



NATURE-BASED  
SOLUTIONS 2026  
International Congress



**2-6 NOVEMBER 2026**  
Paris, France



NetworkNature Week

# FUTURES WITH NATURE

CALL FOR SESSIONS



Funded by  
the European Union

# Open call Futures with nature

Contribute to NetworkNature Week  
at the Nature-based Solutions International Congress 2026

## About the Nature-based Solutions International Congress 2026

At a time when urgent transformative change is needed to address the intertwined crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, **the Nature-based Solutions International Congress 2026** will aim to shape a resilient future for people and nature through knowledge and action. **From November 2 to 6, 2026**, in Paris, France, the event will gather researchers, policymakers, practitioners, local and regional representatives, national and transnational public authorities, businesses, investors, and civil society from around the world, serving as a global meeting point for those working around nature and people. Built as a dialogue across sectors and disciplines, and organised by the French National Research Program on Nature-based Solutions (SOLU-BIOD) and NetworkNature, in collaboration with UNP+, Biodiversa+, Sorbonne University, and the City of Paris, the Congress will seek to create a decisive moment for nature, strengthening synergies, bridging communities, and amplifying the international impact of NbS. The Congress is organised as two parallel and interconnected programmes.

Nbs International Congress 2026					
	02 November	03 November	04 November	05 November	06 November
Scientific conference			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
		Opening			
NetworkNature Week	NetworkNature Science Policy Dialogue <i>Looking forward: Nature Restoration</i>	NetworkNature Annual Event 2026 <i>Futures with Nature</i>	Cities Festival		

## About NetworkNature Week

Within the framework of the NbS International Congress, the NetworkNature week will explore how public authorities can go beyond addressing imminent pressures and act to shape a resilient and thriving future for people and nature. Turning knowledge and inspiration into action, the week aims to create a decisive moment in which nature moves from margin to mainstream in governance, finance and practice.

The week, organised by NetworkNature, will feature three key events and one exhibition related to this open call:

- **NetworkNature Science Policy Dialogue**, held on 2 November and organised by NetworkNature, will explore and demonstrate how to deliver wise, ambitious and forward-looking nature restoration through the nature-based solutions framework.
- **NetworkNature Annual Event 2026. Futures with Nature**. will take place on 3 November. Organised by NetworkNature, it will explore different visions of how resilient and thriving futures for nature and people could look like — and how to get there. By sharing brave and forward-looking ideas, initiatives, policies and projects where public sector at all levels play a key role in shaping a resilient future for both people and nature, participants will be invited to turn inspiration into action
- **Cities Festival**, taking place on 4 November, organised by UNP+ in collaboration with NetworkNature and the City of Paris, will bring together local and regional governments to address pressing urban socio-ecological challenges. It will focus on fostering peer-to-peer exchange, building capacity, and sharing practices to overcome barriers to implementing nature-based solutions. The development of Urban Nature Plans will be a key component of the agenda.
- **Future Postcards exhibition** will take place during the NetworkNature Week and would be accessible to the attendants of the congress. The exhibition will feature inspiring cases, projects, initiatives and ideas that support the vision of a just, safe and thriving future in postcard format and **will invite the audience to share them with local, regional and national authorities.**

## One open call, multiple ways to contribute

**Do you want to see your ideas, initiatives, projects or policies scaled up across Europe and beyond?** This is your opportunity! This open call aims to support the dissemination of your work **across the NetworkNature community, making it accessible to local and regional authorities.**

Whether you are an individual, a collective or part of an organisation — across any backgrounds and sectors— you are invited **to share your vision of a future with nature, and how to get there. Contributions should build on forward-looking ideas, initiatives, policies and projects.**

This open call unlocks the possibility to participate in the **NetworkNature week, within the NbS International congress 2026**, either:

- **as a speaker or workshop facilitator in one out of the three events of the NetworkNature Week** (*see below*)
- **as a contributor to the Future postcards' exhibition** (*see below*)

To simplify the process, NetworkNature, in collaboration with UNP+, has created a single open call. During submission, you will be asked to indicate which event(s) or exhibition you wish to participate in. You may apply to one or multiple opportunities. Submissions should follow a format compatible with both the **Future Postcards** exhibition and the NetworkNature Annual Event, **Futures with Nature** (*see below*).

**If selected as a speaker or workshop facilitator**, you will be contacted by NetworkNature with further details about your participation.

**If selected for the exhibition**, NetworkNature will design and print a postcard based on your submission. Contributors will also be invited to bring physical materials (e.g. resources or publications, up to A3 size) to the event.

### Additional information:

- The open call is open to everyone. Multiple submissions from the same stakeholder are welcome.
- The submission process is simple and is expected to take no more than one hour.
- Travel expenses can only be covered for selected speakers (not contributors to the exhibition).
- Active EU-funded projects speakers cannot receive travel support, as they are required to use their own funds.
- **This is the only open call to contribute to the NetworkNature Week. For participation in the Scientific Conference, please check this link.**
- For any inquiries regarding this open call, please contact us at: [nbscongress@sciencesconf.org](mailto:nbscongress@sciencesconf.org)



## Participating as a speaker or as a workshop facilitator

NetworkNature is in the process of refining the structure of the different days. Here a summary of the key information you must know to apply.

### NetworkNature Science Policy Dialogue | 2 November

**Focus:** topic must be related to Nature Restoration Regulation implementation

**Looking for:**

- *EU-Funded projects on Nature-based Solutions, especially encouraging [NetworkNature projects](#) and selected Mission Projects)*
- *Educators, education institutions, students and researchers*
- *National and EU-level policy makers and local or regional governments*

**Format of participation:** selected participants will be invited to contribute to short presentations on National Restoration Plans, on Research and Innovation knowledge, needs, gaps, and platforms in relation to Nature Restoration, or invited to contribute to panel discussions.

### NetworkNature Annual Event 2026, *Futures with Nature* | 3 November.

**Focus:** visions of how resilient and thriving futures for nature and people could look and how to get there, building on brave and forward-looking ideas, initiatives, policies and projects and making explicit the role of the public sector to unlock these visions.

**Looking for:** all stakeholders are welcome, expected participants:

- *Projects on Nature-based Solutions, including EU-Funded projects such as [NetworkNature projects](#)*
- *Educators, education institutions, students and researchers*
- *National and EU-level policy makers and local or regional governments*
- *NbS investors and (nature-based) entrepreneurs*
- *Planners and developers, natural resource managers and landowners.*
- *Indigenous communities*
- *Society at large*

**Format of participation:** speakers will be invited to do a short pitch -between 5 and 10 minutes- and to participate in a short panel (circa 20 minutes)

**Structure of the day:** the event will be organised through four thematic sessions. The following questions are designed to guide you through your application.

- **Future ecosystems | Restoring nature with and for people**  
What do healthy, resilient and biodiverse ecosystems look like in a future with nature? How do we get there?



- **Future governance | Decisions for nature and people**  
What does governance and decision-making should look like in a future with nature? How do we get there?
- **Future lives | Living with nature every day**  
What does daily life look like when nature is fully considered across ecosystems, governance, and the economy —and how would this reshape our spaces, cultures, behaviours and communication? How do we get there?
- **Future economies | Working for people and nature**  
What does an economy look like when it works with and for nature? How do we get there?

### Cities Festival | 4 November

**Focus:** capacity building and peer to peer exchange among local and regional authorities. Workshops will highlight learnings from cities engaged in Horizon Europe projects, drawing concrete links to enablers and barriers for developing and implementing Urban Nature Plans. Sessions should align with one or more of the following tracks:

**Nature, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience** – protecting and restoring nature, enhancing biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate-health links; **Sustainable & Nature-Positive Local Economies** – transforming local economies and food systems towards sustainable, nature-positive models; **Governance, Justice & Collective Action** – advancing inclusive, equity-centred decision-making, participatory approaches, and translating practice into policy.

**Looking for:** the workshops will be designed around a triumvirate partnership model that brings together a NN partner, a [UNP+](#) partner, and an additional collaborator from a Horizon Europe project - which could be you! Expected participants:

- *Representatives of local and regional governments - technical staff and decision makers*
- *Representatives of national governments - technical staff and decision makers*
- *Representatives from the research community*

Each session is expected to focus on **practice** and **meaningfully include (or be led by) a representative(s) from a local or regional government**. *Priority will be given to workshop proposals that emphasize engaging, interactive, and creative formats that encourage participation and practical exchange.*

**Format of participation:** Workshop facilitators will contribute to 60, 75 or 90 minutes interactive sessions.





## General conditions

### Who can apply?

Anyone that has been involved in projects and initiatives where nature is identified as an ally for the future, such as nature-based solutions. National and EU-Level policymakers, local and subnational governments and national and transnational public representatives, researchers, educators, education institutions and students, infrastructure planners and developers, natural resource managers and landowners, artists, indigenous communities, individuals and collectives in brief society at large are all invited to submit a proposal.

### How do I submit a proposal?

You are invited to apply through [this short form](#).

### What is the timeline?

We invite you to submit your idea **by Tuesday, 30 of June**.

### How would the selection process be done?

The submissions will be evaluated on a rolling basis by NetworkNature.

A final decision will be sent by email to applicants in no-more than 2 weeks after the closing date.



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



Funded by  
the European Union



UK Research  
and Innovation

This project has received funding from the European Union's Research Executive Agency under grant No. 101082213. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

This work is also funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee [grant number 10064784].