Nature-based Solutions
- from definition to implementation -

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Nature-based Solutions in the Mediterranean region – Marseille, January 2019

IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature

- Established in 1948, IUCN has grown into the largest environmental network
- Membership Union, composed of government and civil society organisations
- Every 4 years, World Conservation Congress (WCC2020 in Marseille)
- Congresses have produced key international environmental agreements (*e.g.* CBD, World Heritage Convention, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, CITES)
- Three main parts:

Member organisations	6 Commissions	Secretariat
1,300 member organisations, incl. States & government agencies, NGOs, academic Institutions, business associations	**13,000** volunteer experts CEM WCPA World Commission on Protected Areas SSC Species Survival Commission World Commission on Environmental Law CEESP CEC Commission on Education and Communication	• **900** staff in 50+ countries • Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland • 8 Regional, 2 outpost, country & project offices

Contents

1. General background on NbS
2. IUCN's framework for NbS
3. Link to related concepts
4. Examples of NbS interventions
5. Global NbS standards

Evolution of the Nature-based Solutions Concept

Use of the term

IUCN UNFCCC position

NbS - 1/3 of IUCN's Global Programme

Resolution 069

Analysis of NbS principles

IUCN NbS Standards

WCC2012

WCC2016

2002 2005 2008 2009 2010 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

MEA

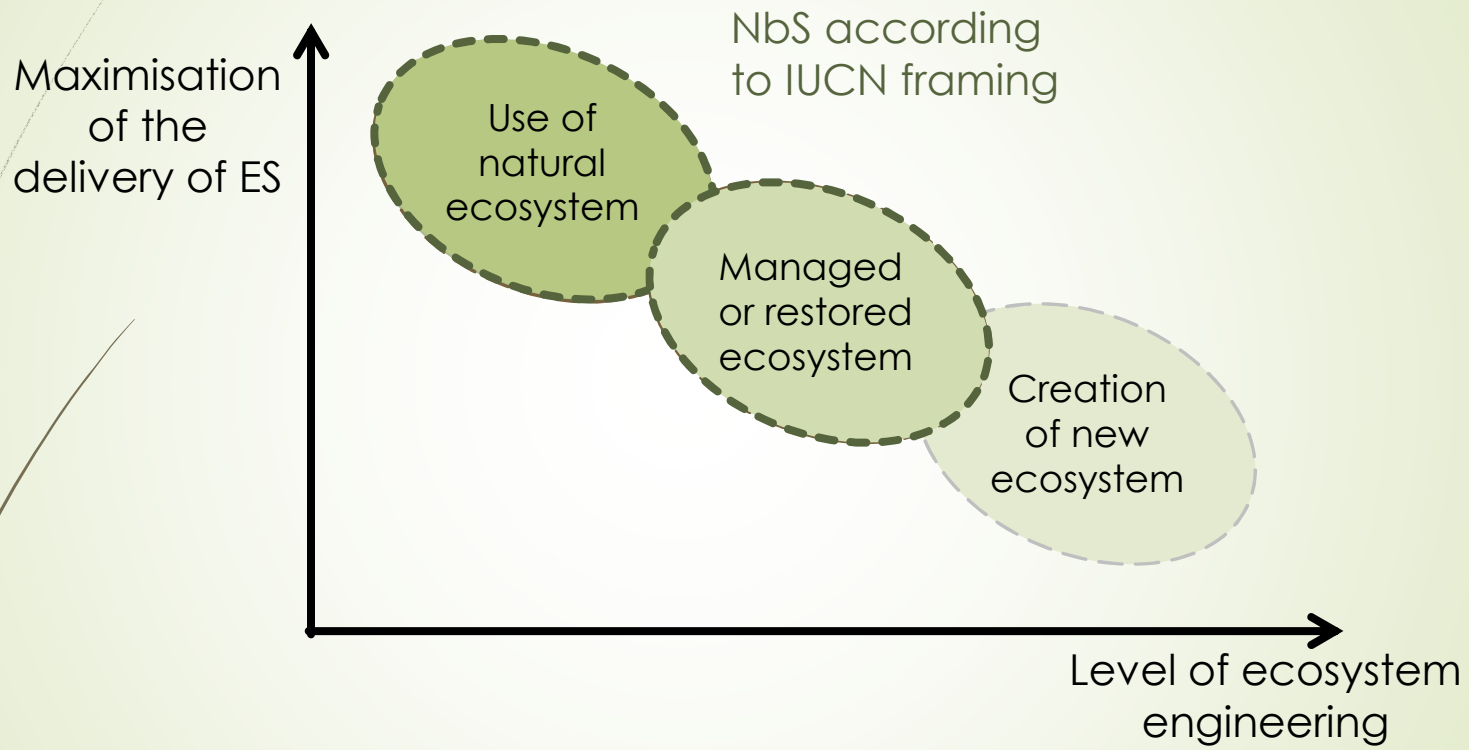
World Bank report

Natural Solutions report

Biodiversa workshop

NbS at core of EU Research and Innovation Programme

Nature-based Solutions typology



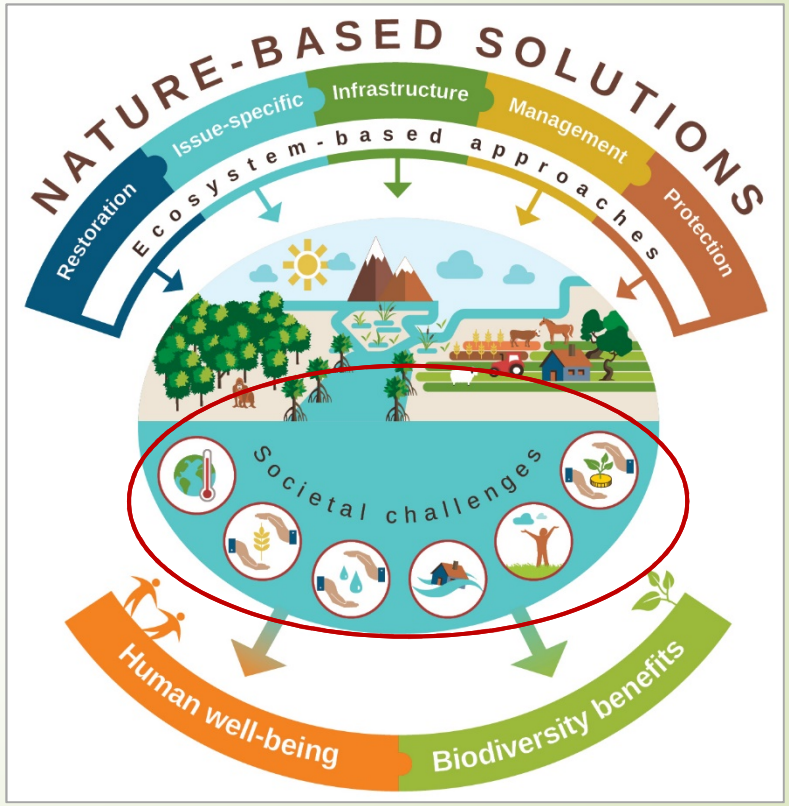
Adapted from: Balian E. et al., 2014. Outputs of the Strategic Foresight workshop "Nature-Based Solutions in a BiodivERsA context", Brussels. BiodivERsA report, 45 pp

IUCN's definition for Nature-based Solutions

"Actions to protect, manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges*, effectively and adaptively, providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits."

(WCC-2016-Res-069-EN)

** Societal challenges: climate change, food security, water security, human health, natural disasters, social and economic development.*



Preliminary principles for Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based Solutions:

1. **Embrace nature conservation** norms (and principles);
2. Can be implemented **alone or in an integrated manner** with **other solutions to societal challenges;**
3. Are determined by **site-specific natural and cultural contexts** that include traditional, local and scientific knowledge;
4. Produce **societal benefits** in a fair and equitable way, in a manner that promotes transparency and broad participation;
5. Maintain **biological and cultural diversity,** and the ability of ecosystems to evolve over time;
6. Are applied at a **landscape scale;**
7. Recognise 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 ecosystems services;
8. Are an **integral part of the overall design of policies**, and measures or actions, to address a specific challenge.

NbS in global environmental policy

- NbS can address several SDGs:

- NbS could be incorporated as a major tool to mainstream biodiversity, and for joining the three Rio conventions (UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD) (Side event #2864 – CBD COP – Dec 2018)

Different types of Nature-based Solutions interventions

1. Ecosystem restoration approaches

ER EE FLR

2. Issue-specific ecosystem-related approaches

EbA EbM Eco-DRR

3. Infrastructure-related approaches

GI NI

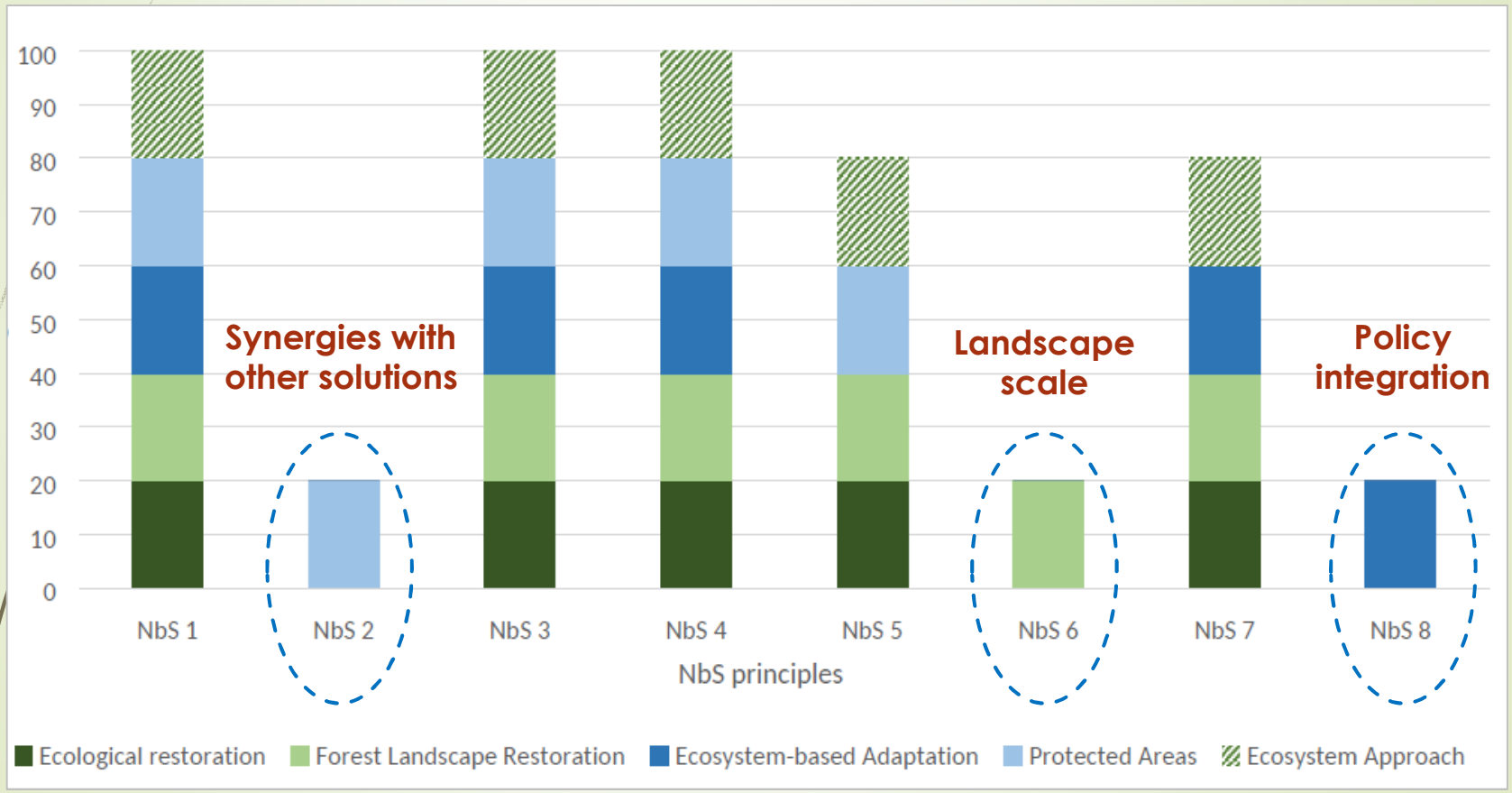
4. Ecosystem-based management approaches

EbMgt

5. Ecosystem protection approaches

AbC

Links between NbS principles and principles in five other frameworks



Cohen-Shacham et al., under review

NbS used in conjunction with infrastructure development and protected area conservation

Examples of Nature-based Solutions in practice

Spain: Developing the Barcelona Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Plan

BioBlitz event in Barcelona

Photo credit: Ajuntament de Barcelona

Community gardens

Photo credit: Ajuntament de Barcelona

Examples of Nature-based Solutions in practice

Jordan: Securing rights and restoring lands for improved livelihood

EbA EbMgt

Planting native vegetation

Photo credit: IUCN ROWA

What are we standardizing?

The *use* of Nature as solution for societal challenges

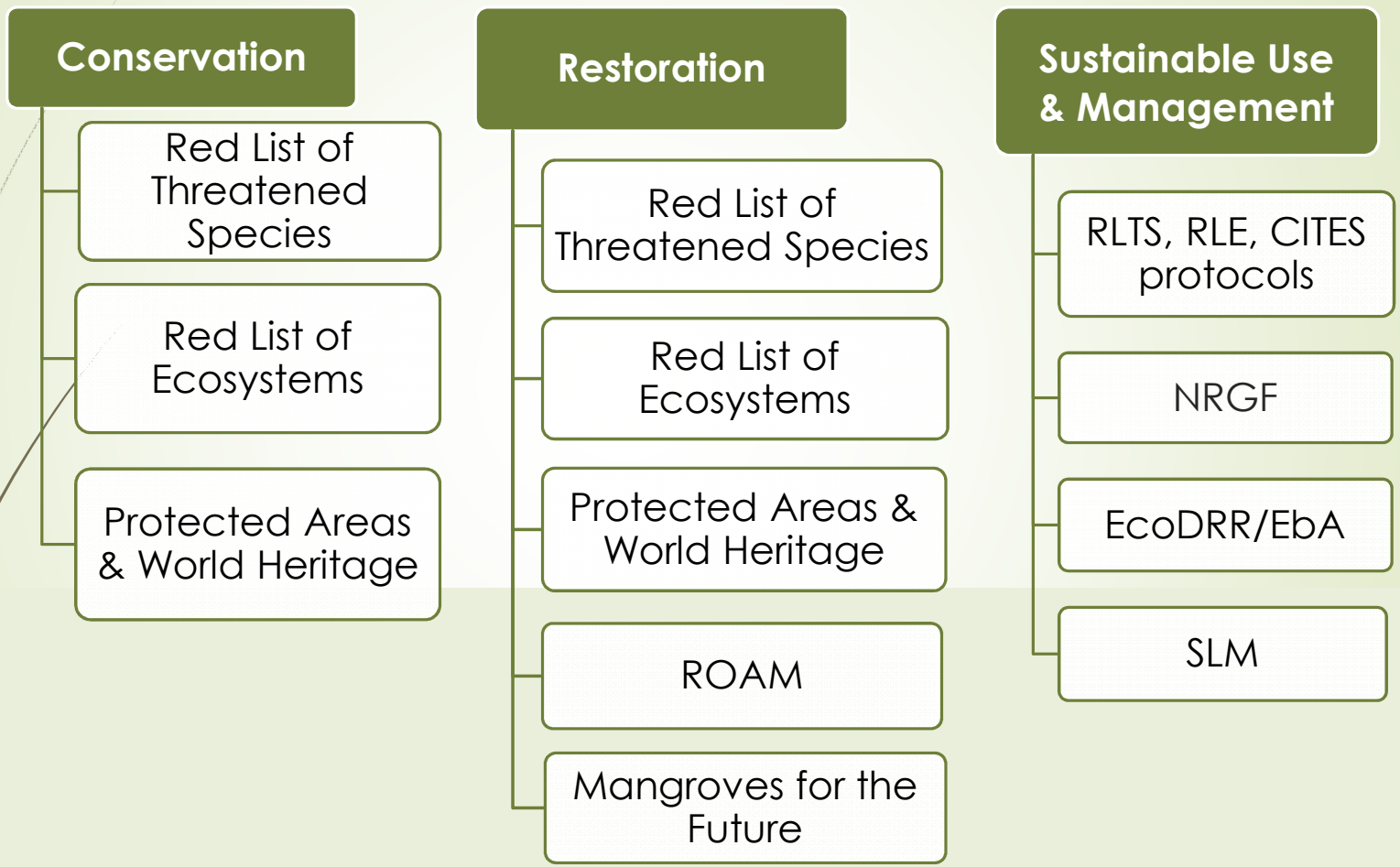
Why do we need a standard for NbS?

- ✓ Ensure quality of the NbS interventions
- ✓ Safeguard nature from overexploitation
- ✓ Build common language and understanding
- ✓ Incentivize positive sustainable change
- ✓ Engage stakeholders

Why are we setting a global standard?

- ✓ Apply it across a wide range of contexts and sectors
- ✓ Guide policy formulation
- ✓ Be relevant to the private sector
- ✓ Actions and impact at scale

Building on Existing Work



Using IUCN's Red List of Ecosystems when implementing NbS

1. During the design phase

➡ RLE as a planning tool for NbS:

- to identify priority areas for the implementation of NbS
- to develop scenarios for different NbS interventions

2. During the implementation phase

➡ RLE as monitoring tool for NbS:

- to monitor defined threats
- to monitor the effectiveness of NbS

RLE could be a helpful methodology to apply in your case-study

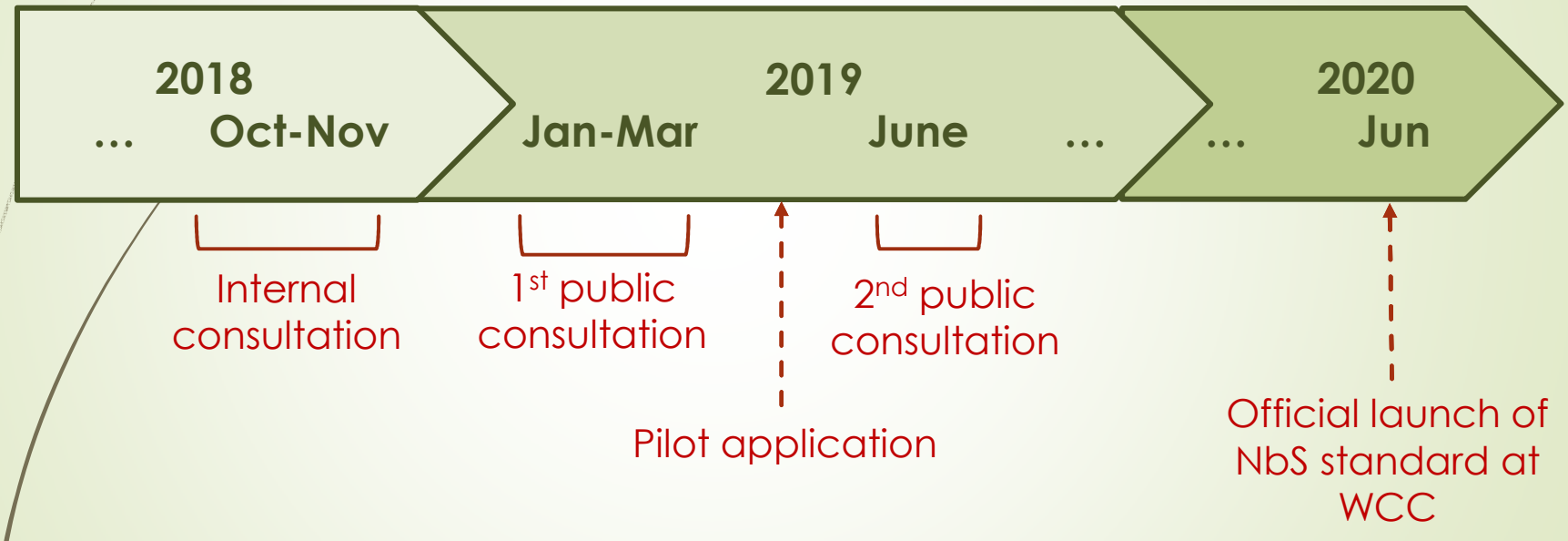
Work in progress ➡ your input will be very valuable!

Global standard for Nature-based Solutions

7 proposed criteria (and 33 indicators):

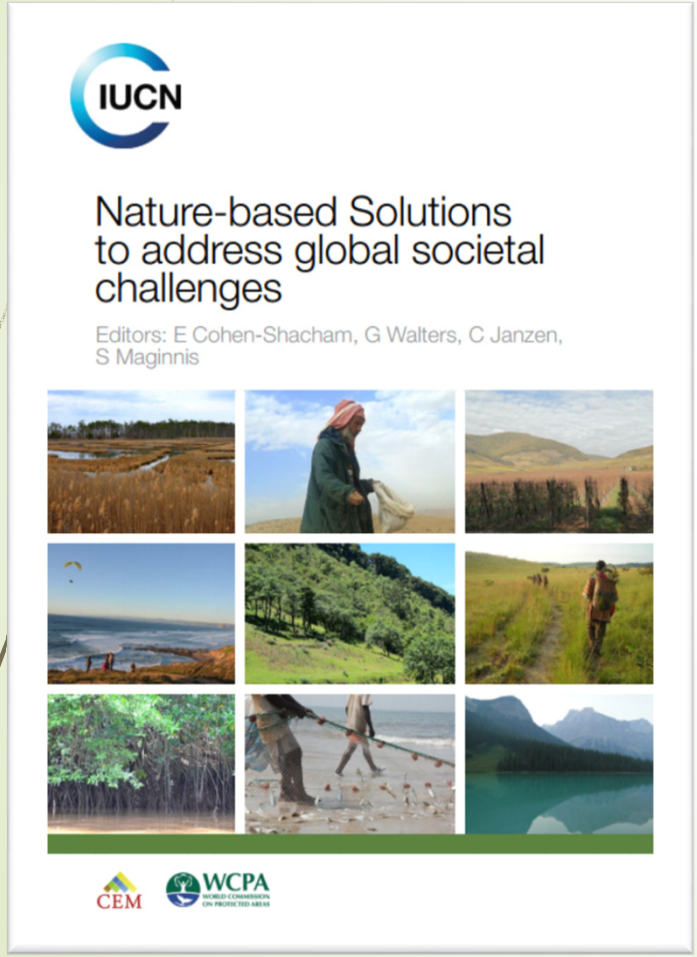
1. Nature and biodiversity
2. Transparency and inclusion
3. Adaptive management, governance & monitoring
4. Trade-offs
5. Landscape/seascape scale
6. Synergies (with other types of interventions)
7. Policy integration

Timeline for finalising the NbS standard



Interested in reviewing NbS Standard / testing standard in your case-study?
nbsstandard@iucn.org

Useful resources on NbS



IUCN NbS report
https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46191

- IUCN NbS framework
- 10 case-studies of successful NbS around the world

NbS webpage on IUCN CEM website
https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/nature-based-solutions

IUCN website (EbA, Eco-DRR, FLR, GI, natural infrastructure, Protected Areas, EPIC project - Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities)
http://iucn.org

Thank you!

More information & Interested in joining IUCN CEM NbS TG?
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Interested in reviewing NbS Standards? nbsstandard@iucn.org