



Inclusive Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Adaptation: Reducing climate impacts in a way that works for everyone

Our climate is changing, and our planet is warming. Natural hazards like hurricanes, floods, and wildfires are becoming more frequent and intense. These changes impact people in different ways, depending on who they are and how their identity influences their position in society. For example:

People living with disabilities are more likely to be negatively affected during floods as they require support to access safety and essential services.

During storms, men are often at the front lines helping others, putting them more at risk of injury or death.

Climate change affects our natural environment and can result in the loss of nature. This has different impacts on the lives and livelihoods of people according to how dependent they are on natural resources. For example:

Drought can lead to a loss of plants and animals. This negatively impacts small-scale farmers who depend on plants and animals for food, income, and cultural purposes.

Warming oceans are damaging coral reefs and harming the fish populations that depend on them. Fisherwomen, who typically have less access to fishing boats, equipment, and cash, are often more impacted by declining fish stocks than fishermen.

So, how do we solve these problems?

Nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation are one strategy that we can use to help us to reduce climate change impacts. They are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use, and manage the natural environment to strengthen the resilience of communities and nature to climate change.¹ To be effective, NbS for adaptation must consider different people's needs and priorities, and how culture, customs, roles and responsibilities may influence people's abilities to participate in and benefit from these actions. For example:

Include youth in sustainable agriculture activities by engaging them with hands-on learning opportunities.

When hosting meetings in the management of local forests, ensure they are held in local languages and in locations that are easy for Indigenous Peoples to access.

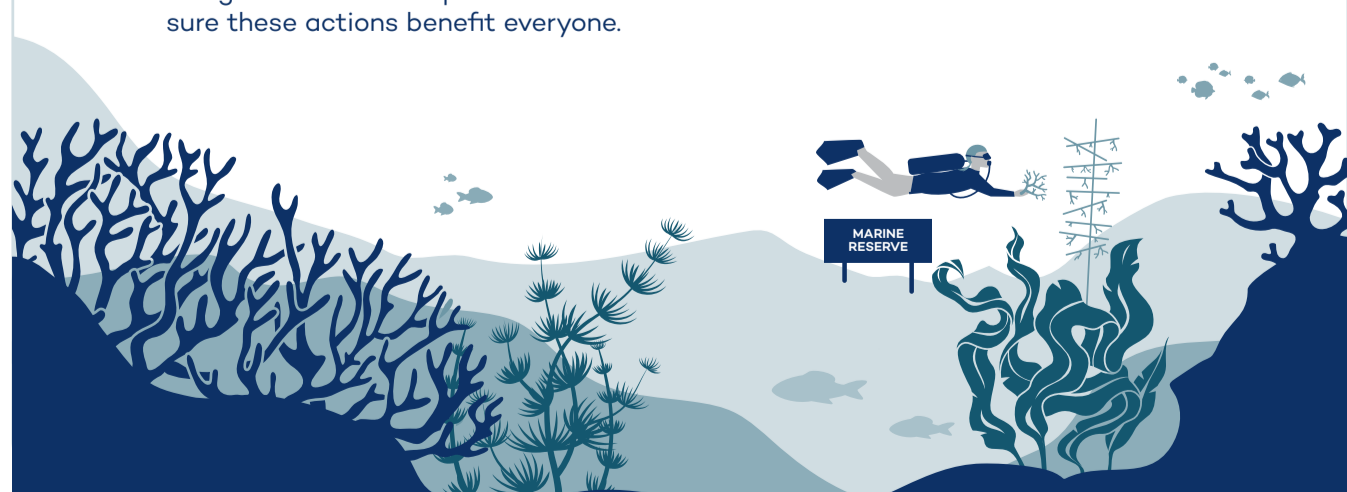
When planning mangrove restoration training sessions, ensure that women can participate and that the time and length of their engagement consider their childcare duties.

¹Adapted from the United Nations Environment Assembly (2022) UNEP/EA.5/Res.5

Recognizing differences in needs and priorities, access to resources, participation, and opportunities will help to ensure that everyone can benefit from NbS for adaptation.

Make NbS for climate adaptation relevant for everyone by listening, learning, and leading through inclusive local engagement!

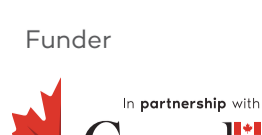
- Make time to share knowledge on climate change and NbS for adaptation, as well as to listen and learn about people's unique relationships with nature.
- Consult with different people on how climate change and the loss of nature impact them to determine who is most at risk and why.
- Get feedback from those most at risk of climate impacts on which adaptation strategies have worked well for them and which have not.
- Ask different people what their adaptation needs and priorities are and how their roles and responsibilities influence these.
- Involve the people most at risk in the design of NbS for adaptation to make sure these actions benefit everyone.
- Ensure that the timing and location of NbS for adaptation activities consider the needs and priorities of different people within the community.
- Work with local experts to guide activities and conversations on the issues that create barriers to participation and the fair sharing of benefits among community members.
- Involve all interested community members in monitoring and evaluating NbS for adaptation activities.
- Make safe spaces for all community members to share their feedback and encourage sharing from people who are not heard from as often within the community.



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