



Nature-based solutions need space to grow.

The allocation of urban space to nature-based solutions competes with other purposes, many of which may offer more economically rewarding returns on investment. Making space for nature-based solutions involves engaging landowners and asset holders with the multiple benefits that such interventions can bring, designing nature-based solutions into new urban developments from the outset, and developing legal requirements or voluntary mandates for their inclusion. It is also critical to find ways of integrating nature-based solutions into existing urban landscapes. One approach could involve opening up existing forms of concrete urbanism, for example in terms of taking up paving and road space, reusing roof or wall space, or daylighting rivers. Another is to engage with landholders in cities who might not realise that through repurposing their assets they could contribute to a wide range of sustainability goals – for example hospitals, schools, religious organisations, retail parks, office complexes. There are also financial benefits to be captured by landowners from making space for urban nature-based solutions, in particular increasing land prices and rents. At the same time, increases in land value can price nature out of the reach of existing inhabitants and marginal communities in the city. These issues need to be addressed from the outset if nature-based solutions are not to have unintended consequences for urban inequalities and social justice.