



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
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2023

Nature-based Solutions: The Whole of Society Approach

**Nature Hub 450 E 29th Street, New York, NY 10016 Room 200
22 March 2023 3:30-5:00pm ET**

Setting the Stage:

Nature-based solutions offer proven pathways to improve water security while also helping combat climate change and biodiversity loss. There are important bright spots where governments, in strong collaboration with civil society and the private sector, are creating enabling conditions for whole of society approaches that can attract financing at national and basin scales. For example, the City of Cape Town has endorsed ecological restoration as a means to restore the equivalent of two months of water at 1/10th of the cost of desalinization and is partnering with multiple stakeholders in the Greater Cape Town Water Fund.

Purpose of Session: Through select member state, subnational and transboundary basin examples, the session will provide clear evidence and guidance on how investments in nature can address the critical interlinked crisis of water security, biodiversity loss and climate change through whole-of-society approaches, science, innovative governance and finance.

The Session will be structured to explore examples at multiple scale: transboundary, national and subnational catchment scales. The discussion will be structured around themes that are to be discussed at the Conference: Governance, Financing and Capacity Building using inclusive ‘whole of society’ approaches. The Panels will be fast-moving, using moderators that will draw out the essential learnings. Video interludes will help connect the conversation to places and diverse people that are benefitting from nature based solutions.

Summary Key Messages

- Investing in nature, sometimes called Nature Based Solutions (NBS), provides multiple benefits: water security, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and livelihoods in a variety of contexts. Nature is often cost-effective and an adaptable, durable asset in the face of climate change.
- Clear business case and planning clarifies these benefits to multiple stakeholders to foster collaboration and catalyze funding to meet collective goals. Science based planning ensures the money goes where it's needed and will be most effective.
- Scaling NBS requires rethinking how we structure governance, finance and build capacity with clear whole of society approach. Healthy ecosystems need to be considered as integral to investments for water security and must be considered on par with grey infrastructure investments.
- The public sector has a unique role in connecting to existing policies, frameworks, and funding streams. Examples include changes in policy directives and tariffs requiring the consideration of nature-based solutions, protection of critical ecosystems, and including nature in national planning mechanisms such as NDC's.

PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks, Statement of Purpose

Ms Astrid Schomaker, Director for Green Diplomacy And Multilateralism

Keynote on NBS: what, why, where

Dr David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity – confirmed IUCN

Panel 1 | Enabling conditions for NBS investment

Moderator: Sarah Davidson, WWF

Eng. Kenneth Nyundu, Director General WARMA, Zambia

Eng Michael Thuita, MBS. CEO, Athi Water Works Development Agency, Ministry of Water Sanitation & Irrigation of Kenya

US Govt – Assistant Secretary Medina OAS and State Dept, Special Envoy for Water & Biodiversity

Mr Sergio Campos, Head of Division Chief-Water and Sanitation, IDB

Panel 2 | Locally-led NBS Catchment Initiatives

Moderator: Gregg Brill, Senior Researcher and Technical Lead, CEOWM

Ms Andréa Borges, ESG Program Manager from Consórcio PCJ, Brazil

Mr. Patrick Lecante, President of the Water and Biodiversity Committee of French Guiana

Ms Louise Stafford, South Africa Director, The Nature Conservancy

Mr Andre Fourie, Global Vice President, Sustainability, ABInbev

**Mr Pierre-Yves Pouliquen, SVP Sustainable development and Multifaceted performance,
Veolia**

Closing remarks & reflections

Mr Loïc Fauchon, World Water Council President