The Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem-based Approaches and Nature-based solutions

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Nature based Solutions- Oxford 2022
Concepts towards Conservation and Sustainable Development

The Ecosystem Approach

Ecosystem-based Approaches

Nature-based Solutions
The Ecosystem Approach

Strategy for the integrated management and restoration of land, water and living resources. It promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equal, participatory, and decentralized manner. It integrates social, economic, ecological and cultural aspects in a geographical area defined by ecological limits.

*(CBD 2000)*

"Ecosystem" means a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit*. (Article 2 of the Convention)*
Ecosystems

Ecosystems are made up of living components (biotic complexes and assemblages of species), the abiotic environment, the processes and interactions within and between the biotic and abiotic, and the physical space in which these operate.

Ecosystem types are differentiated from one another by a degree of uniqueness in composition, structure, and ecological processes and function. Although there is inherent uncertainty in applying discrete ecosystem categories (and therefore spatial boundaries to natural continua.

(Nicholson et al, 2020)
Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation (EbA) is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change (CBD, 2009 & 2010).
The systemic nature of global problems and their connection to the UN SDGs
*Fritjof Capra (2018)*, based on *Lester Brown (2008)*
Nature-based Solutions

“Actions to protect, manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges, effectively and adaptively, providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”.

_IUCN Definition, 2016 Resolution 069_

At the core of NbS is the web of life, including people and their culture.

(IUCN, 2020)
Nature-based Solutions - Principles

(Cohen-Shacham et al, 2019)
Nature and Culture

Abel Rodriguez, Fundación Tropenbos
The NbS operational framework

**IUCN WCC Resolution 6.069**

**Definition of Nature-based Solutions**

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

**Principles**

**Principle 1** NbS embrace nature conservation norms and principles.

**Principle 2** NbS can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner with other solutions to societal challenges.

**Principle 3** NbS are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts (incl. traditional, local and scientific knowledge).

**Principle 4** NbS produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation.

**Principle 5** NbS maintain biological and cultural diversity and the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time.

**Principle 6** NbS are applied at a landscape scale.

**Principle 7** NbS recognize and address the trade-offs between the production of a few immediate economic benefits for development, and future options for the production of the full range of ecosystem services.

**Principle 8** NbS are an integral part of the overall design of policies, and measures or actions, to address a specific challenge.

**Global Standard for NbS**

1. Societal challenges
2. Design at scale
3. Biodiversity net-gain
4. Economic feasibility
5. Inclusive governance
6. Balance trade-offs
7. Adaptive management
8. Mainstreaming & Sustainability

(IUCN, 2020)
The IUCN Global Standard

1. Societal challenges
2. Design at scale
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(IUCN, 2020)
Key contributions of Nature-based Solutions

- Move from conservation interventions to the SDG agenda.
- Based on transdisciplinary knowledge and knowledge co-creation.
- Understand multiple value of nature and culture.
- Include safeguarding society.
- Recognize the importance of high-quality interventions.
- Rethink financing / value, beyond market-based approaches.
- Identify synergies and tradeoffs.
- Provide the best approach to transition to a low carbon future.
- Avoid potential perverse impacts.
GRACIAS

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