

Nature-Based Solutions: Can Capitalism Unf*ck Itself? with Thomas Canguilhem | LOOP Forum 2025

Key Learnings



Move From Philanthropy To Commercial Ownership

There is a business case for nature to be destroyed as acceptable collateral damage, while restoration efforts depend on donations with no financial returns. **Moving from philanthropic to commercial models where participants buy and own environmental assets** transforms environmental action from a cost into a balance sheet asset whilst reducing entry costs from hundreds of thousands to accessible amounts for individuals and medium-sized companies.

Repurpose Existing Financial Mechanisms For Nature

Simple, classic capitalism-based features can be repurposed for environmental restoration rather than building entirely new systems. Property law enables separating environmental assets from physical land ownership, fungibility allows risk pooling across co-owners, and escrow accounts guarantee long-term resource availability. **These mechanisms democratise investment access** by reducing entry costs from hundreds of thousands to small amounts accessible to individuals and medium-sized companies.

Choose Local Over Distant Carbon Credits

Many companies today buy carbon credits from distant parts of the world when local alternatives could deliver greater stakeholder value. **Local environmental assets provide companies with concrete, tangible engagement opportunities for employees and customers** whilst landowners gain immediate and higher cashflow than traditional agriculture. Governments benefit by triggering market conversion then letting capitalism scale initiatives rather than bearing full financial burden through subsidies.

Listen to the full episode here:

<https://circularity.fm/nature-based-solutions-can-capitalism-unfck-itself/>