

## Special Session SS-5-5

- **Title**

Towards Advancing in the NBS (Nature-Based Solutions) Sector

- **Organiser**

Organisation: IWRA

Representative: ECYP Task Force

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- **Co-organiser**

None

- **Potential Presenter**

1. Presenter: ECYP Task- Force

Affiliation: Team member

Organisation: IWRA

- **Alignment with Congress**

5. 5. Establishing Sustainable Water Infrastructures

- **Session description**

For centuries, traditional practices have guided our interactions with water, land, and agricultural practices. The exploitation and development of nature-based solutions (NBS) could provide a sustainable solution for water engineering and technology. The Early Career and Youth Professionals (ECYP) Task Force of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) proposes a panel discussion for the World Water Congress under subtheme 5: Establishing Sustainable Water Infrastructures, focusing on subtheme 5.1: Exploitation and development of nature-based solutions in water engineering and technology. Objectives: The main objective of this session is to present nature-based solutions and discuss how they can be exploited and developed. The session aims to highlight the nexus between NBS, ecosystem services, and urban ecology and discuss the challenges associated with their implementation. The session will also provide a platform for youth participation to discuss innovative ideas on NBS, knowledge, and information dissemination. Modality: Virtual event (unless funding was secured for in-person participation) Panel Discussion: The panel discussion will consist of field experts and young professionals who will explore the intergenerational dialogue and indigenous knowledge on NBS. The panel discussion will focus on the following topics: Exploitation and development of NBS The nexus between NBS, ecosystem services, and urban ecology and the challenges associated with their implementation Youth participation for innovative ideas on NBS, knowledge, and information dissemination The panel discussion will provide an opportunity for the participants to exchange knowledge from the experts and share their innovative ideas. The session will encourage a participatory approach to discuss potential solutions to the challenges associated with the exploitation and development of NBS. It will also open an space to sharing the necessary skills needed to promote career opportunities in this domain. Prospective panelists and contributors ECYP Task Force Climate Change Task Force (Gauravjeet Singh, Oscar Alvarado and Mihretab Gebretsadik) Land4Flood Network (Carla Sofia Ferreira) AWC (Andy Guitard) Way Forward: This session will provide a platform for intergenerational dialogue and knowledge exchange between young professionals and field

experts on the exploitation and development of NBS. The session will highlight the importance of traditional practices in water resource management and encourage the use of NBS for sustainable water infrastructures. The proposed panel discussion aligns with the World Water Congress's theme of water security for sustainable development and contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. Following the World Water Congress, the Early Career and Youth Professionals (ECYP) Task Force is hoping to publish a paper in *Water International*, which will discuss the main findings from the congress. The paper will provide a comprehensive overview of the topics covered, the discussions that took place, and the conclusions reached by the participants. ECYP believes that this paper will be a valuable resource for young professionals, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders who are interested in the latest developments in the field of water management. We are looking forward to sharing the insights and contributing to the ongoing conversation following the congress and we hope it will open a potential for upscaling NBS solutions in the workforce .