

Nature-based Solutions in the NDCs: draft guidelines for policy revision



National governments are encouraged to consider:

- Developing appropriate common indicators for reporting between UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.
- Establishing measurable and meaningful NBS targets in national plans, drawn on best available scientific evidence, local knowledge and best practice
- Reporting on progress towards targets these in the NDCs, NAPs and other climate policy processes outside the UNFCCC
- Supporting the scaling-up NBS in all natural ecosystems
- Ranking NBS alongside other key elements of sustainable development (e.g. agriculture, finance)
- Incorporating natural capital / ecosystem services in development planning processes.

Researchers from the natural and social sciences and economists should work together to build a strong evidence base for socio-economic and ecological effectiveness of NBS compared to other adaptation options and facilitate the development of targets and costed plans. To promote consistency and comparability of adaptation planning across the globe, researchers also needs to harmonise methods for evaluating effectiveness of NBS and work with agencies revising the NDCs to ensure information is available in a useful format.

Practitioners should increase implementation of NBS across the globe and share best practice and learning on what makes NBS effective (or otherwise); they should ensure that this knowledge informs the development of robust targets and shapes not only the redrafting of the NDCs in 2020 but climate change planning and policy in general.

Leading platforms funding or supporting mitigation and resilience strategies —such as UN-REDD Carbon Fund, Green Climate Fund, and associated bilateral initiatives —should adopt a holistic approach by highlighting and promoting NBS and their co-benefits for sustainable development.

Agencies revising NDCs in 2020 are recommended to consider the following:

- Align the content of the NDCs with NAPs/NAPAs and other national climate and development policy processes.
- Make the adaptation component more structured to enable comparison among NDCs and to facilitate ambition tracking by including specific sections to:
 - Identify key natural hazards
 - Identify vulnerable sectors and groups (incl. gender perspectives)
 - Identify ecosystem dependencies

- Explain why adaptation is critical in these sectors and ecosystems – linking to long term national and regional development strategies and goals
- Describe adaptation actions that address declared/stated vulnerabilities
- Contain a clear tabulated action plan, with, where possible any dates, costs and quantitative (or qualitative) targets, based on scientific evidence and or local knowledge / best practice.
- Provide total estimated needs or projected cost of adaptation actions.
- Provide a breakdown of where greatest needs lie.

With regards to NBS in the NDCs, rigour would also be improved by:

- Using consistent NBS terminology based on scientific consensus.
- Aligning commitments to NBS in the mitigation component with those in the adaptation component (i.e. clarify synergies and co-benefits in both sections).
- Aligning commitments to community based conservation actions and commitments to ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA).
- Scaling up NBS in non-forest (e.g. grassland) and montane habitats
- Ensuring NBS targets are measurable, time-bound, strategic and based on science and/or local knowledge, taking impacts of climate change on the natural environment into account.
- Explicitly link actions and targets to other international policy goals: i.e. clarify how mitigation and adaptation actions are contributing to achieving the SDGs and biodiversity (Aichi) targets.



These draft policy guidelines arise from the analysis of Seddon et al. (2018). The list is not exhaustive and we hope it will evolve and be refined with feedback from you. So please do in touch: nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk

Reference:

Nathalie Seddon, Elizabeth Daniels, Rowan Davis, Rian Harris, Xiaoting Hou-Jones, Saleem Huq, Valerie Kapos, Georgina M. Mace, Ali Raza Rizvi, Hannah Reid, Dilys Roe and Sylvia Wicander (2018) Paris Agreement reveals global recognition that ecosystems are key to human resilience in a warming world. In review at *Nature Climate Change*.