

APPENDIX 1: 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. The starting point for these recommendations is the text of UNEA Resolution 5/5, *Nature-based solutions for sustainable development*. These recommendations are put forward in the name of the Co-Chairs. While they build on what we have heard during the consultations, they are not a negotiated outcome from the consultations. The recommendations focus on further actions that would facilitate the implementation of nature-based solutions and address all three pillars of sustainable development. They are focused on issues such as undertaking analyses and provision of technical support and finance.

We invite UNEP, in close collaboration with interested member states, stakeholders, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and subject to the availability of resources, to take the lead in furthering these recommendations.

The Co-Chairs recommend that consideration be given to:

Best practices

1. Creation of a repository of NbS good practice examples.

Explanation: The development of this repository will require a clear set of criteria, based on best available science, against which examples of NbS can be assessed to determine whether they qualify as good practice and are aligned with the UNEA 5/5 definition of NbS. The repository should include examples across different ecosystem types, and which address a range of social, economic and environmental challenges, while conforming to social and environmental safeguards. It should not duplicate existing repositories. It should include learning and adaptive management examples.

In the interim, UNEP will post on the consultation's website the examples of NbS practice that have been submitted by participants in the consultations. UNEP will continue to accept such submissions until UNEA 6.

2. Establishment of an accessible and easy-to-use 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 focused on NbS is increasing. The database will 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 instruments. Such a database could be regional or global in scope and build on existing sector-specific sites.

Standards and criteria

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

Explanation: There is an increasing number of technical and technological 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, including, in particular, social and cultural contexts.

This work will include an analysis of existing standards and criteria for NbS, building on what is found within UNEA Resolution 5/5. This analysis will be undertaken without prejudice to the further question of whether a multilateral process should be initiated to develop new standards and criteria for NbS.

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

Explanation: Measuring the benefits and costs of nature-based solutions can guide decision-makers in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NbS. 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.

5. 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, ecosystem-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. A simple introductory guide would be helpful.

Finance for nature-based solutions

6. 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: the sources of finance; the types of interventions funded; how to access the finance; and which entities can access it. The issue of whether small and local entities can access finance is important. Such a guide would need to be updated regularly.

Capacity building, awareness and information

7. 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, information can be tailored to national or regional needs and circumstances. The hubs will benefit from developing mechanisms to incorporate information from the local level. They should build on existing initiatives and hubs and avoid duplication. In some cases, it may be appropriate for such hubs to take on additional tasks such as provision of technical support and advice on access to finance.

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, while supporting consistent implementation of NbS.