

Advancing Just, Equitable and Inclusive Nature-based Solutions

One-day symposium, University of Amsterdam, Thursday 22 October 2026

Programme



Driving Urban
Transitions



Co-funded by
the European Union

Programme at a glance

Location: University of Amsterdam, Roeterseilandcampus, building JK

Rooms: JKT.B.22 and JKT.B.24

When	What	
09.00	Registration + coffee & tea	
09.30	Keynote #1: Prof Niki Frantzeskaki (Utrecht University) <i>Transforming with or transformed by Nature-based Solutions: Rethinking how we plan cities with nature</i> Keynote #2: Prof Erik Swyngedouw (The University of Manchester) <i>"Nature does not Exist!": The Antinomies of Nature-based Solutions</i> Followed by a dialogue between the two keynote speakers <i>Moderator: Dr Jannes Willems (University of Amsterdam)</i>	
11.00	Coffee/tea	
11.15	Presentation Dr Jannes Willems (University of Amsterdam) <i>Towards just, inclusive and equitable Nature-based Solutions: Identifying Areas of Transformation in the GREEN-INC project</i>	
12.00	Lunch	
13.00	Parallel session 1 (JKT.B.22) Alternative NbS framings <i>Moderator: Dr Alina Hossu (University of Bucharest)</i>	Parallel session 2 (JKT.B.24) Participatory Policymaking for NbS <i>Moderator: Dr Boud Verbeiren (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)</i>
14.30	Coffee/tea	
14.45	Parallel session 3 (JKT.B.22) The politics of NbS <i>Moderator: Dr Danielle MacCarthy (University of Amsterdam)</i>	Parallel session 4 (JKT.B.24) Co-creating NbS <i>Moderator: Dr Andrea Aragone (Université Libre de Bruxelles)</i>
16.05	Coffee/tea	
16.15	Plenary discussion: realising the transformative potential of NbS <i>Moderator: Dr Mendel Giezen (University of Amsterdam)</i>	
17.00	Drinks at CREA	

Session 1: Alternative framings of Nature-based Solutions

1	Re-politicizing nature-based solutions: locating (in)justice in climate-adapted welfare landscapes Mia Cassidy Prall (Aalborg University) Kristen Ounanian, Kaija Jumppanen and Martin Lehmann
2	Transformative change from a decolonial perspective: a comparative analysis of Curaçao, Puerto Rico and Barbados Janneke den Dekker-Arlain (Utrecht University) Niki Frantzeskaki and Katinka Wijsman
3	Pluralistic values in Nature-based Solutions. Evidence from four European Cities Alina Hossu (University of Bucharest) Mihai Nita, Christian Ioja, C Mitincu, Maria Calota, Jannes Willems, Danielle MacCarthy, Sara Torabi, Virginia Pellerey, Mirjam Stoffen and M Artmann
4	Accessing the city: A Multispecies Struggle Sergio Vélez Triana (University of Groningen)

Session 2: Participatory Policymaking for NbS

1	Citizen Science beyond Data Collection: Building Trust, Fostering Stewardship and Co-producing Nature-based Solutions through Participatory Science Erich Wolff (Utrecht University) Iago Longue Martins and Niki Frantzeskaki
2	Beyond Project-Based Participation: Sustaining Participation through Relational Work in Nature-based Solutions Kayin Venner (Wageningen University) G. Mercado, H. Fors, T.B. Randrup, B. Goličnik, S. Praper and Arjen Buijs
3	Implementing climate adaptation through existing urban policy instruments: insights from the Brussels-Capital Region Adélaïde Ragot (Université Libre de Bruxelles) Geoffrey Grulois
4	A hands-on Evaluation of the Environmental and Socio-Economical Impact and Effectiveness of Urban Nature-based Solutions in two European cities Boud Verbeiren (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) Virginia Pellerey, Yonas Asfaha, Nora van Cauwenbergh, John Escorcía, Andrea Tuní and Sara Torabi

Session 3: The politics of Nature-based Solutions

1	Toxic Naturescapes: Chlordecone, Colonial Legacies, and the Politics of Nature-based Solutions in Fort-de-France, Martinique Tatiana Acevedo-Guerrero (Utrecht University) Séréna Aupoix and Jeffrey E. Blackwatters
2	Nature-Based Solutions in working-class neighborhood: A Case Study of the Sennette Park in Heyvaert Ana Scutari (Université Libre de Bruxelles) Geoffrey Grulois
3	Revisiting the politics of urban infrastructures: from technical towards vegetal thinking Katinka Wijsman (Utrecht University) Jannes Willems
4	Framing 'Nature' in Nature-based Solutions: Insights from Indonesia's Flood Management Policies Yudhistira Pribadi (University of Groningen) Britta Restemeyer, Margo van den Brink and Johan Woltjer

Session 4: Co-creating Nature-based Solutions

1	Designing community-led financing architectures to scale urban NBS implementation Tara Op de Beeck (University of Antwerp)
2	Co-creating understandings of Nature-based Solutions: A Coventry case study Virginia Thomas-Pickles (University of Warwick)
3	Co-design Workshops as Mediating Instruments for Inclusive Nature-based Solutions in Urban Living Labs Frida Thuresson (Luleå University of Technology) Andrea Aragone and Agatino Rizzo
4	Institutional co-production for NBS in rain-water in Brussels: why co-production is so difficult to be sustainably supported from an institutional perspective? Luisa Moretto (Université libre de Bruxelles) Giuseppe Faldi, Catalina-Codruta Dobre and Andrea Aragone

Keynote speakers



Prof Niki Frantzeskaki

Transforming with or transformed by Nature-based Solutions: Rethinking how we plan cities with nature

Niki Frantzeskaki is a Chair Professor of Regional and Metropolitan Governance and Planning, Section Spatial Planning, Geosciences Faculty, at Utrecht University. She is one of the leading researchers worldwide on the governance and planning of nature-based solutions for contributing to climate change resilience and more just urban futures. She has research experience in Europe, Australia, Canada, and the USA. One of her current research projects is the Horizon Europe-funded CARDIMED (*Climate adaptation and resilience demonstrated in the Mediterranean region*).



Prof Erik Swyngedouw

"Nature does not Exist!": The Antinomies of Nature-based Solutions

Erik Swyngedouw is Professor of Human Geography at the School of Environment, University of Manchester. He is one of the leading voices in the field of Urban Political Ecology, applying insights from Marxist and psychoanalytical political economy to explain the production of uneven and unjust urban landscapes. In his recent work, he has been critical about dominant climate discourses including the term Nature-based Solutions. As an alternative, he argues that we should embrace maladaptation as the norm.