



Nature can feed our imaginations and our souls.

Often the language of nature-based solutions is highly technical and instrumental. There is a focus on the services and benefits that nature can provide, conveyed in scientific and economic terms. Such approaches may be necessary and useful for making the case for the importance of bringing nature into the city, but at the same time they carry the risk that some of the things we love most about nature – how it fills our senses, brings memories to life, offers a connection to others and reminds us of the wonder of the world – get lost. To enable urban communities and places to thrive, nature-based solutions need to allow for creativity, generating spaces for play, imagination, awe and reflection. This should not be lost alongside efforts of monetising and rationalising nature's benefits. Recognising the creative potential of urban nature also means working in partnership with cultural leaders, from organised religions to the creative arts, museums and heritage organisations to indigenous and local communities to design and implement nature-based solutions. The potential for urban nature to play a key role in shaping the way we engage with key global environmental challenges – from climate change to biodiversity, plastic pollution to food waste – has yet to be fully realised. Tending creativity within nature-based solutions can provide a means through which urban communities can engage with nature, provide them with a sense of identity and meaning and can enable them to use these experiences to make individual and collective changes in our world.