

WCC-2016-Res-069-EN

Defining Nature-based Solutions

RECOGNISING that the concept of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), developed during the UNFCCC negotiations in 2009, was introduced in the 2013-2016 IUCN Global Programme and considered as a milestone for IUCN, representing a third of its Global Programme;

NOTING that the concept of NbS builds on decades of work undertaken by all components of IUCN, in particular the Commission on Ecosystem Management, and on existing principles and frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity's Ecosystem Approach and its 12 Malawi Principles, and that it has particular relevance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the importance and relevance of NbS was reflected in Resolutions 5.083 *Advancing the role of nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and their potential to contribute to the global climate change regulatory regime*; 5.084 *Promoting ecosystem-based adaptation* and 5.058 *Ecosystem management for disaster risk reduction (DRR)* (Jeju, 2012);

ALSO RECOGNISING that nature conservation is the core of IUCN's Mission and Vision and is, therefore, embedded in the concept of NbS, which is no substitute for conventional conservation actions to safeguard species or protect ecosystems against risk;

CONSIDERING that many Members, the Secretariat and other components of the Union use the concept of NbS, and that establishing a common definition for NbS and a series of principles with the purpose of guiding its effective and appropriate implementation is necessary; and

NOTING the importance of NbS as an underpinning element of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. ADOPTS the Definitional Framework on Nature-Based Solutions, attached herewith as Annex 1;
2. REQUESTS the Director General to ensure that NbS are supported within the IUCN Programme 2017-2020;
3. CALLS ON the Director General and Commissions to finalise the NbS principles, parameters and guidelines for applying NbS, reporting as appropriate to Council on progress;
4. CALLS ON governments and civil society, with IUCN Members taking the lead, to incorporate NbS into strategies and measures that encourage innovations and learning from on-the-ground activities; and
5. CALLS ON governments, donor countries and financial institutions, private funders and businesses to recognise NbS as a tool to achieve sustainable development.

Annex 1: IUCN Definitional Framework on Nature-based Solutions

1. Definition of Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based Solutions are defined as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits."

2. Overarching goal of Nature-based Solutions

The goal of Nature-based Solutions is "to support the achievement of society's development goals and safeguard human well-being in ways that reflect cultural and societal values and

enhance the resilience of ecosystems, their capacity for renewal and the provision of services; Nature-based Solutions are designed to address major societal challenges, such as food security, climate change, water security, human health, disaster risk, social and economic development”.

3. Preliminary principles of Nature-based Solutions

The following preliminary principles are to be considered in conjunction with the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) definition:

- i. NbS embrace nature conservation norms (and principles);
- ii. NbS can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner with other solutions to societal challenges (e.g. technological and engineering solutions);
- iii. NbS are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge;
- iv. NbS produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation;
- v. NbS maintain biological and cultural diversity and the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time;
- vi. NbS are applied at a landscape scale;
- vii. NbS recognise and address the tradeoffs between the production of a few immediate economic benefits for development, and future options for the production of the full range of ecosystems services; and
- viii. NbS are an integral part of the overall design of policies, and measures or actions, to address a specific challenge.