



## **Collaboration comes in all shapes and sizes and greater diversity and flexibility is needed.**

Across all stages of the process of cultivating nature-based solutions – from design, to implementation and maintenance – collaboration between diverse stakeholders and communities is critical. Despite strong recognition of the importance of collaboration, it can be difficult to undertake in practice and tends to follow relatively well-trodden pathways. Community consultation can be relatively superficial, with limited opportunities for groups to challenge and reframe the purpose and content of nature-based solutions. A growing focus on co-design and co-production can provide more space for community voices, but it tends to include the usual suspects and requires rather formalised, resource and time intensive processes that exclude those who cannot commit to this level of engagement. Developing shared knowledge platforms or repositories of the possibilities of nature-based solutions which diverse stakeholders contribute to, generating a level of understanding that is more than the sum of its parts, can be a valuable basis from which to build new collaborations and create new reasons for diverse actors to work together. Providing examples of what is possible generates a new willingness to engage across multiple stakeholders. Creating openness in the governance of nature-based solutions that allows for improvised, spontaneous forms of collaboration alongside formal processes is one approach that could be further developed, especially where nature-based solutions are designed for neighbourhoods-in-the-making whose residents and communities are not yet present.