

# From concept to practice: nature-based solutions in online case study collections

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## Motivation

- Learning from success and failure to improve adoption of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)
- Knowledge from implemented cases to identify drivers and barriers for NBS implementation
- Online case study collections help scientists and practitioners to create this knowledge

## Research Questions

1. What information on NBS do online case study collections contain?
2. What information is missing?
3. How can the structure of online case study collections be improved to leverage the experience and findings of previous case studies for upscaling and learning?

## Approach

- Comparison of 21 online NBS case study collections in terms of topics, availability and quality of information
- Using search terms “nature-based solutions” and “databases” in Google to identify NBS case study collections
- Screening of first 100 results selecting websites presenting NBS case studies
- Further websites were added based on links in collected websites and from other sources (e.g. colleagues)
- Websites in other languages than English and/or focusing on other concepts (e.g. climate adaptation, natural water retention measures) were excluded



**Fig. 1** Information presented in online NBS case study collections by categories. (<https://www.jasondavies.com/wordcloud/>)

**Table 1** Online NBS case study collections analysed

No.	Name	No.	Name
1	Oppla	12	UNALAB
2	Nature Based solutions initiative	13	Nature-based solutions/Natural hazards
3	Naturally Resilient Communities	14	Nature4Cities
4	FramWat	15	Phusicos
5	Nature insurance value	16	Operandum
6	Think Nature	17	proGReg
7	Naturvation	18	Connecting Nature
8	Equator Initiative	19	Urbanat
9	RECONNECT	20	Clever Cities
10	ReNature	21	UrbanGreen Up

## Results

- Typical information collected was actions undertaken on NBS, their outcomes, case study side descriptions, specific challenges and information on responsible entities and partners
- Information on financing mostly restricted to amount of money invested and funding source.

## Conclusions

**21 websites and databases lacked information on key attributes of NBS that are essential to their scaling up**

1. Majority of NBS case study collections provide merely basic and limited information
2. Key information on ecosystem processes/services and governance and financing are often omitted
3. Unclear whether there is no data, or the information is not presented implying that there is no research on the missing topics
4. Missing information would be important for further comparative research to overcome implementation gaps for NBS

## Recommendations

- Be more precise on important aspects of the NBS definition
- Provide information on **ecosystem processes/services, governance and financing structures**, cost-effectiveness, co-benefits and time horizon
- Require information on governance and financing models in case study descriptions
- Apply **rigorous conventions** for data entry and record creation at different levels, .e.g. by incentivising and monitoring project partners or by promoting an overall agreement in terms of global standards