



January 2024

ARUA NISANSA Research Forum 2024

13th and 14th of March

Graduate School of Business, Cape Town, South Africa

Session 10 (parallel)

11am – 12:30pm, Breakaway

Nature-based Solutions as a means to changing pathways of sustainable development in unequal societies

Speakers: Maaïke Bader, University of Marburg; Anulisa Claire Adhiambo, University of Nairobi; Mark New, University of Cape Town; Bessy Kathimbi, University of Nairobi, Karen Esler, Stellenbosch University

Facilitator: Ruth Beukman

Abstract:

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as defined by international institutions should be inspired and powered by nature, address societal challenges, provide environmental, social and economic benefits, including biodiversity gain, and be effective, adaptive and economically efficient. So, the bar is set high, and the challenge is great to design and implement successful NbS, particularly in unequal societies. On the other hand, existing initiatives might qualify as NbS without even being aware of the concept. This session will investigate whether, where and how NbS can be successfully implemented and can positively change pathways of sustainable development using African and South-American examples of climate-change adaptation and/or mitigation measures inspired by nature.