

## Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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### ***Key messages for the streamlined document of the post-2015 framework on DRR dated 28 January 2015<sup>1</sup>***

More and more countries around the world are already recognizing and applying ecosystem-based approaches for reducing disaster risk. Such approaches have already been endorsed in several multilateral processes, including in the UNFCCC and the most recent decision adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (*XII/20. Biodiversity, climate change and disaster risk reduction*) in October 2014.

**The growing evidence and endorsement of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction should likewise be reflected in HFA-2<sup>2</sup>. Environment should be regarded as a cross-cutting issue and clearly articulated in the Preamble, Guiding Principles, Expected Outcome and Goal, and across all Priority Areas for Action. Sustainable ecosystem management solutions should be explicitly recognized as a solution for disaster risk reduction and building resilience.**

Through this PEDRR members emphasize that all text on environment and ecosystem that is already agreed (Ad Ref) must be maintained. We provide further suggestions and comments for:

1. Text in the streamline document that has not been agreed but should be adopted in subsequent iterations, including suggestions for further improvements. This section is considered priority for remaining advocacy with negotiators and delegations.
2. Already agreed (Ad Ref)

Our recommendations are endorsed by PEDRR and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> These inputs also reference PEDRR's position paper on the post-2015 global framework on disaster risk reduction (May 2013) and inputs to the Pre-Zero Draft and Zero Draft at [www.pedrr.org](http://www.pedrr.org) or <http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/viewsandcomments>

<sup>2</sup> Ecosystem-based measures for DRR have been endorsed in the Outcomes of Regional DRR Platforms of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Arab states, the European Ministerial Meeting on DRR, as well as in previous Global Platforms (2011 and 2013) held in Geneva. These measures are also supported by several multilateral agreements, namely: (i) the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), and specifically in reference to the Draft Resolution on Wetlands and DRR sponsored by the Government of the Philippines, to be discussed at the CoP 12 meeting in June 2015; (ii) UN Convention on Biological Diversity, specifically in reference to its CoP 12 decision recently adopted which promotes ecosystem-based approaches to climate change and disaster risk reduction; (iii) UN Convention to Combat Desertification, (iv) the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme and UNFCCC Cancun Agreements, as well as (v) the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

I. Text that has not been agreed but should be advocated for adoption in subsequent iterations:

Paragraph	References to environment, ecosystems, natural resources and water	Comments / Suggestions
<b>II. Expected Outcome and Goal</b>		
II.14	Building on the HFA, the present framework aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 15 years: The substantial <b>reduction of disaster [risk and] losses</b> , in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, <b>environmental assets</b> of persons, businesses, communities and countries.	<b>Comment:</b> maintain text (in red)
II.16	In the targets there is no goal with regard to reducing the loss of ecosystems or strengthening the resilience of ecosystems, while there are goals regarding reducing economic losses, number of affected people, damage to health and educational facilities, despite that the role of the environment is a cross-cutting theme in the text.	<b>Suggestion:</b> Substantially increase the number of countries that integrate the role of ecosystems in their disaster risk reduction strategies.
<b>III. Guiding Principles</b>		
III. 17 ( c )	Managing the risk of disasters is aimed at protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and <b>environmental assets</b> , [while [respecting / promoting] human rights, including the right to development]	<b>Comment:</b> maintain text (in red)
III.17 (h)	The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms need to aim at coherence, [as appropriate,] across sustainable development and growth, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, <b>environmental management</b> and disaster risk reduction agendas.	<b>Comment:</b> maintain text (in red)
<b>IV. Priorities for Action</b>		
IV. Priority 1: National level, 22 (b)	Establish and strengthen baselines and periodically assess disaster risks, including existing, [emerging and new sources of disaster risk,] vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics [and their possible cascading effects] at the relevant social and spatial scale,] [ <b>such as within river-basin and coastlines,] [and ecosystem];</b>	<b>Comment:</b> It is very important to take the spatial scale out of brackets and add what is meant by this.  <b>Suggestion:</b> If text on river-basin and coastlines cannot be agreed upon, it could be replaced by: <b>such as at the landscape or catchment level</b>
IV. Priority 2: 24 and 25	<b>Strengthening [governance and institutions / institutional arrangements / organizational, legal and policy frameworks] to manage disaster risk]</b>  24. [Governance <b>of disaster risk management</b> is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risk at all levels.] Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance and coordination within and across sectors as well as participation of relevant stakeholders are needed. Strengthening governance of disaster risk management for prevention, [ <b>mitigation</b> ] preparedness, response and recovery is therefore	<b>Comments:</b> 1) Maintain sustainable development and environment under paragraph 24  2) While paragraph 25(b) asks that national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans should be aimed at <i>environmental resilience</i> , the text under Priority 2 fails to make the point that the management of natural resources, or ecosystem based approaches, should be integrated into

	<p>necessary and fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions for the implementation of instruments relevant to disaster risk <b>[and sustainable development,]</b> such as for [climate change,] <b>sustainable development</b> [,environment, health, and others, as appropriate].</p> <p><u>National and local levels</u></p> <p>25(b) Adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales with targets, indicators and timeframes, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk, and the strengthening of economic, social, health and <b>environmental resilience</b>; <b>[Ad Ref]</b></p>	<p>national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies, as well as local, regional and national sectoral, water management and land-use plans and national development strategies in order to build resilience.</p> <p><b>Suggestion:</b> This additional point was already proposed as an additional paragraph (25(i) in the December version of the HFAII text, <b>which we therefore recommend to reintroduce:</b></p> <p><i>25 (i) Integrate management of natural resources in national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies, as well as local, regional and national sectoral, water management and land-use plans and national development strategies in order to build resilience.</i></p>
<p>IV. Priority 3: 27</p>	<p>Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets <b>as well as the environment</b>. [These are strong drivers of innovation, growth and job creation, opening also new markets and business opportunities.] Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives and prevent and reduce losses, and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation. [An integrated focus is needed on key development areas, such as health, education, food security, nutrition, agriculture, <b>water</b>, [oasis protection,] [sustainable / eco-] tourism, social protection, urban development, <b>environmental protection</b>, climate change adaptation, <b>ecosystem-based management and restoration</b>, critical infrastructure protection, construction, <b>land use and social planning</b>, <b>coastal management</b>, housing, cultural heritage, public awareness, financial [and disaster risk transfer] mechanisms.]</p>	<p><b>Comment:</b> maintain text <b>(in red)</b></p>
<p>IV. Priority 3: National/local level, 28 (g)</p>	<p>Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management <b>[of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including]</b> through the identification of [areas / land zones] that are safe for human settlement <b>[and at the same time preserving ecosystem services that help reduce risks];</b></p>	<p><b>Comment:</b> maintain text <b>(in red)</b></p> <p><b>Suggestion:</b> Add : “...into <b>urban and rural development</b> planning and management....”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> more than 50% of the world’s population is now urbanized/urbanizing. Urban areas are highly</p>

		dependent on healthy ecosystems (e.g. drinking water supply, natural storm buffer and drainage)
IV. Priority 3: Global level, 29 (a)	Promote coherence across sustainable development, [and <b>multilateral environmental agreements</b> ] [[ <b>climate change, biodiversity, [ecosystems] [and combating desertification]</b> ] and disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes [across systems, sectors and organizations, through the United Nations, <b>UNCTAD</b> ,] [the World Trade Organisation], international financial institutions and other relevant institutions and processes [, taking into account mandates and level of international commitments and obligations adopted by countries / <b>as appropriate</b> ];	<b>Comment:</b> maintain text (in red)

## II. Comments to already agreed (Ad Ref):

### 1. Insufficient attention for Water:

In various agreed paragraphs there is emphasis in the text on poor land management, and development of guidance of land use policies and planning. However, there is no attention for **water use and management**. This is a concern, since **water-related hazards account for 90% of all hazards**, and their frequency and intensity is generally rising. This is relevant to below paragraphs for which we suggest:

- I Preamble, paragraph 6: to ADD **water management**
- III Priorities for Action, paragraph 28 (f): to ADD **water** -use policy development and implementation
- IV. Priority 4: National/local, 31 (k): to ADD the **management of water resources**

As indicated in Section I of this briefing, we further suggest to maintain all remaining text on **water, wetlands, ecosystems, environment, river basins and coasts** throughout the text still to be agreed.

### 2. Lack of integration of ecosystem-based approaches into DRR, CCA, sectoral and development plans:

IV. Priority 3, paragraph 28 (n) (Ad Ref) calls for the strengthening of the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and calls for incorporation of DRR into integrated environmental and natural resource management. However throughout the text there is lack of a clear call to integrate *ecosystem-based approaches into national DRR and CCA strategies, and into local, regional, and national sectoral, water management and land-use plans and national development strategies.*

This point is also not strongly made under priority 2 on Governance on the national and local level-, where it would be best placed. **This text is still not agreed and we therefore suggest to reintroduce the proposed paragraph 25(i) from the December version under Priority 2:**

*25 (i): Integrate management of natural resources in national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies, as well as local, regional and national sectoral, water management and land-use plans and national development strategies in order to build resilience.*

**See also the suggestion made in Section I of this briefing re IV. Priority 2: paragraph 24 and 25.**

Endorsed by PEDRR and the Convention on Biological Diversity

**PEDRR**  
Ecosystems for Adaptation  
and Disaster Risk Reduction

The Partnership for Environment  
and Disaster Risk Reduction

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