

ACES 2018 - Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, December 6th (1 hour – 12:45pm-1:45pm)

Title: Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are actions that protect, restore or sustainably manage ecosystems and the services they provide (rather than conventional engineering solutions), to address major societal challenges, simultaneously providing benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. NbS can be considered as an umbrella concept for interventions that address climate change (e.g. through interventions such as ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation), disaster risk (through ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction), biodiversity loss, water and food security or human health (e.g. through green and natural infrastructure, ecological restoration), by increasing the number of ecosystem services and the level at which they are provided.



Program and discussion points:

1. General background (25 min)

This Town Hall Meeting will begin with a short presentation on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its Commission on Ecosystem Management and then present the IUCN framework for Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The first part of this Town Hall meeting will address the following questions:

Introduction (8 min, including 3 for questions)

- What is IUCN and its Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)?
- What are IUCN CEM's priority areas?
- Where does IUCN CEM want to take the NbS framework?
- What are the objectives of this Town Hall Meeting in context of engaging with this audience?

NbS framework (17 min, including 5 for questions)

- What are NbS, what for and when can they be used?
- How is the NbS framework linked and different from other similar frameworks (*e.g.* green infrastructure, protected areas, ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem approach)?
- How can NbS be operationalized?

2. Discussion (35 min)

The second part of this Town Hall Meeting will be lively discussions to explore further IUCN's NbS framework and questions relating to the implementation of NbS, including the link to ecosystem services. For this purpose, we will lead and moderate the group discussion as follows:

- a. First, invite two participants to share their projects (case-studies) with the audience. Then, as a group, move through the list of NbS standards discussing each case study, including if the standards are implied and if the standards are/would benefit or add value to these case-studies (20 min.). Discussions will focus on how these case-studies fit within the NbS framework, and if they don't, identify what are the gaps and ways to potentially make them stronger NbS case-studies to increase their impact;
- b. Second, focusing on the conceptual aspect of the NbS framework collect participant feedback on the NbS framework from an ecosystem services perspective (15min.). For example: discuss how the ecosystem services concept and related tools (*e.g.* mapping, economic valuation, socio-economic assessment) can contribute to the NbS framework (*e.g.* help assess NbS interventions)? This will be done using a pre-developed table with the different steps/principles of the NbS framework in which each participant will be invited to add colored stickers with suggestions and their detail.

Speakers:

Dr Emmanuelle Cohen-Shacham leads the IUCN CEM Thematic Group on Nature-based Solutions (NbS), she has been leading the development of the IUCN NbS conceptual and definitional frameworks on behalf of IUCN's CEM, and previously led the IUCN CEM Ecosystem Services Thematic Group. Earlier, she coordinated Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity, working at the Israel Ministry of the Environment. She also worked on a few Mediterranean projects (INTERREG, SAP-BIO, Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, MedINA). She did her PhD on the link between ecosystem management and the provision of ecosystem services in Mediterranean wetlands, at Tel-Aviv University, Israel, and holds an M.Sc. on Environmental Management from Wageningen University, the Netherlands.

Dr Simone Maynard leads the Ecosystem Services Thematic Group at the IUCN CEM. Simone is an independent multidisciplinary advisor, researcher and practitioner and in this role she assists stakeholders to develop ecosystem services assessment methods and integrate them in their policies, planning and management. She is on the Steering Committee of ACES and coordinates the ACES Oceania Ecosystem Services Forum; and on the Executive Committee of the Ecosystem Services Partnership and the Editorial Board of the journal Ecosystem Services. Simone has held Author, Facilitator and Moderator roles during the UN's IPBES and Global Environment Outlook programs. Simone holds a B.Env.Sc.; Honours (First) Aust.Env.Studies; Dip.Comm.NRM; and PhD (Natural Resource Management) from the Australian National University.

Brock Blevins has been working with the CEM since 2011, serving first as membership coordinator on the Executive Committee for the North American and Caribbean region before becoming co-lead of the Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group. A member of the Commission on Education and Communication and Species Survival Commission, Brock also serves as the Lead Training Coordinator for NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program. Brock holds a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Audience: The target audience is the ecosystem services community as a whole, attending the conference - policy makers, watershed and natural resource officers and managers; strategic, environmental, and social planners; ecosystem service practitioners and researchers.