# Accelerating Nature-Based Solutions: Insights from Brazil, India & Indonesia

**June 2, 2026**

Recordings in English and French

*Post-event Questions and Answers*

1. **What additional capacity building support can you give cities that are not originally included in your programme?**

   **India**: Cities will need to move beyond piloting nature-based solutions to executions at a scale that strengthens adaptation and resilience. Hence, supporting cities to adopt and integrate nature-based solutions become critical. Examples of the support could include building a pipeline of feasible NbS projects, procurement process that prioritizes adoptions of NbS and or blue-green infrastructure solutions, develop frameworks that promote scientific approach to greening, heat and flood mitigation amongst others.

   **Brazil**: In the case of the NbS Accelerator in Brazil, the cities with the most mature projects received continued support on connecting with investors and building a framework to scale NbS pipelines and financing strategies in their cities. In addition, WRI Brasil keeps monitoring the accelerated projects and inviting them to match-making events.

   **Indonesia**: In Indonesia, we aim to ensure that the NbS approach developed through this project is scalable, adaptable, and replicable across different urban contexts. Beyond the community-level NbS pilot project, we will develop evidence-based research, policy briefs, and practical implementation lessons that can support the city's government in planning and delivering similar interventions. The pilot will also be linked to the national *Kampung Proklim* initiative, creating an opportunity to demonstrate a community-led adaptation model that can be replicated by neighbourhoods and cities across Indonesia, while facilitating broader knowledge sharing and peer learning beyond the programme cities. Crucially, successful implementation depends on communities fully understanding NbS principles. This means translating technical concepts into practical knowledge through hands-on activities and relatable examples that connect with residents' everyday experiences.

2. You mentioned that Maranguape successfully overcame its limited fiscal capacity by segmenting the Pirapara Park project into smaller, phased components to match different funding streams (donations and development credit). As we look to scale Nature-Based Solutions macro-regionally within the EU-Mercosur framework, international lenders like the GCF or AFD demand absolute, unfragmented data traceability. **From your experience, how can a medium-sized municipality effectively maintain a unified data governance framework when its financial architecture is fragmented across different smaller streams?** Specifically, how can they leverage data to prove a standardized, auditable 'One Health' Return On Investment (tying urban greening to quantifiable public health and microclimate metrics) to satisfy high-end international control frameworks?"

   **Brazil:** The city needs to establish a governance structure to coordinate across sectors in collecting data and maturing their project. They also need a solid theory of change and business model that indicates the proper indicators that sustain their interventions and expected outcomes. Having a strong governance structure and clear measurables and traceable Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system will increase their capacity to meet the criteria from international frameworks.

3. **Is available land to be restored in one connected segment or scattered and divided under different land use? If there is agricultural land available, how do you balance types of vegetation? How are you dealing with the situation?**

   **Brazil:** The NbS Accelerator in Brazil addressed only urban projects. Usually, in this scenario, available public land is preferred, as expropriation processes are highly bureaucratic and add legal uncertainties to the project implementation. In the case of rural areas, it’s advisable to leverage from legally protected areas and remaining forested areas and connect the strategy with payment for ecosystem services or other business models that reward and promote land use conversion from private owners.

4. **Are there any specific existing/planned public private partnerships between the global south and north for such projects - specifically for knowledge transfer, funding and talent?**

   **India:** In India, bilateral organizations such as GIZ and AfD and multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank support and work with government, think tanks and civil society to facilitate knowledge transfer and support climate actions including NbS. You can visit their respective India office webpages to know more about live ongoing projects.

**Brazil:** Brazil has recently expanded its ecosystem for Nature-based Solutions through initiatives led by the federal government, philanthropy, and civil society. Examples include the Fundação Grupo Boticário's Solução Natureza program and incubation initiatives, which support project development and capacity building; the federal government's National Nature-based Solutions Strategy; funding calls such as ArborizaCidades; and the Programa Cidades Verdes Resilientes, which serves as a platform for knowledge exchange and dissemination of good practices among municipalities. Together, these initiatives create opportunities for collaboration with international partners, helping cities access technical expertise, funding, and implementation support while adapting global best practices to local realities.

5. **All the NbS accelerators were government-led? I'm curious about NBS at a small-medium scale that's implementable by NGOs or companies.**

   **India:** In the NbS Accelerator initiative in India, the pilot projects were demonstrated through a collaboration of government, private companies and public universities. The government and public universities supported with site selection, technical assessment and permissions and private companies implemented the solution.

   **Brazil:** In Brazil, most of the projects were led by the city governments, but other arrangements were allowed, as long they had the city government agreement to pursue the projects.

   **Indonesia:** Our initiatives are primarily community-driven rather than government-led, although we actively engage government institutions to secure buy-in and support long-term sustainability beyond the project period. We work closely with local stakeholders, particularly neighborhood leaders, to ensure interventions respond to actual community needs while strengthening resilience to climate risks.

   A key component of our approach is sustained capacity building, as communities are ultimately responsible for implementing and maintaining the solutions. For example, in our green corridor project, we spent more than a year co-designing interventions and building community ownership through continuous formal and informal engagement. This process is essential not only to introduce Nature-based Solutions (NbS), but also to foster a sense of ownership and stewardship that supports the long-term management and maintenance of the solutions developed together.

6. My question for you is regarding data governance and trust. **When a project's financing is fragmented into smaller pieces, how can a medium-sized city maintain a single, unified framework to monitor and report its results?**

**Brazil:** The city needs to establish a governance structure to coordinate across sectors in collecting data and maturing their project. They also need a solid theory of change and business model that indicates the proper indicators that sustain their interventions and expected outcomes. Having a strong governance structure and clear measurables and traceable Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system will increase their capacity to meet the criteria from international frameworks.

**Indonesia:** To maintain a unified monitoring system despite fragmented funding, medium-sized cities can adopt community-led approaches such as Indonesia's Climate Village Program (*Kampung Proklim)*. Under this model, monitoring is carried out at the neighborhood level, while city agencies provide periodic oversight. In cities such as Semarang, local community groups and women's farming groups lead urban farming initiatives, with governments tracking progress through existing local approval and permitting mechanisms. Over time, trust in these small-scale initiatives grows as their benefits become visible and measurable within the community.

7. **How are outside stakeholders involved in climate action planning process of Mumbai?** Because they are equally important stakeholders by considering the geographical location of Mumbai.

   **India:** The Climate Action Plan (CAP) was prepared through evidenced-based policy making and stakeholder consultations. A series of consultations at the city and zonal level supported the preparation of the plan. The CAP has assessed both the climate hazard risk exposure and climate vulnerability of Mumbai's residents and recommends goals and actions to mitigate the risk.

8. We are seeing a rapid surge of massive Data Centers being installed in urban and suburban areas across Latin America. Given the global water crisis, these facilities increasingly face the need to recycle and reuse domestic wastewater/greywater for their cooling systems instead of depleting local drinking water supplies. **From your perspective on urban finance and NBS project design, have your frameworks in Brazil considered this specific industrial-urban synergy?** Specifically, how can medium-sized municipalities structure green-grey infrastructure financing (such as utilizing constructed wetlands/phytoremediation for wastewater pre-filtration) to leverage private tech capital, protect municipal aquifers, and deliver a clear 'One Health' return on investment?

   **Brazil:** The accelerator framework is flexible enough to incorporate green–grey infrastructure for water resilience, although it was not designed specifically around data-center wastewater reuse. Medium-sized municipalities can structure blended

financing by combining municipal sanitation investments, private capital from technology operators, and climate or development-finance instruments. Constructed wetlands, phytoremediation systems, and watershed restoration can be integrated as cost-effective pre-treatment and recharge solutions, while a One Health business case can be built around reduced pressure on drinking-water sources, improved water quality, and enhanced ecosystem services.

Although not a NBS project, considering your question, perhaps this project from Sao Paulo's ABC region can serve as reference case for water reuse at industrial scale: Aquapolo – Largest Water Recycling Plant in Latin America.

9. Lara, given that the post-pandemic economic recovery in Latin America has been predominantly driven by informal employment, a key hurdle is ensuring that the transition to a green economy doesn't inadvertently exacerbate socio-economic disparities. **From your perspective, how can multilateral development banks and consultancy firms better incentivize local governments to implement 'Just Transition' frameworks that effectively formalize these emerging environmental roles into sustainable, decent work?**

   **Brazil:** A key lesson from the accelerator is that projects gain durability when social outcomes are embedded from the start. Multi-level Development Banks can tie financing to local workforce development targets, community participation, and inclusive procurement, while consultants can help cities design pipelines that combine infrastructure investment with training and formal employment pathways. This aligns climate adaptation and NBS investments with broader economic inclusion objectives.

10. Looking at the WRI's strategic framework, there is a clear emphasis on deploying Nature-based Solutions to deliver tangible socio-economic benefits. However, when we look at vulnerable regions in Latin America, environmental degradation doesn't just disrupt ecosystem services; it fundamentally erodes indigenous healthcare systems and ancestral medicine, which rely entirely on biodiverse habitats. **From a global health governance perspective, how can consulting firms and multilateral agencies better integrate ancestral health knowledge into NBS urban and regional planning, ensuring that climate adaptation frameworks protect not only physical infrastructure but also the biocultural heritage that underpins community resilience?**

    **Brazil:** The accelerator emphasizes participatory planning and local knowledge as core elements of successful NBS design. In practice, this means engaging

Indigenous peoples and traditional communities early, recognizing cultural ecosystem services alongside physical infrastructure benefits, and incorporating community-defined indicators into project monitoring. Treating biocultural heritage as part of resilience planning helps safeguard both ecosystems and the health systems that depend on them.

11. Cities4Forests initiative and WRI's broader agenda place a heavy emphasis on closing the knowledge gap in NBS design through technical assistance. Yet, western engineering and climate science often operate in silos, decoupled from millennia-old ancestral health practices and ecological stewardship. **In your view, how can international development proposals foster a more epistemologically diverse approach—one where ancestral medical knowledge and nature-based climate adaptation are treated as complementary, co-equal pillars of systemic resilience?**

    **Brazil:** A more inclusive approach is to co-produce projects rather than simply consult communities. Development proposals can require shared governance, participatory diagnostics, and joint monitoring frameworks that value scientific and traditional knowledge equally. The accelerator's experience shows that combining technical expertise with local ecological knowledge strengthens project legitimacy, improves implementation, and can lead to more durable climate adaptation outcomes.

    **Indonesia:** In Indonesia, during the process of development proposals and project implementation, WRI combines a technical scientific and social approach through Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles. Rather than viewing local knowledge as one-way input to validate scientific findings, the development proposals should create iterative mechanisms for local knowledge co-production. This process enables multiple evidence systems to inform adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring. For instance, through the NbS Accelerator project in Jakarta, our local organisation partner (Rujak Center for Urban Studies) closely engaged with the community to identify current issues related to environmental and socio-spatial aspects in their neighbourhood and utilize it as the basis for participatory planning and co-design solutions that will be sustainably implemented and managed by the community.