

*Advancing Finance Innovations for Nature-based Solutions*

# Welcome guide to the NATURANCE Webstival

**11-13 FEBRUARY 2025**

[www.naturanceproject.eu](http://www.naturanceproject.eu)



## Introduction

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The NATURANCE Webstival is a 3-days online event that takes place from 11th to 13th February 2025, focused on nature-based insurance and investment instruments for ecosystem restoration as part of climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The webstival explores innovative financial mechanisms, including insurance solutions, biodiversity credits and ecosystem restoration investments, that leverage nature's value in mitigating climate risks.

Participants from financial organizations, risk experts, nature-based solution practitioners, and government representatives review best practices, discuss sustainable investment and insurance finance principles, and raise awareness of the role of financial systems in promoting nature-based solutions for resilience and disaster risk reduction.

*NATURANCE is an Horizon Europe project (2022-2026) which examines the technical, financial and operational feasibility and performance of solutions built on a combination of disaster risk financing and Nature-based Solutions investments.*



Funded by  
the European Union

# Advancing Finance Innovations for Nature-based Solutions

11-12 February 2025

## AGENDA D1 | Tuesday | February 11

<b>13:00-14:30</b>	<b>OFFICIAL WELCOME AND SETTING THE STAGE</b>
<b>Keynote:</b>	Jessica Smith // UNEP Finance Initiative
<b>Panellists:</b>	Tasmim Anwar // Ramboll Helen Toxopeus // Utrecht University Anders Solheim // Norwegian Geotechnical Institute Katherine Simpson // University of Glasgow Timothy Foreman // International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
<b>Moderators:</b>	JoAnne Linnerooth-Bayer // International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis Priscila Franco Steier // ICLEI Europe
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>15:00-16:30</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE OF NATURE-BASED INVESTMENT AND INSURANCE SOLUTIONS</b>
<b>Keynotes:</b>	Douglas Mason // Expert in environmental management Marco Fritz // Directorate-General for Research & Innovation Veerle Bril // Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Laurine de Wolf // Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
<b>Moderators:</b>	Marta Vicarelli // University of Massachusetts Amherst Max Tesselaar // Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

## AGENDA D2 | Wednesday | February 12

<b>9:00-11:00</b>	<b>POWER OF COMMUNITIES: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES WITH ACTIONABLE SOLUTIONS</b>
<b>Keynote:</b>	Cheryl Desha // Natural Hazards Research Australia
<b>Panellists:</b>	Stefano Ceolotto // Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change Corinne Martin // Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership Heather Martin // Willis Towers Watson Jamie Pollard // Willis Towers Watson
<b>Moderators:</b>	Swenja Surminski // London School of Economics Priscila Franco Steier // ICLEI Europe
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>

## AGENDA D2 | Wednesday | February 12

<b>11:30-13:00</b>	<b>BRAINSTORMING IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY INNOVATION LABS</b>
<b>Moderators:</b>	Corinne Martin // Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership Priscila Franco Steier // ICLEI Europe Andrea Staccione // Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Jerker Jarsjö // Stockholm University
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	<b>NATURE AND FINANCE IN DIALOGUE: BUILDING RESILIENT FUTURES &amp; WORLD CAFÈ</b>
<b>Tables:</b>	Paul Hudson // University of York Guillermo García and Laurine de Wolf // Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam FeiFei Cao // International Groundwater Resource Assessment Centre Edoardo Gaggi // CDC Biodiversité Karina Barquet // Stockholm Environment Institute Magdalena Muir // Arctic Institute of North America Marta Vicarelli // University of Massachusetts Amherst Evelyn Underwood // Institute for European Environmental Policy Anjelika Romeo-Hall // Environmental Resources Management Silvia Grandi // University of Bologna
<b>Moderator:</b>	Laura Pirazán Palomar // ICLEI Europe
<b>14:30-15:00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>15:30-17:00</b>	<b>BOTTOM-UP: ENGAGING CITIZENS IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS</b>
<b>Panellists:</b>	Martin Kubáň // Naturethon Champion (Slovakia) Mar Fabregat Esteve // Naturethon Champion (Spain) Terhile Dominic Uchi // Naturethon Champion (Nigeria)
<b>Moderators:</b>	Andrea Staccione // Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Davide Michielin // Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change
<b>Facilitators:</b>	Soraya Melinato // Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change Agnese Glauda // Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change
<b>*ALL TIMES ARE CET</b>	

## D3 | MARKETPLACE | Thursday | February 13



# MARKETPLACE

13 February 2025

Advancing Finance Innovations

for Nature-based Solutions

## SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE I 9:30-11:00 CET

### Breakout sessions

*Conceptual work on co-financing of NbS and justice aspects.*

**Charlotte Demonsant**  
Utrecht University

*Harnessing Space Technologies for Nature-based Financial Solutions.*

**Hassan Abouseada**  
Egyptian Space Agency

*Supporting Risk Management Activities in Nature.*

**Eduardo González and Gijs van den Dool**  
GreenBox

*The revolution of Artificial Intelligence and its investment interventions in the field of sustainable development.*

**Thaer Aroud**  
International Organization for the Unification of Arab Peoples

**COFFEE BREAK**  
11:00-11:30 CET

## SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE II 11:30-12:40 CET

### Exploring ideas for citizens in Nature-based Solutions

*From business models to business plans for upscaling NBS coastal restoration in the Venice Lagoon.*

**Umberto Pernice**  
Expert in Environmental economics

*The Green Finance for Islington Pocket Park Framework.*

**Ludo Pittie**  
WSP

*Bringing Norwegian blue forests back to life.*

**Wenting Chen**  
Norsk institutt for vannforskning

*Guidelines for the design and evaluation of ecological services and environmental compensations.*

**Nicola Contarini**  
Cesena Municipality (Italy)

## SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE II 11:30-12:40 CET

### Breakout sessions

*Evaluating the impact of NBS: the role of shared and open data.*

**FeiFei Cao**  
International Groundwater Resource Assessment Centre

*Assessing and mapping European national climate-risk insurance systems.*

**Matteo Colucci**  
CMCC

*Regions4 Case Study Database, subnational solutions to global problems.*

**Renata Gómez and Gabriela Cabrera**  
Regions4

**WRAP-UP**  
12:40-13:00 CET



NATURANCE

NATURANCE is an Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Actions project (2022-2026) which examines the technical, financial and operational feasibility and performance of solutions built on a combination of disaster risk financing and nature-based solutions investments. The project connects major knowledge networks, and organises innovation finance and policy labs.



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# Sessions' overview

**NATURANCE WEBSTIVAL**





Day 1

13:00-14:30 - Official welcome & setting the stage

S1

**KEYNOTE**

This opening session sets the stage for the Webstival by highlighting core issues underlying the topic of finance innovations for nature-based solutions. A keynote on the part of the UNEP Finance Initiative will iterate the urgent need and opportunities for stepped-up nature-related finance to equitably address the risks of exceeding planetary boundaries and meeting the nature-positive goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The keynote will be followed by a panel discussion on Innovation and justice in closing the climate-nature funding gap.

**Jessica  
Smith**  
*UNEP*



**Priscila  
Franco Steier**  
*ICLEI Europe*



**PANELISTS**

**MODERATORS**



**Tasmim  
Anwar**  
*Ramboll*

**JoAnne  
Linnerooth-Bayer**  
*IIASA*



**Helen  
Toxopeus**  
*Utrecht University*

**Anders  
Solheim**  
*Norwegian  
Geotechnical  
Institute*



**Katherine  
Simpson**  
*University  
of Glasgow*

**Timothy  
Foreman**  
*IIASA*







**Douglas  
Mason**  
*Expert in  
Environmental  
management*

**Marco  
Fritz**  
*DG Research  
and Innovation*



**Max  
Tesselaar**  
*Vrije Universiteit  
Amsterdam*

**Marta  
Vicarelli**  
*University of  
Massachusetts  
Amherst*



**Veerle  
Brill**  
*Vrije Universiteit  
Amsterdam*

**Laurine  
de Wolf**  
*Vrije Universiteit  
Amsterdam*



This session explores recent developments in assessing benefits of NbSs for flood risk reduction. One speaker focuses on developments in catastrophe modeling to consider the flood risk reduction as a result of several types of NbSs. Another speaker discusses a novel method to quantify co-benefits of these same NbSs. This session ends with a panel discussion, aiming to connect the presented methods to practical implications of financing NbSs for disaster risk reduction.

This session provides an overview of the NATURANCE Innovation Labs, exploring their role in fostering collaboration and innovation. The focus will then shift to the second round, where representatives from each Lab will share their progress and outputs in a plenary format. Presentations will highlight connections to earlier work, collaboration with other project activities, and future plans.

**Cheryl  
Desha**

*Natural Hazards  
Research, Australia*



**Stefano  
Ceolotto**  
*CMCC*

**Corinne  
Martin**  
*CISL*



**Heather  
Martin**  
*WTW*

**Jamie  
Pollard**  
*WTW*



**Swenja  
Surminski**  
*LSE*

**Priscila  
Franco Steier**  
*ICLEI Europe*





This interactive session will introduce the third round of NATURANCE Innovation Labs, providing a dynamic platform for participants to engage directly with Lab leads and contribute feedback. Attendees will rotate through three breakout rooms, each dedicated to one Round 3 Innovation Lab. Lab leads will present their pitch three times, allowing all participants to hear about the Lab's goals, approach, and expected impact. This format ensures diverse perspectives are captured, fostering collaborative insights and cross-sectoral dialogue to shape the Labs' development.



**Jerker  
Jarsjö**  
Stockholm  
University

**Corinne  
Martin**  
*CISL*



**Priscila  
Franco Steier**  
*ICLEI Europe*

**Andrea  
Staccione**  
*Karlsruhe  
Institute  
of Technology*



**14:00 - 15:00 - Nature and finance in dialogue:  
Building resilient futures & world café**

**Day 2**

**S5**

This session will delve into how innovative financial tools can support the implementation of nature-based solutions. Through a World Café format, participants will explore diverse case studies, exchange strategies for advancing a nature-positive economy, and engage with related initiatives. The discussion aims to inform policy, enhance awareness, and empower stakeholders and local governments to adopt financial systems that promote resilience and disaster risk reduction.

**Laura Pirazán  
Palomar**  
*ICLEI EUROPE*



**Paul Hudson**  
*University of York*

*Private financing of nature-based solutions & natural flood management*

**FeiFei Cao**  
*IGRAC*

*Natural-based solutions to enhance water availability: A groundwater perspective*



**Guillermo García & Laurine de Wolf**  
*Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

*Methodological innovations on valuing NbS co-benefits*



**Edoardo Gacci**  
*CDC Biodiversité*

*Nature 2050: Funding long-term NbS in France*

**Karina Barquet**  
*Stockholm Environment Institute*

*How are cities financing NbS for Urban Stormwater Management? Challenges and good practices*







**Magdalena Muir**  
*Arctic Institute  
of North America*

*Building resilience in Arctic,  
coastal and marine zones  
through innovative financial  
mechanisms*

**Evelyn Underwood**  
*Institute for European  
Environmental Policy*

*Bridging nature: Innovative  
financing for ecological  
connectivity*



**Marta Vicarelli**  
*University of  
Massachusetts Amherst*

*Cost-effectiveness of NbS and  
opportunities/challenges  
to incorporate them  
in catastrophe models*

**Silvia Grandi**  
*University of Bologna*

*Nature, finance, and firms:  
Trends and challenges  
in their relation*



**Anjelika Romeo-Hall**  
*Environmental Resources  
Management*

*Blended finance as a tool to  
advance climate adaptive  
solutions in emerging markets*

Mobilizing public and citizen engagement is essential for inclusive practices toward social change, fostering a sense of empowerment and creating conditions of full transparency, accountability, and trust. The session will resume the main outcomes of the “Naturethon” initiative, that supported the formation of citizen group meetings focused on identifying innovative financial strategies for Nature-based Solutions. The most inspiring ideas submitted during the 2024 round will be shown. To stimulate the exchange of ideas, a live session of citizen engagement will follow through a digital collaborative platform.

**Andrea Staccione**  
*Karlsruhe Institute of Technology*



**Davide Michielin**  
*CMCC*



**Mar Fabregat Esteve**  
*2024 Naturethon Champion (Spain)*

**Soraya Melinato**  
*CMCC*



**Uchi Dominic Terhile**  
*2024 Naturethon Champion (Nigeria)*

**Agnese Glauda**  
*CMCC*



**Martin Kubáň**  
*2024 Naturethon Champion (Slovakia)*

**FACILITATORS**

**09:30-11:00**

**Solution Exchange I**

**Breakout sessions**

**S7**

**11:30-12:40**

**Solution Exchange II**

**Exploring ideas for citizens in NbS**

**S8**

**Charlotte Demonsant**

**Utrecht University**

*Conceptual work on co-financing of NbS and justice aspects*

*From business models to business plans for upscaling NbS coastal restoration in the Venice Lagoon*

**Umberto Pernice**

**Expert in environmental economics**

**Eduardo González Gijs van den Dool**

**GreenBox**

*Supporting Risk Management Activities in Nature*

*The Green Finance for Islington Pocket Park Framework*

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**Wenting Chen**

**Norsk institutt for vannforskning**

**Thaer Aroud**

**International Organization for the Unification of Arab Peoples**

*The revolution of Artificial Intelligence and its investment interventions in the field of sustainable development*

*Guidelines for the design and evaluation of ecological services and environmental compensations*

**Nicola Contarini**

**Cesena Municipality (Italy)**



**11:30-12:40 Solution Exchange II**  
**Breakout sessions:**

<p><b>FeiFei Cao</b>  <i>IGRAC</i></p>	<p><i>Evaluating the impact of NBS: the role of shared and open data</i></p>	<p><i>Assessing and mapping European national climate-risk insurance systems</i></p>	<p><b>Matteo Colucci</b>  <i>CMCC</i></p>
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<p><b>Renata Gómez, Gabriela Cabrera</b>  <i>Regions4</i></p>	<p><i>Regions4 Case Study Database, subnational solutions to global problems</i></p>
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**12:40-13:00 - Wrap Up**

<p><b>Jaroslav Mysiak</b>  <i>NATURANCE Coordinator</i></p>	<p><i>Closing remarks</i></p>
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**Get to know  
our speakers**

**NATURANCE WEBSTIVAL**





**Jessica  
Smith**  
S1

Jessica has led on Nature at the UNEP Finance Initiative since 2020, encouraging rapid uptake of this theme amongst the banking, insurance and investment industries.



**Tasmim  
Anwar**  
S1

Tasmim is a seasoned sustainability expert with 10+ years in climate economics, sustainable finance, and policy reform. Expertise in leading projects aligning economic growth with environmental goals across global regions.



**Helen  
Toxopeus**  
S1

Helen is Assistant Professor at the Utrecht University School of Economics. Her main research interests revolve around finance for sustainability: finance for sustainable innovation, crowdfunding for sustainable enterprises and finance for circular innovation.



**Anders  
Solheim**  
S1

PhD in geology at University of Oslo. 18 years as a marine geologist in the Norwegian Polar Institute. Lead the institute's natural hazards division between 2007 and 2018. Adjunct professor positions at University of Oslo and the University of Svalbard. Retired (but still working part time for NGI) since November 2023.





**Katherine  
Simpson**  
S1

Katherine has over 10 years of research experience in interdisciplinary collaboration with ecologists, environmental scientists and policy specialists. In August 2023, she joined the Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment Unit at the University of Glasgow as a Lecturer.



**Timothy  
Foreman**  
S1

Timothy is a research scholar in the Equity and Justice Research Group of the IIASA Population and Just Societies Program. His research focuses on environmental, health, and development economics.



**Priscila  
Franco Steier**  
S1 - S3 - S4

Priscila is a Biodiversity & Nature-based Solutions Expert at ICLEI Europe, managing a diverse portfolio of Horizon EU projects focused on Climate Neutrality, Urban Nature, and Nature Finance.



**JoAnne  
Linnerooth-Bayer**  
S1

JoAnne focuses her work on global change with particular interest in the risk of extreme events, nature-based solutions (NbS) for their mitigation, insurance for transferring risk, and participatory processes for inclusive stakeholder engagement.



**Marco  
Fritz  
S2**

Marco is Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Research and Innovation. In its unit "Climate and Planetary Boundaries", he supports the Head of Unit on the Commission's position on climate science, environmental observation, research on biodiversity and on nature-based solutions.



**Mason  
Douglas  
S2**

Doug has helped identify, design, and implement \$40 billion in more effective and reliable infrastructure. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and has led environmental management at five international development agencies.



**Veerle  
Brill  
S2**

Veerle is a PhD candidate in the department of Water and Climate Risk of the Institute for Environmental Studies at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her work focuses on developing new technical and nature-based solutions for flood risk management.



**Laurine  
de Wolf  
S2 - S5**

Laurine is a PhD candidate at the department of Environmental Economics of the Institute of Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Her work focuses on the evaluation of technical and nature-based solutions for flood risk management in the Netherlands.



**Marta  
Vicarelli**  
S2 - S5

Marta is Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is also an associate researcher at CMCC.



**Max  
Tesselaar**  
S1

Research scholar at the Institute for Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Max is an environmental economist specialized in assessing strategies for insurance markets to cope with climate change.



**Cheryl  
Desha**  
S3

Professor Cheryl Desha is Science and Innovation Director at Natural Hazards Research Australia. She has a long history and interest in sustainable development, disaster resilience and decision support.



**Stefano  
Ceolotto**  
S3

Postdoc at CMCC, previously a postdoctoral research fellow at the Economic and Social Research Institute (Dublin) and lecturer at Trinity College Dublin. Work package leader and executive board member of the PIISA project.





**Heather  
Martin**  
S3

Heather is a Senior Associate in WTW's Disaster Risk Finance team. Her role involves developing catastrophe modelling frameworks to help understand risk in a given geographic location.



**Corinne  
Martin**  
S3 - S4

Building on over 20 years in the field of biodiversity, followed by six years in monitoring and evaluation, Corinne is currently working in nature finance, supporting banks, investors and insurers in their efforts to tackle the climate and nature crises.



**Jamie  
Pollard**  
S3

Jamie is an Associate Director in WTW's Disaster Risk Finance team. His role involves designing, calibrating, and validating disaster risk models to support insurance product design and broader disaster risk management recommendations.



**Swenja  
Surminski**  
S3

Swenja work spans across research, practice and policy. She holds a role as Professor in Practice at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics. Swenja is also Managing Director Climate and Sustainability at Marsh McLennan.



**Jerker  
Jarsjö**  
S4

Jerker is a Professor of Hydrology at Stockholm University. His research interests include the impacts of land use change and climate change on hydrological processes and water resources.



**Andrea  
Staccione**  
S4 - S6

Andrea is a postdoctoral researcher at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and at the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change. Her research focuses on NbS, green infrastructure and ecosystem services as strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.



**Guillermo  
García**  
S5

Guillermo is a PhD candidate in the department of Environmental Economics of the Institute for Environmental Studies at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His PhD work focuses on NbS for insurance and is funded by the Naturance EU project.



**Paul  
Hudson**  
S5

Paul is a senior lecturer in Environmental Economics at the University of York (UK), has worked on the use of both insurance and NbS. He currently works on the Ousewem project exploring innovative NbS financial mechanisms.





**Magdalena  
Muir  
S5**

Magdalena is a social scientist and lawyer with the Arctic Institute of North America and Bamfield Marine Science Centre with a research focus on climate science, adaptation and mitigation, and policy and financial approaches.



**Karina  
Barquet  
S5**

Karina, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow and Team Leader of the Water, Coasts, and Ocean group at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Headquarters, where she also leads SEI's global strategic engagement on oceans and biodiversity.



**Edoardo  
Gacci  
S5**

Edoardo is a Nature-Based Solutions Project Manager at CDC Biodiversité.



**FeiFei  
Cao  
S5 - S8**

Feifei is a Groundwater Specialist at the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC). Her work focuses on addressing critical challenges in groundwater management by exploring various approaches including NbS.



**Evelyn  
Underwood**  
S5

Evelyn heads the Institute for Environmental Policy's Biodiversity and Ecosystems programme.



**Anjelika  
Romeo-Hall**  
S5

Anjelika is an earth scientist with 8+ years working in climate change management consulting in the Netherlands. She is passionate about sustainable business and advancing climate finance solutions.



**Silvia  
Grandi**  
S5

Silvia is a political and economic geographer at the University of Bologna. Her researches focus is related to sustainable development and finance and she is part of the FinGeo international network.



**Laura  
Pirazán Palomar**  
S5 - S7

Laura is an Urban Resilience and Adaptation Expert at ICLEI Europe, specializing in developing projects related to resilience, water management, nature-based solutions (NbS), and disaster risk reduction.



**Davide  
Michelin**  
S6 - S8

Science outreach manager at CMCC and lecturer at San Raffaele University. He holds a MSc in Biology and a postgraduate master in Science Communication. Pop-science author, he collaborates with «National Geographic», «la Repubblica», «Le Scienze», and other Italian magazines.



**Soraya  
Melinato**  
S6

Soraya works as a researcher in Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC), Institute for Climate Resilience in Venice, Italy.



**Agnese  
Glauda**  
S6

Agnese is a scientific outreach manager at CMCC, with expertise in climate communication. She specialized in EU-funded projects communication and developing effective strategies to enhance institutional awareness and promote climate research dissemination through engaging content.



**Mar  
Fabregat Esteve**  
S6

Mar is a law student at the University of Valencia with a deep passion for environmental law and sustainability. Committed to exploring legal solutions that protect and preserve our natural environment, she has a strong dedication to addressing environmental challenges.





**Terhile  
Dominic  
Uchi**  
S6

Terhile Dominic is an agricultural extension officer and climate change advocate from Nigeria. His work focuses on the impact of climate change on agriculture, particularly in promoting climate-smart practices to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.



**Martin  
Kubáň**  
S6

Martin is a hydrologist specializing in water resources management. He holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Land and Water Resources Management at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava.



**Jaroslav  
Mysiak**  
S8

Principal scientist of the research division Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies at CMCC and Naturance coordinator. He is a member of technical expert groups at UNDRR, UNFCCC, and EIOPA, and member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA).