

Nature-based Solutions - from definition to implementation -

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IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

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 	900 staff in 50+ countries - Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland 8 Regional, 2 outpost, country & project offices



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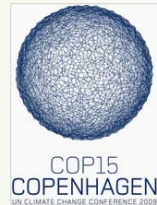
1. General background on NbS
2. IUCN's framework for NbS
3. Link to related concepts
4. Examples of NbS interventions
5. Global NbS standards

1. General background on NbS

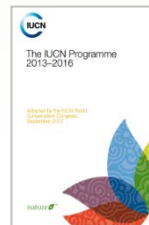
Evolution of the Nature-based Solutions Concept

Use of
the term

IUCN
UNFCCC
position



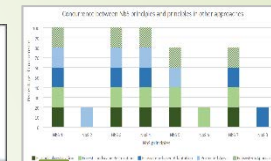
NbS - 1/3 of IUCN's
Global Programme



Resolution 069



Analysis of
NbS principles



IUCN NbS
Standards

WCC2012

WCC2016

2002

2005

2008

2009

2010

2013

2014

2015

2016

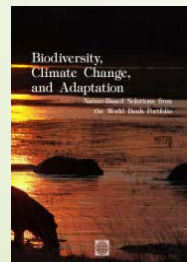
2017

2018

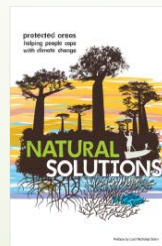
2019



MEA



World Bank
report



Natural Solutions
report



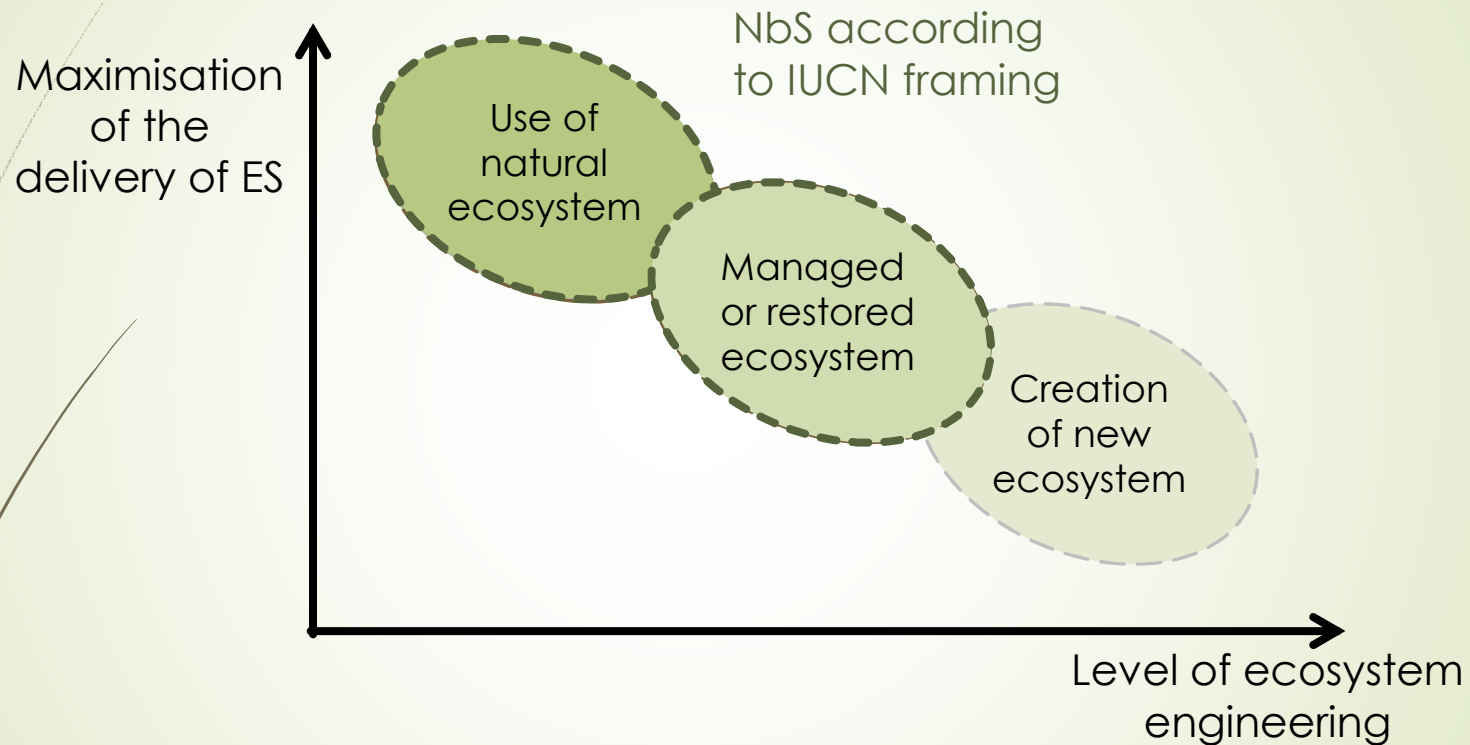
Biodiversa
workshop



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

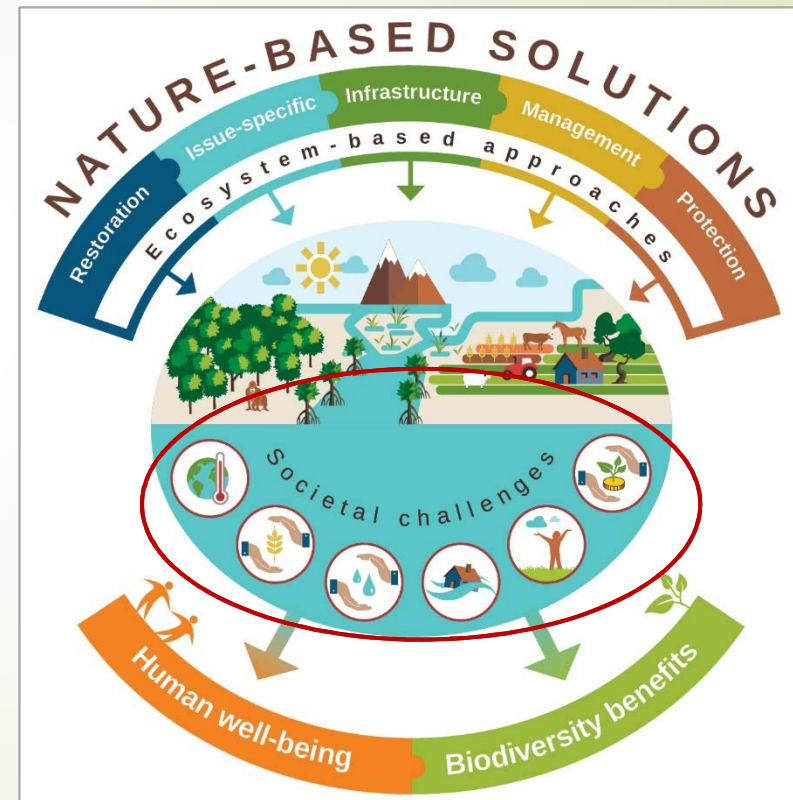
IUCN's definition for Nature-based Solutions

“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)

3. Links to related concepts

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

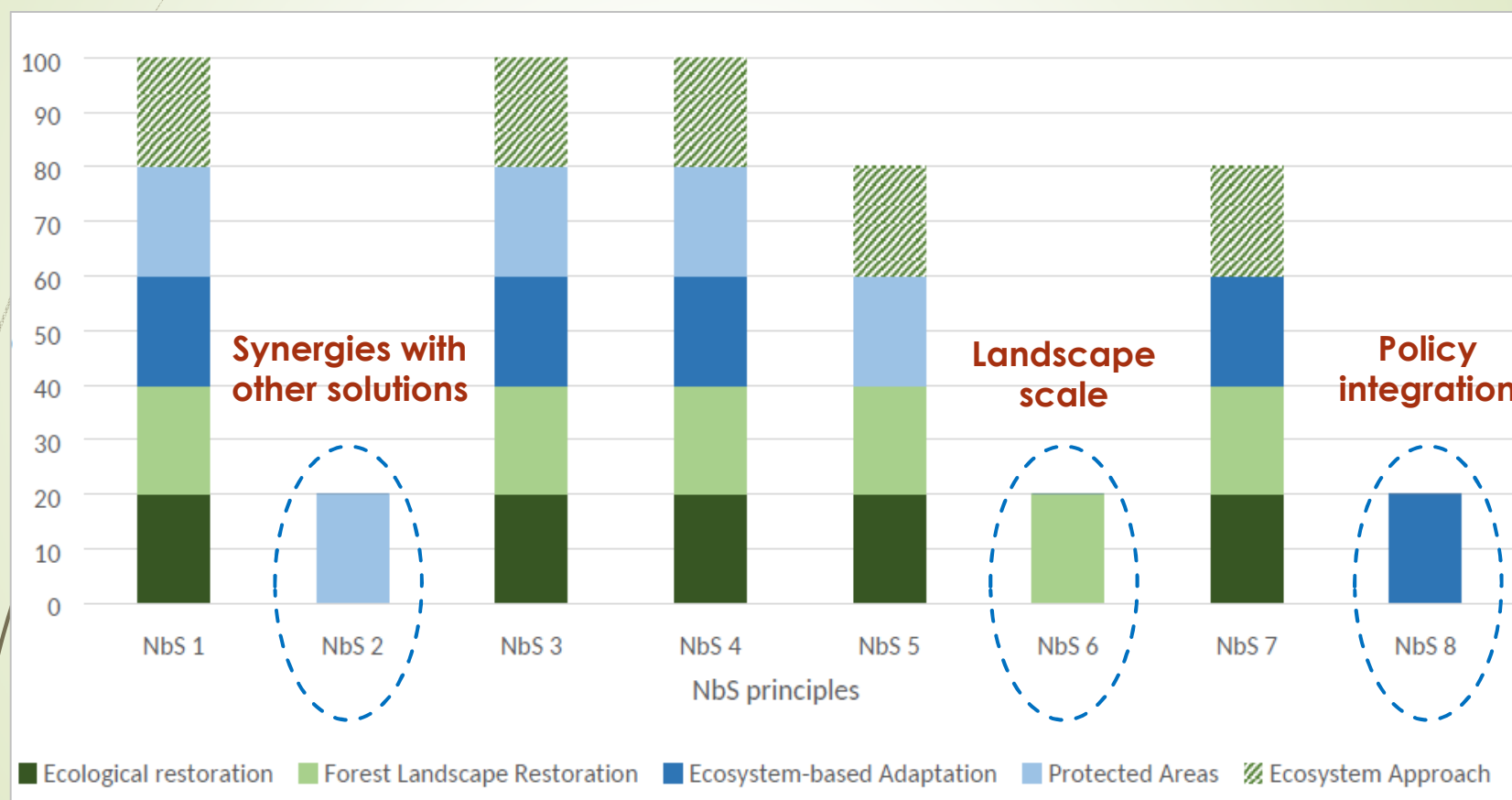
5. Ecosystem protection approaches

AbC



3. Links to related concepts

Links between NbS principles and principles in five other frameworks



4. Examples of NbS interventions

NbS used in conjunction with infrastructure development and protected area conservation



4. Examples of NbS interventions

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

4. Examples of NbS interventions

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



asi

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

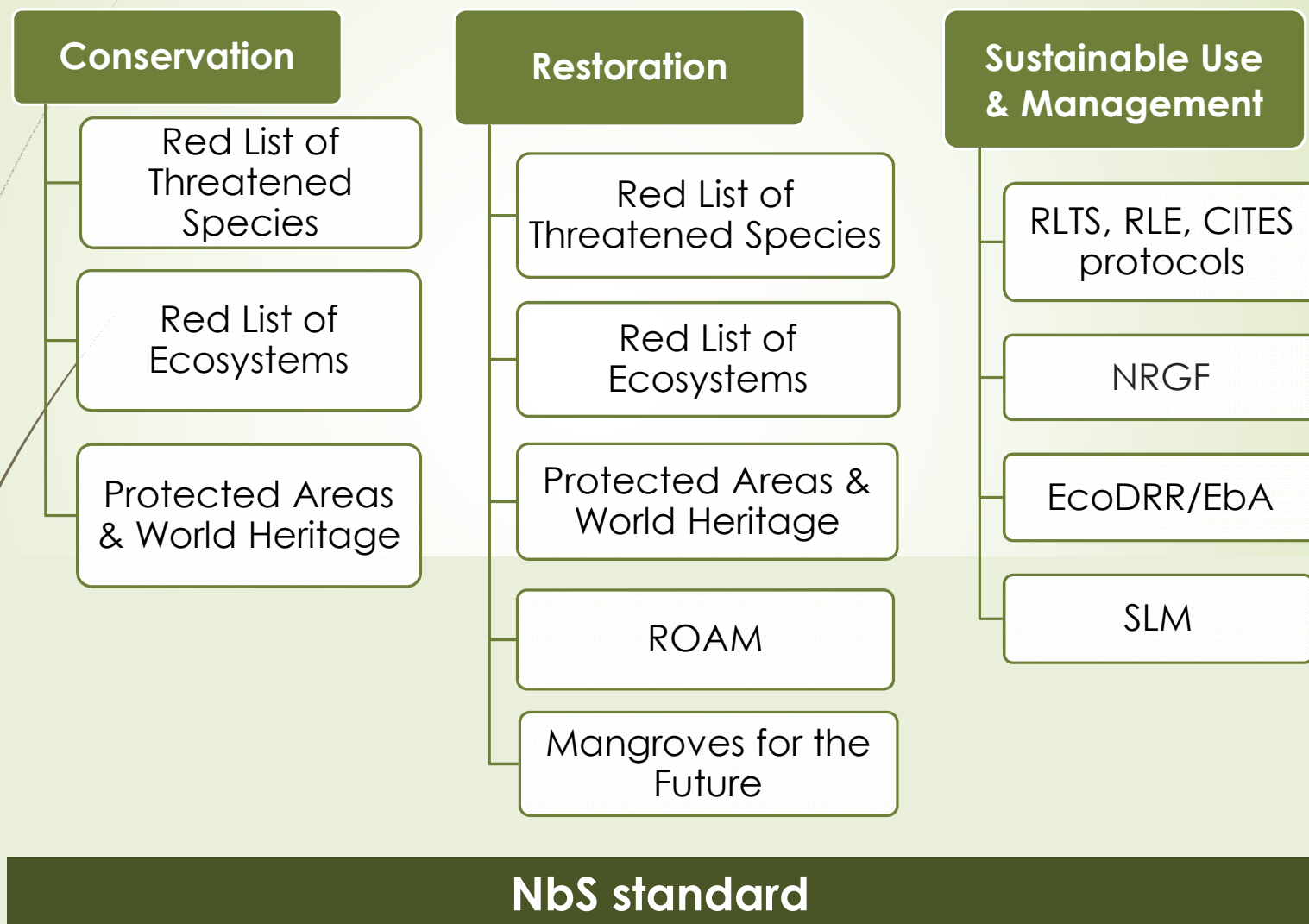
Why are we setting a global standard?

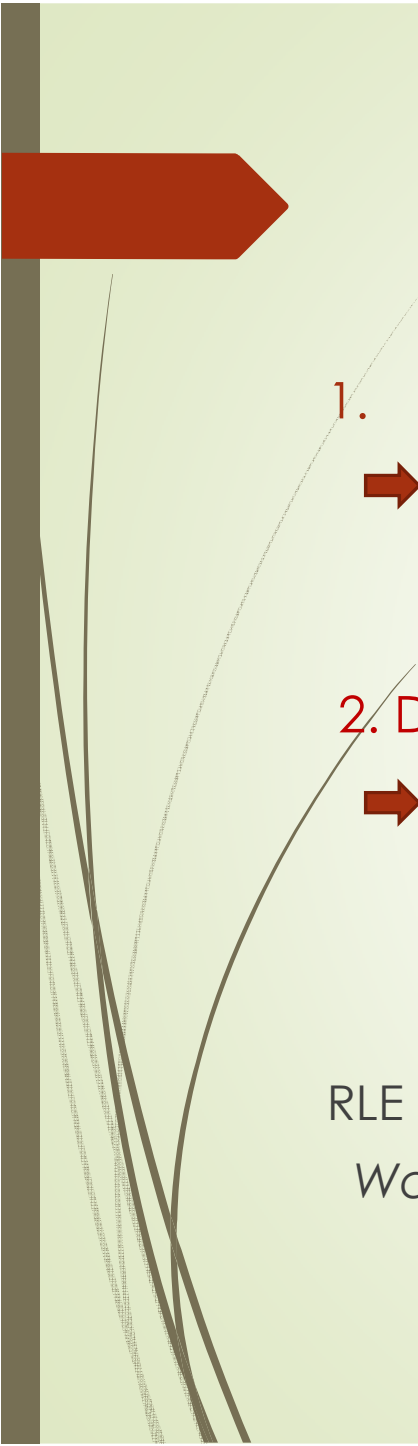
- ✓ Apply it across a wide range of contexts and sectors
- ✓ Guide policy formulation
- ✓ Be relevant to the private sector
- ✓ Actions and impact at scale

5. Toward a global standard for NbS



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!



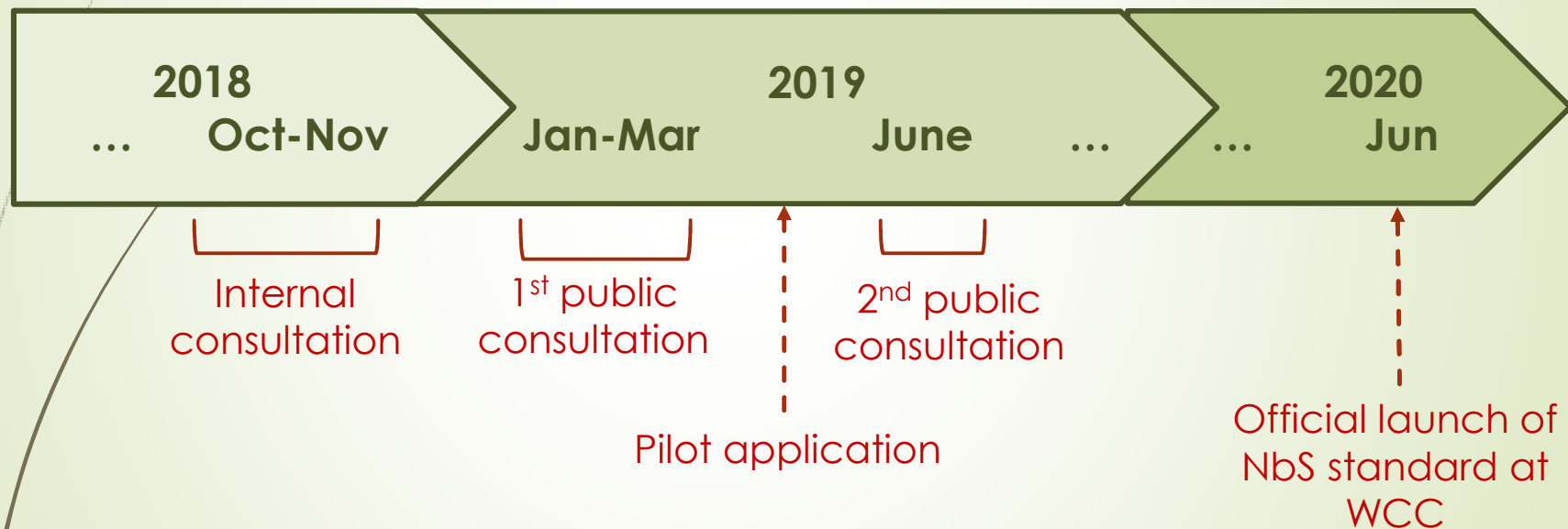
Global standard for Nature-based Solutions

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

5. Toward a global standard for NbS

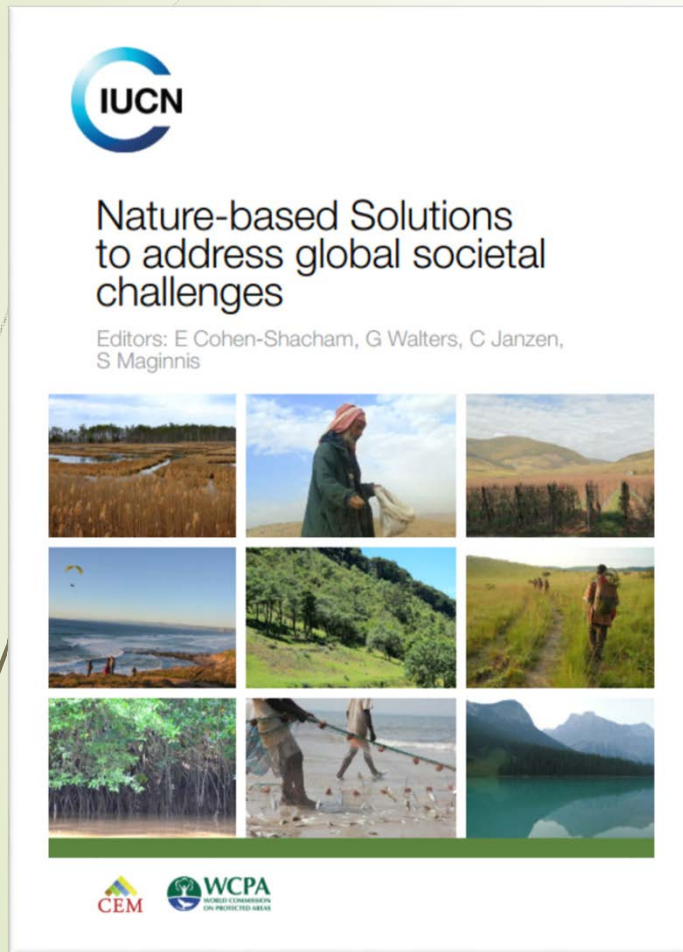
Timeline for finalising the NbS standard



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?

minacs@gmail.com

Interested in reviewing NbS Standards? nbsstandard@iucn.org

