Training webinar

Wetlands as Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

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Presenters

- Dr. Jamison Ervin, Manager for Global Programme on Nature for Development, UNDP
- Ms. Nicole DeSantis, Policy Specialist, UNDP
- Ms. Reiko Iitsuka, Senior Advisor, Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands
Wetlands as NbS for climate change adaptation/mitigation (presented by the Secretariat)
Strengthening NbS within NDCs (presented by UNDP)
Overview of the NbS policy briefs (developed by UNDP)
Opportunities and benefits of NbS within NDCs (presented by UNDP)
Case studies (presented by UNDP)
Wetlands as Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

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Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (1)

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.

- Underpinned by benefits that flow from healthy ecosystems and target major challenges like climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, health and are critical to economic development.

(https://www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions/about)
Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (2)

NbS contribution to livelihood

- Climate change
  NbS provide around one-third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilise warming to below 2°C (Griscom et al. 2017).

- Infrastructure
  NbS contributes to averting flood damages.

- Smart investment
  Global benefits, estimated as US $170 billion, in ecosystem services from NbS focused on climate.

Roles of wetlands as NbS for climate change

- Wetlands naturally absorb and store carbon
  - Peatlands, mangroves, and seagrass store vast amounts of carbon.
  - Peatlands store approximately 30% of all land-based carbon.

- Wetlands reduce floods and relieve droughts.
  - Inland wetlands function like sponges, absorbing and storing excess rainfall and reducing flood surges. During dry seasons, wetlands release stored water.

- Wetlands buffer coastlines from extreme weather.
  - Coastal wetlands such as salt marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs act like shock absorbers.
How can wetlands contribute to meet Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)? (1)

- The Paris Agreement (effective from 2016) is seeking to stabilize and reduce GHG emissions, and limit the increase in global average temperature this century to below 2°C.

- A central element for implementing the Paris Agreement are the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of each Party.

- NDCs are national climate plans highlighting climate actions. This includes climate related targets, policies and measures governments aim to implement in response to climate change and as a contribution to global climate action.
How can wetlands contribute to meet Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)? (2)

Examples of measures:

- Avoid draining wetlands
  (example: promotion of sustainable agriculture practices)

- Conserve and restore wetlands
  (example: implementation of wetlands management plans including wetland restoration plans)

- Identify important wetlands
  (example: conducting a wetlands inventory)
Example (1) - Mangrove restoration

- A mangrove reforestation project in the Casamance and Sine Saloum regions of Senegal.

- To plant 79 million mangrove trees on more than 10,000 hectares, helping to restore a portion of the 45,000 hectares that have been lost since the 1970s.

- With the restoration of these wetlands, coastal areas will be buffered against storms, rice paddies will flourish, up to 18,000 extra tons of fish will be produced annually.

- 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) over 20 years will be stored.
Example (2) - Peatland restoration

- Restoration of the Nordic-Baltic region’s peatlands has been taking place, with more than 20,000 hectares already restored.

- Initiated by the Nordic Council of Ministers’ commitment to “preserving peatlands for climate change regulation.”

- The council is working to restore the 45% of peatlands in Nordic and Baltic countries that have been drained responsible for almost 25% of the region’s total annual CO2 emissions.
For more details...

- Ramsar Briefing Note 10: Wetland Restoration for Climate Change Resilience

- Ramsar Policy Brief 1:
Thank you very much!