

Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit

Track #6: Nature-Based Solutions

Version 3 - 31 May 2019

1. The Coalition

- **Co-leading countries:** China and New Zealand
- **Supporting institutions:** UN Environment, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Dr. David Nabarro
- **Country members:** Costa Rica, Fiji, Norway, Portugal and Tajikistan
- **Partner countries and other stakeholders:** UN funds and programs, international organizations, multilateral development banks, non-government organizations, academia, private sector, foundations and civil society.

2. Expected outcomes

Objective

As a key measure to address climate change, Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) strengthen the connection of people and communities to nature, aspiring for a harmonious coexistence between the two. NBS help advance climate change mitigation and adaptation, reinforcing the value of ecosystems services and encouraging investments in nature that benefit people's livelihoods and wellbeing, as well as improve ecosystem health, protect biodiversity and address food and water security. The coalition calls for greater recognition of the interconnection between humans and nature and the integration of natural systems into concrete climate action.

Nature-based solutions are effective, long-term, cost-efficient and globally scalable approach for climate action, with potential to remove up to 12 GT of greenhouse gasses per year, build climate resilience in various sectors and regions, add an additional US\$2.3 trillion in productive growth to the global economy, while supporting vital ecosystem services.

Actions on terrestrial ecosystems, fresh water systems, ocean systems and sustainable food systems are essential for reaching the goals described in the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon net zero by 2050. This can take many forms, as exemplified by the following illustrative commitments and initiatives.

a. Integrating nature's systemic role into governance and economic planning

○ Mainstreaming NBS in sustainable development and climate policy instruments

Increase # of countries that incorporate NBS in their NDCs, National Adaptation Plans and development plans, and increase # of financial institutions/companies that incorporate NBS in their development strategies and plans.

○ Mobilizing resources for the systematic and smart investment in nature

- Increase commitments from governments, private sectors, philanthropy, multilateral development banks and financial institutions to advance innovative, green climate finance, and technical assistance, to scale-up NBS investment in climate action.

- Leveraging regional and international cooperation initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, by expanding the Belt and Road International Green Development Coalition with potential to deliver on all SDGs.

○ Enhancing NBS-focused capacity-building, research and technology

Develop knowledge and research tools for NBS.

○ Incorporate NBS in urbanization and ecosystem management

- Integrating the concept of NBS into sustainable urban design and green infrastructure.
- Enhancing conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity given its role for both mitigation and adaptation, and to support an ambitious and achievable post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

b. Enhancing actions and implementation in key areas of NBS

○ Forest and other terrestrial ecosystems:

Initiatives offer opportunities for increased commitment for improved conservation and sustainable management of forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, including conservation of watersheds, reduction of deforestation and land degradation, promotion of afforestation, land restoration and prevention of desertification. Some actions include but are not limited to:

- *Restoring land and preventing desertification:* Expanding existing commitments of land restoration of degraded lands and prevention of desertification under UNCCD, in line with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, for food and water security, and community wellbeing.

- *Reducing deforestation*: Increase # of countries committed to reducing deforestation, # of donors financing these commitments, and # of companies committed to reducing deforestation in commodity supply chains for reducing emissions, conserving ecosystems and sustaining livelihoods.
- *Improving afforestation and forest sustainable management*: Increase # of countries committed to conserving primary forests, increasing forest coverage and sustainably managing forest for carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, food and water security, and livelihoods.

- Ocean ecosystems and water resources

Initiatives include opportunities for increased protection, restoration and management of marine and coastal areas, increased resilience, improved carbon sequestration by promoting blue carbon, enhanced sustainable use of ocean and water resources, improved development of adaptation strategies for fisheries and aquaculture, and enhanced ocean and coastal risk assessment. Some actions include but are not limited to:

- *Increasing resilience and carbon sequestration in marine and coastal ecosystems*: Increase # of marine protected areas and restoration of global mangrove habitats, corals and seagrasses through blue carbon for increased carbon sequestration and resilience of coastal populations.
- *Enhancing adaptation for marine and coastal communities*: Increase # countries working to improve fisheries and aquaculture adaptation practices, sustainable use of ocean and water resources and their coastal risk assessments.

- Agriculture and food systems

Initiatives offer opportunities for countries working to transform their food production systems to sustainable ones. Some actions include but are not limited to:

- *Promoting healthy green supply chains*: Transition to greener, more productive and sustainable farming.
- *Promoting sustainable and emissions-efficient crops and livestock systems*: Increasing # of countries working to increase carbon sequestration in global soils, reduce carbon emissions from crops, livestock and food waste. Promoting more productive, and sustainable food systems producing high quality and nutritious food.

The work of the initiatives will involve crosscutting issues with many of the other workstreams, including climate finance and carbon pricing, resilience and adaptation, infrastructure, cities and local action and youth and public mobilization.