



#naturancefestival



FINANCE INNOVATION FESTIVAL



3-5 FEBRUARY 2026
BRUSSELS



NATURANCE
Nature for insurance,
insurance for nature



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GREEN FINANCE AND INSURANCE

The ***Finance Innovation Festival – Insurance and Investment Opportunities for Nature-Based Transformations*** brings together policymakers, insurers, investors, researchers, cities, and civil society to explore how **finance and risk-transfer mechanisms** can accelerate the large-scale deployment of **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**.

Over three days, the Festival provides a structured space to connect policy ambition with market innovation, focusing on **two critical pillars**:



Insurance as a tool for risk transfer and resilience



Investment strategies to mobilise capital for nature-positive outcomes

FROM INSIGHT TO ACTION: DIVERSE SESSION FORMATS

The Festival combines high-level policy dialogue with hands-on, solution-oriented sessions. **Strategic plenaries and moderated panels** will convene relevant stakeholders to examine emerging regulatory frameworks, market standards, and public-private funding instruments.

These discussions are complemented by **interactive sessions, world café tables, and peer-to-peer exchanges** that allow participants to engage directly with real-world examples, tools, and methodologies, with a dedicated space for collaborative problem-solving and cross-sector learning.

Topics addressed during the conference will include:

- EU & private **financing frameworks** for nature-positive action
- Innovative insurance, risk-transfer, and parametric **resilience models**
- **Data, valuation & cost-benefit tools** to support NbS business cases
- **Investment readiness, markets & capital mobilisation** for NbS
- **Policy, urban action & citizen engagement** to boost impact



The first day will set the **strategic context**, bringing policymakers, investors, and insurers together to explore how EU and private-sector initiatives can unlock large-scale finance for Nature-based Solutions, through high-level discussions on policy, investment, and risk transfer.



Registration 12:00
Welcome Lunch 13:30

EU initiatives 14:00
for financing nature 15:30

Speakers will discuss how key EU initiatives mobilise funding to advance biodiversity and climate goals.

Panelists: **Maria Fuentes Merino** (European Commission - DG AGRI), **Tsevetelina Kuzmanova** (Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership), **Romain Eche-Paniagua** (EC - DG ENV), and **Albena Taneva** (European Commission - DG GROW), and **Matteo Vanzini** (Climate KIC).

Moderator: **Paola Lepori** (ICLEI Europe)



Aperitif and Social Dinner 17:30
20:00

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TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY

13:30 Insurance and Investment Opportunities for Nature-Based Transformations

A keynote highlighting the key global challenges in financing and risk transfer for enabling Nature-based Solutions.

Speaker: Douglas Mason (Infrastructure Specialist)

Hosts: Jaroslav Mysiak (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change); Priscila Franco Steier (ICLEI Europe)

15:30 Coffee Break



16:00 Private initiatives for financing nature

Private-sector panelists will explore various emerging investment strategies that can close the NbS financing gap.

Panelists: David N. Bresch (ETH Zurich), Ursula Bordinas (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority), Will Butler (GaiaSicura), Verena Kraus (UNEP-FI), Isabel Reuss (Italian Sustainable Investment Forum), Koen Stuyck (WWF Belgium).

Moderator: Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis)



OPENING PLENARY | 13:30 - 14:00

DAY 1

Insurance and investment opportunities for nature-based transformation

The Opening Plenary will provide the context for the Festival, featuring a keynote address by **Douglas Mason**, a leading expert in climate finance and sustainable investment, who will outline the principal challenges in **financing and risk transfer for Nature-based Solutions**.

Drawing on his extensive experience advising governments, financial institutions, and international organisations, Dr. Mason will highlight innovative approaches and emerging opportunities to mobilise private capital for nature-positive initiatives. These insights will frame the discussions throughout the Festival, culminating in a final policy panel where policymakers will offer perspectives to help define the Festival's legacy.

HOSTS



Jaroslav Mysiak

Euro-Mediterranean
Center on Climate
Change



**Priscila
Franco Steier**

ICLEI Europe

KEYNOTE

Douglas Mason Infrastructure specialist



Doug Mason works at the intersection of built and natural infrastructure to benefit communities and ecosystems.

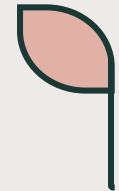
Over two decades in the public and private sectors, he has helped develop \$40 billion in built infrastructure and partnerships to conserve 44 million hectares of natural areas. He fosters collaboration across countries, sectors, and institutions to scale effective solutions.

Doug currently serves as Director of Environmental and Social Performance at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. international development agency.



PANEL | 14:00 - 15:30

DAY 1 - S1



EU initiatives for financing nature

This panel will examine how upcoming EU policies and funding instruments, including the **Nature Credit Framework**, **Common Agricultural Policy eco-schemes**, and the proposed **Competitiveness Fund**, can drive large-scale investment in nature-positive action.

Panelists will discuss how these initiatives can mobilise “big-money” funding streams and align cohesion, agricultural, and industrial policy with biodiversity and climate goals.

PANELISTS



Maria Fuentes Merino

European Commission, DG AGRI



Tsevetelina Kuzmanova

Cambridge Institute of Sustainability
Leadership



Romain Eche-Paniagua

European Commission, DG ENV, Green
Finance and Investment Unit



Albena Taneva

European Commission, DG GROW



Matteo Vanzini

Climate KIC

MODERATOR



Paola Lepori

ICLEI Europe



PANEL | 16:00 - 17:30

DAY 1 - S2

Private initiatives for financing nature

The Festival discussion will turn to the **private-sector landscape**, exploring how insurers, asset managers, and development finance actors are advancing investment in Nature-based Solutions and natural capital. Panelists will reflect on progress in **closing the NbS financing gap**, share insights on managing biodiversity-related risks, and offer their ideas on policy changes to enable urgent action from the private sector.

PANELISTS

**David N. Bresch**

ETH Zurich

**Isabel Reuss**Italian Sustainable
Investment Forum**Ursula Bordas**European Insurance and
Occupational Pensions
Authority**Koen Stuyck**

WWF Belgium

**William Butler**

GaiaSicura Ltd

**Verena Kraus**

UNEP-FI



MODERATOR

**JoAnne
Linnerooth-Bayer**
International Institute for
Applied Systems Analysis



The second day will focus on **practical solutions**, showcasing innovative insurance and investment mechanisms to scale Nature-based Solutions. Through interactive workshops, breakout sessions, and peer exchange, participants explore **tools, data, and partnerships** that strengthen resilience.



Coffee Break 11:00
11:30

Capital for Nature: 11:30
Investment Solutions 13:00

Innovative pathways to finance and scale Nature-based Solutions, drawing from the experience of NATURANCE Innovation Labs. Followed by collaborative exchanges with sister projects and initiatives, including Invest4Nature, BIOCAPITAL, BioFIN and NetworkNature.



Coffee Break 16:00
16:30

Quantifying the costs and benefits 16:30
of NbS to inform decision-making 18:00

A plenary session will explore the latest research in NATURANCE-related projects regarding ecosystem valuation methods of NbS, and applications of these methods in a cost-benefit decision framework.

Speakers: **Veerle Bril** (IVM - VU), **Guillermo Garcia Gonzales** (IVM - VU), **Neil Gunn** (Willis Research Network), **Vylon Ooms**, (Dutch Association of Insurers).

Moderator: **Max Tesselaar** (Institute for Environmental Studies - VU)

WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY

09:30 From Risk to Resilience:
11:00 Insurance Solutions

Insights on cutting-edge insurance approaches from NATURANCE Innovation Labs and hands-on breakout discussions with sister projects and initiatives, including PIISA, SOTERIA and TNFD Global.

13:00
14:30 Lunch



14:30 Communities Connect: Advancing
16:00 NbS through Insurance and
Investment

This interactive World Cafè session will bring together the **NATURANCE Knowledge Networks** to foster peer exchange and shared reflection, generating insights on financing and insuring Nature-based Solutions.

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INTERACTIVE SESSION | 9:30 - 11:00

DAY 2 - S3



From risk to resilience: Insurance solutions

This interactive session will explore how **innovative insurance approaches** can support the **adoption and financing of Nature-based Solutions**, drawing on insights from **NATURANCE Innovation Labs** and hands-on breakout discussions with sister projects and initiatives, including **PIISA**, **SOTERIA** and the **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD Global)**.

Participants will dive into emerging insurance mechanisms, practical tools, and enabling policy frameworks that can help de-risk investments, strengthen climate resilience, and unlock new opportunities, while co-developing pathways to integrate insurance innovation into NbS strategies across sectors.

SPEAKERS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Using parametric insurance to promote sustainable forest management

Ariane Kaploun

AXA Climate



Pricing the unknown: Bringing outcome-based validation to nature-related risk

James D'Ath

TNFD Global



Result-based framework - The Marjal dels Moros case study- wetlands in the Valencian community

Oleksandr Sushchenko

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research



Stefano Ceolotto

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change



JoAnne Linnerooth-Bayer

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis



Max Tesselaar

Institute for Environmental Studies - VU



MODERATOR

Swenja Surminski

Marsh McLennan/London School of Economics



INTERACTIVE SESSION | 11:30 - 13:00

DAY 2 - S4

Capital for nature: Investment solutions

This interactive session will showcase **innovative pathways to finance and scale Nature-based Solutions**, providing a collaborative space to share lessons learned and develop actionable approaches that can accelerate implementation.

Drawing on the experience of the NATURANCE Innovation Labs, followed by collaborative exchanges with sister projects and initiatives, including Invest4Nature, BIOCAPITAL, BioFIN and NetworkNature, participants will dive into emerging mechanisms, tools, and policy enablers that can strengthen climate resilience and unlock new opportunities for NbS.

SPEAKERS



Kelly Heid
ICLEI Europe



Jerker Jarsjö
Stockholm University



Andrea Staccione
Euro-Mediterranean
Center on Climate Change

MODERATOR



Swenja Surminski
Marsh McLennan/London
School of Economics

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



**Marketplace & game:
Financing Nature-based Solutions**
Lydia Lienhart
Joanneum Research



John Garvey
University of Limerick



Ahmet R. Demirtas
Agcurate B.V.



Siobhan McQuaid
Trinity College Dublin
& Horizon Nua



Joanna Wolstenholme
UNEP-WCM

Financing the nature-positive transition: Unlocking capital for scalable NbS



WORLD CAFE' | 14:30 - 16:00

DAY 2 - S5

Communities connect: Advancing NbS through insurance and investment

This interactive session will bring together festival participants to foster peer exchange and shared reflection, generating insights on financing and insuring Nature-based Solutions through **collaborative thinking**. In a World Café format, participants will engage in structured discussions across small, thematically focused tables, each facilitated by representatives from **Knowledge Networks** or related projects.

MODERATORS



Financing NbS at regional scale: Connecting territories, instruments, and practices

Giada Bastanzi

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change



Investing in nature is profitable, now let's make it actionable

Laurence Drèze

WWF Belgium



Shared responsibility to finance nature-based risk reduction in smallholder value chains

Jana Büsing

OroVerde



De-risking & scaling investment for Nature-based Solutions in climate adaptation

Anna Lea Eggert

World Climate Foundation



TBC

Florian Claeys

European Commission, DG ENV



Insurance as an enabler for nature-led resilience

Callum Ellis

Marsh McLennan



SESSION LEAD

Laura Pirazán

Palomar

ICLEI Europe



WORLD CAFE' | 14:30 - 16:00

DAY 2 - S5

Communities connect: Advancing NbS through insurance and investment

MODERATORS



De-risking & scaling investment for Nature-based Solutions in climate adaptation

Richard Filcak
Slovak Academy of Sciences



Nature-based Solutions for carbon neutral cities: Quantifying the benefits of NbS

Jessica Page
Stockholm University



Indicators to measure progress towards the nature-positive economy

Siobhan McQuaid
Trinity College Dublin & Horizon Nua



From forest disasters to investable resilience: basin-scale NbS that reduce flood-drought-fire-insect risk.

Ye Su
Charles University



TBC

Hadrien Michel
European Commission,
DG ENV



"Communities Connect: Advancing NbS through Insurance and Investment"

Mia Wilke
WWF Switzerland



PLENARY | 16:30 - 18:00

DAY 2 - S6

Quantifying the costs and benefits of NbS to inform decision-making

A plenary session will present the latest research in NATURANCE-related projects on **ecosystem valuation methods** for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and their applications within **cost-benefit decision frameworks**.

The session also includes insights from an insurance expert reflecting on the relevance and implications of these developments for the industry.

PRESENTATIONS

MODERATOR



Max Tesselaar

Institute for
Environmental Studies -
VU

Combining diverse NbS-benefits in a cost-benefit decision-framework to optimize the design of NbS in urban planning

Guillermo Garcia Alvarez

Institute for Environmental Studies - VU



Assessing flood risk reduction of various NbS strategies using a coupled hydrological and hydrodynamic modeling framework

Veerle Bril

Institute for Environmental Studies - VU



How do insurers use NbS-benefits in their operations? What is key research that is needed for them

Neil Gunn

Willis Research Network



TBC

Vylon Ooms

Dutch Association of Insurers





The third day will focus on **collective insights and lasting impact**, bringing together policy, finance, and citizen action to advance Nature-based Solutions.

The programme will highlight **legacy policy recommendations** from leading EU projects and inform EU and national decision-making. Through high-level panels, interactive poster sessions, and peer exchange, participants will be inspired to drive future action.



Coffee Break 10:30
11:00

Seed of Change: 11:00
Citizens & Cities 12:30

The session aims to inspire people to become active contributors to the **NbS transition in cities** and to reflect on: How can I be an active participant in the NbS transition process?

In this session, we will acknowledge the 2025 **Naturethon winners**, the citizen-engagement initiative of the Naturance project. The awardees will briefly present their projects.

Speaker: Remco Moen Marcar (Frank Lee)

Moderators: Davide Michielin, Andrea Staccione
(Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change)



THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY

**09:00 Collective Insights, Lasting
10:30 Impact: Financing and
Insurance for Nbs**

This session will highlight legacy policy recommendations with contributions from **NATURANCE, SOTERIA, PIISA, INVEST4NATURE, and CLIMATEFIT** on the two pillars of the festival: risk transfer through insurance and investment in Nature-based Solutions.

Panelists: **Vanessa Bruynooghe** (European Commission), **Kirsten Dunlop** (Climate KIC), **Sirpa Pietikäinen** (Member of European Parliament from Finland)

Moderator: **Angela Falconer** (ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC))

**13:00
14:30 Closing**

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PANEL | 9:00 - 10:30

DAY 3 - S7

Collective insights, lasting impact: Financing and insurance for NbS

This session will present **legacy policy recommendations** from NATURANCE, PIISA, SOTERIA, INVEST4NATURE, and CLIMATEFIT, aligned with the Festival's two pillars: insurance-based risk transfer and investment in Nature-based Solutions.

Drawing on a curated collection of policy briefs developed by these sister projects, the session will outline **concrete implementation pathways** for NbS, including the mobilisation of private capital through innovative insurance instruments, blended finance, and risk-sharing approaches. Experts will engage in a panel discussion to reflect on these recommendations and contribute to shaping actionable insights that can inform EU and national agendas.

PANELISTS



Vanessa Bruynooghe

European Commission - EU Adaptation Mission



Kirsten Dunlop

Climate KIC



Sirpa Pietikäinen

European Parliament - Finland



MODERATOR

Angela Falconer

ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)

PRESENTATIONS



Kati Berninger

Tyrsky Consulting - PIISA



Davide Chiaramonte

Italian Sustainable Investment Forum - ClimateFit



Lydia Lienhart

Joanneum Research
INVEST4NATURE



Pranav Kaundinya

LSE - Grantham Research Institute
NATURANCE



Oleksandr Sushchenko

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
SOTERIA



INTERACTIVE SESSION | 11:00 - 12:30

DAY 3 - S8

Seeds of Change: Citizens & Cities

This interactive session invites participants to become active contributors to the **Nature-based Solutions** transition in cities. Selected initiatives will present posters highlighting experiences in **engaging citizens and stakeholders** in urban NbS implementation.

Paired initiatives will take part in facilitated exchanges to share challenges, ideas, and collaboration opportunities, while participants actively contribute feedback. The session will culminate in the **Naturethon 2025 Award Ceremony**, celebrating the most innovative and impactful NbS proposals and showcasing winning and shortlisted case studies.

POSTER SESSIONS



SPEAKER



Remco
Moen Marcar
Frank Lee



Aarhus water & nature parks: Welfare economic assessment
AArhus (DK)



Nature-oriented river work
Aichi prefecture (JP)



Urban Klima 2050
Basque County (ES)



Let's create a nature-based city together
Budapest (HU)



Milan's first phytoremediation pilot
Milan (IT)



Urban nature for climate resilience
Paris (FR)



Citizen engagement in stormwater management
Turku (FI)



Broad prosperity principles
Waalwijk (NL)

NATURETHON AWARDED PROPOSALS



Explore Sustainable Financing Strategies to Scale Up NbS for Cool Milan
Milan (IT)



Johannesburg's Biodiversity Restoration
Johannesburg (ZA)



Community Action for River Ecosystems
Treviso (IT)



Spotlight on Naturethon: *Citizens growing nature-based futures*

The **Naturethon initiative**, part of the NATURANCE project, brought together individuals interested in local adaptation to climate-related risks, fostering purposeful dialogue and the exchange of perspectives. Through these conversations, participants contributed to reshaping how Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are understood, embraced, and brought to life within their communities.

The second edition concluded in December 2026, with three proposals awarded for their innovation, feasibility, and environmental and social impact. The awarded proposals will be featured during the Finance Innovation Festival in the Seeds of Change: Citizens & Cities session.

NATURETHON AWARDED PROPOSALS



Explore Sustainable Financing Strategies to Scale Up NbS for Cool Milan (Milan)

The **COOL MILAN** team presented a strong, data-driven analysis of urban heat risks in Milan. Built around the 3-30-300 approach, the project proposes well-designed NbS with each intervention clearly described and illustrated through “before and after” narratives. It stands out for its innovative mix of existing and new financing instruments, strong stakeholder engagement, and a coherent, ambitious vision.

Johannesburg's Biodiversity Restoration (Johannesburg)

The **Green City Champions** proposed a community-led NbS approach to address biodiversity loss, climate risks, and social challenges in Johannesburg. Combining urban greening, habitat restoration, and community farming, the project stands out for its strong stakeholder engagement, scalable business model, and innovative mix of public, private, and grassroots financing.



C.A.R.E. – Community Action for River Ecosystems (Treviso)

The **RisorGivers** team addressed the degradation of spring-water ecosystems in Treviso through well-documented Nature-based Solutions, including ecological corridors and urban greening. Engaging over 1,500 citizens and stakeholders, the initiative combines strong community action with a hybrid financing model, offering a solid, feasible, and impact-oriented approach to biodiversity restoration.



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Canesia Amarysti

Steinbeis Europa Zentrum

Canesia Amarysti is a Project Consultant at Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, where she contributes to Horizon Europe projects in the fields of energy, sustainability, and nature-based solutions. With a background in Bioeconomy she specialises in science communication and dissemination, supporting partners in developing clear, actionable outputs and strengthening the uptake of project results. Her work bridges technical research with real-world users, helping to build awareness, capacity, and collaboration across European innovation ecosystems. **(Day 2 - S4)**



Giada Bastanzi

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change

Giada Bastanzi is a PhD candidate in Science and Management of Climate Change at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and a researcher in the Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies division at CMCC. Her work focuses on integrating environmental and social justice into climate change adaptation measures, with particular attention to Nature-based Solutions. Her research interests specifically address forced displacement processes in coastal and riverine communities affected by climate change. **(Day 2 - S5)**



Kati Berninger

Tyrsky Consulting

Research Director Dr. Kati Berninger from Tyrsky Consulting leads the communication and interaction work package of the Horizon PIISA project. Her substantive expertise covers climate change mitigation and adaptation, circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources. She has built up strong experience with making science accessible for non-experts with policy briefs, books and reports as well as numerous stakeholder events. **(Day 2 - S5)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Jana Büsing

OroVerde

Jana Büsing works as an International Project Officer at OroVerde – Tropical Forest Foundation. Through the BioFinCas project, Jana advances impactful risk finance solutions that strengthen smallholder farmers across Latin America. **(Day 2 - S5)**



Ursula Bordas

European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority

Sustainability Senior Expert with 10 years of experience in the international and EU financial services policy agenda and a deep understanding of issues in the pension and insurance field. She led EIOPA policy work on sustainable finance, CSRD, SFDR and Taxonomy. **(Day 1 - S2)**



David N. Bresch

ETH Zurich

Prof. Dr. David N. Bresch, Professor for Weather and Climate Risks at ETH Zürich/MeteoSwiss since 2016. 2000-2016, roles at Swiss Re included Head Business Development, Global Head Sustainability, Head Atmospheric Perils Group and Chief modeler for natural catastrophe risk assessment. 1998-1999 Research Associate, MIT, Cambridge, USA. Member of the Swiss UNFCCC delegation 2009-2012 and 2015, member of the Private Sector Advisory Group of the UN Green Climate Fund (GCF), 2014-2016. PhD in physics from ETH Zurich, Switzerland. His research focuses on the impacts of weather and climate on socio-economic systems. Combining numerical modelling of weather and climate risks with the engagement of decision makers and end-users, his research aims to explore ways to strengthen resilience based on a shared understanding of their weather and climate susceptibility. Such an integrated view along the chain of impacts also opens new perspectives to the treatment of uncertainty in decision-making. **(Day 1 - S2)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Veerle Bril

Institute for Environmental Studies - VU

Veerle is a PhD candidate in the department of Water and Climate Risk of the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She obtained her bachelor's degree Earth Science and Economics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and continued there with the master Hydrology. Her work is part of the Future FRM Tech project, focusing on developing new technical and Nature-based Solutions for flood risk management. In her work, she develops a new flood risk model to calculate object-based flood risk. She uses this model to assess the effect of several flood risk adaptation measures. She has a strong interest in combining hydrological modelling and social sciences to develop the best flood risk management strategies. (Day2 - S6)



Vanessa Bruynooghe

European Commission - EU Adaptation Mission

Vanessa Bruynooghe works for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), focusing on the EU's Climate Adaptation Mission, promoting strategic planning, climate resilience, and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). (Day 3 - S7)



William Butler

GaiaSicura Ltd

CEO of GaiaSicura Ltd. the world's first specialist insurance broker dedicated to finding insurance solutions for nature regeneration and Natural Capital. Chairman and Founder of the Insurance Institute of London's Nature and Sustainability Committee. Insurance lead for the FloodAction Coalition looking to create scalable NFM solutions at a global level. Will is the son of a farmer and a passionate advocate for nature, innovating ways in the traditional financial markets to advance net-positive policy and product creation. (Day1 - S2)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Gabriela Carrera

Regions4

Gabriela Carrera is the Biodiversity Programme Officer at Regions4 Sustainable Development, where she works with subnational governments worldwide to advance biodiversity action through policy analysis, knowledge-sharing, and the documentation of subnational best practices. She also manages Regions4's flagship initiative, the Just Resilience Action Platform, focusing on strengthening the links between resilience, equity, and territorial governance. She holds a degree in International Relations and has professional experience in subnational governance, international cooperation, and multilevel environmental processes. (Day3 - S8)



Stefano Ceolotto

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change

Environmental and behavioural economist. Postdoc at CMCC Foundation, previously a postdoctoral research fellow at the Economic and Social Research Institute (Dublin) and lecturer at Trinity College Dublin and Ca' Foscari University. Work package leader in the Piloting Innovative Insurance Solutions for Adaptation (PIISA) project and task manager in the European Topic Centre on Climate change adaptation and LULUCF (ETC CA). (Day 2 - S3)



Davide Chiaramonte

Italian Sustainable Investment Forum

Long interested in sustainability issues, Davide obtained a degree in Law, focusing on environmental law, international law, and European Union law. He furthered his studies with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in European Union Law at Utrecht University, specialising in Law and Sustainability, and a second Master's degree in Economics, Management and Institutions. He has contributed to publications on topics such as the compatibility of climate change mitigation measures with the international trade regime, the European Emissions Trading Scheme, and the European Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). He has been working at the Italian Sustainable Investment Forum since 2024 as an EU Policy Officer. (Day 3 - S7)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Wenting Chen

Norsk institutt for vannforskning - NIVA

Dr. Wenting Chen is a senior researcher in marine environmental and resource economics, specializing in socio-economic impact assessment, ecosystem service valuation, and cost-benefit analysis. She has led national research projects and play an important role in EU-funded projects on marine restoration, natural capital accounting, and climate-resilient Nature-based Solutions, and serves as an expert for IPBES, IPCC, and UN SEEA EA. **(Day 2 - S4)**



Florian Claeyses

European Commission DG ENV

(Day 2 - S5)



James D'Ath

Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures Global

James d'Ath is a sustainable finance and nature-risk specialist with more than 30 years of experience in global financial markets. He has served as Technical Lead for Data and Analytics with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and has worked extensively with Global Canopy on finance-sector engagement and nature-risk initiatives. His experience includes audit and advisory work for the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as being a senior consultant to the World Economic Forum and the Tropical Forest Alliance on issues spanning nature-related risk, forests and supply-chain resilience. He supports financial institutions worldwide in integrating biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-related risk into decision-making. His recent research explores how market-based forecasting tools can strengthen the credibility and decision-usefulness of nature-related claims across investment, lending and insurance. **(Day 2 - S3)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Ahmet Rasim Demirtas

Agcurate B.V.

Ahmet Rasim Demirtaş is the Strategic Projects and Innovation Manager at Agcurate, a remote sensing and agritech company, where he builds cross sector research partnerships and manages multidisciplinary R&D and innovation projects from concept to delivery. His work focuses on translating earth observation, AI and agronomy capabilities to the unified solution for the improvement of climate resilience, agricultural supply chain management, risk management, and nature positive outcomes in agriculture and finance. In the Horizon Europe project BIO-CAPITAL, he represents Agcurate and contributes to shaping and communicating nature finance use cases that connect innovative insurance mechanisms with advanced geospatial analytics for biodiversity protection and restoration. He leads BIO-CAPITAL work on parametric, data driven insurance approaches for conservation audiences. **(Day 2 - S4)**



Laurence Drèze

WWF Belgium

Laurence Drèze works for WWF-Belgium as a Biodiversity Policy Officer, where she follows key biodiversity policy files at international, EU and national level. In her role, she coordinated the joint (WWF, Natagora, Natuurpunt) study on the socio-economic impact of nature restoration in Belgium. **(Day 2 - S5)**



Ana Dias

Regions4

Ana Dias supports the Biodiversity Programme at Regions4, where she contributes to advancing regional action for nature. She is also a PhD researcher specialising in environmental governance, with a focus on subnational climate leadership. **(Day 3 - S8)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Kirsten Dunlop

Climate KIC

As CEO, Kirsten leads Climate KIC organisation with a deep conviction in our capacity to learn and evolve into a climate-resilient society. She brings over 30 years of experience catalyzing systemic transformations in a career spanning academia, consulting, banking, and insurance. Kirsten serves on various Advisory Boards and is a recognized leader at the European Commission Economic and Societal Impact of Research and Innovation (ESIR) expert group. **(Day 3 - S7)**



Romain Eche-Paniagua

European Commission, DG ENV, Green Finance and Investment Unit

Romain Paniagua is a Policy Officer in the Directorate-General for Environment (European Commission), in the Green Finance and Investments unit. There, he focuses on private capital mobilisation for the environment (i.e., nature, circular economy, water, zero pollution), via current and future instruments. Romain has 8 years of prior professional experience advising public and private sector leaders on sustainability, including investors. **(Day 1 - S1)**



Anna Lea Eggert

World Climate Foundation

Anna Lea Eggert is a Climate Adaptation Finance and Innovation Specialist at the World Climate Foundation in Copenhagen, Denmark. She is part of the Horizon Europe project CLIMATEFIT, advancing innovative financing mechanisms for climate adaptation and helping bridge the adaptation finance gap by uniting public and private stakeholders. **(Day 2 - S5)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Callum Ellis

Marsh McLennan

Callum Ellis is the Head of Climate Resilience at Marsh UK. He holds a global role, co-leading Marsh's climate centre of excellence, where he is the technical subject matter expert for climate risk modelling and risk transfer, supporting Marsh's clients to understand, quantify and mitigate exposures to climate change, both for urban and natural environments. Callum works with clients on the intersection of climate, insurance and alternative risk transfer across government and the financial services sector, ranging from multinational development banks to complex infrastructure investors. He has acted as a business advisor to the IPCC on Urban Policy and has represented Marsh as an expert witness to UK Parliament enquiries on climate risk. **(Day 2 - S5)**



Angela Falconer

ClimateShot Investor Coalition (CLIC)

Dr. Angela Falconer is an independent climate finance consultant, based in Venice, Italy, with 20 years of climate policy and finance experience centred on agriculture and forests. She currently focuses on climate and nature impact assessment and investment facilitation for early-stage agribusinesses in Africa and Latin America as part of the ClimateShot Impact Investor Coalition (CLIC) program managed by Climate Policy Initiative. **(Day 3 - S7)**



Richard Filcak

Slovak Academy of Sciences

Richard Filcak is the Director of the Center for Social and Psychological Sciences at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He previously worked as Head of Group at the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen. He has also worked as an external consultant for the European Commission, UNDP, UNEP, and various governmental organizations, providing expertise on climate policy, governance frameworks, and sustainable development. His work focuses on the intersections of environmental, economic and social policy, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, foresight, and systemic transformation. His research is grounded in the principles of environmental justice, with a focus on exposure to environmental risks, inequalities in access to resources, and the vulnerability of populations affected by climate change and ecological degradation. As an author, Richard has published several books and numerous articles in academic and professional journals. His latest book, *Stuck in the Semi-Periphery? Central Europe Between Capitalism and Climate Change*, was published in 2026. **(Day 2 - S5)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Priscila Franco Steier

ICLEI Europe

Priscila Franco Steier 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. With a strong background in ecology, social sciences, and governance, Priscila brings 15 years of experience as a public official in Brazil's environmental agencies, Ibama and ICMBio. Her expertise encompasses Environmental & Social Impact Assessment for infrastructure developments and facilitating collaborative governance for effective and equitable environmental policy implementation & biodiversity conservation. Priscila is particularly interested in exploring innovative financing mechanisms for Nature-based Solutions in urban and public spaces. **(Host)**



Maria Fuentes Merino

European Commission DG Agri

Economist at the University of Barcelona and researcher at INRAE France in agricultural economics, she holds a Master of Sciences at the Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen of Montpellier in economics and agricultural policy. Maria has been working at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, since 1999, mainly in the area of mainstreaming environment and climate objectives in the CAP. Various services, especially environmental and climate units, coordinator of rural development programs in France for 8 years. Currently and since 2022 in the horizontal unit for environmental sustainability working on CAP instruments to support European environmental/climate objectives, coordinator of eco-schemes and CAP reform. **(Day 1 - S1)**



Hadrien Michel

European Commission DG ENV

(Day 2 - S5)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Maria Fuentes Merino

European Commission DG Agri

Economist at the University of Barcelona and researcher at INRAE France in agricultural economics, she holds a Master of Sciences at the Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen of Montpellier in economics and agricultural policy. Maria has been working at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, since 1999, mainly in the area of mainstreaming environment and climate objectives in the CAP. Various services, especially environmental and climate units, coordinator of rural development programs in France for 8 years. Currently and since 2022 in the horizontal unit for environmental sustainability working on CAP instruments to support European environmental/climate objectives, coordinator of eco-schemes and CAP reform. **(Day 1 - S1)**



Guillermo García Álvarez

Institute for Environmental Studies - VU

PhD candidate in the department of Environmental Economics of the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His PhD work at VU Amsterdam focuses on Nature-based Solutions for insurance and is funded by the Naturance EU project. **(Day 2 - S6)**



John Garvey

University of Limerick

John Garvey is a Professor of Finance at the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in insurance and finance. His teaching focuses on financial institutions and markets with a particular focus on reinsurance and alternative risk transfer. His research interests include topics within sustainable finance and insurance. In 2014, Professor Garvey led research that resulted in the completion of a spinout company called FarmHedge which designed digital tools for coordinating trading decisions in agricultural markets. This technology secured the Irish Times Innovation Award and was sold to Austrian agribusiness, RWA in 2024. Professor Garvey currently leads BIOFIN-EU, an EU funded project that explores how to redirect financial flows towards the protection and restoration of biodiversity. **Day 2 - S4**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Léa Gratas

City of Paris

Léa Gratas is an International Projects and Outreach Officer at the Agency for Urban Ecology, part of the City of Paris. She graduated from the Engineering School of Paris with a Master's degree in Urban Engineering. Léa is deeply interested in the connection between nature and urban life, and enjoys contributing to projects that help cities adapt to tomorrow's challenges. **(Day 3 - S8)**



Neil Gunn

Willis Towers Watson

As a chartered engineer and flood risk management professional he has extensive experience in water management. With over 20 years with the Environment Agency Gunn Neil has a comprehensive understanding of flood management. **(Day 2 - S6)**



Kelly Heid

ICLEI Europe

Kelly Baldwin Heid is an Expert on the Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions team at ICLEI Europe, where she works with cities to develop Urban Nature Plans, bridge the biodiversity-finance gap, and deliver capacity-building programmes. She holds an MSc in Global Urban Health from the University of Freiburg and is currently completing a PhD exploring the links between urban biodiversity and human health. Her work focuses on designing and implementing transdisciplinary projects that address human and planetary health challenges to improve lives and restore ecosystems. **(Day 2 - S4)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Mette Holm

Aarhus Municipality

Mette Holm, (female) is Master of Science in biology from Aarhus University and has an MBA in journalism from Danish School of Media and Journalism. Mette has a brief experience as biologist from private consultancy with focus on marine phytoplankton and benthos. For 5 years she worked as a journalist mostly in broadcasting, but also writing, primarily on themes as environment, climate and science. For 24 years she worked as consultant for large companies training leadership, change management and teamwork; facilitated workshops and seminars on strategy, team cooperation and projects; created deep dive education in above mentioned. She has managed her own business, lead projects and conceptualized workshops and training for business managers during that time. During COVID19 she coordinated logistics in a hospital's PCR test site. Now she works in the nature department in Technology and Environment in City of Aarhus as a project manager, biologist and business consultant in EU-Horizon-projects: Invest4Nature, BLOSSOM and Land2Water. She also has tasks in coastal restoration. **(Day 3 - S8)**



Jerker Jarsjö

Stockholm University

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. A particular focus is the use of wetlands as Nature-based Solutions to mitigate the effects of floods and drought and to support biodiversity. **(Day 2 - S4)**



Ariane Kaploun

AXA Climate

Head of Nature-Based Initiatives at AXA Climate. After graduating from The London School of Economics, Ariane worked for major financial services companies for 6 years, when she was struck by the pivotal role of finance in tackling climate change. In 2021, she decided to join AXA Climate to help private organizations and public sector adapt and transform to create positive interactions between nature, climate and their activities **(Day 2 - S3)**.



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Pranav Kaundinya

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change & the Environment

Pranav is a research assistant at the Grantham Research Institute working at the intersection of climate adaptation, nature and policy, while also developing methodological frameworks at Native Squared. He holds an MSc in Environment and Development from LSE and is committed to leveraging finance as a catalyst for equitable climate and nature-positive transitions. (**Day 3 - S7**).



Verena Kraus

UNEP-FI

Verena Kraus is a Senior Manager at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, where she leads the Initiative's work on nature and insurance. She collaborates with financial institutions and a multi-stakeholder community to advance insurers' capacity and practical approaches to integrating nature-related risks and opportunities into underwriting frameworks, supporting the transition towards a nature-positive future. She has extensive experience working with the private financial sector on sustainability initiatives, delivering projects with financial institutions across Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to joining UNEP FI, she led the development of the Sustainable Finance Strategy for a Big Four consulting firm in APAC and directed region-wide pilot testing of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) for financial institutions. (**Day 1 - S2**)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Tsevetelina Kuzmanova

Cambridge Leadership Institute of Sustainability

Tsvetelina Kuzmanova is Sustainable Finance Lead at CISL Europe – the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, where she focuses on EU sustainable finance and public finance frameworks that mobilise capital for a climate-neutral and nature-positive economy. She is a Member of the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance and the Insurance Advisory Panel of the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG), advising on the design and implementation of Europe's sustainable finance framework. Prior to joining CISL, Tsvetelina spent nine years working on EU legislation and policy related to sustainable finance and financial innovation across government and civil society. She has also worked on international development projects in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on renewable energy and infrastructure. Tsvetelina holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and a BA in Political Science and Diplomacy from Yonsei University. **(Day 1 - S1)**



Paola Lepori

ICLEI Europe

Paola Lepori is Head of Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions at ICLEI Europe, based in Brussels. She works at the intersection of policy, science, and practice, bridging policy-making with impactful local action, and promoting the vital role of local and regional governments in advancing sustainable development, for both people and nature. Paola is currently involved in several flagship EU-funded NbS projects, including NetworkNature, GoNaturePositive!, UNP+, and Naturance. Paola is also the project lead for the global initiative the Berlin Urban Nature Pact.

Her core professional objective is to build alliances that drive transformative change towards an inclusive, just and nature-positive future. Prior to joining ICLEI, Paola worked for nearly 8 years at the European Commission in communication and policy roles. Most recently, she worked at the science-policy interface, promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations and nature-based solutions across policy domains. Before joining the Commission, Paola worked as a writer and editor for international relations newspapers in Italy. **(Day 1 - S1)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Lydia Lienhart

Joanneum Research

Lydia Maria Lienhart is an economist at ICLEI Europe (Austria) focussing on climate change adaptation and NbS. With a background in economics, international relations, and environmental systems sciences, she investigates how policy and business innovations can foster resilient and sustainable societies. **(Day 2 - S4; Day 3 - S6)**



JoAnne Linnerooth-Bayer

IIASA - International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Focuses 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. Trained in engineering and economics (Carnegie-Mellon University, University of Maryland), she has over 100 journal publications and consultancy reports, including articles in Nature Climate Change, Science, and PNAS. She is a founding member of the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative as well as the Austrian Climate Research Program. She has served as Lead Author and Review Editor on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events (SREX) and the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, respectively. **(Day 2 - S2; Day 2 - S3)**



Douglas Mason

Infrastructure specialist

Doug Mason works at the intersection of built and natural infrastructure to benefit communities and ecosystems. Over two decades in the public and private sectors, he has helped develop \$40 billion in built infrastructure and partnerships to conserve 44 million hectares of natural areas. He fosters collaboration across countries, sectors, and institutions to scale effective solutions. Doug currently serves as Director of Environmental and Social Performance at the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. international development agency **(Day 1 - Keynote)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Siobhan McQuaid

Trinity College Dublin & Horizon Nua

Siobhan McQuaid, PhD, is Associate Director of Innovation in the Centre for Social Innovation in Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. She manages a portfolio of 'Working with Nature' research and innovation initiatives bringing together Irish and international collaborators from industry, science, government and communities. Siobhan is the Principal Investigator of GoNaturePositive! a Horizon Europe research and innovation action coordinated by Trinity College Dublin. GoNaturePositive! brings corporates and entrepreneurs together with environmental and community leaders to co-create inclusive approaches to a nature-positive economy. Siobhan is also the co-founder and director of Horizon Nua, a not-for-profit foundation accelerating just transition towards a nature-positive economy and manager of the Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform. (Day 2 - S4; Day 2 - S5)



Davide Michielin

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change

Davide is Science Outreach Manager at CMCC. He holds an MSc in Environmental Biology and a postgraduate master's degree in Science Communication. Since 2015, he has worked as a science journalist, collaborating with *la Repubblica* and *Le Scienze*, and occasionally with other Italian magazines. He is a lecturer at San Raffaele University in Milan and, in 2026, became a European Climate Pact Ambassador. (Day 3, S8 - Moderator)



Remco Moen Marcar

Frank Lee creative concept studio

Remco is the co-founder of the concept agency Frank Lee. Among his most notable initiatives, he founded the NK Tegelwippen movement, a campaign that encourages citizens to replace paving stones in private gardens and urban spaces with greenery. (Day 3 - S8)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Jaroslav Mysiak

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change

Dr. Jaroslav Mysiak is a Principal Scientist at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change. Jaroslav's research focuses on risk assessment and governance, including behavioral responses to risks and risk reduction measures, transformative social change, environmental economics, sustainable finance, climate adaptation, and services. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency, member of the EC Expert group on nature credits and the coordinator of the Horizon Europe project Nature for Insurance, Insurance for Nature (NATURANCE). **(Host)**



Simone Nardicchia

Municipality of Milan

Simone Nardicchia is a Project Manager at the Urban Resilience Department of the Municipality of Milan. Active in climate adaptation and urban regeneration, he previously worked on the H2020 REACHOUT project and now coordinates Commit2Green and REGEN, initiatives focused on Nature-Based Solutions and structured engagement of local communities to strengthen urban resilience. **(Day 3 - S8)**



Vylon Ooms

Dutch Association of Insurers

Policy advisor on climate change at the Dutch Association of Insurers and an external PhD Candidate at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. **(Day 2 - S6)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Jessica Page

Stockholm University

Jessica Page is a post-doctoral researcher based in Stockholm, Sweden. Her research focus lies at the intersection of science and practicality, working to support cities in climate change mitigation and adaptation through urban planning. She works with urban modelling, exploratory AI, and Nature-based Solutions for carbon neutral cities. (**Day 2 - S5**)



Zsòfia Pej

Energiaklub Climate Policy and Applied Science

Climate Program Leader at Energiaklub Climate Policy and Applied Science. Experienced Project Manager with a demonstrated history of working in climate adaptation at local level and energy efficiency in public sector. Strong program and project management professional skilled in Sustainable Development, Environmental Economics and Environmental Policy. (**Day 3 - S8**)



Sirpa Pietikäinen

European Parliament - Finland

Sirpa Pietikäinen is a former Member of the Finnish Parliament (1983-2003) and a Minister of Environment of Finland (1991-1995). She has served as a member of the European Parliament since 2008 as a member of the European People's Party (EPP). She is a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) as well as a substitute member in the Committee on Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI) and in the Committee on Public Health (SANT). Within her work, she seeks to combine her two specialities, that of environment and economics, and Ms Pietikäinen is a strong advocate of a transition to a circular economy and sustainable finance. (**Day 3 - S7**)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Laura Pirazan Palomar

ICLEI Europe

Urban Resilience and Adaptation expert at ICLEI Europe. She has three-year experience in environmental consulting in Colombia and 2 years in academia as external tutor at TH Köln, developing project ideas related to naturebased solutions and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction. Currently, she is actively involved in EU-funded projects focusing on climate change adaptation, NbS, urban resilience, cultural heritage, and climate finance for NbS. (Day 1 - S2)



Isabel Reuss

Italian Sustainable Investment Forum

Senior Advisor at ITASIF, brings decades of leadership in sustainable finance. Her expertise bridges ESG analysis, regulation, and investor mobilization, driving finance toward a sustainable future. She has worked over 40 years in the insurance/finance sector as underwriter, portfolio manager and Global Head of Sustainable Research. She is a guest lecturer at various universities. (Day 1 - S2)



Hélène Rizzotti

Climate Alliance

Hélène Rizzotti is a EU project coordinator at Climate Alliance (Germany), a city network for just climate action gathering over 2,000 members all over Europe. Hélène is working mostly on the topic of climate adaptation. She coordinates the project IB-Gren (Interreg NWE), supporting European cities in implementing green-blue infrastructure at their local level. (Day 2 - S4)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Celeste Roubertol

City of Paris

Celeste Roubertol is International Projects and Outreach Manager at the Agency for Urban Ecology at the city of Paris, France. She graduated from Sciences Po with a Master's degree in European affairs and Public Administration. She's passionate about helping Parisians find a connection to nature in their city and about sharing both successes and challenges between cities to speed up the transition. **(Day 3 - S8)**



Andrea Staccione

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change

Andrea is a junior scientist at the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change. Her research focuses on Nature-based Solutions, green infrastructure, and ecosystem services as strategies for adapting to climate change and reducing disaster risk, as well as assessing their performance. **(Day 2 - S4; Day 3 - S8 - Moderator)**



Koen Stuyck

WWF Belgium

Koen Stuyck leads lobbying efforts to green Belgian financial institutions and policy for WWF Belgium. The goal: to ensure that available resources are fully deployed for the ecological transition and do not cause additional damage. Koen builds support at the political level, and in the business community, to address the biodiversity crisis and climate change. **(Day 2 - S2)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Ye Su

Charles University

Postdoc researcher specializing in hydrology at Charles University, collaborating on a joint research project with Stockholm University. Ye's research focuses on evaluating hydrological dynamics amidst land cover and land use changes, as well as the impact of climate change, with a particular emphasis on forested region where experienced disturbance/disaster and its consequences for ecohydrological system. **(Day 2 - S5).**



Swenja Surminski

Marsh McLennan and London School of Economics

Swenja's 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 **(Day 2 - S3; Day 2 - S4).**



Oleksandr Sushchenko

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research

Oleksandr Sushchenko is an economist specializing in green economy, sustainable finance, and climate-risk management, with over a decade of experience advising governments, international organizations, and financial institutions. He currently serves as a Research Fellow at the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, where he contributes to Horizon Europe work on innovative climate insurance solutions and shared resilience in agriculture and urban systems. He is also a Professor at Kyiv National Economic University, leading research and teaching on sustainable finance, climate insurance, and resilient recovery. His previous support to UNDRR, UNDP, IFIs include developing ESG tools, sustainable finance mechanisms, and green recovery frameworks for Ukraine and the EU region. **(Day 2 - S3; Day 3 - S7).**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Albena Taneva

European Commission DG GROW

Albena Taneva is a Policy Officer in the Access to Finance unit at the European Commission in the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. The unit's mission is to steer policies for access to repayable forms of finance for industry, with a particular focus on SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups, as well as to direct public and private finance towards EU policy objectives, such as the green and digital transformation, and to enhance competitiveness through financing. In the Commission, she worked for DG Agriculture and Rural Development and DG Regional and Urban Policy. In DG GROW, Albena's tasks are related to the strategic planning, scoping and programming of financial products under the SME window of InvestEU and overseeing implementation of the InvestEU SME window. She is also part of the GROW team for the next MFF's European Competitiveness Fund. She holds a Master degree in Economics from the Sofia University (Bulgaria). **(Day 1 - S1)**



Max Tesselaar

Institute for Environmental Studies - VU

Research scholar at the Institute for Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Max is an environmental economist specializing in assessing strategies for insurance markets to cope with climate change. **(Day 2 - S3; Day 2 - S6)**



Emanuela Vita

Municipality of Milan

Emanuela Vita is a communication and participation expert at the Municipality of Milan, with over 15 years of experience in managing urban regeneration initiatives. She supports multi-stakeholder governance and participatory processes to deliver inclusive urban transformations. She is a journalist and certified public communicator, with a strong focus on gender equality, intercultural approaches and citizen engagement. **(Day 3 - S8)**



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Matteo Vanzini

Climate KIC

Matteo is an innovative finance professional with a background in international development. He started his career designing mutual credit and microfinance solutions to support small businesses and local economies, before shifting toward climate mitigation and adaptation. At KOIS, he worked on blended finance, results-based finance, and impact investing structures to unlock capital at scale across Europe and emerging markets. He currently focuses on place-based systemic transformation in regenerative agriculture and food systems, leading Climate KIC's innovative finance work in the Irish Deep Demonstration with the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. Matteo is an innovative finance professional with a background in international development. He started his career designing mutual credit and microfinance solutions to support small businesses and local economies, before shifting toward climate mitigation and adaptation. At KOIS, he worked on blended finance, results-based finance, and impact investing structures to unlock capital at scale across Europe and emerging markets. He currently focuses on place-based systemic transformation in regenerative agriculture and food systems, leading Climate KIC's innovative finance work in the Irish Deep Demonstration with the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. (Day 1 - S1)



Chiara Vona

SERN - Startup Europe Regions Network

Chiara is a Project & Communications Manager with a background in political science and policy and scientific communications. She specialises in communicating and disseminating the results of EU-funded projects, with a particular focus on climate adaptation and engaging local communities. (Day 3 - S8)



Mia Wilke

WWF Switzerland

WWF Switzerland, Team Sustainable Finance. Co-authored WWF's recent white paper Tackling the Insurance Protection Gap (January 2026) with insurers and other stakeholders, analyzing how climate and nature risks affect insurability and the resulting economic, fiscal, social and ecological impacts. BA in Economics and Anthropology. Work experience across UBS, UN, NGOs, philanthropy consulting and corporate sustainability. (Day 2 - S5)



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Joanna Wolstenholme

UNEP-WCMC

Joanna is a Senior Programme Officer in the Nature Economy team at the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Her work focuses on finance for nature, and she is part of the NetworkNature team working on financing NbS. She is based in Cambridge in the UK. Joanna has led projects working with a range of financial institutions - from impact funds, to banks and central banks. Within NetworkNature, she has been looking at how to make financing NbS more attractive to private financial institutions, SMEs and corporates. Most recently, she helped to author the report 'A Guide to the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Finance Landscape in Europe'. (Day 2 - S4)



Harald Wouters

Municipality of Waalwijk (NL)

Harald Wouters works partly for the Municipality of Waalwijk (NL). He coordinates EU projects and works on the development of the first emission free inland port in Europe. This ambitious goal gained a lot of recognition and attracted funding from multiple sources. Including the Interreg North Sea project Green Supply Chains. Harald is also an Expert in the EU innovation programmes EUI and URBACT. (Day 3 - S8)



Marianne Zandersen

Aarhus University

Marianne Zandersen is a professor in environmental economics at Aarhus University (Denmark) working predominantly with the non-market valuation of benefits of NbS across landscapes including climate adaptation, climate mitigation, water quality improvements and health & wellbeing. She coordinated the H2020 REGREEN project and is currently leading the Work Package in Invest4Nature on evidence of NbS economics and financing and the Work Package in GoNaturePositive! on evidence supporting systemic change towards a Nature-Positive Economy. (Day 3 - S8)



MEET THE PROJECTS

**ARCADIA**Transformative climate resilience
by nature-based solutions in the
continental bio-geographical region**BIOFIN-EU****Invest⁴
nature****PIISA**Taskforce on Nature-related
Financial Disclosures**bio
capital****Network
Nature****Soteria**



LOGISTICAL INFORMATION PACK

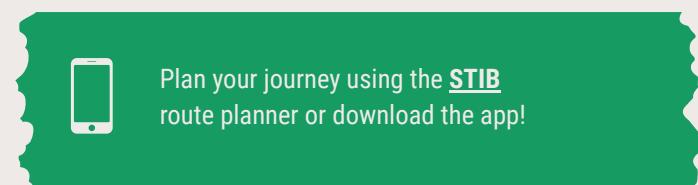
Event

The conference *Finance Innovation Festival: Insurance and Investment Opportunities for Nature-Based Transformations* of the Naturance project is set to take place in **Brussels (Belgium)** on **3-5 February 2026**. After nearly four years of research and collaboration, the event will showcase the project's outcomes, challenges, and successes.

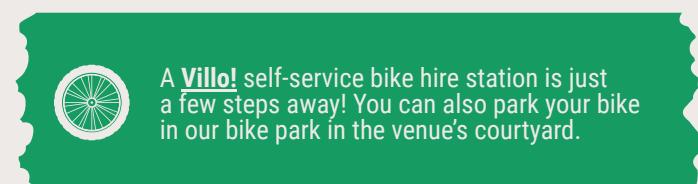


Venue

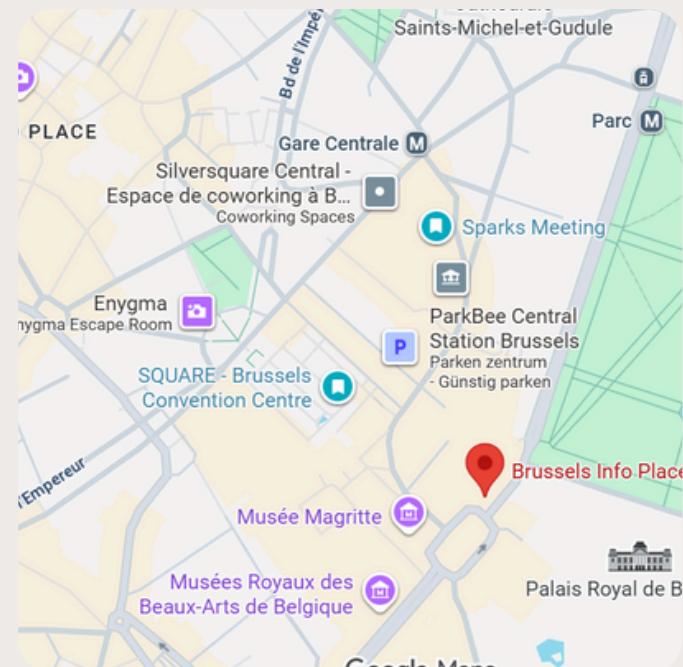
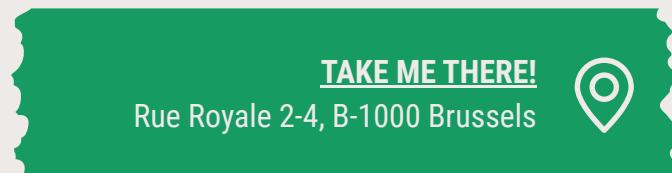
The second conference of the Naturance project will be hosted by the **Brussels Info Place (BIP)** Meeting Centre, Rue Royale 2-4, B-1000 Brussels. Thanks to its central location in the heart of Brussels, the BIP Meeting Centre is easily accessible by bicycle and public transport. It's a 5-minute walk from Brussels Central Station and is served by several bus, tram and metro lines.



Plan your journey using the **STIB** route planner or download the app!



A **Villo!** self-service bike hire station is just a few steps away! You can also park your bike in our bike park in the venue's courtyard.



Regional and local access



Tram 92, 94
(Palais stop)

Metro 1, 5
(Central Station or Park stop)



Bus 38, 71, 95
(halte Koning)

Train
Central Station



Bicycle Rental
Palais Royal station
(Rue Royale)



Parking Place des Palais / Albertina (Place de la Justice 16) / Poelaert-Sablon (Place Poelaert) / Grand Place (Rue du Marché aux Herbes 104)



Getting to Brussels

Brussels is served by two airports, the Brussels International Airport and the Brussels South Charleroi Airport. From both of them you can easily take the train or the bus to get to Brussels city centre.

Plane

Brussels International Airport

From Brussels Airport there is a fast, direct train connection to the main Brussels railway stations (Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels South). There is a **direct train** every 15 minutes in both directions which takes to the centre of Brussels in just 17 minutes.

The standard ticket price for travel between the airport and the Brussels Zone is €9,30 per trip (return trip €18,60), which includes the airport fee. Please note that if you already have an SNCB ticket, you will have to pay the airport fee separately. Another option to get from the Brussels Airport to Brussels is the **bus line 12**. You can find all the detailed information about stops and schedule [here](#).

Basement level -1 in the airport	Bus 12/21 Level 01 in the airport
Every 15 minutes	Every 30 minutes
12 min to Brussels North station 17 min to Brussels Central station 21 min to Brussels-Midi station	Average time to the city centre: 45 min
9€	8,40 €

Brussels South Charleroi Airport

This airport is located 60 km from Brussels and the possible connections are by bus (city shuttle) or by taking a combination of bus and train. **Brussels City Shuttle** is operated by the Flibco company and will take you from the airport directly to Brussels South station (or the other way around) with no stops in between.

TEC A Bus + Train	+	Flibco Shuttle bus
Every 30 minutes		Every 20 minutes
Average time to the city centre: 90 min		55 min to Brussels-Midi station
16€		16,60 €

The average price is 16,60€ and a single ticket is valid one ride at any time in the day selected. There is no possibility to reserve seats and “first-come, first-served” approach is applied, reason why we suggest to buy tickets online rather than on site at the counter. A bus leaves at agreed time or earlier if full. The average time of the journey is 45 minutes. You can buy the tickets [here](#).

An alternative way to reach Brussels city centre is to take the **TEC A bus** to the Charleroi Gare Centrale (every 30 minutes) and then a train to Brussels Central station (twice an hour). This ticket is called Bus TEC Charleroi Airport Ticket and you can find more information [here](#).

Bus

Several **international bus companies** provide fast transit between major European cities and stop in Brussels, either as a final destination or as an intermediate stop on routes to and from cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, London, and Paris. Have a look at [Eurolines](#) and [Flixbus](#).

Car

This solution is **not recommended**. The entire Brussels-Capital Region is a low emission zone, this means that the most polluting vehicles are not allowed to drive here.



Train

In Brussels there are **five main railway stations**, which are interconnected:

- **Central Station**
- **South Station**
 - London: Eurostar
 - Paris: Thalys,
 - France: TGV high-speed rail service
- **North Station**
 - Amsterdam
- **Luxembourg Station**
 - Luxembourg
- **Schuman Station**
 - European institutions

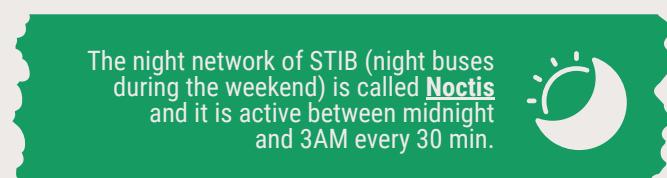
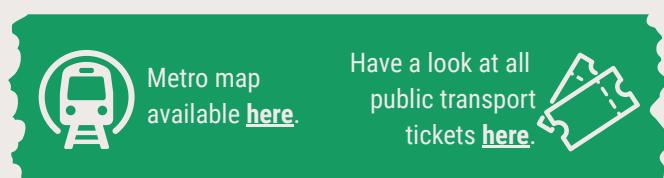
You can also reach Brussels from **other parts of Europe**. These are some connections:

- **Eurostar**
 - 2h01 → London (11 trains per day)
 - 1h49 → Amsterdam (2 trains per day)
- **Thalys**
 - 1h22 → Paris (24 trains per day)
 - 1h50 → Amsterdam (14 trains per day)

For trains **timetables and tickets**, consult the [SNCF/NMBS trip planner](#) or check the mobile site [m.nmbs.be](#) or the SNCF/NMBS App.

Getting around Brussels

The public transportation network (metro, tram and bus) is mainly managed by the Brussels Intermunicipal Transport Company (STIB-MIVB); in addition, some bus rides that serve the surroundings of the Brussels capital region are operated by [De Lijn](#). The network maps, schedules, frequencies, rates or route planners are available on its [website](#).



Where to stay

Below a selection of venues which are well connected with the event venue, more suggestions can be found on [visit.brussels](#) website.



Hotel CHAMBORD

Distance from venue: **7 min** walking
Estimated price: **149€/night** single room



Hotel AGORA BRUXELLES GRAND PLACE

Distance from venue: **8 min** walking
Estimated price: **140€/night** double room



Hotel ARIS GRAND PLACE

Distance from venue: **9 min** walking
Estimated price: **126€/night** single room



Hotel ALMA GRAND PLACE

Distance from venue: **10 min** walking
Estimated price: **122€/night** double room



Best Western Hotel ROYAL CENTRE

Distance from venue: **13 min** walking
Estimated price: **151€/night** single room



ARGUS Hotel

Distance from venue: **14 min** walking
Estimated price: **101€/night** single room



Hotel DU CONGRES

Distance from venue: **14 min** walking
Estimated price: **150€/night** single room



Hotel CHELTON

Distance from the venue: **30 min** walking
Estimated price: **145€/night** double room



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Digital library

The Digital Library offers a **curated collection of resources** exploring Nature-based Solutions and their financing. Featuring videos, webinars, expert insights, case studies, and editorial content, it supports policymakers, practitioners, and investors in understanding how NbS can drive climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable finance across sectors and regions.



Digital library

A diverse collection of resources to dive into the world of Nature-based Solutions and their financing.

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NATURANCE TALKS podcast



NATURANCE Talks is the podcast of the European project NATURANCE, exploring how Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can support climate adaptation and risk management.

Through **conversations with researchers, policymakers, and practitioners**, the series delves into topics such as insurance, sustainable finance, and community resilience. Each episode translates complex ideas into real-world examples, showing how working with nature creates environmental, social, and economic benefits.

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Innovation Labs



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