



MEMORANDUM

TO : **The Bureau Directors/ Heads of Offices**
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau
Land Management Bureau
National Water Resources Board
River Basin Control Office
Manila Bay Coordinating Office
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

FROM : **The Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change**

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE POLICY FORUM ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS), NOVEMBER 16-17, 2023, PARK INN BY RADISSON HOTEL, QUEZON CITY**

DATE : 03 November 2023

This refers to the current initiatives of the Climate Change Service (CCS) to support the DENR's advocacy and commitment in undertaking nature-based solutions (NBS) to address climate change adaptation and mitigation in the country.

In collaboration with the USAID-assisted Climate Resilient Cities Project, a **Policy Forum on Nature-Based Solutions: Prospects for Institutionalization in the Philippines** shall be conducted on **16-17 November 2023** at 8:30am – 5pm at **Park Inn by Radisson North EDSA, Quezon City**. The Forum primarily aims to be able to come up with a draft national policy on nature-based solutions (NBS) to institutionalize the implementation of NBS in the country based on the initiatives, experiences and technical inputs gathered from various sectors represented in the event. It is further hoped that the national policy shall provide the direction, clear guidelines and standards for promoting, building capacities and implementing NBS among relevant sectors and across all ecosystems/landscapes in the Philippine context.

We request you to attend the said Forum, together with one (1) technical representative. For your confirmation, we shall highly appreciate to kindly accomplish the confirmation slip as provided by this link: <https://tinyurl.com/NBSPolicyForum> on or before **13 November 2023**. We have likewise enclosed a copy of the Concept Note and provisional programme for your reference.

For your consideration.


ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH

POLICY FORUM ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: PROSPECTS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

November 16-17, 2023, Park Inn Hotel, Quezon City

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROPOSED PROGRAM

Background/Rationale

The United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 5/5 defines nature-based solutions (NBS) as actions that protect, conserve, 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 wellbeing, ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity benefits.

Several nature-based solutions are being used to help manage disaster risk and reduce the incidence and impact of flooding, mudslides, and other disasters. They are increasingly being recognized as an effective and cost-efficient way of managing and reducing disaster risks, helping people adapt to climate change and building community resilience.

On the potential of NBS application in the Philippines, estimates suggest that nature-based solutions can provide 37% of the mitigation needed until 2030 to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement. The Philippine forests are significant carbon sinks, capable of storing up to 100,000 gigagrams of carbon. Apart from helping mitigate climate change, adaptation benefits can be derived from trees and forests, such as enhancing the coping capacity of smallholder farmers to climate risks by providing crop and income diversification, soil and water conservation, and efficient nutrient cycling.

On the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, losing the remaining mangroves would result in 24% more people (or around 613,000) being flooded annually, with damage to property increasing by 28% or around US\$1 billion annually. A Study by the OML Center in Leyte and Eastern Samar in 2015 investigated local perceptions on the role mangroves played in reducing the impacts brought by Typhoon Haiyan in five affected municipalities and cities. The study found how the perception of the coastal protection function of mangroves differed according to the state of mangroves, in terms of area, estimated width, and diversity of species.

From previous related projects on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) which is one of the issue-specific ecosystems-related approaches under NBS, among the observations was the absence of the national policy or clear guidelines on EbA/NBS which may pose problems in the promotion and capacity building among the local government units (LGUs) on the application in the local setting. Further, some principles of the NBS as developed by the IUCN may not be applicable in the country's circumstances and may not be effective as expected. A clear policy on NBS in the Philippine context is therefore perceived as necessary to facilitate and institutionalize NBS in the country hence, the policy forum is being conducted for this purpose.

Objectives

1. To generate inputs from resource planners, resource managers, policy formulators and experts from various fields under the NBS umbrella that will be used to prepare a national policy on NBS.

2. To present major NBS initiatives of selected sectors and institutions to stir the generation of the inputs described in the above objective.
3. To identify some possible NBS standards that are applicable in the country across applicable land classifications and projects.

Participants

About 50 participants will be invited representing the relevant national government agencies, civil society, academe/research, and private sector who are engaged in NBS and NBS-related programs or projects.

Methodology

A forum cum workshop shall be conducted to solicit inputs to the NBS policy development that DENR will initiate. All presenters will be required to solicit inputs from their partners from CSO, academe and others in preparing the presentation contents.

Program Design

Day 1		
Time	Activity/Topic	Responsible Person/Agency
SESSION 0: PRELIMINARIES		
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration	CCS
9:00 – 9:15	Preliminaries/Opening Program	CCS
9:15 – 9:25	Introduction of Participants	CCS
9:25 – 9:30	Objectives of the Policy Forum	CCS
SESSION 1: THE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NBS) for CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISKS		
9:30 – 10:00	Overview of Nature-based Solutions (NBS)	DENR (TBD)
10:00 – 10:45	Status of NBS Implementation in the Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DENR Policy and Planning Service (PPS) • USAID–Climate Resilient Cities
10:45 – 11:00	Q&A Session	CCS
SESSION 2: SHARING OF NBS INITIATIVES, RECOMMENDED STANDARDS, GAPS, AND CHALLENGES		
11:00 – 12 NN	NBS in conservation areas, recommended standards, gaps, and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DENR - Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) • Wetlands International Phils. • GIZ
12 Noon – 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00 – 1:40	NBS in urban areas, recommended standards, gaps, and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DENR - Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)
1:40 – 2:20	NBS in forest land and watershed, recommended standards, gaps, and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR- Forest Management Bureau (FMB) World Bank
2:20 – 3:00	NBS in agriculture (land, coastal, marine), recommended standards, gaps, and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture (DA) Forest Foundation of the Philippines (FFP)
3:00 – 3:20	NBS in coastal and marine areas	UP Marine Science Institute
3:20 – 3:40	NBS Perspectives/Initiatives from the Academe	UP Los Baños – College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR)
3:40 – 4:00	Private Sector perspectives on NBS in the Philippines	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
4:00 – 4:30	Environmental Planners perspectives on NBS	Ms. Pechie Gonzales – PIEP (TBD)
4:30 - 5:00	Q & A and Synthesis	CCS

Day 2		
Time	Activity/Topic	Responsible Person/Agency
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration	CCS
9:00 – 9:30	Recap of Day 2 and Workshop Rules	CCS
SESSION 3: ACCELERATING NBS: POLICY SUPPORT		
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Policy Structure: Workshop Input	PPS/CI-CRC
10:00 – 12 NN	Input generation workshop (groups)	CCS/CI-CRC
12 Noon – 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00-2:00 PM	Presentation of processed policy structure	PPS
2:00 – 3:30	Open discussion	PPS
3:30 – 4:00	Synthesis of Day 2	CCS
4:00 – 4:15	Next Steps/Way Forward	CCS
4:15 – 4:30	Closing Program	CCS