

**8th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the CPR to UNEP
(Nairobi, 25-29 October 2021)**

EU+MS proposal for a UNEA-5 resolution on “Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development”

Concept note

Recognizing the interdependencies between biodiversity loss, climate change and human wellbeing, including health, and the interlinkages with pollution and natural resources is key for “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the SDGs”. We reiterate the need to address these issues in a holistic and integrated manner, including in the context of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

One of the key areas for strengthening cooperation and action is the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS). NbS deliver multiple benefits, including for biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as for water security and management, wellbeing of people, food security, sustainable food systems and disaster risk reduction, both in rural and urban contexts, having also a positive impact on sustainable land management.

We would also like to highlight the cost-efficient and effective nature of NbS for climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as biodiversity conservation, and their potential in improving risk management and building resilience, preventing, reducing and managing impacts from natural disasters, possible contributions in restoring conflict linked environmental damage, and for sustainable urban and rural development in improving the restoration of degraded ecosystems and water resource management.

Therefore, we emphasize the importance to scale-up and implement NbS as they provide the greatest benefits to biodiversity while also addressing other environmental challenges and major socio-economic and societal challenges.

NbS are a vital component for jointly achieving the objectives of UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNDRR, RAMSAR Convention and CBD as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

A resolution addressing NbS would enable to land on and confirm a common understanding of the essence and benefits of NbS in order to promote further its successful implementation.

A key action could be to enhance the understanding and step up the application of NbS inter alia spurring its use in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as in protecting biodiversity and sustainably managing and restoring ecosystems, to ensure societal and ecosystem resilience, while respecting social and environmental principles and safeguards¹.

¹ See CBD COP 14/5

In that sense, a resolution on NbS could enhance their understanding through fostering the use of existing tools, reinforcing partnerships, providing guidance, raising awareness on their potential, enhancing further innovation in NbS, mobilising finance and reinforcing education and monitoring.

We also find it important to support the uptake of relevant knowledge and methods of indigenous peoples and local communities that have proved effective in maintaining a balance between biodiversity protection and human wellbeing, with free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, and to promote raising awareness of NbS in the most appropriate way, by including innovative methods and building capacities for effective implementation of NbS.

As a conclusion, we see the need for the development of green, inclusive, sustainable and resilient post-COVID-19 societies, taking into account the necessity to prevent further increase in risks connected to climate change, biodiversity loss, urbanisation, overconsumption of natural resources, the intensification and extension of agriculture and the need for integrated and sustainable marine and land management that promotes resource efficiency, biodiversity and resilient ecosystems, by including use of NbS.
