



PEDRR/FEBA Recommendations based on the 1st draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

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PEDRR and FEBA welcome the first draft of the framework as a major step towards securing a crucial global biodiversity agreement. However, in line with PEDRR and FEBA's aims, we provide recommendations for Member States to help ensure a final global biodiversity framework that ensures resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems in the face of climate change and increasing disaster risk.

The Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) is a global alliance of 27 UN agencies, NGOs and specialist institutes. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) serves as secretariat to PEDRR. PEDRR is the clearinghouse for knowledge, training, advocacy and practice on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR). The CBD COP recognises PEDRR as a network to support efforts on awareness raising and capacity building on Eco-DRR (Decision 14/5).

Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) is a global collaborative network of 80+ agencies and organisations working in Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) working jointly to share experiences and knowledge, to improve the implementation of EbA related activities on the ground, and to raise awareness and understanding of EbA in adaptation planning processes and multilateral policy frameworks. The Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties (CBD COP) recognizes FEBA as a key partner "to support Parties in their efforts to promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation" (Decision 14/5).

1.Introduction

As highlighted by the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, climate change is increasing disaster risk worldwide. A disaster can in an instant destroy lives, livelihoods and whole ecosystems, undermining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is paramount that a holistic and coherent approach is taken by countries to reduce these risks and adapt to climate change. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are highlighted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 as well as in the regional and global platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction which stocktake implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In both the climate change and disaster risk reduction communities, NbS are recognised as an important element to protect people and ecosystems from natural hazards and improve biodiversity. Indeed, a recent survey of over 500 sustainability professionals showed that the most desired outcome of COP26 was an agreement on integrating NbS into the Paris Agreement for example.

In October 2020, PEDRR and FEBA released a policy brief "Promoting Nature-based Solutions in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework". This brief aimed to clarify the terminology of Nature-based Solutions and how it relates to ecosystem-based approaches such as for adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Additionally, it wished to underline why incorporating NbS within the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) has the potential to bring about transformational change in society's relationship with nature, to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled. The first draft of the GBF removed the term "Nature-based Solutions" from the text in favor of "ecosystem-based approaches"- a more narrow term used by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). However, to overcome both the biodiversity and climate crisis, complementary actions that fully cover all possible NbS are needed.

PEDRR and FEBA would like to highlight four recommendations to parties in the exercise of finalising the development of the GBF.

2.Key Recommendations

2.1 Align the GBF with other UN Conventions, including the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Such an approach would better achieve the vision of living in harmony with Nature. (see section 3.1 for more information).

2.2 Include a definition of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), based on that of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its Standard within a CBD decision and the GBF. This will create greater coherence and alignment between the CBD, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNFCCC (see section 3.2 for more information).

2.3 Include Ecosystem-based approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) alongside Adaptation (EbA) in Targets 8 and 11. This would be crucial to protect biodiversity and people while being consistent with previous CBD COP decisions (see section 3.3 for more information).

2.4 Monitor the use and contribution of Ecosystem-based approaches and NbS, to promote further knowledge and uptake (see section 3.4 for more information).

3. Recommendations Explained

3.1 Align the GBF with other UN Conventions, including the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.^[1]

As per its current version, the GBF draft mainly refers to the targets of the SDGs. However, it is critical to align the GBF with other UN conventions and frameworks, most notably the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as the other multilateral environmental agreements.

Protecting biodiversity can only be achieved in a holistic and coherent approach. The two aforementioned international agreements, (and indeed the GBF draft), include text on increasing the resilience of ecosystems, including by implementing sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem-based approaches.

As targets of various global frameworks (including the GBF) struggle to be met there is a growing realisation that coherence between agendas is essential to their success. A report by the UN Climate Change Secretariat on opportunities to integrate the SDGs, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation identified two common themes that could be seen as an opportunity for integration: resilience and ecosystems ([United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, 2017](#)).

Using the NbS approach in the GBF will improve the integration of a broader range of solutions across the multilateral agreements, especially the UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and will address both climate and biodiversity crises simultaneously. As a result, different problems would be addressed with a coherent and holistic vision through ecosystems and ecosystem-based approaches.

3.2 Reintroduce the term Nature-based Solutions in the GBF

As explained in point 3.1, including NbS would help to promote a holistic and coherent approach to protecting biodiversity while meeting people's needs.

Nature-based Solutions have been defined by IUCN as **actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.** IUCN also developed a global standard for NbS, which not only helps define what is NbS but also aids in preventing unanticipated negative outcomes or misuse, and helps funding agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders assess the effectiveness of NbS implementation. NbS are an umbrella term covering ecosystem-based approaches. Indeed, the [Kunming Declaration](#) notes that "Ecosystem-based approaches may also be referred to as "Nature based solutions" as per SBSTTA recommendation 23/2, paragraph 4".

It is important to note that NbS are not the same as Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). NCS can be the same as NbS if they consider biodiversity and people (see table on the next page).

[1] See Annex I for Key Decisions relating to Biodiversity, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Attribute	NbS	NCS
Based on ecosystem function	Yes	Yes
Deliver benefits based on societal challenges	Yes, for climate, disaster risk, food and water security and health	Only for climate mitigation
Positive for people, biodiversity and ecosystem services	Yes	No; unless environment and social safeguards are in place

Finally, the GBF takes a collective whole of society approach, intending to move the biodiversity conservation agenda outside the state actors to non-state actors in order to drive action. Including NbS in the GBF will allow different sectors and stakeholders to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services while achieving many sustainable development goals.

3.3 Include Ecosystem-based Approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters have been at the forefront of concerns for many countries as their impacts are devastating and widespread. Disasters not only impact people but also whole ecosystems and biodiversity. Endangered species and fragile ecosystems are especially vulnerable when a disaster occurs. The Australian bushfires in 2019-2020, for example, held heavy consequences for the native biodiversity ([Ward et al. 2020](#)).

A recent systematic review indicates that over 500 individual losses of ecosystems or of ecosystem services have been reported in the literature in the last 20 years (peer-review and in post-disaster needs assessments), which actually is an underrepresentation of the impact of disasters worldwide on biodiversity ([Walz et al. 2021](#)). Furthermore, disaster emergency response mechanisms that do not take biodiversity into account, can further exacerbate environmental degradation leading to further biodiversity loss.

Ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss are both a driver and consequence of disasters. For this reason, and given its broad recognition, **healthy ecosystems can be important allies in reducing risk and increasing resilience for people and the environment and should have a firm place in GBF:**

- **Target 8:** including ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction in target 8 would not only be consistent with previous COP decisions ([XII/20 on Biodiversity and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and [XIII/4 on Biodiversity and Climate Change](#)) but also beneficial to biodiversity ([JNCC, 2021](#)). Finally, the compound indicator 8.3.1 “Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 which include biodiversity (based on SDG 13.2.1) currently proposed for this target 8 would make more sense with mention of disaster risk reduction alongside climate change adaptation and mitigation within target 8.

- **Target 11:** it would also be important to include ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction in target 11. A recent systematic review of new scientific papers provides firm evidence that many ecosystems reduce disaster risk for a number of hazards (Sudmeier et al. 2021).

“The Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction”, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 14.5 on Biodiversity and Climate change, also represents a key tool for the design and implementation of actions for protecting, restoring and sustainable ecosystems within the framework to support decision and policymakers.

3.4 Monitor the use of Ecosystem-based Approaches and Nature-based Solutions

Given the centrality of the ecosystem approach within the CBD/future GBF, monitoring its implementation could give important information as to some of the mechanisms underlying biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, it may also promote further uptake if these approaches are reported upon. The data that can be derived from the indicators will provide information on changes in practices and processes, as well as strengthen the evidence of the usefulness of ecosystems and ecosystem-based approaches.

Indicators for NbS were proposed in the PEDRR and FEBA policy brief “Promoting Nature-based Solutions in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”.

Annex

Key Decisions relating to Biodiversity, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Convention on Biological Diversity

Decision X/33 on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Decision XII/20 on Biodiversity and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Decision XIII/4 on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Decision 14/5 on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Ramsar Convention

Resolution X.24 Climate Change and Wetlands

Resolution XII.13 Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction

Paris Agreement

Article 7

Article 8

Sendai Framework Priorities for Action

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

24. b) [...] assess disaster risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential effects at the relevant social and spatial scale on ecosystems, in line with national circumstances.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

28. b) To foster collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate.

28. d) To promote transboundary cooperation to enable policy and planning for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches [...]

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

30. g) [...] preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;

30 n) To strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;



This paper is presented as a contribution to the ongoing discussions towards the adoption of a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The views presented herein do not necessarily represent the official position of any organisations listed here. The content of this document does not preclude the debates to be held in and the outcomes of the meetings related to the negotiation and adoption of the GBF.