

Summary of Eastern Europe regional consultations, 9-10th October 2023

This summary is not negotiated nor developed with full consensus and thus does not necessarily represent the views of individual Member States.

Facilitator:

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General observations:

Regardless that there is a clear UNEA definition of NbS which should address social, economic, and human understanding, some delegations find the concept itself unclear, with the lack of common understanding on what NbS are and a lack of clear explanation in what way does the NbS concept differ from the sustainable development concept, and what is the value added to this. As referred to the different opinions and approaches presented in the panel discussion concerning whether renewable energy and electricity generation is or not an NbS, we would raise the concerns on this topic and ask for an opportunity of a time slot to open and participatory discussion on these divergences with all those that are interested. As many conservation efforts might not be the same as NbS and as the definition is very wide, there should be a way of ensuring that the definition is clear and precise, otherwise, it seems to be difficult to productively proceed discussing with this concept if we do not understand NbS itself clearly. A clarification on this matters would be appreciated.

Agenda item regarding Policies for NbS:

Several examples of mainstreaming the NbS through the integration of such a measures in strategic documents and other sectoral policies were presented, generally related to afforestation, regional and global biodiversity protection goals and emphasizing that with the challenges that are arising each year, more importance should be added to different NbS. As the NbS is multi-disciplinary subject, it is important not to replicate the work that is already done, to ensure that there is no direct interference with a mandate of UN agencies and Conventions, but we should fit these together to really implement NbS, by adding a value to the Conventions and supporting them in implementing the solutions.

Agenda Item referred to Opportunities and obstacles - NbS and climate mitigation

We see as a reasonable that it could be difficult to define NbS and make a connection with mitigation rather than adaptation, but it can be feasible in the future, when we have a more solid understanding of NbS. So, to take a more straight forward path, we should avoid indirect benefits of NbS, which is already covered by other conventions and to focus on NbS that have direct, easy to recognise impacts on the environment, socially and the economy.

Agenda item referred to Standards and Criteria for NbS and for Measuring benefits and costs of NbS:

As Nbs is a multidisciplinary topic, we think there is a need to build criteria from existing documentation and conventions. As there are standards and criteria developed by the IUCN which aren't universally adopted, a question and need for clarification arose, who will develop universal standards and criteria and are they going to be adopted by the UNEA, while at the same time we must have in mind that member states need time to adopt new legislation. Also, in order to measure costs and benefits of NbS we need to set up indicators, and question who is going to develop the indicators was placed, bearing in mind that all our actions need to be science based.