



## Annual Event

25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

# *Busting myths*

# People

~~or~~

with

# nature



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

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

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

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

Through a series of panel discussions, presentations as well as interactive activities and artistic components, the event will look at common myths about ecosystem management, while providing insights and knowledge on

how NbS contribute to busting these myths and provide opportunities. This will be framed within current EU policy developments. The definition of the myths and presentations were shaped through a dedicated open call as well as with a lineup of great speakers. The open call invited NbS projects' representatives and other relevant stakeholders to bring forward common myths they have encountered in relation to ecosystem management with respect to the three abovementioned elements, and the solutions they have put in place, with a clear emphasis on the synergistic relationship between nature and people and the role of NbS.

The event will be moderated by Chantal van Ham, Landscape Partnership Lead, Commonland.

# Agenda

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

8h45 9h00	Registration	
<b>Introduction</b>		
09h00 09h15	<b>Start of conference</b>	<b>Chantal van Ham</b> Moderator
09h15 09h30	<b>Welcome speech on NbS performance</b>	<b>Luís Rodríguez</b> TPoNbS
09h30 09h50	<b>European Commission keynote speech</b>	<b>Humberto Delgado Rosa</b> DG ENV, European Commission

# Busting myths

## Regenerating nature

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

### 09h50 Short busting-myth presentations

### 10h10 Regenerating nature: Soil and water

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

### 10h10 Short panel + Q&A

### 10h35 A change of paradigm in water and soil management

*Same speakers as above*

*Coffee- break*

### 11h05 Short busting-myth presentations

### 11h25 Regenerating nature: Land uses

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

### 11h25 Short panel + Q&A

### 11h50 Sharing landscapes

*Same speakers as above*

# Busting myths on nature governance

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

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

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

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

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

Myth	<b>Data will tell us what to do</b>	<b>Florence Damiens</b> SAFEGUARD   Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Myth	<b>Science as quest for objective truth</b>	<b>Sebastian Birk</b> MERLIN   University of Duisburg-Essen
Myth	<b>Whatever we do, it's just a drop in the ocean</b>	<b>Aveliina Helm</b> Science advisor to the minister, Ministry of Climate, Estonia
Myth	<b>Citizens aren't interested in protecting nature</b>	<b>Micheál O' Cinneide</b> Director, Corrib Beo, Ireland

## 12h55 Short panel + Q&A 13h20 People for nature *Same speakers as above*

## Lunch break and poster exhibition

13h20  
14h45

Lunch served by Act for Transition

*Posters tbc*

# Busting myths on the value of nature

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

## 14h45 Short busting-myth presentations 15h05 The value of nature: an underestimated matter

Myth	<b>Valuation of nature is a technical challenge</b>	<b>Sander Jacobs</b> GoNaturePositive   INBO
Myth	<b>Nothing there, just dirt</b>	<b>Mirco Barbero</b> DG ENV, European Commission
Myth	<b>Nature always comes last</b>	<b>Milena Pereira Kozlowksi</b> Generation Climate Europe
Myth	<b>Only people have rights</b>	<b>Sjanne Quelhorst</b> PRO Eijsden-Margraten

## 15h05 Short panel + Q&A 15h30 Re-valuing nature *Same speakers as above*

## 15h30 Short busting-myth presentations 15h50 The value of nature: Economy for and with nature

Myth	<b>It is all about immediate profit</b>	<b>John Garvey</b> BIOFIN-EU   University of Limerick
Myth	<b>Ecosystem insurance is unworkable</b>	<b>Jaroslav Mysiak</b> NATURANCE   Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change
Myth	<b>Biodiversity or profit</b>	<b>Carlos Ruiz González</b> Life Olivares Vivos   SEO BirdLife
Myth	<b>Economic growth is essential for stability</b>	<b>Lydia Korinek</b> Zoe Institute

## 15h50 Short panel + Q&A 16h15 Economy for and with nature

## Final words

16h15 16h25	Conclusions by the moderator	<b>Chantal van Ham</b> Commonland
16h25 16h30	Final words	<b>Boris Erg (tbc)</b> IUCN EURO

*Final Coffee*

## Bonus Parallel sessions and site visits

<b>17h00 18h30</b>	<b>Site-visits</b> <b>Regenerating nature: Soil and water</b>	
Site-visit 1	<i>Tbd</i>	Organised by Bruxelles Environnement
Site-visit 2	<i>Tbd</i>	Organised by Bruxelles Environnement
Site-visit 3	<i>Tbd</i>	Organised by Bruxelles Environnement
<b>17h00 18h00</b>	<b>Parallel session</b> <b>Bust your myth with comic strips</b>	<b>David Maddox</b> The Nature of Cities

**18h30  
20h00**      *Drinks at Parkfarm (tbc)*





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



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