

Co-Chairs' recommendations to support the implementation of nature-based solutions for Sustainable Development

In line with the overall aim of the consultations, we, as the Co-Chairs, have developed a limited number of recommendations for supporting the implementation of nature-based solutions. These recommendations are put forward in the name of the Co-Chairs. The recommendations focus on further actions that would facilitate the implementation of nature-based solutions. They have been developed taking into consideration the entire consultation process. They are focused on issues such as undertaking analysis and provision of technical support and finance. We request that UNEP undertakes the recommendations, recognizing that this will be subject to available resources.

The Co-Chairs recommend that consideration be given to:

Best Practice

1. Creation of a repository of NbS good practices examples

Explanation: This should include NbS examples and compilations of examples submitted and compiled through this process, highlighting NbS across all ecosystem types and addressing a range of social, economic and environmental challenges, and which include social and environmental safeguards and ensure sustainable development. This should not duplicate existing repositories.

2. Establishment of a database of national policy instruments focused on nature-based solutions

Explanation: The number of countries that are incorporating nature-based solutions into existing policy instruments or developing new policy instruments is increasing. An accessible database would provide a useful resource for researchers and for countries that are considering developing their own policies on NbS or incorporating NbS into existing policies and commitments such as NBSAPs, NDCs and other relevant sectoral instruments. Such a database could be regional or global in scope and build on existing sector-specific sites.

3. Analysis of technical tools available to support nature-based solutions

Explanation: There are an increasing number of technical tools of various sorts being developed to support the implementation of NbS. The analysis would identify the purpose of the tools and their practical value in supporting implementation.

4. Examination of existing methods for measuring costs and benefits of NbS

Explanation: This examination would identify existing methods to assess the costs and benefits of NbS including non-economic costs and benefits, as well as looking at the distribution of costs and benefits.

Finance:

5. Production of a guide to sources of finance for nature-based solutions

Explanation: The lack of finance is one of the main barriers to the implementation of nature-based solutions, particularly in developing countries. A practical, easy-to-use guide would address issues such as: information on sources of finance; the types of interventions funded; how to access it, and who can access it. Such a guide may need to be updated regularly.

Awareness and information:

6. Establishment of regional or national information hubs on nature-based solutions.

Explanation: A lack of awareness and understanding of nature-based solutions is a barrier to their adoption. By organizing such hubs at a regional or national level, they can tailor the information that they make available to national or regional needs and circumstances. These hubs should build on existing initiatives and hubs and avoid duplication. The hubs could provide a means for sharing lessons and experiences on a range of issues, including best practice and standards, criteria, and guidelines, and how to overcome obstacles.

7. Preparation of an accessible guide to terms related to nature-based solutions

Explanation: There are many related terms in use, such as ecosystem-based approaches, ecosystems-based adaptation, green infrastructure, agroforestry, etc. Some of them have their own definitions, and some of them have been developed in specific institutional or organizational contexts. Even experts in NbS sometimes have difficulty understanding all these different terms and how they relate to each other. A simple introductory guide would be helpful.

Coordination with MEAs:

8. Coordination amongst Multilateral Environmental Agreements on how they approach NbS

Explanation: Such coordination would help to promote a common understanding of NbS, and could help synergize efforts being taken under different MEAs and support consistent implementation of NbS.