



# ENACT - Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation

The global scientific evidence of recent IPCC and IPBES reports is clear: this decade represents a critical window for tackling interdependent biodiversity, land degradation and climate crises.

Climate change is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, increasing the severity and frequency of hazards such as droughts and wildfires, changing the ranges in which species can thrive, and altering food webs. Ecosystem loss and degradation releases enormous volumes of greenhouse gases, reduces the ability of ecosystems to absorb carbon from the atmosphere, and exacerbates the impact of climate hazards.

**However, nature is also one of our strongest allies, contributing climate solutions for both capturing and storing greenhouse gases and helping societies adapt to a changing climate.**

When implemented properly, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the societies that depend on them. NbS can support adaptation to climate hazards such as sea level rise and more frequent and intense flooding, droughts, heatwaves and wildfires - while delivering significant biodiversity benefits in a manner that safeguards and promotes the rights and interests of vulnerable and historically marginalized communities.



## NBS Goals

Enhanced protection and **resilience of at least 1 billion vulnerable people** (including at least 500 million women and girls).

**Up to 2.4 billion hectares of healthy natural ecosystems secured** through protection of 45 million ha, sustainable management of 2 billion ha, and restoration of 350 million ha.

**Significantly increased global mitigation efforts** through protecting, conserving and restoring carbon-rich terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

# RATIONALE

Nature-based Solutions have the potential to save up to 10GT of CO<sub>2</sub> per year - more than the emissions from the entire global transportation sector<sup>1</sup> - as well as the potential to reduce the intensity of climate hazards by 26 percent, with potential cost savings from climate change impacts of USD 104 billion by 2030 and USD 393 billion by 2050.<sup>2</sup>

The UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow recognized the interlinked quality of climate, land degradation and biodiversity crises, and the critical role of nature in mitigating and adapting to climate change.<sup>3</sup> Parties emphasized the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems to achieve the Paris Agreement 1.5°C goal, including through forests and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by protecting biodiversity while ensuring social and environmental safeguards.

In 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted the first multilaterally agreed definition of Nature-based Solutions, building on earlier definitions adopted by IUCN and the European Union - defined as "*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 and resilience and biodiversity benefits*".

The importance of nature and the uptake of Nature-based Solutions has spread across political frameworks - including UNCCD Decision 8/COP.15, the ministerial Declaration of the HLPF, and G7 and G20 Ministerial Communiques. In addition, a growing number of countries are incorporating NbS into national commitments and strategies. Of the 122 new NDCs submitted in 2021, over 80% included the protection and restoration of ecosystems and 41% referenced the concept of NbS.

With this wide signaling of political interest in the potential of NbS, together with the upcoming adoption of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, it is critical that Parties and non-state actors come together to build coherence across approaches, amplify global efforts, and accelerate collective action on NbS - to build a just, nature-positive and resilient future.

While the potential of NbS is clear, to date, global efforts - across themes and across sectors - have been largely uncoordinated and disconnected. At the global level, financial investments that degrade nature exceed conservation efforts by USD 600-852 billion annually.<sup>4</sup> And even as worldwide interest in NbS grows, there is still an inconsistent understanding across sectors about what qualifies as NbS, how to build policy incentives to drive action, and how nature can be used to effectively deliver integrated climate-biodiversity results.

<sup>1</sup> *Nature-based solutions can help cool the planet - if we act now*. Girardin et al, 2021. Please note that NbS are not a substitute for cutting global emissions across sectors, but must be *complementary* to ambitious and sustained decarbonization and the phasing out of fossil fuels.

<sup>2</sup> *Working with Nature to Protect People*. IFRC and WWF, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Building on previous work across the Rio Conventions such as CBD/COP/14/INF/47, the Egyptian Initiative for a Coherent Approach for Addressing Biodiversity Loss, Climate Change and Land and Ecosystem Degradation.

<sup>4</sup> *State of Finance for Nature*. UNEP, 2021

# ENACT - ENHANCING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR AN ACCELERATED CLIMATE TRANSFORMATION

At the Sharm el-Sheikh 27th session Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27), the Egyptian COP Presidency launched the initiative 'Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for Accelerated Climate Transformation' or ENACT. This ambitious initiative, developed in collaboration with the Government of Germany and IUCN, builds a global partnership of state and non-state actors to accelerate collective action to address the interconnected global crises of climate change, land and ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss.

## THE PARTNERSHIP WILL:

- **Bring coherence to and strengthen collaboration between existing partnerships and initiatives working on different areas of NbS.<sup>5</sup>**
- **Amplify and support accelerated implementation of current and new partners' NbS commitments through documenting, profiling, and promoting promising practices and success stories as well as challenges to be overcome.**
- **Facilitate NbS policy dialogue to inform negotiations across the Rio Conventions.**
- **Build a united, collective narrative of the global value and impact of NbS, including through the publication of an annual State of Nature-based Solutions report for the COP Presidencies.**

The ENACT partnership will function as **an enabler and accelerator of progress towards multilaterally-established global targets** such as the UN Decade on Restoration, the proposed 30x30 target under the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework, and the G20 Global Initiative on Land Degradation under the UNCCD.

ENACT will work in close alignment with the implementation of UNEP/EA.5/Res.5 and the upcoming intergovernmental consultations on (1) compilation of examples of best practices in NbS; (2) assessment of proposals, criteria standards and guidelines to build a common understanding of NbS; and (3) identification of financing options for NbS, particularly for developing countries.

<sup>5</sup> For example, the Friends of EbA, Nature4Climate, Green-Gray Infrastructure Community of Practice, the Blue Carbon Initiative, and the NbS Initiative at Oxford University. ENACT will not duplicate existing efforts but rather serve as a trusted repository of collective global knowledge on NbS that can drive resources and support to different workstreams.



# 2023 ENACT WORK PLAN

In order to drive integrated biodiversity-climate action, ENACT will amplify and support the accelerated implementation of partners' NbS actions and global efforts - by national, subnational, and non-state actors.

*N.B. The 2023 work plan represents the agreed outcomes of the March 6-7, 2023 Partners+ workshop held in Cairo, Egypt and hybrid format. It is a set of high-level aims to drive action, to be refined annually as the partnership develops.*

## ANNUAL STATE OF NBS REPORT

The report will include three components:

1. A synthesis of the importance of high integrity NbS linked to standards and safeguards that integrates climate & biodiversity objectives.
2. A narrative of NbS successes and partner achievements around key topics which highlights critical challenges and possible solutions.
3. An overview of NbS Goal baselines on adaptation, mitigation, and biodiversity.

## THE ENACT DASHBOARD

The ENACT Dashboard will be developed by building on the Contributions for Nature Platform which currently documents 9,806 IUCN Member contributions toward the global goals for nature. Developing the Dashboard will include increasing capacity to track progress toward measurable targets on actually implemented NbS for adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity.

## BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIP

The ENACT Partnership currently includes 8 formally confirmed member states: Egypt, Germany, Norway, Canada, Japan, Korea, Slovenia, Malawi, and EU. In addition, 5 NGOs have confirmed participation. The goal for 2023 is to bring 30 additional partners.

ENACT Partners will have the opportunity to:

- Showcase and share their NbS commitments & progress.
- Contribute to the NbS Report.
- Access technical support from specialized communities of practice.

## GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

The ENACT Co-Chairs, Secretariat, and Partners will promote efforts which advance the achievement of the initiative's NbS goals, and produce guidance on action toward achieving these goals by both developing knowledge products and coordinating networks of practice on key NbS workstreams.

# OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

## SECRETARIAT

Hosted by IUCN and Egypt, the Secretariat will lead the Implementation of the Initiative and coordinate the work across the different workstreams.

## ADVISORY GROUP

An advisory group of 10-12 state and non-state actor partners will be established to offer strategic advice to the Secretariat and members, and inform crosscutting issues (e.g. alignment of global efforts, means of verification and reporting). The advisory group will meet (mostly virtually) on a recurring biannual or quarterly basis.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Will ensure annual progress through bi-annual meetings to evaluate delivery on objectives to date, identify and resolve barriers, and set goals for the next year. Composed of 8-12 members.

## PARTNERS

The Founding Partners will compose the Steering Committee in year 1. This group will rotate in subsequent years following a process to be agreed by COP28.

## WORKSTREAMS

Hosted by partner organizations, these workstreams will be led, when possible, **by existing communities of practice**. Workstreams are arranged to cover 5 key social challenges and 4 cross cutting concerns which related back to each challenge. These categories may shift from year to year depending on partner priorities.

### Five **Key Social Challenges**:

**Food & Water:** NbS in agricultural landscapes for enhanced food & water access, & environmental resilience.

**Urban & Infrastructure:** NbS in urban contexts to foster sustainable urban development and improve the livability of cities of cities..

**Disaster Risk Reduction:** NbS to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people and the environment to climate change hazards and disaster risks, including in the use of grey-green infrastructure.

**Health & Wellbeing:** NbS to prevent and address health risks (both communicable and non-communicable) associated with ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

**Just Energy Transition:** NbS to facilitate nature positive decarbonization.

### Five **Cross Cutting Concerns**:

**Governance:** How decisions about the design and implementation of NbS are made and enforced.

**Private & Public Finance:** How investment in NbS is generated and sustained.

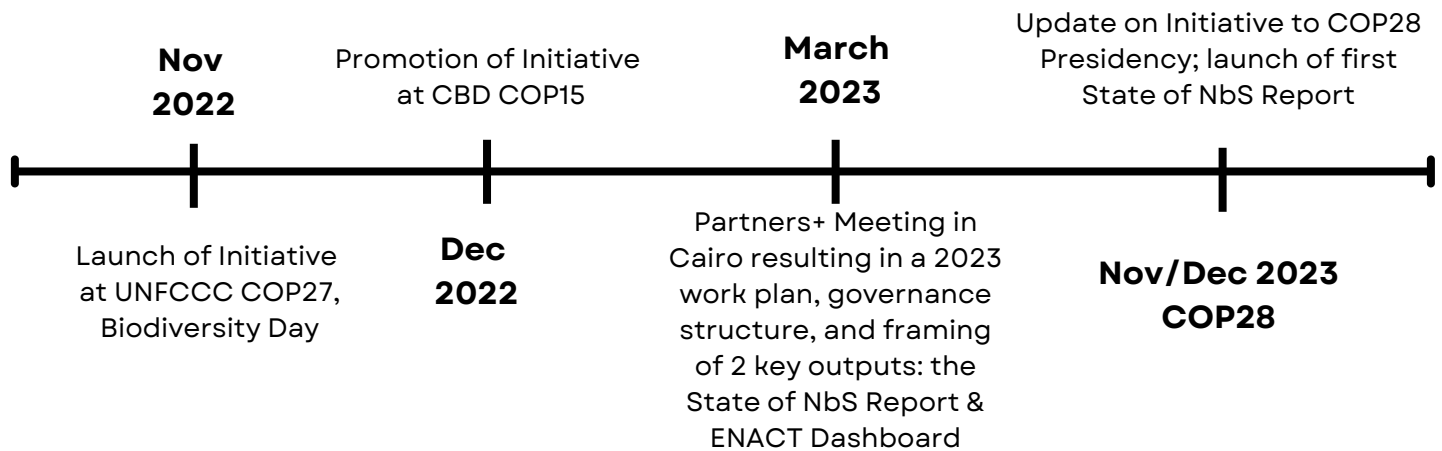
**Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities & Gender Rights:** How the rights of historically marginalized groups are ensured in and through NbS.

**Livelihoods & Jobs:** How NbS can facilitate secure and fair employment and access to livelihoods.

**Technology & Innovation:** How NbS can support nature positive technology & innovation.

# PROGRESS & NEXT STEPS

## KEY MILESTONES



## LOOKING FORWARD

The ENACT partnership (previously under the working title “*Sharm el Sheikh Partnership for NbS*”) was developed in a collaborative process, building on a stakeholder consultation workshop in Cairo in September 2022 that brought together over 60 participants, and a Partners+ meeting in Cairo in March 2023. The draft concept note underwent open peer review.

To further operationalize the partnership, 2023 efforts will focus on (1) Resourcing the initiative, (2) Building the partnership, (3) Launching the State of NbS Report & ENACT Dashboard, and (4) Leading on global communications about high integrity NbS for climate that integrates biodiversity concerns.

To express interest in joining the initiative, all stakeholders are invited to fill in this [Registration Form](#)

For further inquiries and interested potential partners, please contact the COP27 Presidency and IUCN at the following email addresses: [Initiatives@COP27.eg](mailto:Initiatives@COP27.eg) and [ENACT@iucn.org](mailto:ENACT@iucn.org).