



CAPTURE

SYNERGIES

The converging challenges of urban sustainability need solutions that connect multiple issues.

Nature-based solutions are often heralded as providing synergistic solutions that can meet environmental, economic and social challenges simultaneously. Yet these connections do not necessarily happen automatically and instead need to be prioritised from the design stage of projects through to their implementation. Many nature-based solutions are currently being implemented without accounting for the additional benefits they create, how they can support action across multiple municipal policy agendas, or the key concerns of diverse private and community-based actors. Hooking into these agendas can provide additional momentum and resources for nature-based solutions. Finding these synergies often requires bringing diverse actors around the table at an early stage of project design as well as the use of decision-support tools that allow the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions to be evaluated simultaneously. Looking for the root causes of unsustainability in the city – from water availability to health and inequality - can also provide a means for establishing nature-based solutions that can tackle multiple challenges simultaneously.