

A GLOBAL STANDARD FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

The Council of the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) adopted in February 2020 the [Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#), that will be launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in January 2021.

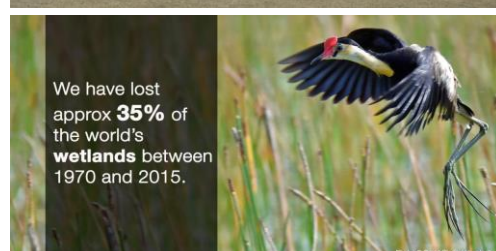
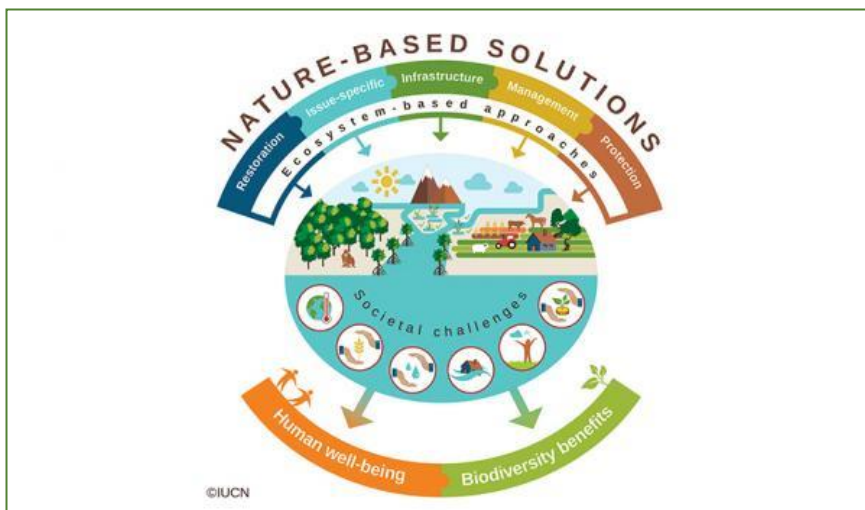
The [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) harnesses the knowledge of its 1,300 Members from 160 countries, including States and government agencies, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, scientific and academic institutions and business associations. This diversity and vast

expertise makes IUCN a global point of reference on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. The aim of the Global Standard, which was developed by IUCN leading a broad participatory process, is to increase the use of *Nature-based Solutions* to face the environmental degradation bringing together different partners around the challenges to reach a positive sustainable change.

[Nature-based Solutions](#) are defined by IUCN 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.*

IUCN proposes a conceptual framework on Nature-based Solutions as an umbrella term for ecosystem-related approaches. In particular, IUCN proposes the following eight principles to define the Nature-based Solutions:

1. *embrace nature conservation norms and principles;*
2. *can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner with other solutions to societal challenges (e.g. technological and engineering solutions);*
3. *are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge;*
4. *produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way, in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation;*
5. *maintain biological and cultural diversity and the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time;*
6. *are applied at a landscape scale;*
7. *recognize and address the trade-offs 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*
8. *are an integral part of the overall design of policies, and measures or actions, to address a specific challenge.*



Nature-based solutions can be applied in different areas including for example: sustainable water management, sustainable agriculture, adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction, natural and green infrastructures, naturalistic engineering. With this wide variety of applications and adopting a systemic approach, *Nature-based Solutions* are becoming a strategic orientation to face the challenges of sustainable development, promoted by different United Nations initiatives.

In 2018 for example, the topic of the [UN World Water Development Report](#) published by UN Water was *Nature-based Solutions for Water*. The Report informs decision-makers about the potential of *Nature-based solutions* to address contemporary water management challenges across all sectors, and particularly regarding water for agriculture, sustainable cities, disaster risk reduction and water quality.

The [Nature4Climate Initiative \(N4C\)](#) aims to increase investment and action on *Nature-climate Solutions (NCS)* in support of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. [Nature4Climate is supported by United Nations Agencies, foundations, civil society and international organizations](#) aligned around the goal to promote the role of nature as a climate solution. On the Nature4Climate website, extensive documentation is available on the importance and benefits of Nature-climate Solutions, on the [experiences underway in different countries](#) and on the tools and methods for their implementation.

[The Equator Initiative](#), that brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, and grassroots organizations, manages a [Nature-based Solutions Database](#) showing the practices of more than 500 communities around the world.

On the 1st of March 2019 the UN General Assembly proclaimed the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030](#). The proposal was led by El Salvador which positioned the restoration of ecosystems as a key nature-based solution to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and halt further degradation to fight the climate crisis, enhance food security and water supply, and protect biodiversity. Preparatory activities are underway.

During the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit (September 2019), UN Secretary-General has declared [nature-based solutions a priority for 2020](#). More than 30 countries, together with other stakeholders, joined a call to action from China and New Zealand to increase support for nature-based solutions.

In this context, the many innovative territorial experiences that implement Nature-based solutions in various fields by adopting ecosystems-based approaches can find important reference points to strengthen and enhance their practices and connect them to the different international ongoing initiatives that are being implemented.

To know more

[Nature-based Solutions in IUCN website](#)

[Global Standard Nature-based Solutions in IUCN website](#)

[IUCN Report Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges 2016](#)



Nature has too often been neglected, or at best relegated, behind technology and engineering solutions. It has been estimated that NCS - restoring, re-establishing and protecting forests, peatlands, mangroves and other landscapes - can provide one third of the cost-effective CO2 mitigation needed to 2030 for a good chance of holding warming to below 2°C. So, to fight to stop human induced global warming must include nature-based solutions alongside the decarbonization of our energy and economic systems.
[Nature Now in Nature4Climate website.](#)



[Decade on Ecosystem Restoration in IUCN website](#)

[IUCN Nature Based Solutions Publications](#)

[Nature4climate.org website](#)

[Article in Nature4Climate website](#)

[World Water Development Report in UN Water website](#)

[World Water Development Report in UNESCO website](#)

[Natural-based Solutions in UN Environment website](#)

[News in un.org/sg-UN Climate Action Summit 2019](#)

[Nature Based Solutions in news.un.org](#)

[Nature-based Solutions in UN Climate Summit in wedocs.unep.org](#)

[Nature-based Solutions Manifesto in wedocs.unep.org](#)

[Climate Solutions in sdg.iisd.org](#)

[UNDP Report 2019 - Nature Based Solutions for NDCs](#)

[Nature-Based Solutions for agricultural water management and food security- FAO 2018](#)

[The answer is in nature in FAO website](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021-2030](#)

[Nature-based Solution in ec.europa.eu website](#)

