



May 13
14.00-16.00
Room: 10

Topic: European Commission - Plenary Session

Nature-based solutions for Climate Change Adaptation: Research and Innovation Opportunities for Europe

Background information

Nature-based solutions have the potential to address some of today's most pressing challenges, and simultaneously provide unique opportunities for businesses and local communities. By bringing more nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, nature-based solutions simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits. They further help to address both local and global issues, such as climate change, flood risk, ecosystem degradation, and improvement of local livelihoods and well-being. The European Commission is developing an EU Research & Innovation policy agenda for Nature-Based Solutions and for Re-Naturing cities, to scale up the systemic use of nature-based solutions to address societal challenges and support an emerging market in this field.

Session objectives

There is a growing recognition of the role that nature-based solutions can play in helping societies adapt to climate change through the development and delivery of a range of ecosystem services. The use of nature-based solutions, as means to prevent and mitigate climate-related risks is gaining momentum across different areas, such as fluvial and coastal flooding, attenuation of heat island effects, and drought impact mitigation. The objective of the session will be to discuss the EU Research & Innovation policy for Nature-based solutions from different end-user perspectives.

Format, method and length

We foresee a 120min slot, comprising presentations and interactive discussion with participants. It is envisaged that the session will involve five 15 min presentations plus 5 minutes of Q+A for each, which will highlight: (a) the EU Research and Innovation policy agenda for nature-based solutions, (b) research/scientific perspectives for enabling the development of new, replicable nature-based solutions, (c) practitioners' perspectives on implementation/replication challenges. The presentations will be followed by interactive discussion with the audience and the speakers.

Programme

Chair: European Commission, DG Research and Innovation

Time	Programme
14:00 – 14:20	Birgit de Boissezon, Head of Unit on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, DG Research and Innovation: 'A new EU Research and Innovation policy perspective on Nature-Based Solutions for climate change adaptation'
14:20 – 14:40	Pam Berry, Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University, UK and rapporteur of the EU Horizon 2020 Expert Group on Nature-Based Solutions and Re-



Time	Programme
	naturing cities: 'Research & Innovation perspectives towards the development of Nature-Based Solutions for climate change adaptation'
14:40 – 15:00	Arjan Ruijs, PBL, The Netherlands: 'Experiences and lessons learnt from nature based solutions for safeguarding water safety'
15:00 – 15:20	Luisa Perini, Region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy: 'Coastal threats in the Emilia-Romagna region and potential measures'
15:20 – 15:40	Holger Robrecht, Regional Director, ICLEI: 'Resilient cities: Opportunities for nature-based solutions'
15:40 – 16:00	Discussion