

Council decision C98/17, 98th Meeting of the IUCN Council, 10-11 February 2020

The IUCN Council,

On the recommendation of the Programme and Policy Committee,

Endorses the adoption of an IUCN Nature-based Solution Standard noting that the application of the standard is an evolving process that will need to be monitored and revised accordingly. **(Annex 23)**

IUCN Global Nature based Solutions Standard

Criteria and Indicators

Issue being addressed	Criteria	Indicators
Societal challenges	1. NbS effectively address societal challenges	1.1 The most pressing societal challenges for rights holders and beneficiaries are prioritised
		1.2 The societal challenges addressed are clearly understood and documented
		1.3 Human wellbeing outcomes arising from the NbS are identified, benchmarked and periodically assessed
Design at scale	2. Design of NbS is informed by scale	2.1 Design of NbS recognises and responds to the interactions between the economy, society and ecosystems
		2.2 Design of NbS integrated with other complementary interventions and seeks synergies across sectors
		2.3 Design of NbS incorporates risk identification and risk management beyond the intervention site
Biodiversity net-gain	3. NbS result in net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity	3.1 NbS actions directly respond to evidence-based assessment of the current state of the ecosystem and prevailing drivers of degradation and loss
		3.2 Clear and measurable biodiversity conservation outcomes are identified, benchmarked and periodically assessed
		3.3 Monitoring includes periodic assessments for unintended adverse consequences on nature arising from the NbS
		3.4 Opportunities to enhance ecosystem integrity and connectivity identified and incorporated into the NbS strategy
Economic feasibility	4. NbS are economically viable	4.1 The direct and indirect benefits and costs associated with the NbS, who pays and who benefits, are identified and documented
		4.2 A cost-effectiveness study is provided to support the choice of NbS including the likely impact of any relevant regulations and subsidies
		4.3 The effectiveness of an NbS design is justified against available alternative solutions, taking into account any associated externalities
		4.4 NbS design considers a portfolio of resourcing options such as market-based, public sector, voluntary commitments and actions to support regulatory compliance
Inclusive governance	5. NbS are based on inclusive, transparent and	5.1 A defined and fully agreed upon feedback and grievance resolution mechanism is available to all stakeholders before an NbS intervention can be initiated

	empowering governance processes	<p>5.2 Participation is based on mutual respect and equality, regardless of gender, age or social status, and upholds the right of Indigenous Peoples to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</p> <p>5.3 Stakeholders who are directly and indirectly affected by the NbS have been identified and involved in all processes of the NbS intervention</p> <p>5.4 Decision-making processes document and respond to rights and interests of all participating and affected stakeholders</p> <p>5.5 Where the scale of the NbS extends beyond jurisdictional boundaries, mechanisms are established to enable joint decision-making among the stakeholders in those jurisdictions affected by the NbS</p>
Balance trade-offs	6. NbS equitably balances trade-offs between achievement of their primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits	<p>6.1 The potential costs and benefits of associated trade-offs of the NbS intervention are explicitly acknowledged and inform safeguards and any appropriate corrective actions</p> <p>6.2 The rights, usage of and access to land and resources, along with the responsibilities of different stakeholders are acknowledged and respected</p> <p>6.3 Established safeguards are periodically reviewed to ensure that mutually-agreed trade-offs limits are respected and do not destabilise the entire NbS</p>
Adaptive management	7. NbS are managed adaptively, based on evidence	<p>7.1 A NbS strategy is established and used as a basis for regular monitoring and evaluation of the intervention</p> <p>7.2 A monitoring and evaluation plan is developed and implemented throughout the intervention lifecycle</p> <p>7.3 A framework for iterative learning that enables adaptive management is applied throughout the intervention lifecycle</p>
Mainstreaming	8. NbS are sustainable and mainstreamed within an appropriate jurisdictional context	<p>8.1 NbS design, implementation and lessons learnt are shared for triggering transformative change</p> <p>8.2 NbS inform and enhance facilitating policy and regulation frameworks to support its uptake and mainstreaming</p> <p>8.3 Where relevant, NbS contribute to national and global targets for human wellbeing, climate change, biodiversity and human rights, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)</p>