

Natubesedsdutions as ally for developing sustainable metropolis

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INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE AND PEOPLE



Global warming is caused by burning

fossil fuels, destroying nature and

Climate change is a threat to nature

Global warming of 1.1°C has already caused dangerous and widespread disruption to ecosystems and species, including from worsening extreme events and sea-level rise

CLIMATE CHANGE

Nature loss amplifies global warming

Ecosystem conversion, such as deforestation, releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

Nature is a powerful ally in the fight against climate change

Land and ocean ecosystems can act as carbon sinks, which helps regulate the climate and slow down global warming

NATURE

People must safeguard and restore nature

30% to 50% of Earth's land, freshwater, and ocean areas must be conserved to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services on a global scale

Climate change affects people

Melting ice, rising sea levels, worsening extreme weather events and decreased food security are some of the impacts and future risks Rapid, deep and sustained cuts to greenhouse gas

uts to greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors are needed

0 / CO

Human activities drive nature loss

Humans drive climate change-related environmental changes and modify natural habitat for food production



When nature is intact, it can provide more ecosystem services such as carbon storage, climate regulation, and enhanced resilience to climate hazards

PEOPL

Human activities drive nature loss and climate crisis





Source: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

What are NbS?





Nature-based Solutions Nature-derived Solutions



Nature-inspired Solutions

Background of NbS



2008

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) were used by the World Bank to highlight importance of biodiversity conservation for climate change mitigation and adaptation

2016

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defined NbS



Cohen-Shacham, E., Walters, G., Janzen, C. and Maginnis, S. (eds.) (2016). Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xiii + 97pp

Defining NbS



Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

IUCN definition	European Commission definition
Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore	Living solutions inspired by, continuously supported by
natural or modified ecosystems that address societal	and using Nature designed to address various
challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously	societal challenges in a resource efficient and
providing human well-being and biodiversity	adaptable manner and to provide simultaneously
benefits.	economic, social and environmental benefits. (see
	Maes & Jacobs, 2015)

overall goal of addressing major societal challenges through the effective use of ecosystem and ecosystem services

emphasises the need for a well-managed or restored ecosystem to be at the heart of any NbS

broader and more emphasis on applying solutions that not only use nature but are also inspired and supported by nature

Engineered solutions vs NbS



	Engineered Solutions	Nature-based Solutions
Advantages	Precise and targeted interventionsCan be implemented relatively quickly	 Promotes biodiversity Multiple benefits for human and nature simultaneously
Disadvantages	 Can disrupt natural ecosystems May have limited ecological benefits Relies on finite resources 	 May need longer implementation time Relies on natural processes(ie. less control)





NbS may complement / even replace engineered infrastructure

The NbS framework





Published in 2016

IUCN

Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges

Editors: E Cohen-Shacham, G Walters, C Janzen, S Maginnis



Guidance for using the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions

IUCN

A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of Nature-based Solutions First edition



OAFD CEM RETRIEVENT





NbS to address global societal challenges



NbS to address global societal challenges





An example of WWF's work in Hong Kong: *Gei wai* restoration and mangrove planting



Dredging and reprofiling

Planting of mangrove seedlings Constru

Construction of septic tanks

The three main types of NBS



Type 1. Use of natural ecosystem: Protect intact forest to mitigate climate change

Type 2. Manage/restore ecosystem:

Plant trees to restore forest to mitigate climate change

Type 3. Create new ecosystem:

Green roof to mitigate climate change





NbS is an umbrella concept of different ecosystembased approaches



	X		7 societal challenges	Category of NbS approaches	Examples
NbS Framewo		3 types	1. Ecosystem protection approaches Аьс	Area-based conservation (AbC) approaches including protected area management	
		5 approaches	2. Issue-specific ecosystem-related approaches	Ecosystem-related adaptation (EbA) Ecosystem-based mitigation (EbM) Climate adaptation services Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco DRR)	
Proseción Issue-specific Infrastructure Management Ecosystem-based approaches Restoration			especific Infrastructure Management Restoration	3. Infrastructure-related approaches	Natural infrastructure (NI) Green infrastructure (GI)
				4. Ecosystem-based <u>management</u> approaches EbMgt	Integrated coastal zone management Integrated water resources management
			Social and the social set	5. Ecosystem restoration approaches	Ecological restoration (ER) Ecological engineering (EE) Forest landscape restoration (FLR)
- Hum		Iman y	Crefal Challens		
			Biodivers.		12

IUCN Resolution 069 – Principles for NbS



	7 societal challenges
work	3 types
-rame	5 approaches
NbS I	8 principles
	8 criteria

Principle 1	NbS embrace nature conservation norms and principles.
Principle 2	NbS can be implemented alone or in an integrated manner with other solutions to societal challenges.
Principle 3	NbS are determined by site-specific natural and cultural contexts (incl. traditional, local and scientific knowledge).
Principle 4	NbS produce societal benefits in a fair and equitable way in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation.
Principle 5	NbS maintain biological and cultural diversity and the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time.
Principle 6	NbS are applied at a landscape scale.
Principle 7	NbS recognize and address the trade-offs between the production of a few immediate economic benefits for development, and future options for the production of the full range of ecosystem services.
Principle 8	NbS are an integral part of the overall design of policies, and measures or actions, to address a specific challenge.

From definitional principles to operational framework



Definitional / Conceptual framework Operational framework 8 Principles: **Global Consultation** 8 Criteria (and 28 indicators): Embrace nature conservation Can be implemented with other solutions Missing terms: Societal challenges 1. to societal challenges ۲ Adaptive Design at scale 2. Are determined by site-specific natural and management & cultural context **Biodiversity** net-gain 3. governance 4. Produce societal benefits in a **fair and** Effectiveness **Economic** feasibility ۲ 4. 8 equitable way

- Maintain **biological and cultural diversity** 5.
- Are applied at a **landscape scale** 6.

1.

2.

3.

- Recognise and address the trade-offs 7. between immediate economic benefits for development, and future production of ecosystems services
- 8. Are an **integral** part of the overall design 2014-2016

- Uncertainty ۲
- Multi-stakeholder ۲ participation
- Temporal scale & ٠ Long-term stability

2017-2018

- 5. Inclusive governance
- 6. Balance tradeoffs
- Adaptive management 7.
- 8. **Mainstreaming** and **Sustainability**

2018-2020

IUCN Global standard for NbS





Purpose:

- Set a common basis of understanding for NbS
- Provide a robust framework, to design, implement, assess, adapt and improve NbS

Audience: project managers, landscape planners, development practitioners, conservationists, policy makers, finance sector representatives (donors and investors),governments and planners.



8 criteria, 28 indicators

Back to Hong Kong What challenges we are facing?

- How NbS can help? \bullet

WWF PowerPoint content example

Nature in Hong Kong



25.5% Hong Kong land is urban/ built-up land, 74.5% is non-built-up land

About 85% of our population are living within 3km from a country park and 90% within 400m from a park



Habitat diversity in Hong Kong



Hong Kong is rich in biodiversity Why?

- Tropical location
- Large variety of environmental conditions due to steep topography



Coral Communities

Streams and Rivers

Areas https://bih.gov.hk/en/habitats/index.html

Species diversity in Hong Kong

WWF

- 3 300 species of vascular plants
- 55 species of terrestrial mammals
- 570+ species of birds
- 194 species of freshwater fish
- 90 species of reptiles
- 25 species of amphibians
- 245 species of butterflies
- 131 species of dragonflies



Ting Kok Tree Climbing Crab



Hong Kong Bentwinged Firefly



Hong Kong Paradise Fish



Hong Kong Oyster



Mountain Crab

Hong Kong Camellia



Hong Kong Cascade Frog

Hong Kong Newt



Hong Kong Azalea



Hong Kong Clubtail

Just newly described in 2023



Tripedalia maipoensis

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https://bih.gov.hk/en/fast-facts/species-named-after-hong-kong/index.html

Biodiversity loss in Hong Kong





Wetland loss

Lowland habitats are particularly vulnerable to loss and degradation

Wetland type	Area in 1999 (ha) ^a	Area in 2020 (ha) ^b	Net change	% change	
Reservoirs	2,477	2,480	3	0.1	
Aquaculture ponds	1790	1,590	-200	-11.2	
Drainage channels	423	720	297	70.2	
Rivers/streams/creeks	393	460	67	17.0	
Wet agricultural land	2,786	290	-2,496	-89.6	
Marshland (5% of this area is brackish)	2,101	1,100	-1,001	-47.6	
Total	9,970	6,640	-3,330	-33.4	

^bData retrieved from AFCD (2020).

Biodiversity loss in Hong Kong





Threatened species increased by almost 40% to 106 species in 10 years in Hong Kong

Number of threatened species



Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (2021) Hong Kong Biodiversity and Conservation: 10-year review against Convention of Biodiversity. 32pp

Pheasant-tailed Jacana used to breed in Hong Kong but breeding population has been driven to local extinction



Eurasian otter is now the most threatened mammal in Hong Kong



Biodiversity loss in Hong Kong





Declining trend of Chinese White Dolphin in Hong Kong



Hong Kong has the second-highest per-capita seafood consumption in Asia, and is the world's eighth-largest seafood consumer

"Records show that, decades ago, Hong Kong had such high yields of seafood that it supported 90% of local demand. Today, at least 90% of the seafood we eat has to be imported as our waters are so overfished they can no longer support the local appetite."

Giant yellow croaker (Chinese Bahaba), taken in 1993 in Castle Peak Bay.

In Western Hong Kong there used to be a fishery for this species but the species is almost extinct today because of overfishing and lack of management.

The species only occurs in Hong Kong and Mainland China.



Urban development in Hong Kong





Northern Metropolis Development Strategy released in 2021



Climate change in Hong Kong









COASTAL RISK SCREENING TOOL

COMPARISON: LONG-TERM SEA LEVEL OUTCOMES

Climate and energy choices this decade will influence how high sea levels rise for hundreds of years. Adjust the sliders below to compare the outcomes of different warming scenarios. Which legacy will we choose?



Video Tutorial [7]



HongKong International Airport





Data Source:

https://choices.climatecentral.org/#15/22.29 53/114.1706?compare=temperatures&carbo n-end-yr=2100&scenario-a=warming-2&scenario-b=warming-4















Climate change and disaster risk in Hong Kong





- Most studies projected an increase in tropical cyclone intensity.
- The proportion of very intense tropical cyclones is expected to increase.
- Tropical cyclone related precipitation rate will increase in a warmer climate.



Tropical cyclone intensity (maximum sustained wind speed) and tropical cyclone related rainfall rates increase

Data from HKO

Disaster risk in Hong Kong





- <u>Storm surge risk will be exacerbated by future sea level rise and projected increase in tropical cyclone intensity.</u>
- Increased impacts of storm surge and sea level rise on <u>coastal structures</u> and increased <u>coastal</u> <u>inundation risk</u>.





Human health issue in Hong Kong







Last month, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) revealed the results of a government-commissioned study. The researchers interviewed 6,082 youth aged six to 17, as well as their parents, between 2019 and 2023.

The study found that 24.4 per cent of children and adolescents had experienced at least one mental health issue in the past year. Half of them were suffering from two or more mental illnesses at the same time. More than 8 per cent of secondary school students said they had thought about suicide.

 Over the next two academic years, HK\$60,000 will be given to schools and HK\$20,000 will be given to parent-teacher associations

 An Education Bureau circular has advised schools to make the well-being of students the priority 香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Connection of children to nature brings less distress, hyperactivity and behavioural problems - now measurable with a novel scale developed by HKU scientist 10 Jan 2019



Food security in Hong Kong







- Only 5.7% land in Hong Kong is agricultural land
- Around 95% food in Hong Kong is imported
- Hong Kong is one of the top markets in the world for food and beverages, processed, fresh, and frozen gourmet products. Hong Kong is the 6th largest export market for U.S. consumer-oriented agricultural products, by value
- Nomura's 2019 "Food Vulnerability Index" ranked Hong Kong as the world's 42nd most vulnerable place among 110 places

Water issue in Hong Kong





Unlike developing countries, water supply may not be a critical problem in Hong Kong but water pollution is still a threat



Existing and potential NbS in Hong Kong





The 2 existing NbS case studies

RSITY NET-GAIL

	Mai Po Nature Reserve	Organic farming			
			IUCN Global Standard for NbS Self-Assessment		
Nature of the NbS	Active management of wetland protected area	Certified organic farm	We take IUCN criteria as self assessment too calculate each intervention's % match against		
Biodiversity benefit	Wetland wildlife and ecosystem	Farmland organism and ecosystem	adhere to IUCN NbS Global Standard		
Climate change mitigation	Carbon sequestration	Carbon sequestration, Reduce carbon footprint due to import	IUCN GLOBAL STANDARD FOR NBS: SELF-ASSESSMENT SOCIETAL CHALLENGES SOCIETAL CHALLENGES		
Disaster risk reduction	Flood, storm surge		Stand of the stand		
Economic/ social benefit	Green job	Local economy	MAI PO NATURE RESERVE MAI PO NATURE RESERVE		
Human health benefit	Nature appreciation and education	Healthy food	ELLER O O FUNCTION ELLER O O		
Food security	Indirect support to fisheries	Diverse crops	THE DEST THE STATE STATE		
Water security		Reduce watering demand			

The 3 potential NbS projects

		Mai Po Nature Reserve	Organic farming	Marine protected area enhancement by coral reef restoration	Hillside restoration in Northern Metropolis	Reviving Kuk Po
Nature of the NbS		Active management of wetland protected area	Certified organic farm	Coral reef restoration & marine protected area	Forest restoration	Sustainable livelihood in rural landscape
	Biodiversity benefit	Wetland wildlife and ecosystem	Farmland organism and ecosystem	Marine organism and ecosystem	Native forest plant and ecosystem	Wetland and farmland wildlife and ecosystem
	Climate change mitigation	Carbon sequestration	Carbon sequestration, Reduce carbon footprint due to import		Carbon sequestration	Carbon sequestration
۲	Disaster risk reduction	Flood, storm surge			Landslide, hill fire	Flood, storm surge
	Economic/ social benefit	Green job	Local economy	Green job	Green job, development in green infrastructure	Green job, income to local
Y	Human health benefit	Nature appreciation and education	Healthy food	Recreational activities	Recreational activities	Recreational activities
	Food security	Indirect support to fisheries	Diverse crops	Indirect support to fisheries	Indirect support to orchards	Rice and other crops
	Water security		Reduce watering demand		Irrigation water supply	48

Developing sustainable metropolis with NbS

Part I: NbS Standard Part II: Guidance IUCN IUCN Detailed descriptions Each criterion with Guidance for using the IUCN Global Standard for brief guidance, of rationale and **IUCN** Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions Nature-based Solutions indicators, case-study requirements behind A user-friendly framework for the verification, A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS design and scaling up of Nature-based Solutions and informative each criterion and graphic indicator

Part III: Self-Assessment

Excel sheet with each criterion and indicator, 4 assessment levels and guiding questions for assessment

Criterion 2: Design of NbS is informed by scale

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

Who we are

- WWF was founded in 1961
- WWF is in over 100 countries, on 5 continents
- Over 5 million supporters worldwide
- Over 5,000 staff worldwide
- WWF-Hong Kong was established in 1981, to deliver solutions for a living planet
- WWF-Hong Kong has over 35,000 individual financial supporters

Our mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity,
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

together possible ...

WWF-Hong Kong

WWHONG KONG

What we do

WWF-Hong Kong manages conservation reserve, education centres and sustainability programmes in Hong Kong.

DISCOVER OUR WORK

For truly global conservation impact, we organise our work around these areas:

Mai Po Nature

Reserve

together possible...

Working to sustain the natural world for people and wildlife 為人類及野生生物延續大自然 together possible wwf.org.hk © 1986 Panda symbol WWF ® "WWF" is a WWF Registered Trademark © 1986 熊貓標誌 WWF, ® "WWF"是世界自然基金會的註冊商標

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