Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas Initiative

Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Adaptation

Natural solutions for strengthening climate resilience and protecting biodiversity

What Are Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation?

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

"Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which **address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits**" *(United Nations Environment Assembly, 2022).*

Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation

Nature-based Solutions for adaptation, a subset of NbSs, are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use, and manage natural ecosystems to **strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change**. They involve **assessing how climate change will affect ecosystems and people of all genders and social backgrounds**, and identifying how ecosystems could help address these impacts to people. NbS for adaptation is also known as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR).

Enabling Conditions for Effective NbS for Adaptation

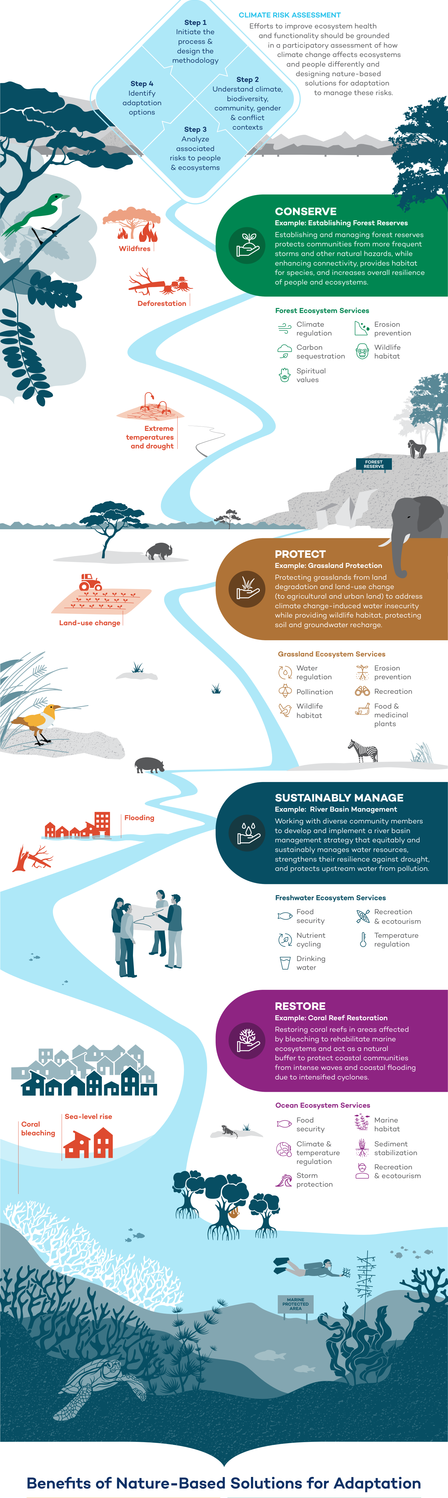
- ✓ They are specifically oriented toward **managing current and future climate risks** to enhance the resilience of both people and ecosystems.
- ✓ They **target and benefit particular groups** and their livelihoods based on risk or vulnerability assessments.
- ✓ They **protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use, and manage ecosystems** to support communities adapting to climate change and to improve ecosystem health and functionality.
- ✓ They **consider local, environmental, economic, social and cultural contexts**, through gender-responsive, inclusive and conflict-sensitive approaches to provide an equitable distribution of benefits.
- ✓ They are **part of a larger adaptation strategy** and complement hybrid and traditionally engineered adaptation solutions to address climate change.

This checklist reflects a summarized version of key principles, criteria and standards that are internationally recognized, including the Convention on Biological Diversity's Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of EbA, the Global Standard for NbS by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the EbA Qualification Criteria by the Friends of EbA.

Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation in Action

Climate change impacts greatly affect ecosystems and, together with land-use change, pollution and unsustainable natural resource exploitation, are among the main drivers of biodiversity loss. In turn, gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive actions to **protect, conserve, sustainably manage, and restore** ecosystems and biodiversity can help people and communities mitigate and adapt to climate change and increase ecosystem resilience.

These actions can also provide social co-benefits by recognizing and involving underrepresented groups as active agents of change within the implementation of nature-based solutions for adaptation.



Benefits of Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation

FOR COMMUNITIES

- increased resilience to climate hazards, particularly for those made most vulnerable by the current socio-political system
- water and food security
- sustainable and inclusive alternative livelihood options (e.g., ecotourism)

FOR ECOSYSTEMS

- increased resilience of species and ecosystems to observed and future climatic changes and climate-related hazards
- increased species diversity
- enhanced ecosystem functioning and services

Project partners

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