



Rio+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development



Cooperazione Italiana
allo Sviluppo
Ministero Affari Esteri



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

SIDE EVENT

**Tuesday, 19 June 2012,
17:30 - 19:00**

RioCentro Convention Center, Room P3-E



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Organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the Government of Italy and a number of other partners to:

- Demonstrate that nature is at the heart of socio-economic development;
- Showcase field experiences in nature-based solutions enabled by equitable and efficient governance in various areas such as food security, forest and water;
- Explore concrete action needed to implement nature-based solutions with good governance at a larger scale, such as appropriate investment in natural infrastructure for development.

WHY IMPORTANT?

Since the Rio 1992 Earth Summit, there has been much progress in the field of socio-economic development. However, the world has also witnessed a drastic rise in social inequalities and environmental degradation as well as biodiversity loss resulting from continuous unsustainable economic models. In addition, inadequate governance systems as well as lack of implementation of international obligations related to sustainable development and of various environmental agreements jeopardize the achievement of sustainable development.

The Rio+20 Conference will address economic, social and environmental dimensions of implementation of the sustainable development framework. To tackle this challenge, two overarching themes have been defined, namely, *Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*; and *Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development*. IUCN works with many partners in projects that put nature at the centre of strategies and action plans to improve the quality of life using a people-centred approach and fair distribution of resources. The Rio+20 Conference is an opportunity to share lessons learned and discuss strategies for scaling up successful models.

One of the objectives of the Rio+20 Conference should be to identify measures to advance implementation of the sustainable development framework. IUCN, together with the African Development Bank and a number of other partners including governments, international organizations and NGOs would like to review examples on how investment in nature is integral in responding to challenges faced by humanity in achieving sustainable development. The importance of nature based solutions in a green economy that ensures livelihoods while preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services with effective and equitable governance arrangements should be emphasized as an implementing tool for achieving a sustainable future.

The IUCN-led side event will put forward four case studies demonstrating the contribution of nature based approaches to economic development and poverty alleviation and constituting models of good governance around use of natural resources. Successful practices which should be studied in further depth include: restoration of forests and benefits of resilience to environmental hazards, water access and management, and biodiversity conservation. These practices support livelihoods and represent an effective framework for action.

PROGRAMME

17:30 – 17:40	<p>IUCN's Perspective on Valuing and Conserving Nature, Nature-based Solutions and Good Governance for Nature and People Dr. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN and Dr. Jane Smart, Global Director, Biodiversity Conservation Group, IUCN</p>
17:40 – 17:50	<p>Nature-based Solutions: Landscape Restoration, Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Mr. Stewart Maginnis, Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group, IUCN</p>
17:50 – 18:00	<p>The Case for Nature as Water Infrastructure in a Green Economy: Experience from Tanzania and South America Dr. Mark Smith, Director, Global Water Programme, IUCN</p>
18:00 – 18:10	<p>Biodiversity Conservation and Local Livelihoods in Africa: Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo) Case Study Dr. Abdirahman Beileh-Ag, Director of the Agro-Industry Department, African Development Bank</p>
18:10 – 18:20	<p>Tourism Case Study: Transboundary Conservation in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area Mr. Ernest Mokgane, Director, Transfrontier Conservation Areas, Department of Environmental Affairs – South Africa</p>
18:20 – 18:45	<p>High Level Panel Discussion</p> <p>Focus on strategies for scaling up successful models of nature-based solutions that contribute to sustainable development, as regards investments, promoting good governance arrangements and empowering stakeholders.</p> <p>The Panel invitees include:</p> <p>Dr. Ashok Khosla, IUCN President H.E. Mrs. Edna Molewa, Minister of Environment, South Africa H.E. Mr. Christian Friis, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, Natural Resources Management Team Leader, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Mrs. Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Mrs. Razan Al Mubarak, Secretary General, Abu Dhabi Environment Agency, United Arab Emirates Mr. Maurice Strong, Former Executive Coordinator of the 1992 Rio UN Conference on Environment and Development</p>
18:45 – 19:00	<p>General Discussion and Wrap Up</p>

