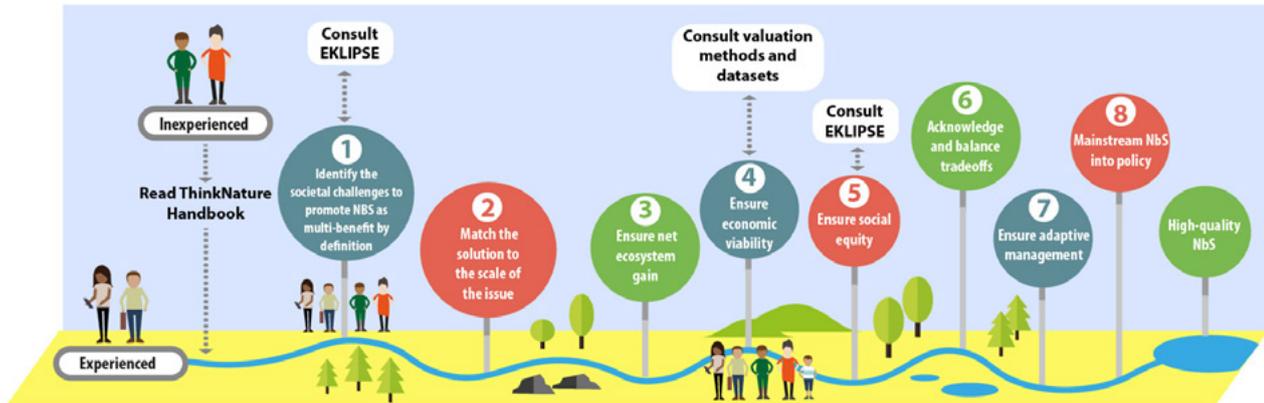


Navigating your route to Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

NbS are “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits”.

The [IUCN Global Standard](#) and its [Guidance](#) provide a framework for designing and evaluating Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This standard sets out eight criteria which need to be met during both planning and evaluation of NbS. This overview introduces these criteria to encourage application in Scotland and provides links to further explanation and guidance. All steps of the process should involve the input of relevant stakeholder groups. For more background on NbS before you get started, you may wish to consult the [ThinkNature handbook](#).



- 1** NbS must be a response to the goals and challenges faced by society, such as reducing the risk of floods and droughts or improving [food security](#). Help in identifying social benefits can be found in the [EKLIPSE](#) framework, specifically [Challenges 8](#) and [9](#).
- 2** NbS designs must recognise the complexity and uncertainty in how our socio-economy interacts with dynamic landscapes/seascapes. NbS design should be informed by how well stakeholders understand these systems at three scales: its component parts; the system itself; and the wider environment around the land/seascape. [More information](#)
- 3** NbS rely on goods and services being provided by ecosystems and so strongly depend on the health of an ecosystem. Therefore, NbS design and implementation must avoid undermining the integrity of ecosystems and instead enhance the functionality and connectivity of the ecosystem. [More information](#)
- 4** The efficiency and effectiveness of the intervention, and equity in the distribution of benefits and costs, are key determinants of NbS success. Appraising economic costs and benefits can support consideration of this and help identify if long-term gains justify short-term costs. A variety of datasets and valuation methods exist: choosing between them will depend on the questions, skills and resources of those implementing a [NbS](#). Background data on valuation can be found in [ENCA](#) (Enabling a Natural Capital Approach). Or a qualitative valuation process can be found in the [Interreg Building with Nature](#) framework ([Page 23](#)).
- 5** NbS should acknowledge, involve and respond to the concerns of a variety of stakeholders, especially rights holders. Good governance is proven to reduce an intervention’s sustainability risks and to enhance its social ‘license to operate’. Help in this process can be found in the [EKLIPSE](#) framework, specifically [Challenge 7](#).
- 6** Trade-offs in land and natural resource management are inevitable. NbS proponents must assess and acknowledge these trade-offs, and follow a fair, transparent and inclusive process to balance and manage them over both time and space. Fair and transparent negotiation of trade-offs, and considering how to avoid or compensate where local groups may be detrimentally affected, will enable NbS that are supported and successful in the long-term. [More information](#)
- 7** NbS implementation must include provisions to adaptively manage the project in response to uncertainty. This requires regular monitoring and evaluation, drawing on scientific understanding as well as local and other knowledges and an agreed framework for iterative learning. [More information](#)
- 8** NbS interventions must be designed and managed for long-term sustainability. They must both align with and inform with sectoral, national and other policy frameworks, so these may need to adapt to fully enable [NbS](#).

