



In this session, businesses, researchers, and policy makers consider the evidence, best practices, tools, and strategies in support of a nature-positive economy. The benefits for biodiversity, ecosystems, and climate are highlighted. Although many are committed to adopting nature-positive practices, hindrances prevail and clarity on the way forward is often lacking. We examine the driving forces for a nature-based economy, showcase success stories and draw lessons what can be achieved going forward.

LOCATION AND TIMING:

The side-event is arranged as a panel discussion, held at the EU pavilion on:
9 November 2022 at 14:30-15:30 (GMT+2)

Please note, the schedule is aligned with the Sharm El-Sheikh time zone, CET+1.

Register here: [EU side events COP27 | COP27 EU Side Events \(swapcard.com\)](https://www.swapcard.com/event/eu-side-events-cop27/planning/UGxhbm5pbmdfMTA1MTg5NA==)

For connecting remotely, use link: <https://app.swapcard.com/event/eu-side-events-cop27/planning/UGxhbm5pbmdfMTA1MTg5NA==>

In this session, we bring together 7 panellists from businesses, researchers, and policy makers for focusing on evidence, best practices, tools, and strategies in support of a nature-positive economy, and associated benefits for biodiversity, ecosystems, and climate.

Many are committed to adopting nature-positive practices, but clarity on the way forward is often lacking. In the session for COP27, we would like to showcase success stories and lessons on what can be achieved.

Starting out with presentations and discussion on nature-based solutions (NBS), attention will be paid to knowledge gaps around the potential benefits as well as the challenges faced by nature-based enterprises (NBE). From there on, the perspective will widen to review the roles of various stakeholders whose investments and behaviours matter greatly for fuelling a nature-positive economy, with associated benefits for nature and society.



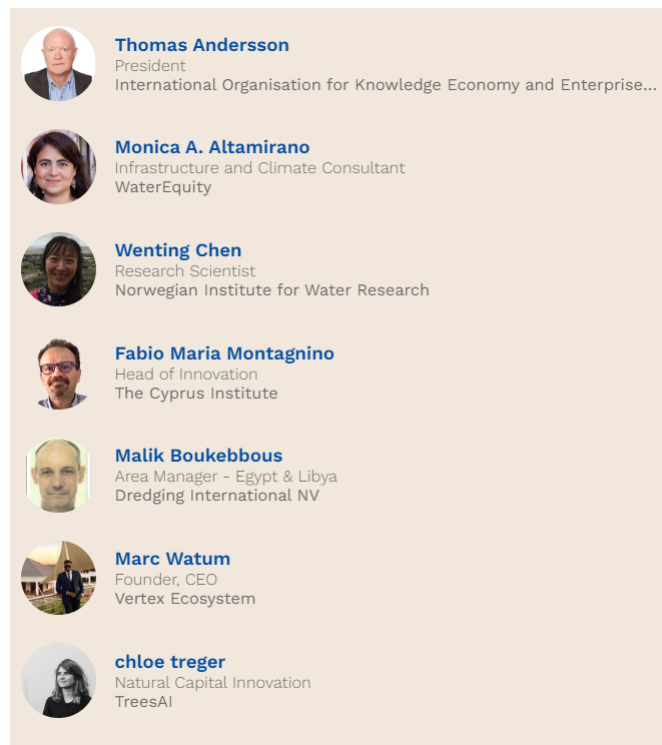
The session draws partly on a newly published European Commission Expert Report “The Role of Nature-based Solutions in a Nature-Positive Economy”, which is the result of extensive reviews, analyses and consultations spanning a wide spectrum of economic impacts emanating from a nature-based approach. At the same time, hurdles and distortions causing underinvestment and foregone opportunities will be highlighted. These include deficiencies in information, vested interests, and regulatory deficiencies as manifested in ‘greenwashing’ and misguided market forces.

On the topic of “valuation”, examples of practices adopted by cities to plan, implement, and measure the impacts of nature-based solutions will be put forward. In this regard, we aim for lessons of more general validity, how policymakers can actively respond to the challenges and opportunities around complex value chains, data, and action.

The UN SEEA EEA (ecosystem accounting) framework will be reflected on, along with its relevance for the adaptive capacity and resilience of local communities to climate change. The roll-out of sustainability-linked accounting disclosures and its relationship to the actual behaviours of financial market and the corporate sector will similarly be in focus. This past year, the ISSB published the exposure drafts IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information and IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures, presenting requirements for entities to disclose sustainability related financial information as part of their financial reporting. The role of such frameworks for gaining a better understanding of the material risks across industries, and for companies to become more transparent and accurate in reporting on such risks, requires attention. And how does the momentum displayed by financial markets in regard to ESG-compliance, green bonds, or Sustainability-Linked Bonds (SLBs) relate to the efforts of realizing the benefits of NBS as well as support sustainability more broadly?

At the session, speakers will consider ways and means of linking the presently diverse realm of initiatives to pave the way for systemic change, including innovative financing tools as well as new methods for measurement and diffusion of information in support of greatly enhanced and more effective investment in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Panellists will be asked to elaborate on recommendations and a call for action in realising the transition to a nature-positive economy and society.



Moderator:

Thomas Andersson (Sweden)

- Member of Task Force III, co-author of Nature-positive economy reports, WP-leader of the URBiNAT project.
- President, International Organisation of Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development (IKED), Malmö, Sweden
- CEO, Organisation of Quality and Innovation Strategies (Qualies), Muscat, Oman,
- Previously President of Jönköping University, Sweden, Deputy Director of Science, Technology and Industry, OECD, Paris, France, and Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Sweden
- Prof. of Economics, Ph.D from Stockholm School of Economics, previously a visiting scholar at Harvard University, Bank of Japan, Hitotsubashi University University, and Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo
- Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA).

Speakers:

Monica Altamirano (Netherlands/Nicaragua)

- Member of Task Force III, governance and finance of NBS, author of the Handbook for the Implementation of NBS for Water Security: guidelines for designing an implementation and financing arrangement
- Infrastructure and Climate Consultant to WaterEquity, where she leads the integration of climate and water resources management principles into investment
- Senior Advisor Partnerships to the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at TUDelft, Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management
- Steering Committee Member, Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC)
- Head of the Water Chapter of the World Association of PPP Units and Practitioners (WAPPP)
- Member, WEF Infrastructure community and the OECD Roundtable on Financing Water
- Partner at NOW Partners, an alliance of experts and investors for a regenerative economy
- PhD in Economics of Infrastructures and MSc in Systems Engineering, Policy Analysis and Management, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
- Previous experience includes PPP specialist for Deltares and advisor to International Water Affairs team of the Dutch Government.

Malik Boukebbous (Egypt)

- Area Manager Egypt & Libya for DEME-Group, a leading dredging company
- 30 years of experience in Marine Engineering Activities at DEME-Group
- Former project manager of the New Suez Canal project
- Participated in a large-scale lagoon restoration project in Lac Sud – Tunis
- Involved in various development projects including Nature Based Solutions and Green Hydrogen development in Egypt.

Wenting Chen (Norway)

- Research scientist and environmental & resource economist, Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Oslo
- An expert on socioeconomic impact assessment and ecosystem service valuation; lead projects related to sustainable coastal and ocean development and planning
- Since 2021, co-lead workstream on NBS benefits valuation under NetworkNature Task force 3 governance, business models and financial mechanisms. She was expert reviewer for UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting: Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA) technical report and for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports
- Main research interests: coastal & Ocean Nature Based Solutions including ecosystem restoration, natural capital accounting, Valuation and financing for Nature Based Solutions, climate change adaptation, Integrated Coastal Zone Planning
- Ph.D. in natural resource management from Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Have been a visiting scholar at University of California, Berkeley.

Fabio Maria Montagnino (Cyprus)

- Head of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, The Cyprus Institute
- Coordinator of the XII Task force on Green Economy and Innovation of the East Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative launched by the Republic of Cyprus.
- Previously Director of the innovation hub Consorzio ARCA, University of Palermo, Italy
- Holds senior and coordinator responsibilities in several EU funded projects.
- Has been a visiting scholar at the Technical University of Crete (Greece) and the Tongji University, China.
- He has covered positions of senior expert and team leader in EU, GIZ and Italian national programs, as well as in technical and policy advisory committees.
- Entrepreneurial coach with focus in sustainable development and rich experience from across the EMEA region.

Chloe Treger (UK)

- Dark Matter Lab Research & Analysis Head, Dark Matter Labs: Co-lead EIT-Climate KIC demonstration on long-termism, as well as internal missions on natural capital, regulatory and organisational governance, capital innovation, & community wealth.'
- Natural Capital Innovation co-lead, TreesAI: Co-lead for the business model development of TreesAI platform and the origination of financing portfolios of Urban Nature-based Solutions across pilot cities, Glasgow
- MSc in Maths & Philosophy (Oxford) and Urban Design & City Planning (UCL)
- Other experience and specialities include: Innovation in modelling and monitoring of ecosystem services (ABM, remote sensing); Natural hedging & impact insurance; Valuation & Financing of civic assets; Innovative governance & business models; Open source technologies & approaches.

Marc Watum (South Africa)

- Entrepreneurial empowerment specialist with backgrounds in development consulting and project finance. Advised over 50 start-ups across EMEA region
- Founder of 2030, a sustainability agenda for Africa
- Private consultancies include commodities (trading, mining, supply chains and logistics across the UK and Central/East Africa), and urban infrastructure & technology
- MSc Globalisation and Development, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- Organiser of key summits: MENA Innovation 2018 (under patronage of the Egyptian Ministry of Information & Technology); Vertex Summit 2018 in London, and the Global Impact Summit 2019 in Nairobi (supported by Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry).