

# ESP 11 World Conference

## “From global to local ecosystem services: pathways to Nature-based Solutions inspired from Down Under”

23-27 June 2025 | Darwin, Australia

### SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: O3

Grant proposal, research writing and networking toolbox for ecosystem service researchers

Hosts:

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Abstract:

Nature-based solutions (NbS), which involve leveraging natural processes and ecosystems have emerged as essential strategies for addressing global environmental challenges, including biodiversity loss, climate change, and sustainable development. Early career researchers (ECRs) often have innovative ideas and energy to advance NbS research but face significant challenges in accessing competitive research funding. Many funding bodies increasingly recognise the importance of supporting early-stage researchers in NbS, acknowledging their potential to drive innovation and contribute to long-term sustainability goals. However, ECRs often face hurdles such as limited track records, lack of established networks, and competition from more experienced researchers. Hence, understanding the landscape of grants and funding opportunities tailored to NbS is critical for effectively empowering ECRs to contribute to the field.

This session seeks to explore the "where, what, and how" of obtaining grants for NbS research by equipping ECRs with the necessary tools and knowledge to identify suitable funding sources, craft compelling research proposals, and successfully navigate the often intricate application processes. Additionally, participants will gain valuable insights into strategies for aligning their research objectives with the priorities of funding bodies, effectively communicating the potential impact of their work, and addressing the unique challenges associated with NbS research funding.

Additionally, we welcome contributions on topics such as academic writing, communication, networking, and other essential skills that can help early career researchers navigate the complex world of academia and support their future careers, both within and beyond academic settings. This session seeks to create a platform where experienced researchers can share practical advice, proven strategies, and personal insights that address young scientists' unique challenges. We also encourage early career researchers who have successfully navigated challenges or developed effective strategies to share their insights. Your unique perspective can provide valuable inspiration and practical advice to peers embarking on similar paths.

By participating as a speaker, you will have the opportunity to inspire and guide the next generation of researchers, equipping them with the tools and confidence needed to succeed in their careers. Whether it's insights on securing grants, managing time effectively, or building meaningful professional connections, your expertise can make a lasting impact. Join us in fostering a collaborative and supportive environment to help early career researchers thrive!

### Goals and objectives of the session:

1. Map out the current landscape of funding opportunities for NbS research, particularly those accessible to ECRs.
2. Create a platform for experienced researchers to share knowledge and insights with early career scientists, promoting mutual learning and collaboration.
3. Discuss best practices for aligning research proposals with funding priorities and evaluation criteria.
4. Share success stories, challenges, and lessons learned from experienced researchers and grant reviewers to help ECRs refine their approaches and increase their chances of securing funding, as well as other skills for professional and personal growth.
5. Support participants' networks, fostering mentorship, collaboration, and a sense of belonging within the ecosystem service research field.

### Planned output / Deliverables:

1. Increased awareness among ECRs about funding opportunities for NbS research.
2. A space for discussion about the challenges and opportunities faced by early career researchers, with real-world examples and solutions
3. Practical guidance on crafting competitive research proposals, including developing compelling research questions, designing robust methodologies, and effectively communicating the potential impact of their work.
4. Strengthened networks between ECRs, funders, and mentors in the NbS research community to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange.
5. Encourage experienced scientists to contribute as mentors and guides, strengthening the connection between generations of researchers.
6. Additionally, the session may propose ideas for YESSs' future direction, activities, and initiatives as an active supporting network for ECRs working in ES research.

### Session format:

The Open session consists of two activities, including an opening presentation of YESS with ice-breaking activities, and a standard presentation with generous time for discussion.



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The presentation time offers researchers and scientists to communicate their well-formed ideas within 15 minutes, and 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Depending on the progress and depth of the results, the presentation and discussion time can be adjusted to accommodate speakers' needs.

**Voluntary contributions accepted:**

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

**Related to ESP Working Group:**

YESS