

## **NbS Examples Submitted by The European Union to the Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature-based Solutions**

With expertise in research, implementation, business strategy, policy and communication - ICLEI Europe, IUCN, BiodivERSA, Oppla and Steinbeis 2i have joined forces to create NETWORK NATURE which has established a European and global platform allowing all interested stakeholders to access and contribute cutting-edge, innovative knowledge and expertise on nature-based solutions.

Oppla, the EU repository of case studies on NBS, natural capital and ecosystem services and NetworkNature serve as important resources for the nature-based solutions community, creating opportunities for local, regional and international cooperation to maximise the impact and spread of nature-based solutions.

As a direct response to addressing a significant bottleneck where cities and developers seeking to implement nature-based solutions voiced their difficulty in finding and sourcing skilled suppliers of nature-based solutions, the Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform 1 was launched. Developed as a marketplace to match buyers and suppliers of nature-based solutions, the Platform aims to share knowledge and relevant research outcomes on nature-based economic activities.

The Horizon 2020 OPERANDUM project is demonstrating nature-based solutions for mitigating climate-related hazards and inspiring people to take action. At the heart of the project lie its open-air laboratories (OALs) that it has set up for local stakeholders to co-design and implement nature-based solutions for specific hazards in rural and natural areas. Ten OALs have been established in Australia, Austria, China, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and the United Kingdom to address hazards such as river flooding, coastal erosion, landslides, and droughts. One of the project's flagship results is the Geospatial Information Knowledge Platform (GeoIKP) which offers many different types of online tools and services aimed at various stakeholders to learn about NBS and OPERANDUM Open-air Laboratories (OALs), explore existing NBS projects on natural hazards, search for datasets of relevance in the context of NBS design and monitoring (e.g. climate data, hazard maps, land use info, relevant policies, etc.) and also perform GIS analysis which shall support evidence-based decision on NBS replication and/or upscaling. (<https://geoikp.operandum-project.eu/about> )

The project PONDERFUL assesses scenarios of pondscape management as nature-based solutions for biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as for climate change adaptation and mitigation in seven European (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK) and one CELAC (Uruguay) countries representing three bioclimatic regions in northern and southern hemisphere. Its latest publication analyses both challenges and opportunities in the use of ponds and pondsapes as nature-based solutions.

The JUSTNature project emphasizes the important notion of ecological justice that is central in implementing nature-based solutions. The overall objective is the activation of nature-based solutions by ensuring a just transition to low-carbon cities, based on the principle of the right to ecological space. This in particular refers to the right to clean air and indoor/outdoor thermal comfort for human health and well-being, as well as thriving biodiversity and ecosystems. It also refers to the duty of not constraining the ecological space of others, in particular in relation to the mitigation of climate change and measures required for reducing GHG emissions. JUSTNature will contribute to this vision of shaping low-carbon cities by developing a set of typical Low carbon | High air quality nature-based solutions in seven European city practice labs.

To unlock the potential of nature-based solutions for sustainable urban development, NATURVATION took a transdisciplinary, internationally comparative approach. It produced an Urban Nature Atlas that records more than 1000 inspiring nature-based solutions from European cities and beyond. It also developed a Nature-Based Solutions Navigator to support decision-makers in identifying which kinds of nature-based solutions contribute towards which sustainable development goals. To tackle investment-related issues, the project has also developed new business models and financing mechanisms through which nature-based solutions can be supported.

The UNALAB project has developed a nature-based solutions replication framework to support cities in the implementation of nature-based solutions for climate and water resilience based on the use of tailored IT-tools and the implementation of Living Lab approaches. The framework follows an adaptive management cycle, or PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT cycle, supporting every step in the nature-based solution implementation process and provides different entry points for different type of stakeholders, including citizens.

These examples can also be found with links in [The EU's Written Submission](#).

More examples of NbS actions in the European Union can be found [in this publication](#).