

Nature-based Solutions to Tackle Climate Change

Wednesday, 5 October 2022 (10:00-14:30 GMT+7)

Description and Training Purpose

The purpose of this training module is to promote the protection and sustainable management of nature-based solutions and the ocean through a better understanding of their multiple services, including their capacity to address the climate change crisis through mitigation and adaptation strategies, based on information and findings from recent publications developed by ESCAP. The module will also present perspectives on engagement of youth and children in nature-based solutions for climate action in the region.

Thematic Background

The importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems, including forests and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to ensure their role for climate adaptation and mitigation was recognized with the adoptions of the Glasgow Climate Pact.¹ Implementing natural climate solutions globally could prevent 10 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually by 2030.² NbS can provide up to 37% of the emission reductions needed by 2030 to keep global temperature increases under 2°C.

Furthermore, though severely affected by human activities, the ocean moderates the climate by taking up over a quarter of global CO₂ emissions annually and provides a range of solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and enhances resilience. Such solutions include, carbon sequestration, which could provide one-fifth of the carbon mitigation needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals by 2050, reducing global greenhouse gas emissions by up to 4 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2030 and up to 11 billion tons in 2050.

Recent ESCAP studies shows that the potential of nature-Based Solutions (NBS) mitigation, including ocean-based solutions to achieving carbon neutrality is significant but insufficiently reflected in nationally determined contributions and need to be better integrated into policymaking. Investments in terrestrial ecosystems and into blue carbon storage for climate change mitigation, and increasing marine protected areas to preserve key ocean ecosystems,

¹ Glasgow Climate Pact available https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf

² The Nature Conservancy (TNC), (n.d), cited in TNC submission to the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance, available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/The%20Nature%20Conservancy%20%28TNC%29.pdf>



especially around mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrasses and coral reefs have been estimated to offer a high return with multiple co-benefits that extend beyond the environment into the social and economic domains.

Recent discussions during the ocean and climate dialogues (SBSTA-UNFCCC), and the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, highlighted the need to strengthen ocean-climate action.

The first part of the session will include a panel discussion on Nature-based solutions to climate change. The second part of the session will include two interactive sessions on selected topics:

- a) Tools and methodologies to show case how increased investments in nature-based solutions could impact NDC commitments
- b) Promotion of ocean-based solutions to climate change through enhanced cooperation in science, research, and innovation. This will include experiences and case-studies from the region.

Training Objectives

Participants in this session will be able to:

- 1) Develop an enhanced understanding of nature-based solutions, including both adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- 2) Discuss case studies and best practices shared during the session;
- 3) Understand recent findings included in working papers, policy briefs, methodologies and reports being developed by ESCAP, which can inform the policymaking and implementation processes;
- 4) Share national-level and local-level practices and success stories from their own countries for the benefit of all participants.
- 5) Enjoy an interactive space with access to experts and policy recommendations that may be implemented in their own countries or government agencies.

Modalities of Training

The training sessions will be conducted in the form of interactive webinars using Zoom and recordings of the webinars will be made available to participants after the sessions on the ESCAP e-learning platform. Active participation is highly encouraged, including the preparation of national/local case studies to showcase during the training.



Session Structure Overview

Date	Time (GMT+7)	Topics	Presenter(s)/ Facilitator(s)	Duration (min.)
5 Oct	10:00 – 10:10	Introduction: Gearing towards carbon neutrality in Asia-Pacific	Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP	10
	10:10- 11:00	Panel Discussion: Nature-based solutions for Climate Change Moderated by Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section		
		This session will engage three to four panellists who will discuss the opportunities and barriers to enhancing the potential of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Opportunities for scaling up investments based on local community, indigenous people and youth empowerment and engagement in all NbS sustainable management will also be discussed		
	11:00	Moderated Q&A Session		30
	11:30	Polls and interactive engagement		10
	11:40-11:45	Recap by moderator		5
	11:45-12:30	LUNCH BREAK		
	12:30 -13:30	Interactive session A on How To: After presenting a practical tool for simulating investments in NbS and impact on NDC commitments and GHG emissions, participants will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on with the simulation tool		60
	13:30-14:15	Interactive session B on How to: After presenting on opportunities for promoting Ocean-based Solutions to Climate Change Through Enhanced Cooperation in Science, Research, and Innovation, participants will be engaged in interactive discussions		45
	14:15-14:25	Group discussion on “Towards COP 27” Feedback from the audience	Sangmin Nam, Director, EDD ESCAP	10
14:25-14:30	Final Remarks	Sangmin Nam, Director, EDD, ESCAP	5	



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