

Nature-based Solutions & PEACEBUILDING

1 NOVEMBER 2021 | 14.00 CET

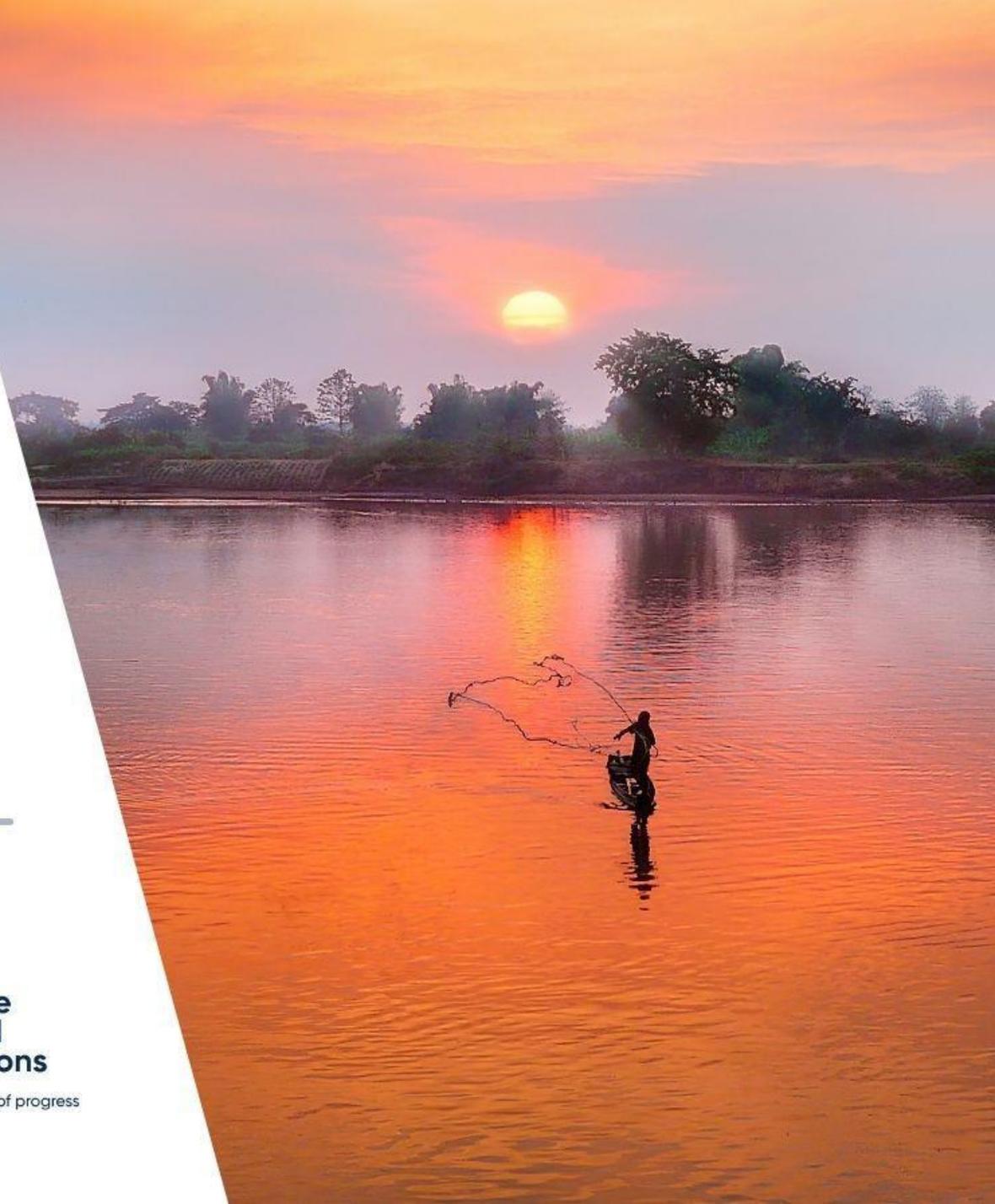
Geneva Nature-based
Solutions Dialogues

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Nature
based
Solutions

The nature of progress



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Nature-based Solutions & **PEACEBUILDING**

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Nature-based Solutions

PEACEBUILDING

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SPEAKERS



Hannah MOOSA



Forum Deputy Manager, IUCN
Moderator



Elaine HSIAO



Environment and Peace Theme Chair, IUCN
Commission on Environmental, Economic and
Social Policy (CEESP)



Carl BRUCH



Director International Programs, Environmental
Law Institute



Alexis CAÑARI



Co-Founder of Hello World &
Rapporteur for ENPax



Wim ZWIJNENBURG



Humanitarian Disarmament
Project Leader, PAX



Shanchita HAQUE



Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent
Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
in Geneva



Ulrika ÅKESSON



Lead Policy Specialist on Environment and
Climate Change, Swedish International
Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)



Caroline SEAGLE



Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental,
Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Theme on Business,
Best Practice and Accountability (TBBPA)

AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction

- Setting the Scene | Hannah MOOSA, IUCN

Panel Discussion

- Environment and peace as cross-cutting themes for conservation, sustainable development and security | Elaine HSIAO, IUCN CEESP
- Adopting a conflict-sensitive approach to Nature-based Solutions | Carl BRUCH, Environmental Law Institute
- Youth Perspectives on Positive Peace: Outcomes of the IUCN Youth Summit | Alexis CAÑARI, Hello World & ENPax
- The Impact of Conflict on the Environment | Wim ZWIJNENBURG, PAX
- Experience and Efforts for Nature-based Solutions for the Purpose of Peacebuilding | Shanchita HAQUE, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Geneva
- A Donor Perspective on Environmental Peacebuilding: Challenges, Opportunities, Policy- and Decision-Making | Ulrika ÅKESSON, Sida
- The stories and voices of environmental defenders across the globe | Caroline SEAGLE, IUCN CEESP

Q&A

Concluding Remarks

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What are nature-based solutions?



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IUCN defines NbS as:

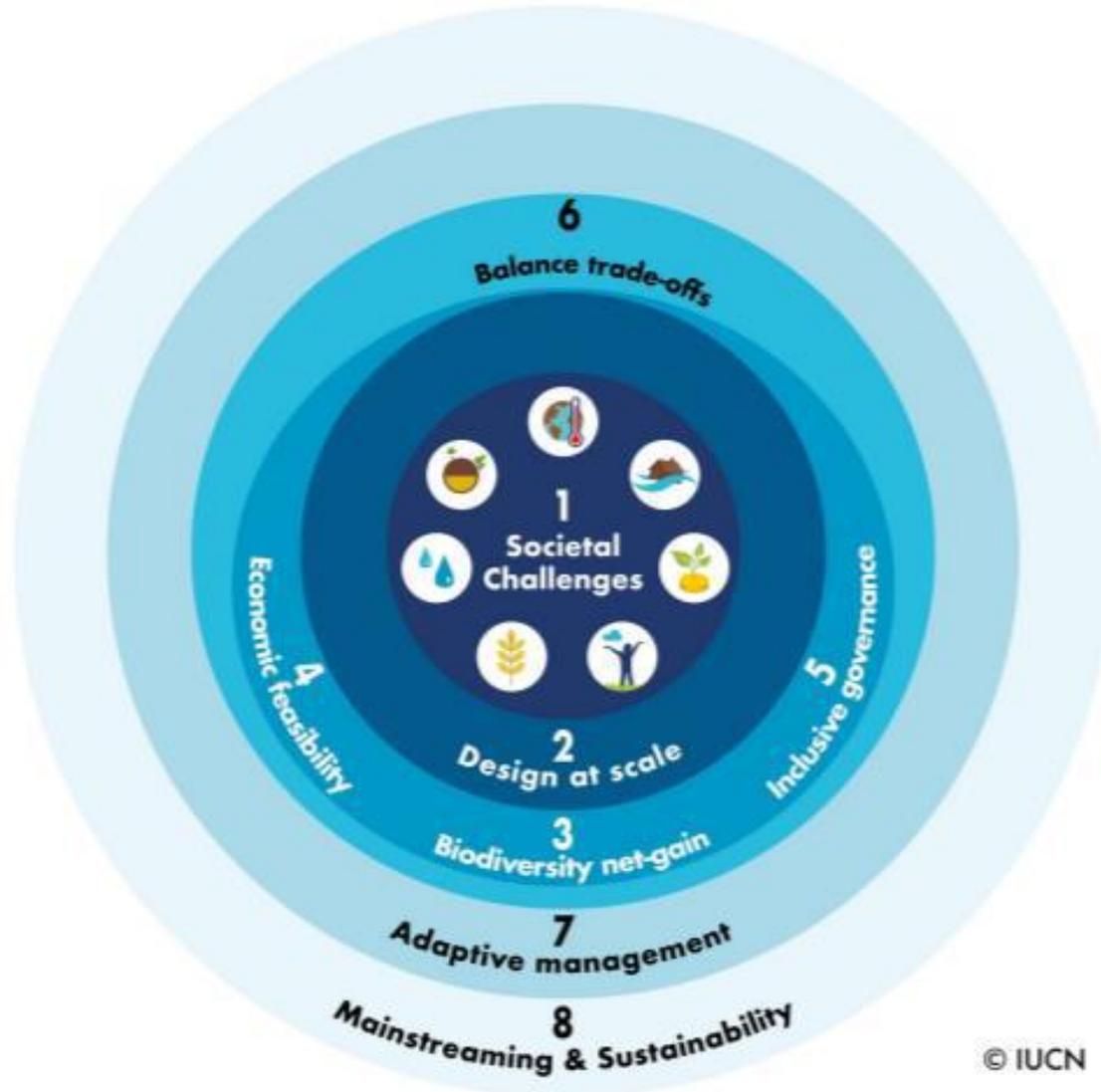
Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security, natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

IUCN Global Standard for NbS™



Nature based Solutions

The nature of progress



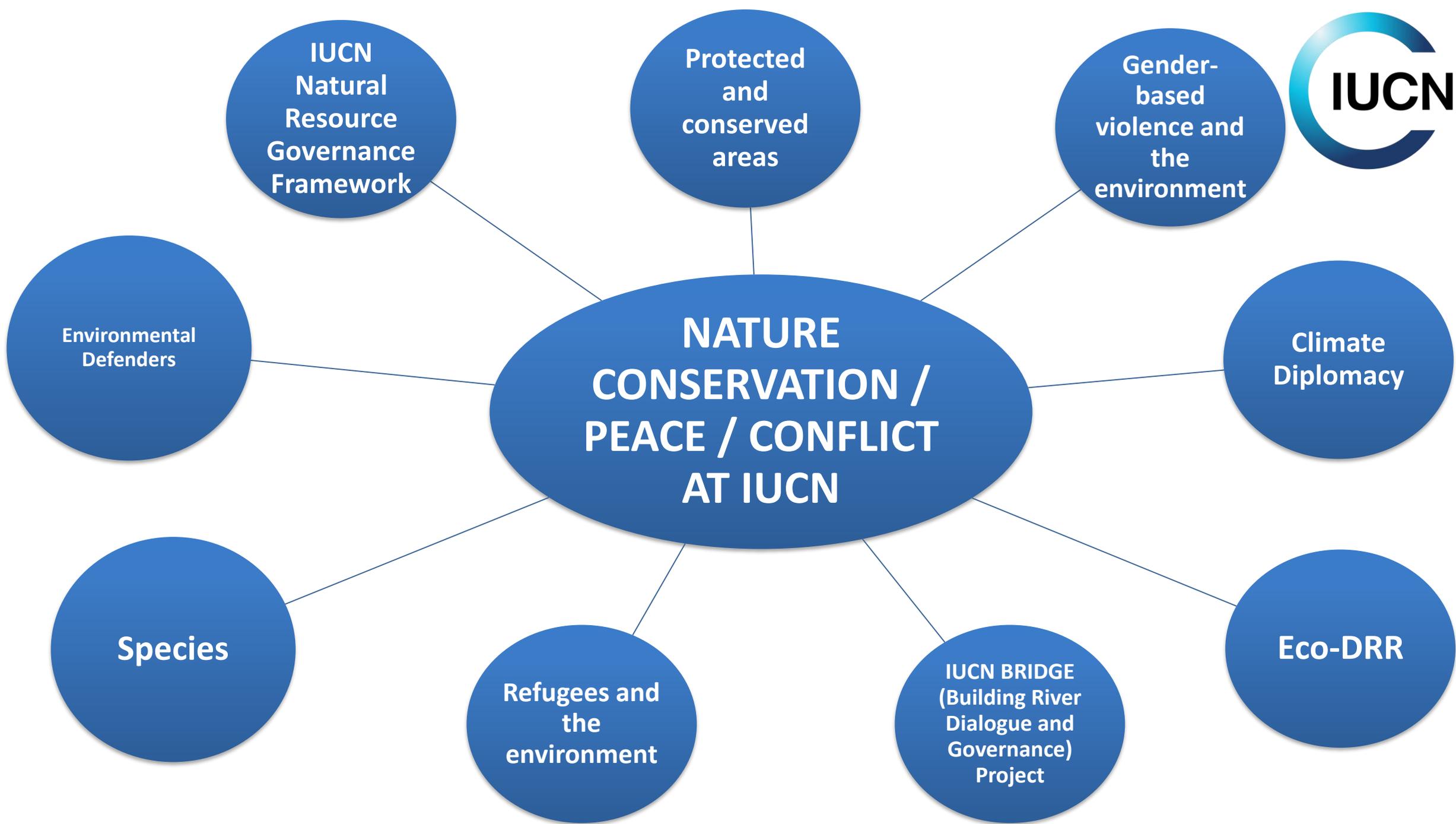
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Nature, biodiversity, peace and conflict

- Interconnections between nature, conflict and the environment
- Environmental peacebuilding
- What scope for nature-based solutions in peacebuilding efforts?





IUCN reports & collaborations on nature conservation, peace & conflict



- IUCN Flagship Report on ***Conflict and Conservation*** (April 2021)
- ***Voices for Peace and Conservation – Podcast*** (CI, PeaceNexus, WWF Germany, IUCN)
- Forthcoming Report on ***Migration, Conflict and Environmental Change*** (IUCN CEESP Theme on Environment and Peace)
- White Paper on the ***Future of Environmental Peacebuilding*** (GPP, PeaceNexus, EnPAX, IUCN collaborative project)
- IUCN – PAX collaboration on ***NbS and Armed Conflict*** (in the run up to UNEA 5.2)

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Elaine HSIAO



Environment and Peace Theme Chairs, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

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Carl BRUCH

Director International Programs,
Environmental Law Institute



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GEF PROJECT INNOVATIONS TO MANAGE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

AVOIDANCE	MITIGATION	PEACEBUILDING	LEARNING
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project site selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Monitoring and early warning • Participatory approach • Local partners • Dispute resolution mechanisms • Adaptive management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political will • Livelihoods • Environmental restoration • Co-benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying learning from previous experiences in project design • Learning during project implementation • Learning during M&E
<p>RISK MANAGEMENT</p>			

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Alexis CAÑARI

Co-Founder of Hello World & Rapporteur
for ENPAX



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Integrating Positive Peace in Conservation Conversations

Alexis Manuela Cañari Moña
Youth Speak Representative
IUCN Global Youth Summit

Outcomes from the IUCN Global Youth Summit



"Healing the human-nature relationship:
Youth perspectives on positive peace"



Clear understanding of the urgent need to restore meaningful relationship between human and non-human beings for reaching positive peace.



Negative Peace
Absence of direct violence



Positive Peace
Deconstructing structures, situations and relationships that cause harmful conflict

Presence of equity, justice and sustainability



Move from the anthropocentric approach towards a development with environmental ethics and ecocentrism. Recognition that humans and non-human beings are part of an interconnected ecosystem.



The human dominant relationship with nature has more than reached its limits: the resulting ecological and environmental damage is now the greatest threat to global security.



Creation of resilience to face current and future challenges.

Key priorities



Transformative and Inclusive Education

-Mainstream education fails in incorporating environmental and ecological citizenship

-Digital and Linguistic barriers(English is not the language of conservation)



Acceptance of the rights of others

-Rights of nature:Reconignizing that human and non human beings equally deserve rights and freedom

-Rights of indigenous communities and ethnic minorities(few legal protection)

A lack of respect for other cosmovision is part of this oppression.



Access to information

Easily access and exchange information, free from restrictions , censorship or repercussion-reporting on climate crises and crimes against environment.



Green Jobs Opportunities

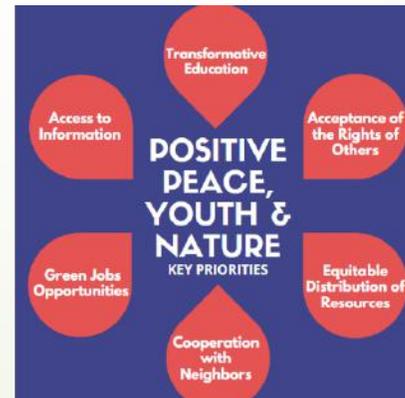
-Skills and professional time to support conservation.
-Multidisciplinary is key.

-Lack of mentorship and funding (IUCN Academy)
-Entrepreneurship & alternative business models.



Equitable distribution of resources and opportunities

-Poor regulation of the extractives and industrial sectors leads to ecological abuses and a lack of equitable benefit-sharing with local communities.
-Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in food security but agricultural poverty arise(intergenerational renewal)
-Youth, indigenous people and other minority groups in decision making spaces
-Understand the meaning of local economies



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Wim ZWIJNENBURG

Humanitarian Disarmament Project Leader, PAX



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How to address environmental damage in relation to armed conflicts and what are avenues for Action for Nature?

- Understanding the challenges through improving data collection and monitoring to improve environmental impact assessments.
- Conflicts have unique environmental features that need tailor made solutions
- Opportunities and limitations on the spectrum of actions for nature
- Finding solution in practice and in policies

Existing examples and ideas of actions for Nature

- In **Iraq**, UNEP is using naturally occurring soil bacteria to decontaminate land from oil spills caused by the conflict
- In Bangladesh, the government in collaboration with UN agencies are setting up reforestation projects in areas with large refugee camps
- In Colombia, NbS are used through collaborative tools and methods are implemented in periphery areas, empowering local communities demanding spatial justice.
- In Sudan, water management through NbS are used to improve access to water sources
- Inclusion of nature-based thinking in green humanitarian response and recovery to deal with, e.g. camp settings, waste managements etc.
- There are opportunities to include Green Infrastructure in rebuilding back better and greener of urban areas affected by armed conflict

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Ulrika ÅKESSON



Lead Policy Specialist on Environment and Climate Change,
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

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Geneva Nature-based Solutions Dialogues - NbS and Peacebuilding

Ulrika Åkesson, Lead Policy Specialist Environment and Climate Change



Environmental peacebuilding (incl NbS) – Sida's view

- **Perspectives** – environment, conflict sensitivity, the human rights-based approach, gender equality and the perspectives of people living in poverty
- **People living in poverty** - agents, rights holders
- **Environmental strategies and actions** need to take conflict sensitivity seriously
- **Peace processes and agreements** need to integrate environment concerns



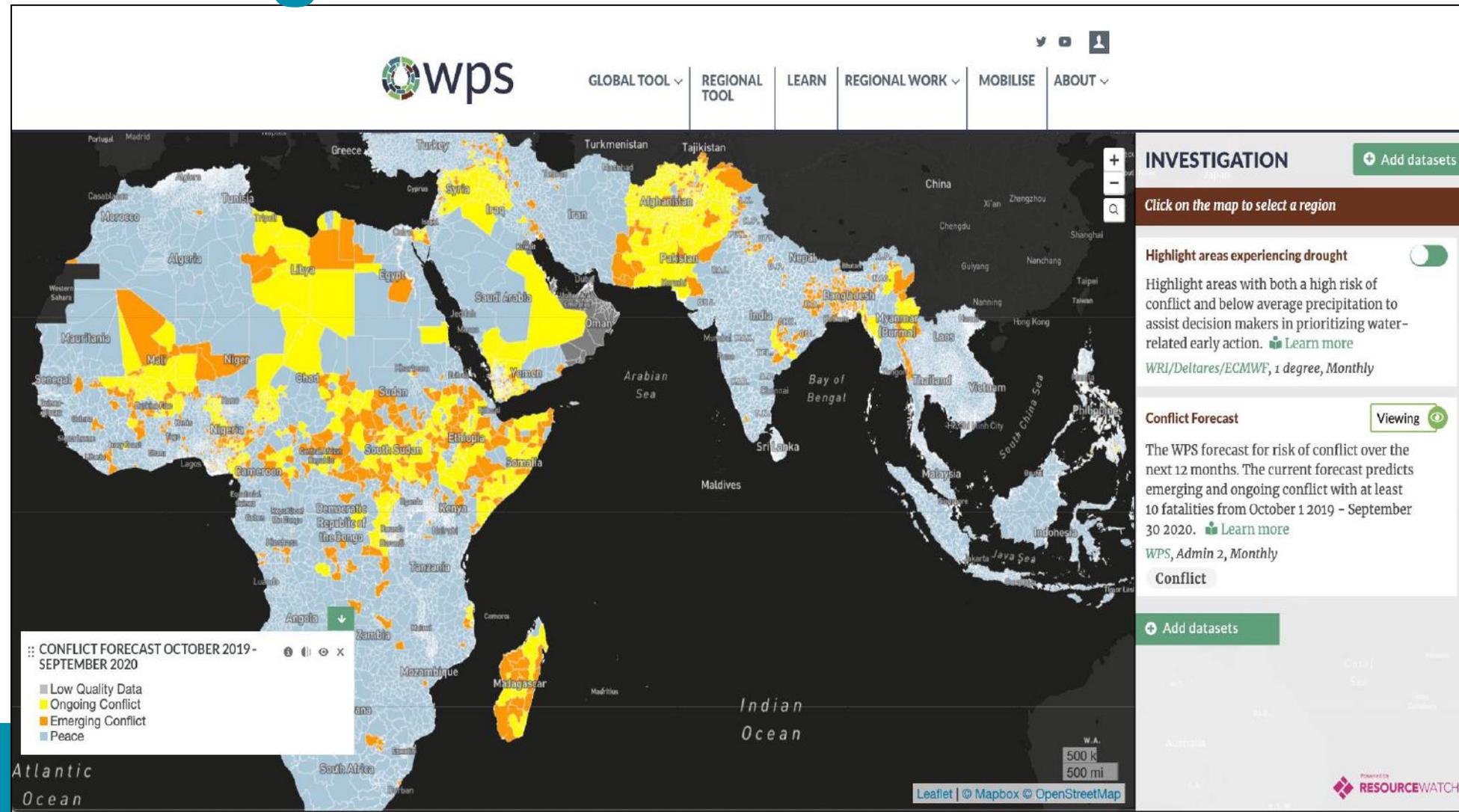
Options for future action

- **Stockholm+50** – a possibility
- **Early warning** signals of climate change as risk multiplier
- **Locally led** conflict-sensitive action for environment and climate action
- **Broad involvement of women and men** who are most affected
- **Agroforestry** - NbS with potential



Example of Sida's support: environment, resource management and conflict

Awareness of the rising conflict risks related to access and control over water resources and protection of water ecosystems globally



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Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Theme on Business, Best Practice and Accountability (TBBPA)

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CEESP
Commission on Environmental,
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Nature-Based Solutions and Peace-Building: Voices and Stories of Environmental Defenders

Caroline Seagle, IUCN-CEESP – email: caroline.seagle@mail.mcgill.ca

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Publication of Policy Matters 22 – three- volume special issue on environmental defenders

- 331 human rights and environmental defenders were killed in 2020, the vast majority of whom were dependent on land, forests and sustainable livelihoods (Front Line Defenders, 2020).
- The greatest threat comes from extractive industries (mining), logging, palm oil plantations, large-scale agricultural expansion, as well as conservation area enclosures and enforcement.
- The stories and voices of environmental defenders across the globe: Special issue of *Policy Matters*
- Links to publication (open-access):
<https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/resources/policy-matters>

Policy Matters

SPECIAL ISSUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLUME I
**DEFENDERS AND
THE MANY FACES
OF REPRESSION**

- *Volume I, Defenders and the Many Faces of Repression*
Providing an overview of the struggles, stories, threats, geographic contexts, and causes of violence against defenders worldwide, this volume provides the central context of why and how environmental defenders need protection. It begins with an introduction by Ameyali Ramos and Philippe Le Billon.

Volume I's cover features Berta Cáceres, who was co-founder of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) and winner of the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize, led the Lenca movement to stop the construction of the Agua Zarca Dam on the Galcarque River. In 2016, the Indigenous leader and nature defender was assassinated in her home on orders of the dam company. In 2021, Roberto Castillo - the former head of the internationally funded dam company Desarrollos Energéticos, or Desa, was found guilty of being co-collaborator in ordering her murder. (Photo caption text by Manuela Picq; Photo ©UN Environment.)

IUCN COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

Policy Matters

SPECIAL ISSUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

SEPTEMBER 2021

**VOLUME II
GRASSROOTS IN ACTION**

Volume II - Grassroots in Action

With guest contributor, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, environmental defender and Coordinator of the Association of Peul Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT), this volume asks the global community to take a stand to recognize Indigenous wisdom and action across the globe. It asks the world to take into consideration local communities actions to protect the environment, describing initiatives taken by defenders to protect the environment and themselves from eviction, landlessness, mining, conservation, and other forms of oppression. It highlights how some conservation policies and practices are themselves a source of persecution of local and environmental land defenders.

Volume II's cover features Mama Fikile Ntshangase, who was an environmental activist and vice-chair of a subcommittee of the Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organization, a community-based organisation that has legally challenged a planned expansion of the Somkhele mine coal mine owned by Tendele Coal Mining Ltd. She was shot dead in her house on the evening of Thursday, October 22, in her home west of Mtubatuba in KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa./© Rob Symons. Background photo: Tendele Mine coal washing facility/© Rob Symons.

Policy Matters

SPECIAL ISSUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDERS

SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLUME III
**CONSERVATION
AND THE NEED FOR
GREATER DEFENDERS
PROTECTION**

- *Volume III - Conservation and the need for greater protection*
- *With guest contributor Manuela L. Picq, rights defender and Professor of International Relations at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador) and Amherst College (USA), this volume presents concrete and powerful calls to action for the conservation community itself, recognizing that conservation can cause more harm than good if it does not take a stand to protect the human rights of land defenders worldwide. Picq and authors in the volume call on the conservation community to embed and uphold human rights in all conservation endeavors to better support and integrate conciliatory solutions based on the biodiversity crisis based on principles of equity, justice, and co-existence.*
- *Volume III's cover features Porlajee "Billy" Rakchongcharoen, who was an Indigenous activist from Thailand, leading a lawsuit against the Kaengkrachan National Park due to the forcible eviction and burning of more than 100 houses belonging to Karen Indigenous peoples. These evictions resulted from the designation of the forest as a protected area by the Thai government in 1979, forcing the displacement of Indigenous villages that lived there for generations. Billy disappeared in 2014, after being arrested by park authorities, and his body was found in an oil barrel in 2019 (Human Rights Watch, 2019).*

***Imagining Otherwise:
Steps forward for the
Recognition of
Indigenous wisdom and
resistance***

**By Hindou Oumarou
Ibrahim**

Available at:

<https://www.iucn.org/news/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/202109/imagining-otherwise-steps-forward-a-greater-recognition-indigenous-wisdom-and-resistance>



Voices of defenders: Calls to Action: (1) – Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

- *Excerpt from the special issue of the CEESP publication Policy Matters, focusing on the stories and voices of environmental defenders. Article by Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim **
 - A call to action:
 - 1. The criminalisation of environmental defenders must stop immediately. No one should be killed, assaulted, driven from the land of their ancestors, or simply marginalised for standing up for our most precious common good: life itself.
 - 2. We need dedicated support, resources, intelligence and funding. Right now, for us, the defenders of the environment, resistance has but one name: action. To do this, we need to be given the means to act.
 - 3. Finally, climate policies and actions need to be more participatory, from design to implementation, which means improving Indigenous participation in decision-making.

Voices of defenders - Calls to Action (2): Manuela Picq

- Manuela Picq: **“Environmental defenders as first guardians of the world’s biodiversity”**
- Available at: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/resources/policy-matters>
- A Call to Action: First, climate action must include human rights. In 2021, the representative of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) asked the United Nations to fully integrate the rights of Indigenous peoples in climate action, in preparation for the COP 26. Inclusion of human rights in climate change initiatives must be a top priority in climate negotiations and climate action, including REDD and REDD+ initiatives.
- Second, international laws must be enforced so as to require, at a minimum, the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of local communities for any land project (extraction or conservation project) on Indigenous and local population’s territories, whether formal land title is held or not. Consent must be given, by Indigenous and local peoples, for mining and other mega-projects, as well as conservation projects.
- Third, we must learn to protect local communities’ ways of life and their situated relationships with the environments in which they live, learning from their example, so that they can continue to protect biodiversity through their own environmental management, knowledge transmission, and cultural values embedded in their languages and lifeways.



Indigenous women protesting against a mega-project in the Philippines.
PHOTO: BAI INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S NETWORK

“Communities are putting their lives on the line because they have no choice. For them, defending nature is not just about taking an ecological stand; it is a matter of survival. If local communities lose the ecosystems upon which they depend, they not only lose their land but also their entire way of life.” – Manuela Picq

Grant me permission

by Rosa Chávez

Grant me permission, spirit of the path,
gift me permission
to walk
through this cement path
they opened in your navel,
through this highway of wind
that cuts through the silence
permission to you too,
birds who pierce the eardrums of steel
permission, stones
permission, plants
permission, animals resisting in the fog.
Let me through the path
let this anger in my disorbited eyes
come out as sweet words,
fine words, shaken, blown up.
let me through
so that my will won't get lost
let me cross the ravine, the hollow
let me please come home
before the volcanoes sing
before the mountains' speech
spits into our mouths.

Kichwa Kañari communities traverse the Andean páramos of Kimsakocha. Páramos are home to endemic species and water factories nurturing rivers and lowlands; yet, they are prey to extractive industries seeking precious metals for global markets. Indigenous and local communities have actively defended Kimsakocha for over two decades. Yet, the government of Ecuador bypasses national and international law on consultation and consent to promote mining in fragile ecosystems, in alliance with global corporations.

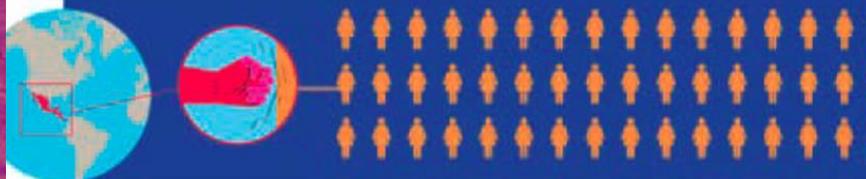
PHOTO: MANUELA L. PICQ



In Mexico and Central America,
a total of

609

agressions against Women
Environmental Human Rights
Defenders (WEHRDs) were recorded
between 2015 and 2016.



The urgency of addressing gender- against women environmental hu

Melissa Luna,^{a)} Laura Sabater,^{b)} Itzá Castañe



Mundano is a Brazilian street artist and activist whose work makes people stop and think about the issues swirling around them everyday. "I use these ads to get people to reflect on the corrupted political system. On all the false promises, and all the awful waste", he explains. This art piece was displayed in Art of Resistance Collective show in Amsterdam in 2019.

Additional thoughts –Nature-Based Solutions and environmental defenders

- Value and accountability in NBS (context of Natural Capital, offsets, green bonds) – must ensure that local and Indigenous communities’ values of nature and land are not sideswept.
- FPIC must not be misused; communities should have the right to say “no” within context of FPIC (encourage rights-based approaches/protections in NBS).
- As we all work together as an IUCN community to promote conservation of nature and diverse valuations of biodiversity, and in order to further protect Indigenous and environmental defenders' rights, we must pay attention to power relationships within the conservation world.
- While different stakeholders (defenders, conservationists, researchers, practitioners, private sector) might use the same language of "Nature-Based Solutions," they might mean different things. Some Indigenous peoples might think of themselves as the “Nature-based Solution.” Meaningful and inclusive dialogues and partnerships with IPLCs must occur if the rights of environmental defenders are to be recognized. Inclusion of local and Indigenous peoples occurs within the context of vast political, social and economic power differentials.



“It’s a generation that I dreamed of as a child, when we – my Indigenous brothers and sisters – were still too often alone in saying that our Mother Earth was sick. This is a generation that should have dreams, but for which we are now on the verge of leaving a nightmare. Yet it is a generation of hope that is dawning everywhere in Europe, North and South America, Africa, the Pacific, and Asia. It is a generation that can finally put an end to this war on nature” – Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim

AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction

- Setting the Scene | Hannah MOOSA, IUCN

Panel Discussion

- Environment and peace as cross-cutting themes for conservation, sustainable development and security | Elaine HSIAO, IUCN CEESP
- Adopting a conflict-sensitive approach to Nature-based Solutions | Carl BRUCH, Environmental Law Institute
- Youth Perspectives on Positive Peace: Outcomes of the IUCN Youth Summit | Alexis CAÑARI, Hello World & ENPax
- The Impact of Conflict on the Environment | Wim ZWIJNENBURG, PAX
- Experience and Efforts for Nature-based Solutions for the Purpose of Peacebuilding | Shanchita HAQUE, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Geneva
- A Donor Perspective on Environmental Peacebuilding: Challenges, Opportunities, Policy- and Decision-Making | Ulrika ÅKESSON, Sida
- The stories and voices of environmental defenders across the globe | Caroline SEAGLE, IUCN CEESP

Q&A

Concluding Remarks

Nature-based Solutions PEACEBUILDING

1 NOVEMBER 2021 | 14.00 CET

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OPEN DISCUSSION

Geneva Nature-based
Solutions Dialogues

GENEVA
ENVIRONMENT
NETWORK


Nature
based
Solutions
The nature of progress



Nature-based Solutions

PEACEBUILDING

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Forum Deputy Manager, IUCN
Moderator



Elaine HSIAO



Environment and Peace Theme Chair, IUCN
Commission on Environmental, Economic and
Social Policy (CEESP)



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Deputy Chair, IUCN Commission on Environmental,
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Nature-based Solutions

PEACEBUILDING

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THANK YOU!



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Best Practice and Accountability (TBBPA)

Nature-based Solutions & WATER

NEXT SESSION

tiny.cc/NbS22Nov

22 NOVEMBER 2021 | 15.00 CET

Geneva Nature-based
Solutions Dialogues

GENEVA
ENVIRONMENT
NETWORK



Nature
based
Solutions

The nature of progress

Geneva Nature-based
Solutions Dialogues

GENEVA
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Nature-based Solutions & **PEACEBUILDING**

1 NOVEMBER 2021 | 14.00 CET

