

## INTERVENTION BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

### On Nature Based Solutions

*Ambassador Giovanna Valverde Stark*

Costa Rica's delegation would like to refer to the Nature Based Solutions resolution that we co/sponsor in particular to address some concerns that were brought forward during the last CPR Subcommittee on January 27th.

What does The draft resolution on Nature-based Solutions do:

- It puts forward a definition of 'Nature-based Solutions' (NbS)
- Recognizes the related concept of 'ecosystem-based approaches' and agrees that NbS does not replace the necessity of other types of urgent action to address other challenges, such as 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

What does it ask of UNEP?

- To Map best practices on NbS
- To 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
- To Support Member States in accessing sustainable financing for NbS in Relation to UNEPs Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work

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) WHICH was adopted by the General Assembly on 1 March 2019.

**Ecosystem restoration is one of the three main forms of NbS (the other 2 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 is “Resolution on Harmony with Nature” was adopted by the General Assembly on 21 Dec 2020. And It notes “the importance of nature-based solutions in aiming to achieve goals relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation”.

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.

A number of UN entities, such as UNDP, FAO and UNESCO have undertaken significant work on NbS.

Amongst them we have UNESCO’s Hydrological Programme which promotes the integration of NbS in freshwater ecosystem management.

In addition, many many other organisations promote the use of NbS. There are also dozens of publications by renowned global scientists from the global north and south which refer to the concept of Nature Bases Solutions, the most relevant being the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, which is formed by 195 member states and which presented The Special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. This report was prepared by 107 experts from 52 countries , 40% of the Coordinating Lead Authors were women. And 53% of the authors were from developing countries, making it the first IPCC report to have more authors from developing countries than from developed ones.

Finally, we reiterate that the concept of nature based solutions means **Ecosystem restoration, ecosystem protection and sustainable management of ecosystems.**

The NbS approach as seen by Costa Rica is an umbrella for our sustainable development model and encompasses public policies such as:

- The National Policy for biodiversity 2015-2030
- The national climate change adaptation policy 2018-2030
- The national sustainable production and consumption policy 2018-2030
- The national decarbonization plan 2018-2050
- The national bioeconomy policy 2020-2030
- The national green hydrogen energy launched this year

Our payment for environmental services program which was launched 25 years ago and was one of the main drivers to move our country from an 80% deforestation rate in the 80's to our current 52% forest coverage today.

In our last updated NDC we also committed to achieve 30% of marine protection by 2030 and 60% of forest coverage by the same year. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, we will implement actions plans, projects and programs at the local level through a NbS focus.

In summary, What is NbS for Costa Rica? It is a concept that aims at all of our peoples wellbeing and closing social gaps within a sustainable development model where by everyone, including biodiversity, benefits.

With regards to the concern expressed by one party in relation to the budget estimated by UNEP for the implementation of this resolution, we also agree that the the secretariat could further clarify how this budget was estimated and if it could be modified to ensure the majority of the budget is dedicated to enhance action and impact on the ground for developing nations.

With this further clarification, Costa Rica's delegation invites all distinguished delegations to consider their support for the NbS resolution, since I am certain each and everyone one of your nations is currently undertaking actions with this vision, which are essential to tackle the triple planetary crisis.