

**TECHNICAL NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT**

**“Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development”**

*Submitted by European Union and supported by Costa Rica, Colombia, Pakistan (dated 16 Dec 2021)*

This technical note has been prepared by the UNEP Secretariat to facilitate consultations among Member States within the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) on submitted draft resolutions for the resumed session of UNEA-5, as requested in paragraph 31 the [Chair’s Summary of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the annual subcommittee of the CPR](#) held 25 - 29 October 2021<sup>1</sup>. The note may be adjusted and updated, as needed and relevant, in view of additional information that may become available in the course of upcoming consultations.

***The draft resolution on Nature-based Solutions:***

- ***Puts forward a definition of ‘Nature-based Solutions’ (NbS)***
- ***Recognizes the related concept of ‘ecosystem-based approaches’ and agrees that NbS do not replace the necessity of other types of urgent action to address societal challenges, including decarbonisation.***
- ***Recognizes the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use and the corresponding Global Forest Finance Pledge***
- ***Calls for the development of green, inclusive, sustainable and resilient post-COVID-19 societies***

***The operative elements of the resolution call on UNEP to:***

- ***Map best practices on NbS***
- ***Provide guidance and evidence to Member states on the integration of NbS in sectoral policies, the role of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities in NbS, the economic case for NbS, the acceleration and mainstreaming of NbS and to further develop a global knowledge platform***
- ***Support Member States in accessing sustainable financing for NbS***

***i) Relation to UNEPs Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work***

The draft resolution relates to all three of the thematic subprogrammes on nature, climate and chemicals and pollution since nature-based solutions can make substantive contributions to the objectives in all three areas.

Specifically, it relates to the three Outcomes of the Nature subprogramme: An economically and socially sustainable pathway for halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity

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<sup>1</sup> “The Chair also suggested that the secretariat will support our upcoming consultations on the draft resolution by providing technical guidance in writing for each draft resolution, with a technical analysis on the following three aspects: i) Relation to UNEPs Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work; ii) Legal aspects; and iii) Budget implications”

is established (Outcome 1); Sustainable management of nature is adopted and implemented in development frameworks (Outcome 2); and Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced (Outcome 3).

It relates to Outcome 1 (Decision-makers at all levels adopt decarbonization, dematerialisation and resilience pathways) and Outcome 2 (Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance and access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals) of the Climate subprogramme.

It relates to Outcome 1 (Human health and environmental outcomes are optimized through enhanced capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste) of the Chemicals and Pollution subprogramme.

The resolution is related to Paragraph 33 of the MTS (UNEP will support an integrated and balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will continue to build the capacity of Member States and partners to integrate the environment into all aspects of sustainable development, leveraging the interactions and co-benefits of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals), since nature-based solutions can make a significant contribution to the achievement of many of the SDGs.

The resolution is also related to Paragraph 41 of the MTS (Special attention will be paid to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030) since nature-based solutions can contribute significantly to the reducing the risk of disasters.

**ii) Legal aspects:**

The draft resolution is related to UNEA Resolution 1/8 which was focused on ecosystem-based adaptation, since ecosystem-based adaptation is one type of nature-based solution. The draft resolution represents a significant broadening of this earlier resolution since it encompasses the ways in which nature-based action can address a wide range of societal challenges, not just climate adaptation.

The draft resolution is also related to a number of other UNEA resolutions which, in various ways implicitly endorse the use of nature-based solutions to address a range of different challenges.

These other resolutions include:

- Resolution 4/10 on Innovations on biodiversity and land degradation
- Resolution 4/12 on Sustainable Management for Global Health of Mangroves
- Resolution 4/13 on Sustainable coral reefs management
- Resolution 4/15 on Innovations in Sustainable Rangelands and Pastoralism
- Resolution 4/16 on Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands

The draft resolution is closely related to two recent UNGA Resolutions. UNGA Resolution 73/284 on the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) was adopted by the General Assembly on 1 March 2019. Ecosystem restoration is one of the three main forms of NbS (the other

two being ecosystem protection and sustainable management of ecosystems) and the success of the UN Decade will make a major contribution to scaling up the use of NbS.

UNGA Resolution 75/220 Resolution on Harmony with Nature was adopted by the General Assembly on 21 Dec 2020. It notes “the importance of nature-based solutions in aiming to achieve goals relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation”. UNGA has adopted a number of other resolutions which also make positive references to NbS. These include Resolution 74/240 on Nature fibres and sustainable development (2019) and Resolution 75/219 on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (2020).

At CoP 14 of the Convention Biological Diversity in 2018 three Decisions were passed that make positive references to NbS. These were Decisions XIV/1, XIV/6 and XIV/8.

The Glasgow Climate Pact, while it did not explicitly mention NbS, did recognize “the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems in delivering benefits for climate adaptation and mitigation, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards”.

A number of UN entities, including but not limited to, UNDP, FAO and UNESCO have undertaken significant work on NbS. For example, UNESCO’s Hydrological Programme promotes the integration of NbS in freshwater ecosystem management.

Finally, many other organisations promote the use of NbS. For example, IUCN has worked extensively in this area and its World Conservation Congress has passed a number of resolutions on the topic.

### **iii) Budget implications:**

Taking into consideration the available existing resources, the overall extrabudgetary financial requirements for implementing this resolution during the period of two years is estimated to USD 2,6 M. This amount provides for about USD 1,6 M in staff positions and USD 1 M in non-staff resources including activities covering travel, consultancies, operational costs, contractual services; etc. The table below provide the breakdown of estimated costs by budget group.

<b>Resource Requirements</b>											
Primary Sub-programme	Budget Category	Grade/Desc	Location	Count	Standard Cost	Duration in years	Financial requirements	PSC 13%	Sub-total	Existing Resources	Net total
SP3	*Staff costs	P-5	Nairobi	1	274,500	2	549,000	71,370	620,370	62,037	558,333
		P-3	Nairobi	1	199,000	2	398,000	51,740	449,740	44,974	404,766
		P-2	Nairobi	2	152,000	2	608,000	79,040	687,040	68,704	618,336
							0	0	0		0
		<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>1,555,000</b>	<b>202,150</b>	<b>1,757,150</b>	<b>175,715</b>	<b>1,581,435</b>
		Non-Staff	Activities				200,000	26,000	226,000		226,000
		Travel				200,000	26,000	226,000		226,000	
		Other costs				500,000	65,000	565,000		565,000	
	<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>900,000</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>1,017,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,017,000</b>	
	<b>Grand Total</b>					<b>2,455,000</b>	<b>319,150</b>	<b>2,774,150</b>	<b>175,715</b>	<b>2,598,435</b>	

*\*Consultants and UNV are part of other costs category*

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