Unlocking the Power of Nature-based Solutions and Indigenous and Local Knowledge in Humanitarian Action

08 September 2025

2:00pm-3:30pm CEST



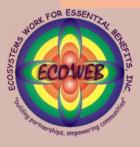






Welcome and Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Framing of Nature-based Solutions and Indigenous and Local Knowledge
- 3. Case Studies
- 4. Resources
- 5. Q&A
- 6. Wrap-up



Climate and
Environment
Charter







Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

Standing together as local, national and international humanitarian organizations, we commit to:

- 1 Step up our response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises
- 2. Maximize the environmental sustainability of our work and rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions
- Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities
- 4. Increase our capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions
- 5 Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action
- 6. Use our influence to mobilize urgent and more ambitious climate action and environmental protection
- 7. Develop targets and measure our progress as we implement our commitments

485
SIGNATORIES
+13

SUPPORTERS

Objectives

- ➤ Deepen understanding of how NbS and ILK intersect
- Share expertise on equitable engagement with Indigenous and local actors
- >Highlight practical case studies, tools, and resources
- >Explore challenges and opportunities faced

Speakers

- **Binalakshmi Nepram,** Founder-Director, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and the Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice, and Peace
- Anita Tzec, Maya leader and Senior Global Programme Manager, IUCN
- Regina "Nanette" Salvadora-Antequisa, Executive Director, ECOWEB
- Peter Murgor, DRR & CVA Manager, Kenya Red Cross Society
- Brigitte Rudram, Climate Resilience & DRR Adviser, British Red Cross
- William Anderson, Executive Director, SPHERE
- Natasha Westheimer, Co-coordinator, Charter Secretariat
- **Stanley Fu,** Business Developer, Princess Margriet Fund an initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross



Unlocking the Power of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in Humanitarian Action

Anita Tzec Maya leader and Senior Global Programme Manager Indigenous Peoples and Conservation Programme at IUCN

Who are Indigenous Peoples?









Characterization of IPs:

Self-identification as Indigenous Peoples.

Peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present state boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions.

Main international regulations:

- C. 169 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989
- UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights, 2007
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992

Indigenous Peoples





IPs maintain close relation with nature, unique world views & traditional knowledge

Close relation to their traditional territories and nature are key in working with Nature and ecosystems-based approach.

What is ILK and TK?









Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK)

are social and ecological knowledge practices and beliefs pertaining to the relationship of living beings, including people, with one another and with their environments. Such knowledge can provide information, methods, theory and practice for sustainable ecosystem management. (IPBES, Glossary, 2019)

Traditional Knowledge (TK)

The knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (CBD, Glossary, 2018)

ILK and indicators





"Forest management indicators" are signals that indicate how the forest is being managed or administered.

Unpacking the Nature-Climate Nexus: NbS and ecosystems approach, the range of conservation, climate resilience, adaptation and other actions









- There is an intrinsic relationship between climate change and biodiversity loss.
- When biodiversity is maintained, ecosystems are better prepared to cope with climate change.
- When biodiversity is lost, ecosystems lose their resilience to climate change.
- For millennia, Indigenous Peoples have based the management of their lands on an ecosystem approach, which is why the greatest biodiversity is found in lands managed by Indigenous Peoples.

Why it is important for humanitarian organizations to take these into consideration?







- ✓ IPs with their ILK can contribute to more effective climate actions, NbS and ecosystems approach.
- ✓ The lack of consideration of ILK of IPs can lead to negative impacts.
- ✓ Participatory planning and co-implementation of initiatives with IPs and their cultural values, ILK and scientific knowledge will result in effective climate actions, NbS and ecosystems approach.



Bantiox Thank you!

CONTACT - anita.tzec@iucn.org





ECOWEB's Journey

OUR WORK AND INTERVENTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

- -Local humanitarian and development NGO in the Philippines
- Empowering Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable communities

Humanitarian nexus actions through sclr approach

- Linking food security, poverty reduction, ecosystem protection, climate action, peacebuilding and humanitarian actions





Key Projects:





Greenfiber Project



Indigenous Peoples Resilience Project







The Gold that Grows on Trees: Abaca Farming as NBS

TACKLING POVERTY, CLIMATE RISKS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Michael & Rosie Madrina's journey with abaca farming

- Alternative to destructive mining in Higaonon IP communities
- Restores degraded lands and resists typhoons
- Provides steady income and sustainable livelihoods
- Combines poverty reduction and climate solution

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FOREST FRUITS TO LIVELIHOODS

Leadership of Bae Marilyn

- Shift from logging to fruit harvesting (*libas* jam)
- Former timber poachers became conservation entrepreneurs
- ILK driving NbS for forest mangrove protection and income generation



Climate Smart Agriculture

INTEGRATING IKSP WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Jubelyn Mondejar - The "walking pagasa" of San Patricio, La Paz

- Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) with science and technology
- Making use of weather forecast from the installed automated weather station to aid farming decisions
- Blends traditional wisdom with science
- Enhances food security and disaster resilience







Installation of Agromet system in La Paz, ADS





Community-Centered Approaches

Putting Communities at the Centre

Underlying all these stories is our approach:

Survivor and Community-Led Response (sclr) approach



Communities identify priorities and manage microgrants

Strengthening community-led resilience actions

Blending ILK with technical support for long-term resilience





ADVOCACY FOR ILK AND NBS

Advocacy with Government

Local

ADSDPP integrated into LGU DRRM Plans and LCCAPs

National
Advocacy through NAPC

Advocacy through NAPC and NDRRMC Climate financing mechanisms

Consistent Call:
resource and recognize Indigenous-led NbS



https://www.climate-charter.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/MIF_Factsheet-2-Philippines-Financing.pdf

"When Indigenous Local Knowledge and Nature-based Solutions are respected, resourced, and led by communities, Resilience becomes transformative.

Because RESILIENCE grows strongest when rooted in culture and nature, and nurtured through just and accountable governance."

THANK YOU

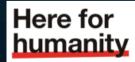


Contact: Regina Nanette Antequisa <regina.antequisa@ecowebph.org>

Locally led and Nature-based solutions for inclusive NbS



Kenya Red Cross Society & British Red Cross
September 2025
Climate & Environment Charter

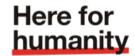


British Red Cross

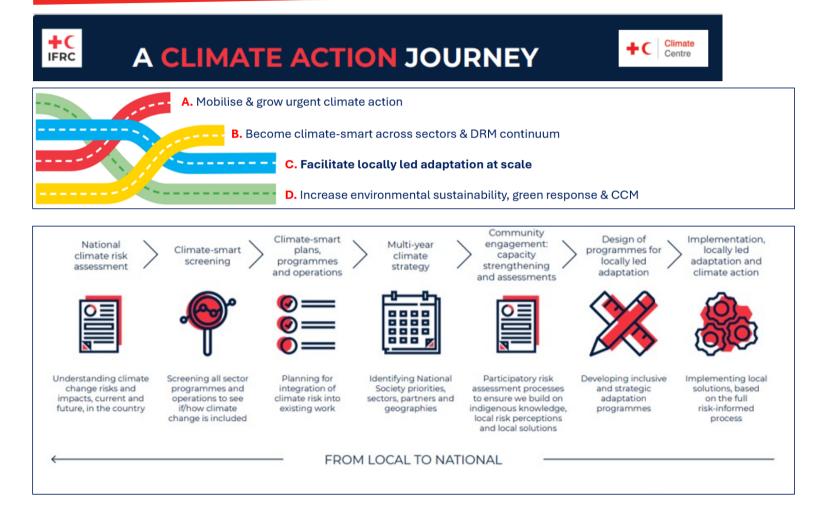
Strategic commitments to scale locally led climate resilience

Nature-based solutions through the lens of:

- Locally led
- Age & gender responsive
- Fragile & conflict affected settings
- Cross-sectoral collaboration
- Accessible, long term climate finance
- At scale



NbS for climate change adaptation

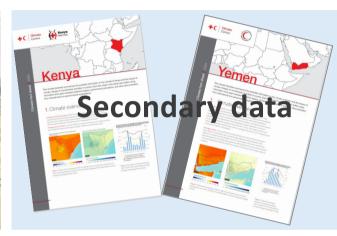


Here for humanity

Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (EVCA)











Partnerships: Enhanced vulnerability & capacity assessment to locally led Nature-based solutions in Nepal







Here for humanity

Innovation & collaboration

Scale:

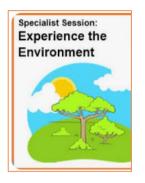
- Cross-sectoral partnerships
- Accessible & long term finance
- Leave no one behind:
- Fragile & conflict affected settings
- Research local to global

Locally led and nature based solutions for just & equitable adaptation





Education: child & youth engagement



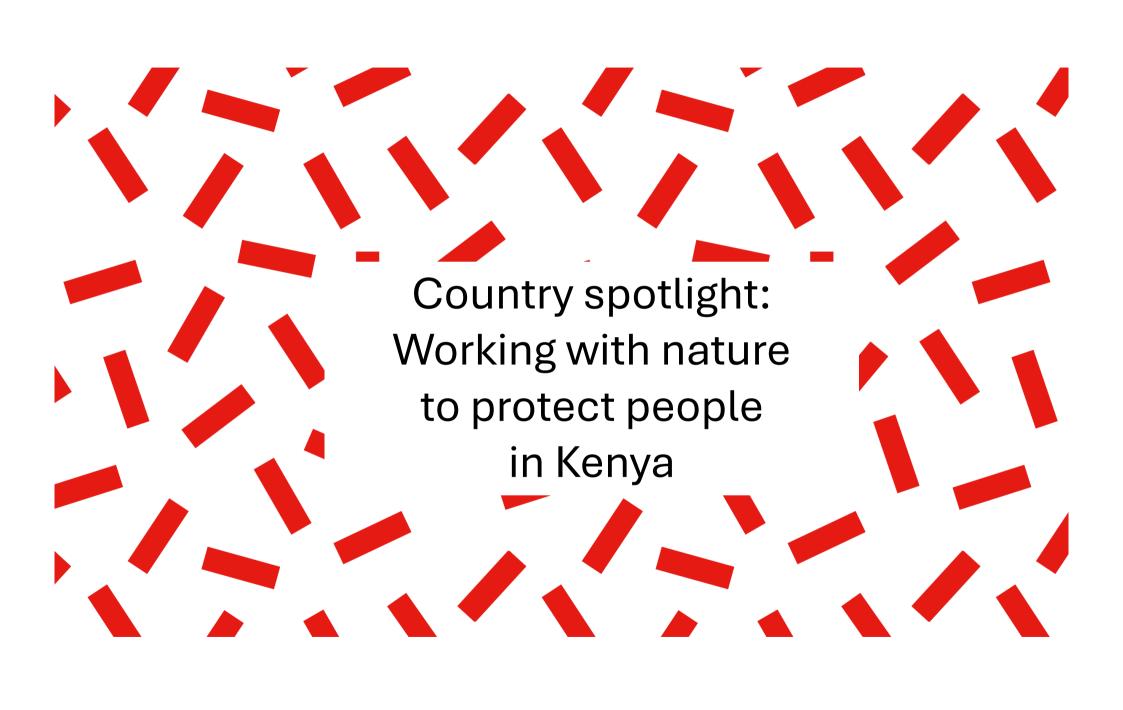




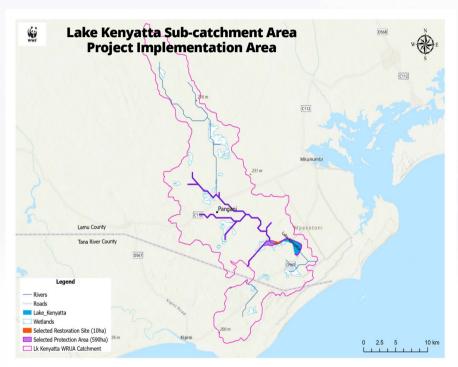




Here for humanity



Strengthening Community Resilience through Nature-based Solutions in Lamu, Kenya











British Red Cross partnership

- Support setting frameworks for collaboration positive governance models to promote equitable partnerships & leadership by country partners
- Regular review of progress against agreed objectives
- Setting strategic appetite & ambition for partnership growth
- Conducting rapid go/no-go decisions on new funding opportunities
- Identifying funding & resourcing to support IFRC/WWF partnership in-country
- Providing guidance, when needed, on proposal development / project design
- Review & approval of proposals / concepts in line with donor deadlines, inc. work plans & budgets
- Identifying solutions to challenges through clear decision-making & sharing capacities & resources











Project Outcomes

- NBS related policies are in place and integrated into national and county level legal frameworks.
- ☐ Targeted Ecosystems are restored and protected.
- Communities have increased adaptive capacity to natural and anthropogenic shocks







In partnership with





ACTION: A JOINT APPROACH

Governance

The development of the Lamu land use plan and review of Lake Kenyatta Sub-Catchment management plan

Technical

Mapping of degraded ecosystems and their causes

Restoration of the project mapped sites

Joint trainings on relevant organizational approaches and tools (CEA, ESSF, DRR)

Community

Project inception

Baseline survey

Strengthening the community engagements and accountability which includes project documentation and human impact stories







Lessons Learnt

- Placing communities at the centre: Community engagement and participation led to ownership and contextual implementation of project objectives
- ☐ The Inception phase of the Project was very beneficial as it provided an opportunity for the partnership to understand their approaches on NBS, unique strengths, challenges, institutional frameworks, joint planning and harmonization of workplans. It also made it possible to understand what to prioritize in the proposal
- ☐ The importance of establishing a governance structure: the formation of the Project Oversight Steering Group, and a Technical Project Delivery group with clear terms of reference enhanced project implementation and solutions. Also helping explore alternative ways of working
- Complementary unique capabilities and value prepositions from the two partners proved essential for environmental conservation and resilience building:
- ☐ County/national government buy-in is a gradual process and should start at the design phase



Current activities (on-going)

- ☐ Completion of the review of Lamu County Spatial Plan
- ☐ Follow up on mangrove restoration progress
- ☐ Engagement meetings with communities and other county stakeholders
- ☐ Finalisation of NbS related policy briefs & dissemination
- ☐ Development and capturing of Human impact stories
- ☐ Facilitate creation of market linkages for established NbS IGAs
- ☐ Strengthening financial inclusion mechanisms for communities

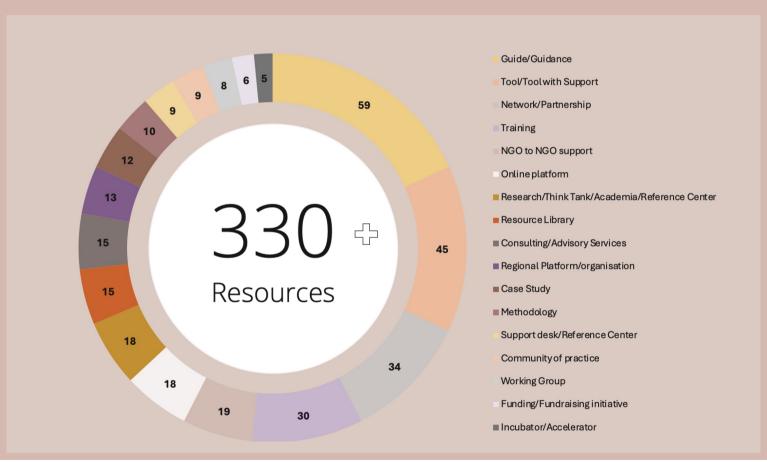








Expertise for Climate and Environmental Action



Secretariat Guidance Pages

Objective

This platform aims to serve as a dynamic resource, providing easy access to tools, expertise, and case studies that help organizations integrate climate and environmental considerations into their programming

Thematic Pages

- Disaster Risk Reduction (online)
- Environmental Sustainability (online)
- Local and Indigenous Knowledge (new!)
- Nature-based Solutions (new!)
- Climate Science and Risk (coming soon)
- Preparedness, Early Warning, Anticipatory Action
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Cluster-level Guidance

Roll Out Plan

- Guidance Page released every 1-2 months
- Accompanied by a webinar
- Shared via the Charter newsletter
- Updated on a rolling basis

On-going access to resources through secretariat referral hub

Indigenous and Local Knowledge

You can explore the guidance through the following categories:

Getting Started

Locally Led Adaptation

ILK and Data-Driven Action Training and Learning

ILK in Risk
Reduction & AA

Do No Harm & Environmental Sustainability

Engagement Opportunities

ILK and Advocacy



Nature/Ecosystem-based Solutions

You can explore the guidance through the following categories:

Getting Started

Tools

Training and Learning

Engagement Opportunities

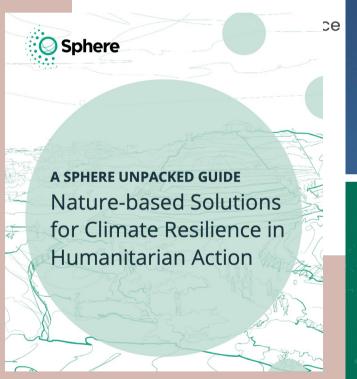
Technical Guides

Case Studies



Example 1: Getting Started

on NbS





Nature-based Solutions for Peace



Nature-Based Solutions

Protecting Nature, Protecting Lives: Working With Nature To Reduce Disaster Risk

Example 2: NbS Tools



You can explo

UN Office for Disaster Risk Redu



SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

Getting

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

FOR COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

ical Guides

e Studies



Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Selfassessment online tool

Example 3: ILK in Risk Reduction and AA



The benefits and importance of locally led anticipatory action



CHANGING LIVES

Engagement Opportunities

ILK and Advocacy

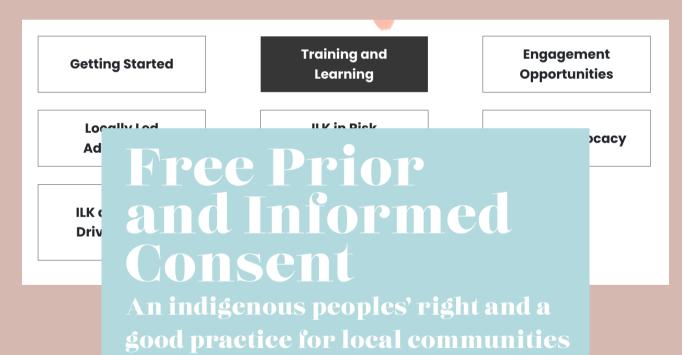




Study on the Use of Climaterelated Indigenous Knowledge Services to Support Anticipatory Action in Zimbabwe

Example 4: ILK Training and Learning





Contribute a Resource

Thematic Pages

- <u>Disaster Risk Reduction (online)</u>
- Environmental Sustainability (online)
- Local and Indigenous Knowledge (new!)
- Nature-based Solutions (new!)
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Why are NbS important in the humanitarian sector and how can the Sphere Guide be useful in our work?

How are humanitarian organizations already putting the Guide into practice and what do NbS look like in humanitarian contexts – especially in FCAS?





Climate change mitigation and adaptation



Disaster risk reduction



Economic and social development



Human health



Food security



Water security

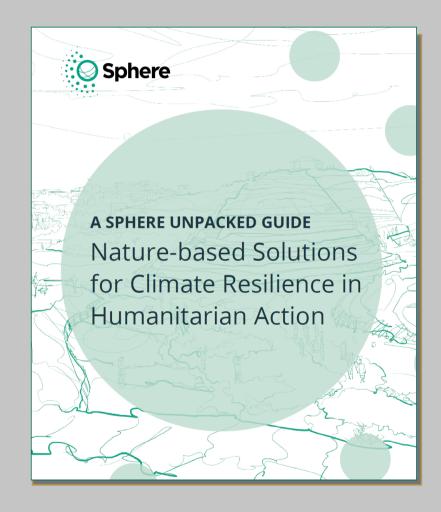


Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss

Why this Unpacked Guide?

"The world will soon be swerving full speed toward a universal climate emergency. The potential devastation of humans and nature makes it blindingly obvious that there can be no human life without other life.

This resets the core humanitarian challenge: How do we find life-saving harmony between humanity and nature?"



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) ACROSS THE STAGES OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT CYCLE AND PROTRACTED CRISES

NEW PROTRACTED CRISES. INCLUDING ACTIVE CONFLICT ZONES AND REFUGEE AND IDP SETTLEMENTS

BENEFITS BY SECTOR

Time frame: Weeks to months

NbS entry point: During programme assessments, activities and evaluation, include innovation and learning via small-scale "learning plots", testing out strategies for NbS. (see Table 1: Nature-based solutions strategies and benefits in humanitarian clusters/sectors)

NBS PRIORITIES

Ensure NbS expertise is embedded within agencies and clusters.

Understand impacts to the environment and ecosystem functions, and what the state of the environment was preshock or stress.

WASH: Design risk-informed water points and toilets (e.g. composting toilets), that take into consideration climate and hazard models, groundwater modelling, energy access and Protection Principles • Source sustainable materials for recovery, waste management and waste recycling (e.g. encouraging composting of biodegradable waste for use as fertiliser, building bio-toilets that recycle methane gas for household energy use).

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT: Support the integration of NbS in the design of the new community/ settlement.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: Develop nature-based technological strategies (vocational training and livelihood skills development) • Restore the ecosystem • Develop small-scale "learning plots" of climate-smart agriculture/ NbS in settlements (for example, block, camp, household, school, public gardens and green spaces, or permaculture and agroforestry).

HEALTH: Incorporate environmental health questions into assessments • Consider reforestation of erosion-prone areas. • Avoid fragmenting forests and use of buffer zones to protect against wildlife and disease spread • Improve psycho-social wellbeing through connection to nature.

Use NbS strategies to support improved social cohesion and protection outcomes within refugee/IDP settlements, and reduced conflict between refugee/IDPs and host communities.

OTHER FACTORS

Use rapid environmental assessments to track ecosystem recovery post-impact.

Integrate rapid assessments to understand and ensure implementation (during the relief phase) of protective, nature-based solutions. Is there an environmental expert being deployed?

OUESTIONS/CHECKLISTS.

TOOLS

Have you checked which are the environmentally sensitive areas in the region where you are going to provide relief?

Does the country have an environmental contingency plan?

Have appropriate sites for disposing of waste been chosen with consideration for the environment?

Have environmental impact assessments been undertaken for the humanitarian operation?

Are materials sourced from sustainable materials?





Nature-based Solutions for Humanitarians

e-learning | 90 minutes | 2024 | English | By Sphere

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- explain the connections between climate change and humanitarian crises;
- o describe what Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are and the role they play in humanitarian action;
- use the Sphere Unpacked Guide: Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience in Humanitarian Action; and
- identify ways to integrate NbS into your own work to improve outcomes for human well-being and environmental protection.

LAUNCH

ONLINE COURSE Nature-based Solutions for humanitarians

For more information, contact:

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