

Urban nature finance: new tools for cities

Session Dutch Pavillion CBD COP, Yerevan

23 October 2026





Session outline

- A new tool for financing urban nature-based solutions
- Panel 1: How do cities finance nature? (urban leaders)
- *Short interactive exercise*
- Panel 2: what can system actors do to support urban nature finance? (system leaders)



Naturescapes

- Assembling NBS across urban landscapes, particularly in vulnerable areas, focusing on synergies and trade-offs
- **How can we finance urban nature-based solutions for long-term outcomes?**
- 72 NBS cases in 12 case study cities of Naturescapes
- 22 GEF cases (Sustainable Cities Program)



Berlin

[Explore the case here](#)



Cagliari

[Explore the case here](#)



Cartagena



Detroit

[Explore the case here](#)



Dublin

[Explore the case here](#)



Fort-de-France

[Explore the case here](#)



Gothenburg

[Explore the case here](#)



Iasi



Lima



Lisbon



Mobile



Phoenix



Key findings on financing NBS

- **Resources matter beyond (only) financing:** Access to land, volunteering and expertise is key and can improve long-term outcomes
- Outcomes are shaped not just by the amount of money but about **how resourcing is organized**
- We identified **six logics (“archetypes”)** through which NBS projects organize their resources (between public, private and/or civil society actors)



Six archetypes to assemble resources for urban nature and climate



Hybrid

Derisking private capital through public-private arrangements



Multi-scalar

Accessing international or national resources for projects of programs



Policy-led

Reshaping financial incentives through policy





Six archetypes to assemble resources for urban nature and climate



Hybrid

Derisking private capital through public-private arrangements



Multi-scalar

Accessing international or national resources for projects or programs



Policy-led

Public authorities reshape financial incentives through policy



Revenue-based

Sustaining projects through business models and long term revenues



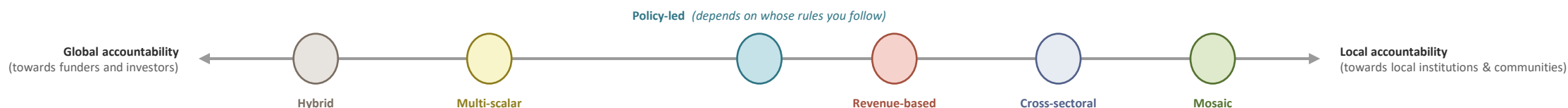
Cross-sectoral

Bundling resources across public agencies and departments



Mosaic

Bottom-up stacking of diverse local resources for a project



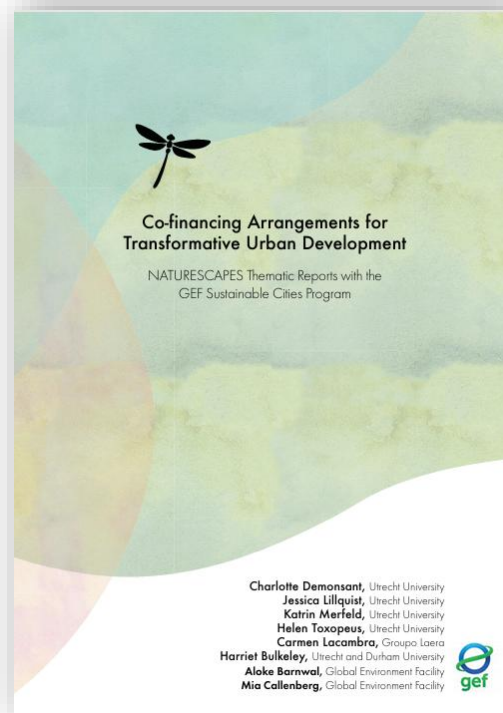
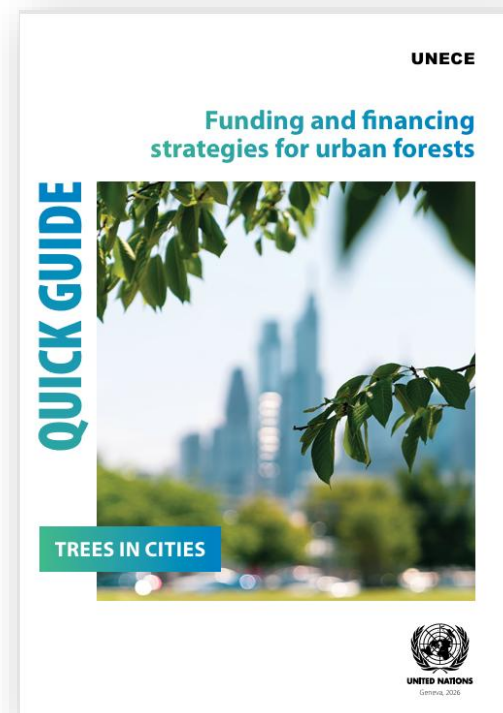


Why are these archetypes a useful tool?

- **For public authorities:** know (all) your options when designing your resourcing strategy for urban nature
- **For funders and intermediaries:** understand how your work shapes long-term governance and outcomes, and integrate this into your decision-making
- Understand how to **combine and stage** different archetypes, for what outcomes
- Creating **shared ‘resourcing’ language** that connects different actors in a place, as a basis for collaboration



Three resources on our work





Panel 1: How do cities finance nature?

Moderator: Harriet Bulkeley

- **Kate Strachan – ICLEI** – Director of Director Risk & Resilience
- **Sharon Gil – UNEP** - Limiting Overshoot Coordination Team and Head of Unit/Subnational Climate Action
- **Manuel Pulgar Vidal - WWF international** - Climate and Energy global lead
- **Rob McDonald - The Nature Conservancy** - Lead Scientist for Nature-Based Solutions

Interactive exercise

Which archetype do you recognise in what you fund, or in your projects?

Moderator: Charlotte Demonsant



Naturescapes



Panel 2: How can system actors support urban nature finance?

Moderator: Helen Toxopeus

- **Irina Likhachova - Worldbank** - global nature finance lead
- **Pascal Martinez - Global Environmental Facility** - Forests and Wildlife Thematic Lead
- **Christine Wortmann - WWF the Netherlands** – Nature & finance lead
- **Caroline van Leenders - Netherlands Enterprise Agency** - Senior process manager sustainable transitions

How to follow up

**This afternoon 14:00 – 14:30
Academia & Research Hub:**

**From business models to
value bundling for urban NBS**



NATURESCAPES
policy brief



GEF co-finance
report



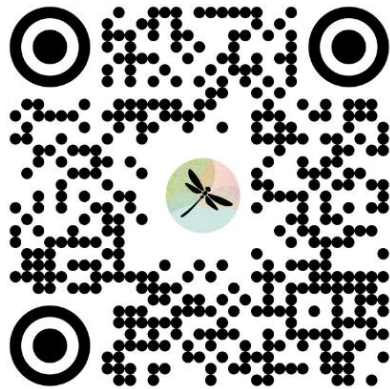
British Academy
synthesis report



Academic
paper



Naturescapes



www.naturescapes-project.com

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In collaboration with:



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