



Republic of the Philippines
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URGENT MEMORANDUM

TO : The Directors:
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

The Executive Director
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

FROM : The Undersecretary
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

SUBJECT : **UNEP GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

DATE : 17 July 2023

This refers to the attached letter dated 10 July 2023 of Assistant Secretary Maria Teresa T. Almojuela, Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, inviting DENR to nominate representatives to the following UNEP Global and Regional Consultations on Nature-Based Solution:

1. Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on July 15-26, 2023 (Virtual);
2. Another round of Regional Consultation, October 9-10, 2023 (In-person); and
3. Second Global Consultation, October 11-13, 2023 in Nairobi (In-person).

May we invite you to nominate representatives to the said consultation meetings. DFA is requesting that we should consider the factors of continuity, expertise and gender balance in nominating our representatives. Kindly submit your nomination to this Office not later than 17 July 2023 for onward transmittal to DFA-UNIO.


ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH

Cc: The Undersecretary
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

MEMO NO. 2023 - 593



OUFISCC <ouart.denr20@gmail.com>

OSEC-2023-004524: Invitation to nominate Reps for the First Asia-Pacific Regional Consultations on Nature-Based Solutions (virtual), July 25-26, 2023

1 message

DENR OSEC Referral <osec.referral@denr.gov.ph>

14 July 2023 at 12:54

To: "Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, ouart.denr20@gmail.com

Sir/Ma'am:

Respectfully referred to your good office for information and appropriate action, with EDATS No. OSEC-2023-004524.

Thank you.

NOTE: DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. For updates, inquiries and other communications, please send to osec@denr.gov.ph.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
4/F DENR Main Building
Visayas Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Office of the DENR Secretary** <osec@denr.gov.ph>

Date: Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 2:20 PM

Subject: OSEC-2023-004524: DFA-UNIO letter to DENR on the UNEP: Global and regional consultations on nature-based solutions (UNEA Resolution 5/5)

To: DENR OSEC Referral <osec.referral@denr.gov.ph>

Office of the Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Division 2 UNIO** <unio.div2@dfa.gov.ph>

Date: Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 10:28 AM

Subject: DFA-UNIO letter to DENR on the UNEP: Global and regional consultations on nature-based solutions (UNEA Resolution 5/5)

To: DENR Office of the Secretary <osec@denr.gov.ph>, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, Climate Change Service <ccs@denr.gov.ph>

Cc: Office UNIO <unio@dfa.gov.ph>, Elenida Basug <edrbasug@denr.gov.ph>, Gigi Merilo <gmerilo@yahoo.com>, Jeremy Christian Q. Rola <jeremyrola@yahoo.com>, Nairobi PE <nairobi.pe@dfa.gov.ph>

Dear Ma'am/Sir,

Kindly acknowledge receipt of DFA-UNIO letter to DENR on the UNEP: Global and regional consultations on nature-based solutions (UNEA Resolution 5/5).

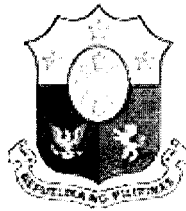
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Danna Olaya

Division 2 - Environment and Climate Change
Office of United Nations and International Organizations
Department of Foreign Affairs
2330 Roxas Blvd, Pasay City 1300
Republic of the Philippines

Phone: +632 8834 4896 or +632 8834 3252

Email: unio.div2@dfa.gov.ph




UNIO

OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
unio@dfa.gov.ph

Your **FEEDBACK** matters.

2 attachments

 **07112023100321.pdf**
198K

 **NbS Attachments.pdf**
554K



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

10 July 2023

Madam:

Attached is the Co-Chairs' **summary of the first global consultation on nature-based solutions (NbS) held virtually on 15-16 May 2023**. The summary contains the initial views and comments of Member States on the overall purpose of the consultations, and the three tasks outlined in Resolution 5/5 Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, which was adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022:

- a. Compile examples of best practices in nature-based solutions:
- b. Assess existing guidelines and discuss new proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines to address divergences, with a view to achieving a common understanding among member States for the implementation of nature-based solutions; and
- c. Identify options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions.

The summary outlines issues that arose during the first global consultation, which are grouped according to the three tasks. These issues will be considered in the first regional consultations scheduled in June and July 2023. Guided by the attached guide questions, Member States could submit written comments on these issues prior to the regional consultations, or deliver a three-minute intervention on the issues during the regional consultations.

For the Asia Pacific region, the first regional consultation is scheduled on 25-26 July 2023. The registration link is at <https://indico.un.org/event/1005824/> and will close on **22 July 2023**.

(///...It may also be...)

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

CC: Philippine Embassy in Nairobi

2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 1300 Philippines

Tel. No. 834 - 4000

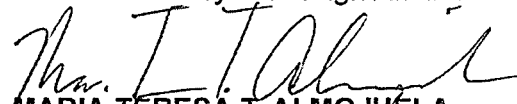
www.dfa.gov.ph

It may also be recalled that another round of regional consultations will take place in-person in Nairobi on 9-10 October 2023 prior to the second global consultation on 11-13 October 2023 also in Nairobi. Further information on these meetings will be shared as they become available.

DENR is requested to consider the factors of continuity, expertise, and gender balance in nominating its representatives to the first regional consultation and subsequent consultation meetings on NbS and submit the names of its representatives through unio.div2@dfa.gov.ph by **17 July 2023** for onward submission to the Secretariat.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:


MARIA TERESA T. ALMOJELA
Assistant Secretary

(afbe3; dso; ags) UNIO-2-3124-2023

Schedule

Intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions

Meeting	Dates and times (EAT)	Virtual or in person	Interpretation
First global consultation			
First global consultation	16 May 15.00 – 19.00 17 May 15.00 – 19.00	Virtual	All UN languages
First regional consultations			
Latin America and Caribbean	22 June 17.00 – 21.00 23 June 17.00 – 21.00	Virtual	Spanish-English
Western Europe and other States	27 June 08.00 – 12.00 28 June 15.00 – 19.00	Virtual	In English. No interpretation
Africa	10 July 12.00 – 16.00 11 July 12.00 – 16.00	Virtual	French-English
Eastern Europe	18 July 12.00 – 16.00 19 July 12.00 – 16.00	Virtual	Russian-English
Asia-Pacific	25 July 05.00 – 09.00 26 July 12.00 – 16.00	Virtual	25 July: no interpretation 26 July: English-Arabic
Second regional consultations			
Latin America and Caribbean	9-10 October, 10.00-13.00 & 15.00-18.00	In person, Nairobi	Spanish-English
Western Europe and other States	9-10 October, 10.00-13.00 & 15.00-18.00	In person, Nairobi	In English. No interpretation
Africa	9-10 October, 10.00-13.00 & 15.00-18.00	In person, Nairobi	French-English
Eastern Europe	9-10 October, 10.00-13.00 & 15.00-18.00	In person, Nairobi	Russian-English
Asia-Pacific	9-10 October, 10.00-13.00 & 15.00-18.00	In person, Nairobi	Arabic-English
Second global consultation			
Second global consultation	11-13 October, 10.00-13.00 & 15.00-18.00	In person, Nairobi	All UN languages

[Announcement] Intergovernmental consultations on NbS First Regional Consultations, June-July 2023

UNEP Secretariat of Governing <unep-sgb@un.org>
Reply-To: Governance Affairs <unep-sgb@un.org>
To: nairobi.pe@dfa.gov.ph

Fri, Jun 2, 2023 at 3:08 PM

Excellency,

On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the intergovernmental consultations on nature-based solutions, I have the pleasure to invite you to nominate representatives for the First Regional Consultations that will be held in June and July 2023. These will be virtual meetings. **The updated schedule for the consultations is attached.**

The intergovernmental consultations were requested in UNEA resolution 5/5 entitled "*Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development*". The overall aim of the consultations is to support the implementation of nature-based solutions and to address the three specific tasks which concern the compilation of best practice examples, the assessment of proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines for nature-based solutions and to identify options for financing nature-based solutions, particularly in developing countries.

The regional consultations will build on the First Global Consultation that was held on the 16 and 17 May 2023. **The Co-Chairs' Summary of that meeting is attached.** The regional consultations provide the opportunity for regions to articulate their specific perspectives on the aim of the consultations and the three specific tasks. **The attachment to this letter – *Issues to be addressed in the regional consultations***

– lists some issues that participants may wish to address, either in the consultations themselves or in the written submissions that participants are invited to submit in advance of the consultations. Each Member State and accredited stakeholder will have three (3) minutes to make their intervention and participants will be invited to respond to interventions as time allows.

Participants in the consultations are reminded to check the website regularly for new information and documentation (www.unep.org/about-un-environment/intergovernmental-consultations-nbs). The agenda for the regional meetings, written submissions and other relevant documents will be posted here.

To participate in the regional meetings, representatives of Member States and accredited organizations should register here. Please note that an official letter of nomination will again be required to validate the registrations. Registrations will close three (3) days before the respective regional consultation. The **schedule of regional meetings** is attached.

For any queries you may have about the process please contact:
Melissa De Kock: melissa.dekock@un.org or Barney Dickson: barney.dickson@un.org

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Radhika Ochalik
Secretary of Governing Bodies
Director, Governance Affairs Office
United Nations Environment Programme
Contact SGB
CPR Website | UNEA website
Governing Bodies Roadmap of Meetings

 **Schedule of meetings 230523.pdf**
111K

 **Issues to be addressed in the First Regional Consultations on nature v1.pdf**
120K

 **Co-Chairs' summary of 1st Global NbS Consultations 31.05.2023.pdf**
242K

Co-Chairs summary

First Global Consultation on nature-based solutions

16-17 May 2023

Introduction

The starting point for these intergovernmental consultations, which were requested in Resolution 5/5 *Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development*, adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022, is the multilaterally agreed definition of nature-based solutions, which is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches and is as follows:

“nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits, and recognizes that nature-based solutions:

- a) Respect social and environmental safeguards, in line with the three “Rio conventions” (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), including such safeguards for local communities and indigenous peoples;
- b) Can be implemented in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and can be managed adaptively;
- c) Are among the actions that play an essential role in the overall global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including by effectively and efficiently addressing major social, economic and environmental challenges, such as biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, desertification, food security, disaster risks, urban development, water availability, poverty eradication, inequality and unemployment, as well as social development, sustainable economic development, human health and a broad range of ecosystem services;
- d) Can help to stimulate sustainable innovation and scientific research.

The definition identifies *three* different dimensions to nature-based solutions.

1. Nature-based solutions work with nature in different ways – they are actions “to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage” ecosystems;
2. Nature-based solutions involve working sustainably (i.e. within the parameters of the ecosystem’s ability to be sustained) with different types of ecosystems;
3. Nature-based solutions are solution-oriented. They “address social, economic and environmental challenges”.

31 May 2023

Further and very importantly, nature-based solutions must adhere to social and environmental safeguards. Nature-based solutions also do not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The overall purpose of the consultations, as set by UNEA resolution 5/5, is “to further support the implementation of nature-based solutions”.

Participants in the First Global Consultation were requested to address both this overall purpose and the three tasks for the consultations that are specified in the resolution. The three tasks are:

- a) Compile examples of best practice in nature-based solutions, based on the best available science;
- b) Assess existing and discuss potential new proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines to address divergences, with a view to achieving a common understanding among Member States for the implementation of nature-based solutions, including to support Member States in designing, implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms, as appropriate, and without prejudice to existing efforts and initiatives of and new proposals from individual Member States;
- c) Identify options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions and share information on bilateral and multilateral sources of finance to enable developing countries to develop and deploy nature-based solutions;

The Co-Chairs are impressed by the range and quality of the points that were made in the First Global Consultation. We note that some divergences of opinion were apparent, and we will be seeking ways to bridge these divergences in order to build a common understanding of nature-based solutions.

Part 1 of this document provides a summary of the points made in the consultations. Part 2 provides some reflections on four important issues that emerged in the discussions and offers some suggestions for participants to consider.

Part 1: Summary of First Global Consultation

Purpose

- Many participants were supportive of purpose of the consultations as set out in Operative Paragraph 5 (OP 5): ‘...to further support the implementation of nature-based solutions, as defined in the present resolution’.
- Participants noted that it provided an opportunity to share knowledge and information about nature-based solutions and that this could contribute to building a common understanding of nature-based solutions.
- Some participants were more critical of the concept nature-based solutions and said the consultations should serve to understand these concerns. It was suggested that nature-based solutions could infringe the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and that nature-based solutions should not be linked to carbon or biodiversity offset markets.
- Some noted that these are consultations and not negotiations, and that they would not be used to agree on new text on nature-based solutions.

- It was said that the consultations needed to be interactive and could consider making use of break-out groups.
- Participants spoke of the importance of linking the outcomes to other processes and decisions. In this regard, the following were mentioned:
 - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Nature-based Solutions for Climate Manifesto
 - UNEA Resolution 1/10: *Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication*
- It was noted that some of the ideas behind nature-based solutions are not new and that there are many concepts and approaches that overlap with nature-based solutions, including but not limited to “Ecosystem-based Approaches”.

Three tasks

a) *Compile examples of best practice in nature-based solutions, based on the best available science;*

The points made by participants which addressed this task included:

- The Background Paper provided by UNEP was welcomed for the information that it provided in support of all three tasks.
- The compilation of best practice examples needs to be broader in scope, both geographically (including Africa) and with regard to the range of ecosystem types that were covered.
- Participants highlighted that the contribution of indigenous peoples, including their leadership roles, needs to be better represented in the examples.
- On the one hand, some suggested that more examples of the role of nature-based solutions in climate mitigation needed to be included to address Task a), while others suggested that the potential mitigation contribution of nature-based solutions has been over-estimated.
- It was suggested that there should be more examples of the role of nature-based solutions in contributing to climate adaptation.
- Some interventions noted the role of a number of on-going initiatives in collecting more examples of nature-based solutions, including the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Ramsar Convention.
- Suggestions were made for the development of a new portal to collate examples of best practice.
- It was said that it would be important to develop criteria for what counts as best practice.
- Participants suggested that compilations should include examples that may not be called ‘nature-based solutions’ but which do embody the same approach as nature-based solutions.
- It was said that examples of bad practices should also be compiled, including those that had bad effects on indigenous peoples and local communities and/or biodiversity. The suggestion noted the possibility to learn from such examples.
- In the same way, some nature-based solutions are good in some respects and less good in others. Therefore, the distinction between good and bad practice is not straightforward.

b) *Assess existing and discuss potential new proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines to address divergences, with a view to achieving a common understanding among Member States for the implementation of nature-based solutions, including to support Member States in designing, implementing and evaluating nature-based solutions, building on existing work, initiatives and platforms, as appropriate, and without prejudice to existing efforts and initiatives of and new proposals from individual Member States;*

- With regard to proposals on nature-based solutions it was noted that the United States has developed a Roadmap for nature-based solutions, that Germany has a Federal Action Plan on nature-based solutions and that Ethiopia is considering developing a National Strategy on nature-based solutions.
- A number of interventions emphasized that criteria, standards and guidelines are important to avoid 'greenwashing'.
- It was suggested that the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions is an important resource.
- It was stated that the International Standards Organization is interested in developing a standard for nature-based solutions.
- Amongst the issues addressed by standards and guidelines, the following were identified as particularly important: gender, the rights of indigenous peoples, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, youth and justice.
- It was said that if standards are too complicated, they may not be used by local authorities and others.
- It was noted that the multiplicity of standards and guidelines may lead to a 'pick and choose' approach.
- Attention was drawn to the social and environmental safeguards that are referenced in UNEA resolution 5/5.
- It was highlighted that some guidelines that do not refer to nature-based solutions may still be relevant. CBD Decision 14/5, which includes voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction was mentioned in this regard.

c) *Identify options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions and share information on bilateral and multilateral sources of finance to enable developing countries to develop and deploy nature-based solutions;*

- Canada and Germany noted the levels of finance that they will be providing for nature-based solutions.
- Some said that there is a need to scale up private finance for nature-based solutions
- Views were voiced that other types of support are needed, including capacity support, from bilateral and multilateral sources.
- Some participants stated that finance should not be diverted from ecosystem-based approaches to support nature-based solutions.
- It was noted that financing for nature-based solutions should not replace developed countries' financial obligations to developing countries.

Part 2: Reflections on the way forward

We believe that the text of UNEA resolution 5/5 provides some helpful indications on how to address some of the issues that arose in the First Global Consultation. Here we highlight four such issues and make suggestions for the participants in the consultations to consider.

1. Safeguards

A number of participants drew attention to Operative Paragraph 1(a) which states that nature-based solutions:

Respect social and environmental safeguards, in line with the three “Rio Conventions” (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), including such safeguards for local communities and indigenous peoples;

In the light of this, participants may wish to consider whether the consultations should aim to set out in detail the safeguards that have been adopted under the Rio Conventions, including those safeguards for local communities and indigenous peoples, and to analyze their implications for nature-based solutions, including for issues of rights and justice.

2. Local and national leadership

Participants emphasized the importance of both of local leadership on nature-based solutions by indigenous peoples and local communities and of national leadership in the implementation of nature-based solutions. In this regard it can be noted that OP 1(b) states that nature-based solutions:

Can be implemented in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can be managed adaptively

In OP 8 there is reference to the importance of a ‘country-driven’ approach. Participants may wish to consider if this implies that decision-makers, including at the local and national level, should have some discretion in adapting nature-based solutions to their circumstances.

3. Climate mitigation and adaptation

Some participants indicated that the potential role of nature-based solutions in climate mitigation has been over-stated, while others urged the importance of this contribution to mitigation and also urged more attention to the role of nature-based solutions in climate adaptation. In this context it can be noted that OP2 acknowledges that nature-based solutions ‘do not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but can improve action for and adaptation and resilience to and mitigation of climate change and its impact’. Participants may wish to consider the extent to which this may assist in bridging the different views on this matter.

4. Nature-based solutions and related approaches

31 May 2023

Some participants noted that there are a number of terms and approaches that are closely related to 'nature-based solutions' and are based on the same underlying ideas. Other participants indicated that they preferred to use other terms, including 'ecosystem-based approaches'. In this regard it can be noted that OP 4:

Acknowledges that the concept of nature-based solutions is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches identified under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other management and conservation approaches carried out under existing national policy and legislative frameworks and established under relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Participants may wish to take account of this language in considering whether support for nature-based solutions can accommodate the preference amongst some actors for using different but related terms.

Issues to be addressed in the First Regional Consultations on nature-based solutions

The Co-Chairs would like to request participants in the regional consultations to make a 3 minute intervention or presentation that addresses one or more of the issues listed below. These issues are grouped according to the three tasks. Other participants will be invited to respond to these interventions as time allows. Participants are asked to please recall the purpose of these consultations in your interventions which is “to further support the implementation of nature-based solutions” and to address the three tasks listed below. Participants may also choose to submit all or part of their responses in written format to the UNEP Secretariat.

The issues are grouped according to the three tasks.

1. Compiling examples of best practice in nature-based solutions
 - a) Provide an example of best practice in nature-based solutions from your country or region.
 - b) Consider what is the purpose of compiling examples of best practice. To inspire others? To build a common understanding of what nature-based solutions are? To inform practitioners of useful tools and approaches in implementing nature-based solutions?
 - c) Provide an example of bad practice in nature-based solutions from your country or region.

2. Proposals, criteria, standards and guidelines
 - a) Some countries have developed, or are developing, roadmaps, plans and strategies for nature-based solutions. Consider summarising such a document if it has been developed in your country or region.
 - b) Identify criteria, standards and guidelines that would be useful for your country or region.
 - c) Consider how much detail is needed in criteria, standards and guidelines for nature-based solutions. Some have argued that detail is important in order to clearly distinguish good practice from bad practice. Others have suggested that too much detail may make such instruments difficult to apply.

3. Identifying options for supporting sustainable investment in nature-based solutions
 - a) How would you like the consultations to address this task? What would be the most useful output for your country or region?
 - b) Do you think the consultations should provide specific guidance on how to apply to multilateral and bilateral donors? Or would it be more useful to have a more general assessment of the different funding opportunities?
 - c) Describe useful resources that are available to support the identification of options for financing nature-based solutions.

UNEP Secretariat:

Melissa De Kock melissa.dekock@un.org
Barney Dickson barney.dickson@un.org