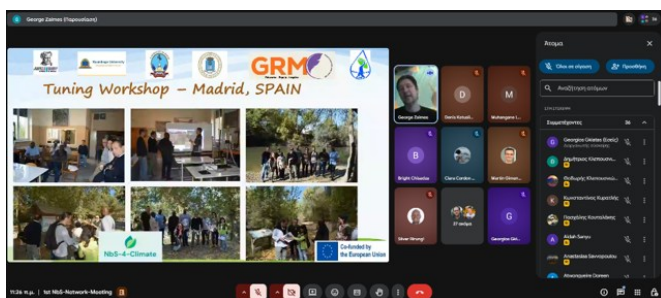


NbS Network first meeting took place

**By Georgios Gkiatas and
Valasia Iakovoglou**

The **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Network** aims to strengthen cooperation among environmental institutions, businesses, NGOs, research centers, authorities, and other stakeholders in Uganda and the wider Sub-Saharan region. The network will serve as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, promoting sustainable environmental management and climate change mitigation and adaptation through nature-based solutions.



The network's primary objective is to establish a strong peer-sharing mechanism that facilitates communication and cooperation among environmental stakeholders. It seeks to improve the management of natural resources by encouraging the exchange of expertise, best practices, technical innovations, and scientific methodologies. Through this collaboration, members

will work towards developing more effective management plans, enhancing sustainable resource use, and supporting the wider adoption of nature-based solutions to address climate-related challenges.

A key goal of the network is to strengthen peer learning by providing access to knowledge, tools, and resources on sustainable environmental management. The network will also promote both formal and informal communication among institutions, enabling members to support one another in planning and implementing climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

Another important objective is to increase public awareness of environmental sustainability and climate resilience. The network will develop educational materials, including brochures and online resources, and organize workshops and awareness events to inform communities about innovative practices, nature-based solutions, and sustainable responses to changing climate conditions.

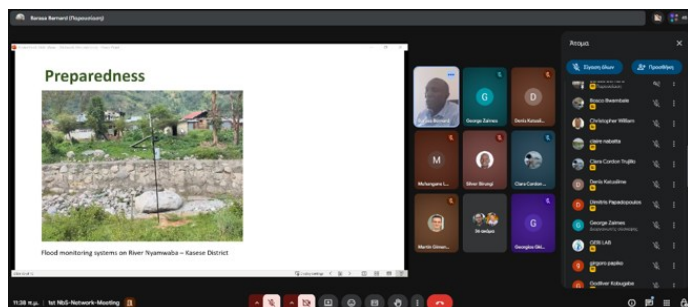
Beyond Uganda, the network aims to foster regional cooperation across Sub-Saharan Africa, enabling countries to share experiences, collaborate on environmental management strategies, and support each other in implementing nature-based solutions. Ultimately, the network seeks to contribute to improved environmental protection, sustainable development, and enhanced resilience to climate change at both national and regional levels.

Meeting 1 - January 2026

It took place on January 2th 2025 at 12:00–13:30 (Uganda) | 11:00–12:30 (Greece) | 10:00–11:30 (Spain).

Format: Online Meeting

Participants: 44 attendees



The first meeting of the **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Network** on January 2th 2025 at 12:00–13:30 (Uganda) | 11:00–12:30 (Greece) | 10:00–11:30 (Spain). It was successfully held online more than 40 participants representing universities, NGOs, researchers, practitioners, and community organizations from Uganda, Greece, and Spain. Participating institutions included the partners but also several stakeholders from Uganda and surrounding countries, including **WWF Uganda**, **Women Climate Centers International**, and **Aid Environment**.

The meeting began with a presentation by **George Zaimes**, Project Coordinator from the Democritus University of Thrace, who introduced the **NbS-4-Climate Project** and the objectives of the newly established **NbS Network**. The presentation highlighted the network's role in promoting collaboration among environmental stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange, and supporting the adoption of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The second presentation, delivered by **Barasa Bernard** from Kyambogo University, focused on the application of **Nature-based Solutions in Catchment Restoration in Uganda**. The session showcased ongoing restoration efforts, discussed environmental challenges facing Ugandan catchments, and emphasized the importance of ecosystem-based approaches for improving water resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.



The final presentation was delivered by **Jose Luis Gracia Rodriguez** and **Martin Gimenez** from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. They presented the **LIFE Alnus Taejo Project**, which focuses on the restoration and conservation of Mediterranean alder forests in Spain. The project provided a valuable example of how nature-based solutions can support habitat restoration, biodiversity protection, and ecosystem resilience.

The meeting facilitated the exchange of experiences and best practices among participants from different countries and sectors. Discussions highlighted opportunities for future collaboration, peer learning, and knowledge sharing on nature-based solutions and sustainable environmental management. The event successfully launched the NbS Network's activities and established a foundation for continued cooperation among stakeholders working to address climate change and promote environmental sustainability in Uganda and beyond.

NbS-4-Climate Final Courses

by Valasia Iakovoglou &
Claire Nabatta

The **NbS-4-Climate** project has finalized the topics of the six innovative courses designed to strengthen knowledge and capacity in the application of **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** for climate resilience and sustainable development across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The finalized courses are:

- **NbS-5001 – Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Management**
- **NbS-5002 – Nature-based Solutions to Sustain Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **NbS-5003 – Urban Development with Nature-based Solutions**
- **NbS-5004 – Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **NbS-5005 – Entrepreneurship and Nature-based Solutions**
- **NbS-5006 – Nature-based Solutions in Ecosystem and Catchment Restoration**

The competencies for all six courses have been developed, and the teaching and learning materials are currently being finalized. These materials will be reviewed and tested by educators, professionals, and relevant stakeholders to ensure their quality, relevance, and effectiveness. Following this evaluation process, the courses will be refined and uploaded to the project’s **Virtual Learning Platform**, where they will be accessible to learners and practitioners.

Course Highlights

NbS-5001 – Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Management

As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of natural hazards, communities living in disaster-prone areas face growing risks. This course explores how ecosystems and natural processes can be used to reduce hazard exposure, strengthen resilience, and support climate adaptation and mitigation. Students will examine the role of wetlands, forests, mangroves, rangelands, and urban green infrastructure in addressing disasters such as floods, landslides, droughts, and erosion. Through practical activities and case studies, participants will learn to design and evaluate effective NbS interventions that combine local knowledge, scientific evidence, and policy frameworks.

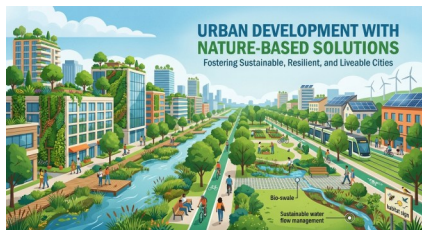


NbS-5002 – Nature-based Solutions to Sustain Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa



Rural communities are among those most affected by climate change. This course demonstrates how Nature-based Solutions can help safeguard livelihoods while creating new economic opportunities. Participants will explore approaches such as agroforestry, agricultural NbS, and ecotourism, learning how these solutions can be implemented to generate sustainable income and improve resilience in rural areas.

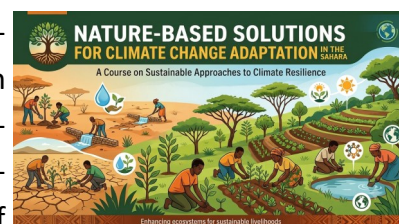
NbS-5003 – Urban Development with Nature-based Solutions



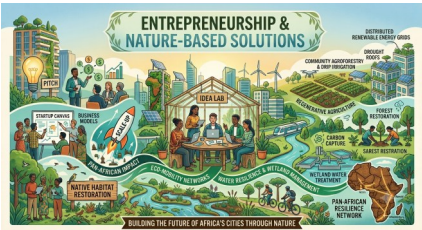
Growing urbanization presents both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. This course introduces the role of Nature-based Solutions in creating climate-resilient and sustainable cities. Students will investigate how NbS contribute to urban planning, ecosystem service provision, and improved quality of life. International case studies will provide insights into how these approaches can be adapted and applied within Sub-Saharan African cities.

NbS-5004 – Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa

This course examines Nature-based Solutions as a key strategy for helping communities and ecosystems adapt to climate change. It focuses on the sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, coastal zones, and agricultural landscapes to reduce climate vulnerability. Particular attention is given to the dual benefits of NbS: strengthening ecological resilience while also supporting food security, water security, and income generation for local communities.



NbS-5005 – Entrepreneurship and Nature-based Solutions



The growing adoption of Nature-based Solutions is creating new opportunities for green businesses and employment. This course begins with the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and business development, before exploring concepts such as green entrepreneurship, the Nature-Positive Economy, natural capital, and the circular economy. Participants will learn how Nature-based Solutions can be transformed into successful Nature-based Enterprises, while also examining the opportunities and challenges involved in establishing and managing such ventures.

NbS-5006 – Nature-based Solutions in Ecosystem and Catchment Restoration

Healthy ecosystems and catchments are essential for biodiversity, water security, and climate resilience. This course explores how Nature-based Solutions can support the restoration of forests, wetlands, rivers, and agricultural landscapes. Students will learn about hydrological processes, ecological principles, and sustainable management practices that contribute to improved water quality, reduced flood and drought risks, enhanced carbon sequestration, and strengthened livelihoods. Emphasis is placed on integrating scientific knowledge, community participation, and policy support to develop effective restoration programmes.



Through these six courses, the **NbS-4-Climate project** is making an important contribution to building the knowledge, skills, and practical capacity needed to advance Nature-based Solutions and address climate challenges across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Building the Classroom: NbS-4-Climate's Virtual Learning Platform Takes Shape

by Clara Cordon & Martin Gimenez

A key milestone of NbS-4-Climate is now in place: the Virtual Learning Platform (VLP), the digital space where students in Uganda will study the new Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Climate Change Adaptation courses developed by the project consortium. The platform is online and content for all six courses is being uploaded progressively. Here's what the VLP is, what it's for, how the six courses are coming along, and how students will access and navigate it once enrolment opens.

What is the VLP and what is it for?

The Virtual Learning Platform is the online home of the six Master's-level courses being developed under the project. It runs on Moodle and is designed to host teaching material, activities and assessments week by week, allowing courses to be delivered through blended learning — combining online study with in-person sessions at partner universities — or fully at a distance where needed. It has been built to work well even under low-bandwidth conditions, so that it is genuinely accessible from Uganda, including rural areas.

Once a course is open for enrolment, the VLP will let students:

- Access lecture presentations, readings and recommended videos for each week.
- Complete quizzes, homework assignments and written exercises.
- Take part in discussion forums with classmates and lecturers.
- Build their own e-portfolio and track progress through the course.

The platform distinguishes three types of users — Visitors, who can browse public course information; Students, who get full access to a course's content, activities and forums once enrolled; and Lecturers, who manage content, monitor students and grade assignments.

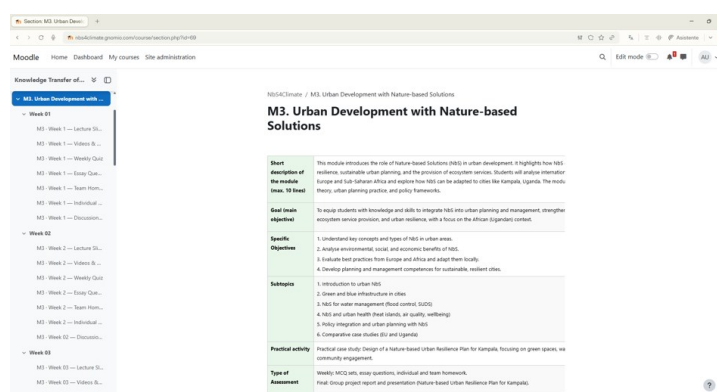
How are the six courses coming along?

Six 4-credit, 13-week courses are being developed for the VLP: NbS for Disaster Risk Management (NbS5001, KyU), NbS to Sustain Livelihoods in the Sub-Sahara (NbS5002, DUTH), Urban Development with NbS (NbS5003, UPM), NbS for Climate Change Adaptation in the Sub-Sahara (NbS5004, KyU), Entrepreneurship & Rural Area Engagement with NbS (NbS5005, DUTH & UPM), and NbS in Ecosystem & Catchment Restoration (NbS5006, UniK).

All six are currently preliminary versions: the 13-week structure is in place, and lecture slides and learning companions are being uploaded week by week, targeting full content by December 2026, ahead of student piloting at Kyambogo University and the University of Kisubi in 2027. Every week follows the same format: a lecture presentation, at least three recommended readings and videos, a homework assignment, an activity, and a short quiz

What's next?

Course content will keep being uploaded through 2026, with all six courses fully loaded by December. Pilot runs at Kyambogo University and the University of Kisubi, students' first access to the courses are planned for 2027, after which the platform will migrate from its current external Moodle instance to each institution's own system.



NbS Focus Group Discussion on Sustaining and Enhancing Networks

by Barasa Bernard & Claire Nabata



On 17–18 March 2026, Kyambogo University’s Department of Geography organized a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in Mbale City, Eastern Uganda, during the Water and Environment Week celebrations in the Kyoga Water Management Zone. The event was held under the NbS-4-Climate project and focused on how to sustain and strengthen links between education, research, business, and communities within the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) network in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The discussion brought together stakeholders from universities, research institutions, the private sector, and communities to exchange ideas on strengthening long-term collaboration and knowledge sharing. A major focus was on integrating Nature-based Solutions into Ugan-

dan university curricula, with participants discussing key priorities and competencies that should be included in future academic modules.

Participants also explored opportunities for deeper engagement between universities and employers through internships, practical training placements, and graduate recruitment. These partnerships were recognized as important mechanisms for equipping students with relevant skills while supporting organizations involved in climate action and sustainable development.

A central theme of the FGD was identifying practical ways to sustain and enhance the NbS network beyond project activities. Participants emphasized the need for continued stakeholder engagement, regular knowledge exchange, and stronger collaboration across sectors to ensure that the network remains active and impactful.

The event reinforced the value of partnerships among education, research, business, and communities in advancing Nature-based Solutions and promoting climate resilience across Sub-Saharan Africa.



Newsletter #3
31/06/2026



Knowledge Transfer of Nature-based Solutions through Education to Enhance Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Uganda”

101178503 — NbS-4-Climate



Co-funded by
the European Union

Newsletter #3
31/06/2026



Knowledge Transfer of Nature-based Solutions through Education to Enhance Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Uganda”

101178503 — NbS-4-Climate



Co-funded by
the European Union

Social Media

Contact Links

Email: nbs4climate@gmail.com

Web.: [NbS-4-Climate Project](#)



[NbS-4-Climate](#)



[NbS-4-Climate](#)



[NbS-4-Climate](#)

Issue # 23 June 2026

Editor: Valasia Iakovoglou

Co editor: George N. Zaimis &
Georgios Gkiatas

Quote “Change yourself NOT nature”

