

G7 Workshops on the role of Nature-based Solutions for biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and meeting peoples' needs
Rome, 27th November 2024
Chair's Summary

AGENDA

Wednesday 27th November 2024 – Workshop NBS	
11:30-11:40	Welcome by G7 IT Presidency and objectives of the workshop
11:40-12:40	1 st session Contributions from international institutions and organizations David Obura, Chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (PBES) Addressing climate change and biodiversity is a question of nexuses Karin Zaunberger, European Commission, DG ENV Nature-based solutions in policies Daniela Rizzi, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability Working on Nature-based Solutions hubs
12:40-12:50	Break
12:50-13:50	Contributions from international institutions organizations Steward Maginnis and Charles Karangwa, International Union for Conservation of Nature Global Standard on NbS Davide Pettenella, University of Padua Navigating Biodiversity, Carbon, and Sustainability Credits: Key Lessons for Effective State Regulation Andrea Romero Montoya and Christophe Besacier, FAO Guidance and capacity strengthening for effective ecosystem restoration through the decade and beyond
13:50-14:20	Break
14:20-15:20	2nd session Illustrative examples by G7 Member States Vanessa Prefontaine (Canada) Lea Socheleau (France) Mathias Bertram (Germany): Valentina Rastelli (Italy): Wataru Suzuki (Japan): Arthur Wroe (UK): Case Prager (USA)
15:20-16:50	3rd session Exchange of views, technical discussion and operational proposals about the implementation of Nature-based Solutions and closing remarks

Chairpersons: Benedetta Dell’Anno, standing in for Laura D’Aprile, Head of Department of Sustainable Development of the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and Chair of the G7 Environment (Italy), Francesco Tomas, General Director for Biodiversity and Sea Protection of the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Italy)

Moderators: Lorenzo Ciccarese, Italian Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Italy), Vittorio De Cristofaro, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Italy), Karin Zaunberger (European Commission, DG ENV)

Background

G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy, and the Environment, tenuto a Torino il 29th-30th April 2024, committed, inter alia, to enhancing synergies between national climate, biodiversity, and land restoration plans to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the Paris Agreement. This includes aligning National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

G7 Ministers emphasized the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), as defined in UNEA Resolution 5/5, to deliver multiple benefits for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being, while fostering sustainable development and economic opportunities. Furthermore, G7 Ministers asked to carry out a workshop on KM-GBF Implementation, looking at how NBS are effectively implemented in practice, working with all interested governments, partners and stakeholders to scale-up the potential of NBS, and paying particular attention to developing countries, particularly most vulnerable ones.

Welcome and opening remarks

Speakers:

- **Benedetta Dell’Anno:** Highlighted the G7’s commitment to scaling up Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for addressing climate, biodiversity, and social challenges. Stressed the urgency of a multilevel governance approach to achieve transformative impacts.
- **Francesco Tomas:** Emphasized the critical role of NbS to address climate change and biodiversity crises and the need to unfold their potential, by reducing reliance on grey infrastructure solutions, enhancing resilience, and balancing ecological and economic priorities.

1st Session: Contributions from international institutions and organizations

Moderator: Lorenzo Ciccicarese

Presentations:

- **David Obura (IPBES):** Urged immediate action to address climate change and biodiversity loss in an integrated manner, highlighting coral reef degradation and imminent loss due to global warming and ocean acidification as a stark indicator. Prof. Obura called for systemic economic reforms and multi-level governance. He stressed the potential of Nature-based solutions to deliver multiple benefits and to contribute to job creation and business opportunities.
- **Karin Zaunberger (European Commission, DG ENV):** Showcased EU and international policies and EU research and initiatives that embed NbS including urban green infrastructure and sustainable agriculture, implementing the EU Green Deal and its strategies, action plans and laws.
- **Daniela Rizzi (ICLEI):** Presented the role of local governments and NbS hubs in fostering urban sustainability. Highlighted the Urban 7 (U7) report on transforming spaces through NbS.

Key takeaways:

- Nature-based solutions are crucial to achieving climate and biodiversity goals.
- Social and environmental safeguards ensure inclusivity, equity, and alignment with UNEA Resolution 5/5.
- Collaboration at all levels is critical, from local to global governance mobilising the public and private sector.

2nd Session: Contributions from international institutions and organizations (continued)

Presentations:

- **Steward Maginnis & Charles Karangwa (IUCN):** Provided insights on the Global Standard for NbS and its on-going revision, emphasizing ecosystem integrity and participatory approaches. Noted the growing private sector interest in NbS projects. The revised Standard shall be launched during the World Conservation Congress in 2025.
 - **Davide Pettenella (University of Padua):** Discussed the challenges of managing biodiversity and carbon credits, underscoring the need for robust state regulations to prevent greenwashing.
 - **Andrea Romero Montoya & Christophe Besacier (FAO):** Highlighted the FAO's contributions to capacity building and effective ecosystem restoration under the current UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
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3rd Session: Illustrative examples by G7 Member States

Moderator: Vittorio De Cristofaro

Country highlights:

- **Vanessa Prefontaine (Canada):** Presented the Nature-Smart Climate Solutions Fund, a CA\$5 billion initiative emphasizing inclusivity and collaboration. 20% of climate finance is dedicated to NbS.
- **Lea Socheleau (France):** Discussed the National Strategy for Biodiversity and the National plan for adaptation to climate change and projects like "Life Artisan" to support local resilience through NbS.
- **Mathias Bertram (Germany):** Introduced a €3 billion Federal Action Plan for NbS for climate, supported by a dedicated National Centre for Competence to promote collaboration and innovation. Encouraged transformative "lighthouse projects."
- **Valentina Rastelli (Italy):** Highlighted substantial investments via the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, including large scale projects like Po River nature restoration and afforestation and reforestation initiatives in urban and peri-urban areas.
- **Wataru Suzuki (Japan):** Shared insights on blue carbon initiatives, Eco-DRR strategies, and an NbS assessment tool.
- **Arthur Wroe (UK):** Reaffirmed the prioritization of NbS, stressing realignment of global financial flows and scaling of holistic solutions. £3 billion allocated for NbS-focused climate funding.
- **Case Prager (USA):** Highlighted the "White House Roadmap for NbS" and the Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative, showcasing an integrated approach to climate resilience.

Exchange of views and closing discussion

Moderators: Lorenzo Ciccarese (Italy), Karin Zaunberger (EU)

Key themes:

1. **Key actors and collaboration:**
 - Private sector, indigenous communities, cities, and farmers' associations are essential players in addition to governments on all levels.
 - Inclusive approaches ensure NbS benefits for all, particularly women and youth.
2. **Opportunities in 2025:**

- Utilize events like UN Oceans Conference, SB 62 & COP30, UNEA7, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress to strengthen commitments and accelerate implementation.
- Focus on sustainable food systems and regenerative economies.
- Focus on job creation and business opportunities.

3. Funding and implementation:

- Phase out harmful subsidies and align financial flows with biodiversity and climate objectives promoting implementation of NbS.
- Explore innovative financing models, including leveraging insurance sector support.

Closing remarks:

- 2025 presents a critical opportunity to accelerate NbS implementation. In this regard the role of governments is crucial, as well of cities and non-state actors is crucial. G7 nations must ensure actionable outcomes and equitable support for developing countries.

Upcoming events:

- Ocean conference UNOC (United Nations Ocean Conference)
- SB62 in Bonn
- COP30 (President Brazil)
- UNEA7
- G20 (South Africa)
- G7
- IUCN World Conservation Congress
- BioSpace25 [Using satellite remote sensing to plan, monitor, report and evaluate the effectiveness of Nature-Based Solutions in the provision of ecosystem services such as climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction, and to empower communities of users]