

HIGH LEVEL DECLARATION

Nature-based Solutions for water management under climate change

We, representatives of governments, international and national organizations, donors, national and transboundary basin organizations, local authorities, civil society and companies, research organizations, support the integration of Nature-based Solutions into the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

Climate change is already affecting and will increasingly affect natural resources, especially water resources and aquatic ecosystems. In many countries, the number and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts is increasing, and the sea level is rising, threatening territories, economic and social development as well as the environment.

In this context, there is a growing interest for a range of solutions inspired by nature, under different terminologies: generic terms like eco-engineering, support for ecosystem services or green infrastructure, specific examples of these like restoration, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) or Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM), etc.

These Nature-based Solutions are defined 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, 2016). They are one of the options for societies to meet the mitigation and adaptation objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate, which acknowledged the interlinkages between resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems.

Nature-based Solutions are also fundamental to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG6 (Water), SDG13 (Climate Change), SDG14 (Oceans), SDG2 (Zero hunger) and SDG15 (Ecosystems).

This declaration recognizes and aligns with the orientations and recommendations of the COP21 “Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers”, the Hawaii Resolution of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016, the 13th Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the “Water and Climate” International Summit of Rome in October 2017.

We recognize that

☞ Climate change and biodiversity are interconnected. Biodiversity is affected by climate change, with negative consequences for human well-being and in some cases human survival. However, by providing ecosystem services, biodiversity can also contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

☞ These solutions should be part of a global, participative and integrated approach of water management in a context of climate change, and can be combined to institutional and technical solutions, to respond to the specific needs and constraints of various territories.

☞ Nature-based Solutions have multiple benefits and do not respond to a single objective. They can simultaneously increase the resilience of the territories to climate risks (hurricanes, droughts, floods, erosions, marine submersion...), play a role in biodiversity and soils protection and restoration and meet other development challenges such as access to safe drinking water, food security and human health, land degradation neutrality, sustainable cities as well as tourism. By doing so, they also contribute to enhance project ownership by citizens. Moreover, the multiple benefits of Nature-based Solutions contribute to the reduction of the costs of action.



Marrakech
Partnership



We commit to

- ☞ Include Nature-based Solutions in our international, regional, national, basin and local long-term strategies and policies on climate change, risk reduction, land planning, soil and water management.
- ☞ Make sure that Nature-based Solutions are providing co-benefits for human well-being and development as well as biodiversity.
- ☞ Implement tools for the development of sustainable Nature-based Solutions for water management on our territories such as capacity building, knowledge development and sharing, policy support and governance. Put in place mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the projects' co-benefits and effectiveness. Ensure population and social acceptability, notably by the reinforcement of the involvement and the enhancement of the know-how of the local communities.
- ☞ Facilitate adequate public and private financing for Nature-based Solutions for water management.
- ☞ Combine Nature-based Solutions to civil engineering where necessary, depending on the local specificities, in order to provide the best protection for biodiversity and water resources and the highest community benefits.
- ☞ Raise awareness on the necessity to operationalize research works on nature-based approaches by promoting Nature-based Solutions for water management and this declaration towards our peers.
- ☞ Reinforce exchanges and expertise sharing on this topic, especially through the existing Alliances on water and climate in the framework of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and through the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

This declaration, initiated at the International Workshop "Ecological Engineering and Climate Risks" of Paris, (20-22 September 2017), was officially presented at the International Summit of the Great Rivers of the World in Rome (23-25 October 2017) and proposed for this occasion to the signature of all other interested partners by COP23 in Bonn, (6-17 November 2017).

Name:	Signed in (City – Country):
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