Nature-based Solutions for Societal Challenges

Stewart Maginnis, Global Director, Nature-based Solutions Group
IUCN defines nature-based solutions as: “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”
NbS offer an opportunity that we cannot squander

NbS can achieve 37% of GHG reductions needed to meet 2030 targets -- with biodiversity co-benefits. (TNC report, 2018)

Mangroves alone can reduce annual flooding for more than 18 million people globally. (Waves Partnership)
We know what challenges we face

Policy Coherency

Synergy

Scale
We are ready to go to scale

1. Move beyond pilots and prototypes to design mainstream solutions at scale;
2. Position NbS as a cost-effective complement to established mechanisms (e.g. Insurance);
3. Leverage NbS for multiple benefits across multiple sectors;
4. Enable cross-sectoral policy coherence;
5. Embed NbS into policy frameworks for longevity.

**NEED FOR**

A consistency of approach towards delivering economic and social outcomes with NBS.
A global standard to facilitate NbS

Criteria overview:

1. Societal challenges
2. Design at scale
3. Biodiversity net-gain
4. Economic viability
5. Inclusive governance
6. Balance trade-offs
7. Adaptive management
8. Sustainability

- A facilitative standard for design, verification and scaling up of NbS to realise IUCN’s ambitious transition;

- Based on knowledge co-creation: conservation science, social science, traditional knowledge;

- ‘Crowd-sourced’ drafts through two rounds of open consultation, 500+ people across 100 countries, and 1000+ comments, each comment and response tracked;

- Developed to be compatible with the ISEAL Alliance Code of Good Practice – revised every four years.
Next steps for NbS

Resourcing at scale
• Ensuring NbS featured in all GCF submissions

Positioning NbS within the Climate COP26
• NbS is one of 5 top priorities for the UK Presidency
• IUCN staff seconded to be UK High Level Champion

Establish a governance structure for the new NbS Standard

Create NbS regional and national hubs
• Working with public and private sector to roll-out the new NbS Standard

Enhancing knowledge sharing
• Coordinating with IUCN Members, donors and multi-stakeholder platforms on uptake opportunities.
Now is the time to mainstream NbS.

Thank you.