and nature benefit and exist through each other and that it is possible to ensure a balanced distribution of costs and benefits.

11h50 **Short busting-myth presentations**
12h10 **Nature governance: Nature for people**

Myth	Rigid walls, resilient coasts	Luciana Villa Castrillón RESTCOAST Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon
Myth	Improving access to nature creates benefits for all	Isabelle Anguelovski Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability
Myth	Working for nature is against landowners' interests	Delphine Dupeux European Landowners
Myth	Our landscapes have always looked like this!	Richard Grayson WaterLANDS University of Leeds

12h10 **Short panel + Q&A**
12h35 **Nature for people** *Same speakers as above*

12h35 **Short busting-myth presentations**
12h55 **Nature governance: People for nature**

Myth	Data will tell us what to do	Florence Damiens SAFEGUARD Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Myth	Science as quest for objective truth	Sebastian Birk MERLIN University of Duisburg-Essen
Myth	tbd	Aveliina Helm Science advisor to the minister, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
Myth	Citizens aren't interested in protecting nature	Micheál O' Cinneide Director, Corrib Beo, Ireland
12h55 13h20	Short panel + Q&A People for nature	<i>Same speakers as above</i>

Lunch break and poster exhibition

**13h20
14h45** Lunch served by Act for Transition

Posters tbc

Busting myths on the value of nature

Understanding and measuring the value of nature has long been a debated topic, bringing to the table the rationale and challenges of associating monetary values. Beyond the economic dimension, nature brings values to people as well as to ecosystems. As the acknowledgement that nature underpins our economy, our society and our very existence arises, so does the synergistic relationship among nature, the economy and social well-being, debunking the perspectives that focus on the conflicts among them.

14h45 15h05	Short busting-myth presentations The value of nature: an underestimated matter	
Myth	Valuation of nature is a technical challenge	Sander Jacobs GoNaturePositive INBO
Myth	Nothing there, just dirt	Mirco Barbero DG ENV, European Commission
Myth	Nature always comes last	Milena Pereira Kozlowksi Generation Climate Europe
Myth	Only people have rights	Speaker tbc
15h05 15h30	Short panel + Q&A Re-valuing nature	<i>Same speakers as above</i>

15h30 15h50	Short busting-myth presentations The value of nature: Economy for and with nature	
Myth	It is all about immediate profit	John Garvey BIOFIN-EU University of Limerick
Myth	Ecosystem insurance is unworkable	Jaroslav Mysiak NATURANCE Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change
Myth	Biodiversity or profit	Carlos Ruiz González Life Olivares Vivos SEO BirdLife
Myth	Economic growth is essential for stability	Lydia Korinek Zoe Institute
15h50 16h15	Short panel + Q&A Economy for and with nature	

Final words

16h15
16h25

Conclusions

Chantal van Ham
Commonland

16h25
16h30

Final words

Boris Erg (tbc)
IUCN EURO

Final Coffee

Bonus Parallel sessions and site visits

17h00 **Site-visits**
18h30 **Regenerating nature: Soil and water**

Site-visit 1 *Tbd*

Organised by
Bruxelles Environnement

Site-visit 2 *Tbd*

Organised by
Bruxelles Environnement

Site-visit 3 *Tbd*

Organised by
Bruxelles Environnement

17h00 **Parallel session**
18h00 **Bust your myth with comic strips**

David Maddox
The Nature of Cities

18h30
20h00 ***Drinks at Parkfarm***



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



This project has received funding from the European Union's Research Executive Agency under grant No. 101082213. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

This work is also funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee [grant number 10064784]