

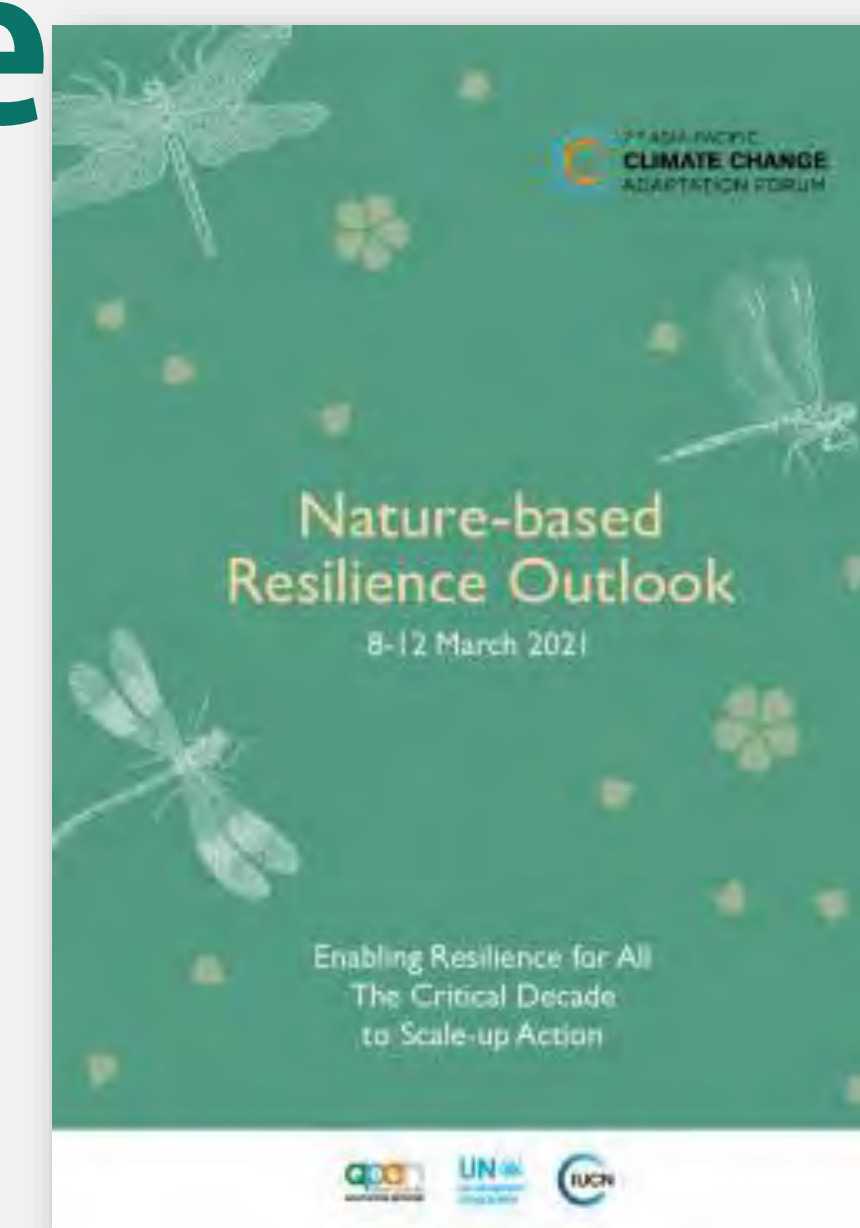
Nature based Solutions for Resilience in Asia-Pacific

An overview

Raphael Glemet

Senior programme officer, Water and wetlands

IUCN Asia Regional Office



Asia-Pacific - Ecosystems and societies under threat



- **Large river deltas, coasts, corals reefs and islands** - sea-level rise, saline intrusion, erosion, coral bleaching;
- **Himalayas** - increased temperatures, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, loss of water sources;
- **Mekong/ Indus/Ganges/Yangtze River Basins** - floods/droughts leading to the loss of human lives, agricultural production, fisheries collapse;
- **Mega cities: Delhi, Tokyo, Beijing, Bangkok** - floods, urban heat

Defining Nature Based Solutions

“Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”

IUCN, 2016, World Conservation Congress, Hawaii



Governance



STRENGTHS

- Most governments have an agency responsible for natural resources and/or climate change
- Most governments have ratified key conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar)



WEAKNESSES

- Crosscutting nature of NbS is rarely reflected in governance
- NbS is not high on the agenda of regional platforms (ASEAN, SAARC)
- Local indigenous participation overlooked
- Lack of transboundary applications



Planning and Processes



STRENGTHS

- Many NBSAPs, NAPs, and NDCs in the region contain some elements of NbS for resilience
- High level political momentum and commitments: Japan, China, ROK pledge to become carbon neutral



WEAKNESSES

- NbS for resilience rarely seen as a national strategy
- Although ecosystems are mentioned in NDCs, there is often minimal detail provided
- Lack of support for countries to integrate NbS for resilience into NAP planning



Science and assessments



STRENGTHS

- A large number of tools for vulnerability assessment/design of NbS for resilience exist regionally
- Many Centres of Excellence (ICIMOD, MRC, ACB, IGES) working on NbS-related topics



WEAKNESSES

- Lack of ecosystem services valuation
- Limited endorsement of vulnerability assessment tools
- No adaptation knowledge platform for NbS in Asia-Pacific



Technologies and practices



STRENGTHS

- A number of case studies demonstrating the role of NbS in resilience are emerging from Asia-Pacific



WEAKNESSES

- Often small-medium scale examples, rarely large scale
- Diversity of options not yet understood. E.g. few projects on urban NbS for resilience
- Private sector engagement must be strengthened



Finance and investments



STRENGTHS

- Substantial GCF/GEF investment in Asia
- REDD+, BMU-IKI, WB: NbS-related language is integrated in donor calls
- Global Fund for EbA
- Adaptation Fund



WEAKNESSES

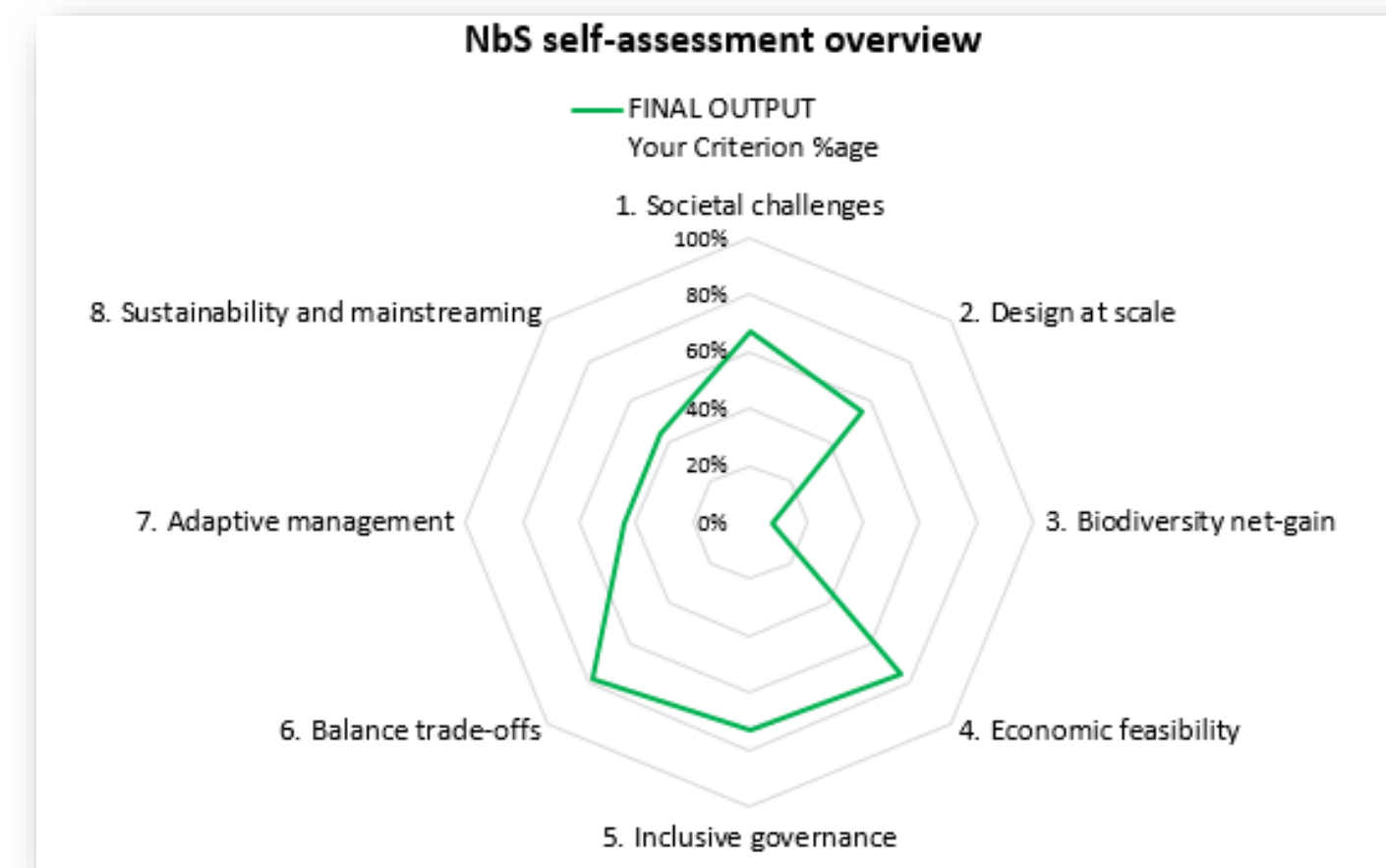
- Minimal national financing mechanisms for NbS for resilience
- Still driven by international organisations and donors
- Lack of private sector financing



Global Standard for NbS launched in July 2020

Criteria overview:

1. Societal challenges
2. Design at scale
3. Biodiversity net-gain
4. Economic viability
5. Inclusive governance
6. Balance trade-offs
7. Adaptive management
8. Sustainability



Resources

IUCN Global Standard for NbS

IUCN Global Standard for NbS

"We must ensure that the actions put in place today bring about the desired benefits for **society and biodiversity**."

Stewart Maginnis
IUCN's Global Director for the Nature-based Solutions Group

Downloads

- Synopsis of consultation on the development of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS
- Nature-based Solutions definition (Resolution WCC-2016-Res-069)

Links

- The IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (EN/ES/FR)
- Guidance for using the IUCN Global Standard (EN/ES/FR)
- Read the Issues Brief: Ensuring effective Nature-based Solutions (EN/ES/FR)
- Register to participate in the IUCN Global Standard User Group here

Ensuring NbS actions address global challenges

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are a powerful ally to address societal challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and food security. As the world strives to emerge from the current pandemic and move towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative that future investments in nature reach their potential by contributing to the health and well-being of people and the planet.

To this end -- and with growing interest from governments, business and civil society -- IUCN has developed the first-ever Global Standard for Nature-based

Ecosystems, Climate Change and People:
strengthening nature to enhance resilience in
Asia-Pacific



THANK YOU!

