

## Session 4 Concept Note

Session Title	Lead (in bold) and Co-hosts
<p><b>Accelerating Resilience through Scaling-up Nature-based Solutions</b></p>	<p><b>Wetlands International:</b> <a href="mailto:Sander.Carpajj@wetlands.org">Sander.Carpajj@wetlands.org</a> / <a href="mailto:Susanna.tol@wetlands.org">Susanna.tol@wetlands.org</a></p> <p><b>IIED:</b> <a href="mailto:Xiaoting.hou.jones@iied.org">Xiaoting.hou.jones@iied.org</a></p> <p><b>IUCN:</b> <b>Ali Raza Rizvi:</b> <a href="mailto:ali.raza@iucn.org">ali.raza@iucn.org</a></p> <p><b>Co-hosts:</b> ORRAA, PIANC, GRP, Tebtebba, WFP, FAO, Adaptation Fund, GRAID-SRC</p>
<p>Time of the session: 14:00-16:00</p>	<p>Room: Main Auditorium</p>
<p><b>I. Short Session Description</b></p>	
<p>The conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of natural ecosystems can reduce people’s vulnerabilities to a range of climate change impacts. These Nature-based Solutions for adaptation are becoming increasingly prominent in climate change policy, especially in developing nations.</p> <p>In this session, experts will highlight the interlinkages between nature and resilience, share ongoing actions and announce new ones, and inspire future collaboration across sectors on the potential of NbS as an affordable, scalable, and available solution for transformative climate action – while contributing to cross-cutting adaptation, mitigation, sustainable development, and biodiversity goals.</p>	
<p><b>II. Background to Session (max 500 words)</b></p>	
<p>Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate change adaption (also termed Ecosystem-based Adaptation – EbA) refers to the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of natural ecosystems to help societies adapt to climate change. NbS for adaptation are receiving growing attention for their potential to reduce people’s vulnerability to a range of climate change impacts and provide significant co-benefits for people and biodiversity. NbS for adaptation are increasingly prominent in climate change policy, especially in developing nations: for example, the Paris’ Agreement explicitly recognizes nature’s role in helping us deal with Climate Change; and NbS are currently included in the NDCs of 66% of Paris Agreement signatories.</p> <p>The recent assessment reports by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) highlight that biodiversity, which underpins the resilience of ecosystem and the services they provide, continues to decline at an alarming rate in every region of the world. This alarming trend limits our ability to work with nature to build a resilient future. The report findings also underline the urgency to scale up policy ambition and actions to implement NbS and address the dual challenges of climate change and biodiversity to build long-term resilience.</p> <p>With frequent and intensifying extreme weather events, sea-level rise and other climate impacts and disasters, bold action is required at global scale. There are many initiatives on the ground that have proven local impacts, but need to be scaled-up to make the transformative impact needed to address a climate and biodiversity crisis.</p>	

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This is why actions on NbS are one of the nine work streams for the Climate Action Summit and are one of the six action tracks under the Global Commission on Adaptation to be launched during the 2020 Adaptation Summit.

These challenges cannot be done working from a siloed approach focused only on biodiversity and restoration; we need new cross-sectoral and inclusive approaches that include ecosystems to build local resilience, such as systems or landscape scale approaches that combine NbS with traditional or hybrid engineering approaches. This means working with ecosystem experts, communities, different national and subnational government bodies, engineers, architects and urban planners, researchers, as well as funders and financiers. Scaling-up NbS offers the opportunity to transform the silos of biodiversity, resilience, and sustainable development, and tackle these cross-cutting goals in an integrated way for truly transformative climate action.

Therefore, NbS session during the Resilience Day will:

- highlight the interlinkages between ecosystems, biodiversity and human resilience
- announce new and share ongoing Nature-based Solutions on the ground making significant impact, and
- inspire future collaborations between government, private sector, communities, NGOs and researchers to scale up NbS actions to achieve a transformative climate action. [284 words]

### III. Objectives

As part of the overall framing of the day, this session will respond to the three guiding questions below:

- What Nature based Solution (NbS) actions are governments undertaking and committing to undertake, and how can these be scaled up, be more ambitious and truly transformative to build a resilient future?
- How are these NbS actions actively involving and empowering youth, women, people living with disabilities, and indigenous communities as agents of change?
- How can actions and initiatives be tracked to ensure they are scaled-up and transformative, and lessons are learnt from them as they are implemented?

Specific objectives of the session include:

1. Share existing experiences of NbS for adaptation that are being taken on the ground
2. Identify levers to raise ambition and scale up actions on NbS
3. Identify ongoing NbS initiatives and collaborative actions for partners to undertake post-event: for example, political commitments and new partnerships to support delivery of those commitments.

### IV. Key messages

- **NbS have been proven to be effective in building local resilience and need to be scaled up** to allow for accelerated adaptation and resilience building. The discussions at the NbS session during the Resilience Day highlighted key actions taken by a diversity of stakeholders that can help scale up NbS in practice:
- **Policymakers at different government levels and funders need to include NbS in adaptation planning and remove barriers** in policy and regulations that prevent NbS application at scale and enable its use over traditional 'grey' engineering infrastructure. This means comprehensive cost-benefit framework to adequately calculate co-benefits of a NbS-incorporate approach to single-purpose infrastructure, such as seawalls, levees and dykes. Developing countries are leading the way by incorporating NbS into NDCs and development strategies. For example, Costa Rica have adopted national Ecosystem-based Adaptation

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Strategies and mobilized finance for NbS at scale through national-level social protection or payment for ecosystem services scheme.

- **Local communities and indigenous people** have already been implementing Nbs for decades. Their traditional knowledge associated with their customary governance systems on land and resource management demonstrated effective NBS solutions. Their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) combined with appropriate scientific knowledge supported by researchers can lead to transformative changes on the ground. For example, participatory plant-breeding partnership between Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science and local communities have successfully scaled up community-based NBS on the ground to improve agriculture resilience in China. Moreover, strengthening, recognizing and respecting the rights of IPs to their land, territories and resources and obtaining FPIC for climate projects, activities and programs affecting them are essential in continuing their significant additions.
- **NGOs and private sector** should support communities and policymakers to implement NbS by providing capacity building and private sector investment. For example, the Ocean Resilience and Risk Action Alliance (ORRAA), a partnership led by AXA XL, the Insurance giant and Ocean Unite, an NGO, is a multi-sector collaboration between governments, financial institutions, the insurance industry, environmental organizations and stakeholders from the Global South. The Alliance seeks to unlock and incentivize greater private investments and blended finance into coastal natural capital in LDCs and SIDS to build resilience and pioneer ground-breaking products that both address ocean risk and build resilience in the regions and communities that need it most. .
- **Scientists and researchers** can support provide scientific evidence and tools to effectively implement NbA at scale. For example, the Oxford-led Nature-based Solution Initiative is conducting a global synthesis of existing scientific literature on NbS effectiveness and will use the evidence to inform and support government’s policy targets and implementation measures for NbS at scale.
- **Multi-stakeholder partnerships** are key in delivering and scaling up actions on NbS: the session will have announcements from cross-sectoral partnerships and consortia that address adaptation and resilience challenges at scale. For example, The World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC)’s ongoing Navigating a Changing Climate Initiative is bringing together government, businesses and NGOs to scale up NbS to reduce risks to our infrastructure, businesses and economies.

### V. Format of the Session

The session is designed in an interactive manner to highlight NbS actions, cross-fertilize and strengthen collaboration as well as stimulate learning. The set-up is as follows:

The facilitator will open with a short framing of the session introducing the theme and topic. It will then be followed by a moderated talk show format. The discussion will then be opened up to all participants of the session for questions and answers, giving recommendations, expressing support or highlighting critical issues in the achieving of such commitment. This will open into an interactive audience discussion learning more about commitments and identifying collaborative actions to support and scale up commitments. A closing plenary will highlight the conclusions of the session in identifying the need for collaboratively integrating NbS into ongoing initiatives as well as identifying new opportunities. Closing remarks will compile a joint statement or action summary announcements to feed into the full plenary session of the Resilience Day

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VI. Session Agenda		
Time	Details of programme item	Name/Lead
5 min	Welcome (potentially a keynote speaker)	Ali
25 min	<p>High Level Policy Interactive Session</p> <p>High-level government officials will serve as speakers through a moderated discussion, sharing commitments and actions to scale up NbS for adaptation based on previous country achievements on NbS.</p>	<p>Ali</p> <p>Speakers TBC:</p> <p>Not more than 5 high government officials (ministers, ambassadors etc.) representing Asia, Africa, South America, Islands and global north (e.g. BMU). See details for speakers in the Whova app.</p>
20 min	Interactive discussion with Audience and Ministers	Ali
20 mins	<p>Multi-stakeholder pitches on actions and commitments to scale up NbS/EbA</p> <p>9 stakeholders representing different stakeholder groups (communities, scientists, private sector, NGOs) and working in different ecosystem types (mountain, coastal, dryland, urban) each have 1 minute to share their ongoing actions and/or future commitments and collaborations on NbS/EbA</p> <p>Each speaker needs to submit 150-200 words ahead of the session on their pitch and they can be clustered either based on sector or ecosystem types based on the commitments we receive</p> <p>Audience will have opportunities to ask clarifying questions on the commitments/actions</p>	Ali- See speakers' list in the Whova app
30 mins	<p>Interactive discussion with between Audience and those made commitments</p> <p>Prepare 10 key messages – which could also be based on partners' commitments – and displayed on screen. And:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- We have plenary discussion with the audience to reflect on the key messages;</li> </ol>	Ali-Audience-Speakers

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	2- Audience prioritizes top 5 these of these through live audience polling using an App – depicting the results live on screen.	
15 min.	Quick round of discussion on the prioritized key messages.	
5 min	Wrap up and closing remarks	Ali