

At an official side event at the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), the ENACT Partnership launched its 2024 Nature-based Solutions Discussion Paper. The Paper highlights the most recent scientific evidence on the effectiveness of NbS actions and recommends clear, action-linked policy proposals to support NbS through and across the Rio Conventions.

While the paper makes 3 key policy and action proposals, the following 5 key recommendations and 9 actions from the full paper are crafted toward the UNFCCC and COP29 negotiations.

Incorporate NbS into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) building on evidence-based recommendation



The paper underscores the growing recognition that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are essential for addressing climate change while also contributing to biodiversity conservation and land restoration. The IPCC has confirmed that NbS provide both adaptation and mitigation benefits with high confidence, demonstrating that NbS can play a pivotal role in reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience and contributes to sustainable development goals, particularly in rural areas of the Global South.



Under the UNFCCC, NbS should be prominently featured in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). By outlining how NbS will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, with indicators to track the effectiveness of measures, countries can align climate goals with broader ecosystem restoration efforts and improve social-ecological resilience.

Scaling Up Finance for NbS under Climate Agreements



The discussion paper highlights the need for scaling up finance for NbS, particularly through mechanisms linked to existing climate finance, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other bilateral and multilateral climate finance mechanisms. It recommends that countries under the UNFCCC establish dedicated funding windows or mechanisms specifically for NbS projects within existing funds but financed through additional resources.



These financial frameworks should prioritise grants over loans, ensuring that funding is accessible to marginalised communities, Indigenous Peoples, and local actors who are often at the forefront of NbS implementation. This approach is vital for enabling equitable climate action and advancing both mitigation and adaptation goals.

Harmonising NbS Across the Rio Conventions



A significant focus of the paper is the need for greater coherence and coordination across the three Rio Conventions—UNFCCC, CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), and UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)—to maximise the impact of NbS. By integrating NbS targets into NDCs and NAPs under the UNFCCC, alongside biodiversity and land restoration goals, countries can optimize their resources and avoid duplication of efforts.



The paper calls for aligning policy frameworks across these conventions to foster an integrated approach that addresses climate resilience, ecosystem integrity, and sustainable development. This alignment is particularly important as 2024-2025 marks a crucial window of opportunity for stocktaking, revising and aligning action plans across these conventions.

Inclusive and Equitable Governance of NbS



To ensure the success of NbS under the UNFCCC, the paper emphasises the need for inclusive governance practices that engage Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. It recommends that the UNFCCC incorporate provisions for stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of NDCs and NAPs, ensuring that these groups are actively involved in consultation and decision-making processes.



Strengthening governance structures that promote participation, and transparency will ensure that the benefits of NbS are equitably distributed and that solutions are tailored to the needs of those most affected by climate change.

Monitoring and Reporting on NbS Contributions



The paper advocates for the inclusion of **specific indicators** within the UNFCCC frameworks to monitor the effectiveness of NbS in achieving climate mitigation and adaptation goals. These indicators could include measures such as carbon sequestration, ecosystem restoration progress, and reductions in climate-related risks (e.g., flood protection through wetland conservation).

By tracking these contributions, the UNFCCC can ensure that NbS are delivering tangible results in terms of climate resilience and ecological restoration, while also meeting broader sustainability goals under the Paris Agreement.

Aligning efforts across the Rio Conventions is crucial for fostering an integrated approach at all levels of governance. These conventions, while addressing distinct challenges, are interconnected in their impact on enhancing biodiversity, creating climate resilience and fostering ecosystems integrity. By harmonizing their policies to meet joint targets across the conventions, countries can optimize resource use, and avoid duplication of efforts, ultimately leading to more effective conservation, restoration and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.