TECHNICAL WORKSHOP REPORT ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS ORGANIZED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE VOLTA FLOOD AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT (VFDM) PROJECT

Location: Coconut Grove hotel, Accra

Date : 15-17 February 2022

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INTRODUCTION

The national training workshop on "Nature-based solutions for flood and drought management in the Volta Basin" for the stakeholders of Ghana with a view to develop bankable projects was organized in Accra, Ghana for three days (15-17 February 2022). This is organized under the framework of the Volta Flood and Drought Management (VFDM) project, funded by the Adaptation Fund. The national workshops in the other five Volta Basin countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) were successfully completed between November 2021 and February 2022.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Volta Basin Authority (VBA) and Global water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-WA) Consortium of the VFDM project in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as a technical partner, will strengthen national capacities on how nature-based solutions can be a powerful tool for effective management of flood and drought events and taking it into account in identification and development of bankable projects for the mobilization of related financing at both national and regional levels.

OPENING SESSION

The workshop started with a welcome Address by Mr. Ben Ampomah, Executive Secretary of Water Resources Commission who thanked participants for being present at the event. This was followed with a speech by IUCN Representative in the person of Dr Jacques Somda and then a Representative of the WMO, Mr Ramesh Tripathi. There was also a speech by a representative of the Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources in the person of Mr. Donald Teye (Director of Water at the Ministry) and a representative of the Executive Director of the Volta Basin Authority.

The welcome address was preceded by media and photo session among participants at the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda (presented under Annex 2) was adopted without any amendments.

EXPECTATION FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

The moderator wanted to ascertain the expectations of participants and these were some of their submissions:

- Understanding of the nature-based solutions (NbS) concept and associated approaches;

- Adopting resolutions for the uptake of the concept;
- Integrating NbS into the feasibility, conception, monitoring, and evaluation phases of the project cycle;
- Capacity building and skills reinforcement.
- Understanding how NbS could be combined with or complemented by associated tools

The primary objective of this workshop was to build the capacities of actors on the nature-based solutions concept and its inclusion in the development of bankable climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects in the Volta Basin region.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRESIDIUM

Rapporteurs

1. Mr. Joachim Ayiiwe Abungba – Principal Basin Officer, WRC Black Volta Basin Secretariat, Wa, Ghana
2. Mr. Godfred Asamoah – Water Quality Officer, WRC Head Office, Accra, Ghana.

SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were made by Mr. Ramesh Tripathi, Boukari Niampa and Mr. Eric Muala.

Session 1: Presentation by Ramesh

The first presentation was carried out by Ramesh on the Volta Flood Drought Management (VFDM) project and its activities. The VFDM project will provide the first large-scale and transboundary implementation of Integrated Flood and Drought Management by empowering the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and other competent authorities. Mr. Ramesh in his presentation pointed out that the topic has been divided into three components in ascending order that is risk prevention and management, concrete adaptation, and stakeholder engagement and Governance. He stated that some challenges encountered during the implementation are the complexity of activity requiring technical expertise, the emergence of Covid, and joint support of stakeholders at various levels.

Session 2: Presentation by Boukari Niampa on the Volta Basin Authority

The second presentation on the Volta Basin Authority was carried out by Boukari Niampa. He started his presentation with a brief description of the Volta basin where Ghana has a proportion of 40%. He added that the decision to create VBA was in 2006 and it entered into force of convention in 2009 with some potential projects such as VFDM, Reward (ecosystem and water degradation in the Volta River basin), and PREE Project (Regional partnership on water and the environment in central and west Africa).

Presentation by Eric Muala on the state of Volta Basin in Ghana

The next presentation of the day was done by Eric Muala of Water Resources Commission. His presentation was on the state of Volta Basin in Ghana. In his presentation he highlighted on the changes that have occurred within the basin, notable occurrences are Changes in Water Quantity and Seasonality Inflows. He continued by saying that Ghana and Togo experience severe sea erosion (between 4-7 m/year) along their coastline and Oti River, has only about 18% of the total catchment area of the Volta Basin, but contributes between 30-40% of the annual flow of the Volta River system. Additionally, he said that ongoing projects include the development of Buffer Zone Regulations, Developing Water Resources Pollution and Effluent Discharges Regulations, Developing and Implement River Basin IWRM Plans for Oti, Black Volta, Integrating Flood, and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin (VFDM).

Presentation by Joachim Abungba on National Projects in Ghana from Water Resources Commission

In his presentation, he highlighted the potential project ideas for consideration. These ideas, Mr Joachim Abungba indicated came from some consultations and engagements with some key stakeholders by the Water Resources Commission. Below are the project ideas highlighted in the presentation.

- Nature-based Solutions in Basin Management for Ecosystem Resilience, sustainable livelihoods and food security in Ghana.
- NbS for Managing Water Resources Availability for Sustainable Economic Transition: A Case of the Volta System in Ghana
- NbS for Managing and Protecting Water Quality: The case of the Volta Basin in Ghana: where we have challenges like illegal mining, sand winning, flooding. NbS interventions to be Afforestation, protection of water source, riparian restoration, agricultural best management practices, and outcome of improved water quality.
- NbS for Disaster Risk Reduction in Coastal and Riverine communities in Ghana
- NbS for a sustained WASH outcome in Ghana

According to him, the last project needed the inputs of other stakeholders or experts which is NbS for sustained WASH Outcomes in Ghana.

Presentation by Dr Jacques Somda on Nature-based solutions concept

He started by highlighting on the difference between environment and nature. He stated that whereas the environment is everything around us, nature on the other hand is clearly defined as the biotic component of the environment. Additionally, he made a point that NbS adds an additional pillar to conservation with the aim to achieve the purposes of safeguarding nature and society. He also touched on the IUCN definition of nature-based solutions as: “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". Moreover, he stated that participants needs to differentiate about the terms nature-based solutions, nature-derived solutions, and nature-inspired solutions and added that the level of degradation suggests what type of the three solutions mentioned above to use and be combined. He concluded by taking participants through the difference between nature.based solutions and soft solutions and explained that soft solutions include nature-based solutions but not all soft solutions are natured based.

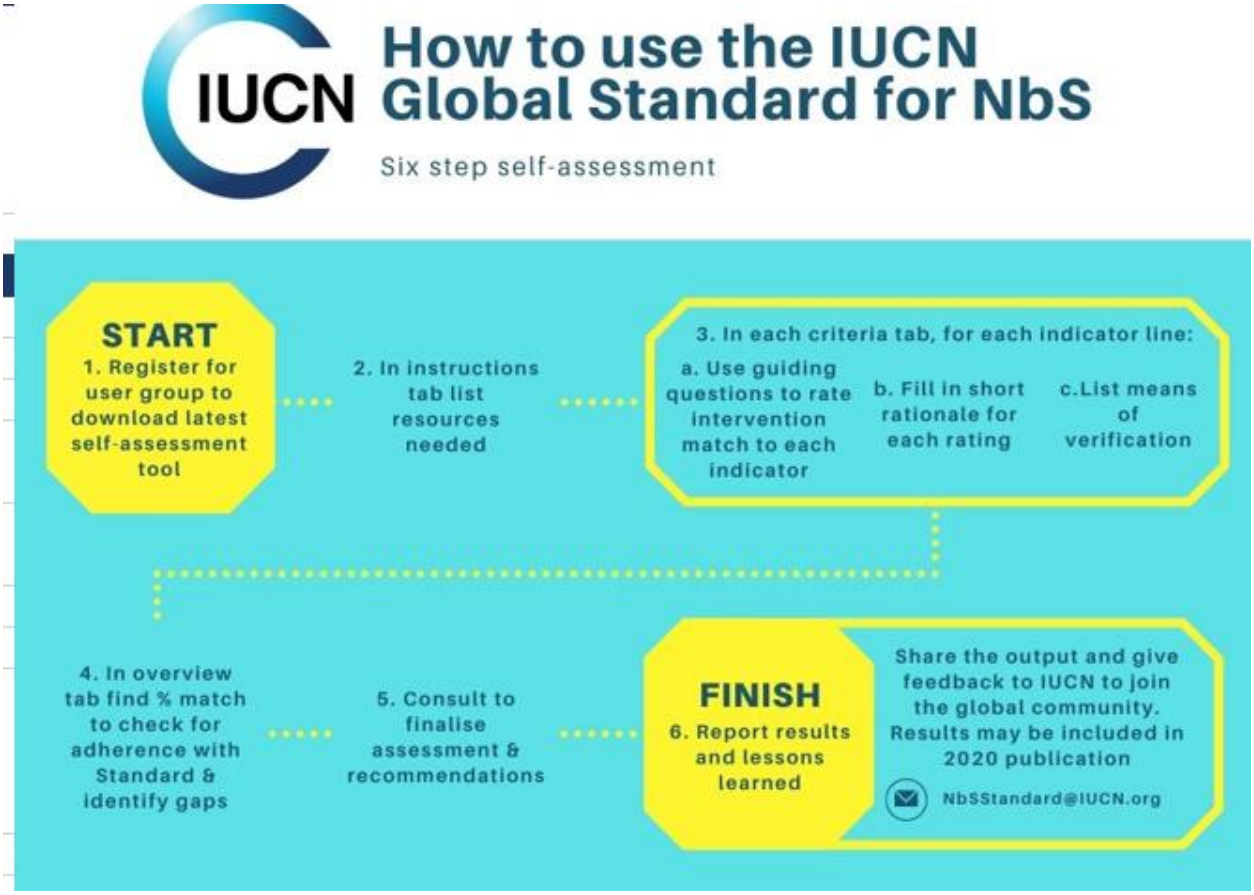
Presentation on Nature- Based Solutions Self-Assessment Tool- Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions by Bora and Verõnica:

Verónica and Bora's presentations centered on the criteria and indicators of the ÍUCN Global Standard for NbS^{TM}. They highlighted that it is composed by eight (8) criteria and twenty-eight (28) indicators as follows:

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

Among questions were raised after the presentations included whether we have already come across an NbS that have put harm to people and the environment. If this is the case, then it is not an NbS, and does not meet the criteria set by the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.

Using the Tool



Presentation on Funding Opportunities for bankable projects focused on 'nature-based solutions' by Dr Jacques Somda.

Mr. Jacques Somda took participants through the understanding and notification of Nature-based Solutions from Nature-Inspired and Nature-Adopted Solution. Financing of NbS projects can be through two (2) forms; Bilateral and Multilateral corporations. Getting donor's support lies entirely on the proponent of the intervention and it starts by inquiring from once national accreditation institute, the donors more likely to be interested in your proposal and the limit of their support. He added that globally, there is an increasing desire from donors to support NbSinterventions and once proposals meet these standards, funding is assured. He further stated that what makes NbSmore attractive to donors lies in the fact that, with just one NbSintervention, seventeen (17) SDG's can be addressed as well as other national and global targets.

He said that in discussing the framing and financing of NbS, important aspect participants were asked to properly scrutinize is the Project Cycle Management. He mentioned that project cycle and NbS start from project ideas, these ideas are then screened to determine if a particular project meets the ÍUCN Global Standard for NbS^{TM} . He added that screening a project for NbS compliance is

not limited to the project inception point but can be introduced at any point of the project cycle. By this act alone, value is added to a project which attracts the interest of most donors.

In order to provide a hands-on experience for attendees, participants were split into five (5) groups of four (4) people to try applying the **self-assessment tool** to project ideas submitted by WRC. Each group was assigned a unique topic and tasked to assess the strength of the challenges enumerated as well as the intended form of NbS intervention to determine how well the intervention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS. In tackling their individual assignments, participants were encouraged to use the under listed as a guide during screening;

- Context and setting of the particular challenges.
- Duration of the project
- Challenges and obstacles
- Target area and beneficiaries
- Policy review - NDC, regulatory frameworks, etc. in the country and the basin
- Project objective and expected results - indicators if possible
- Approach envisaged - Results and activities

With this information provided, participants were allowed to tackle the self-assessment tool on their own and come up with their own outcomes backing them with rationales for their choices and recommendations to improve the interventions better. The second day's session was adjourned till the following day at 4:30pm.

The topics provided with the challenges and interventions are summarized below:

Working Groups Using the NbS Self-Assessment Tool

Day three began just as day two had ended, with participants engaged in their assigned task of appreciating the IUCN Global NbS standard self-assessment tool. By mid-day, participants were asked to prepare power point presentations of the assessments, rationales and recommendations based on the overview of their results. Each group took turns in presenting their results and had their work critiqued by their peers and the resource team, where suitable, suggestions were made to improve the understanding of the self-assessment tool further. After all presentations were made, the resources personal sought from participants their observation of the IUCN Global standard NbS self-assessment tool. Participants offered suggestions to the IUCN team on their expectations and thoughts they deemed can add on to improve the tool even better. In general participants think it is a good, comprehensive and detailed tool that covers all aspects of project design and implementation, and can contribute to approach donors with more confidence. In addition, the tool helps to build trust, promote sustainability and ownership. Provided the stakeholders have the information needed to do the screening, the tool is excellent to improve the effectiveness of projects' delivery. Some of the suggestions for improvement included;

- ❖ The need for the tool to include the recommendations and suggestions at the report overview phase,

- Improve on the complementarity of the tool, and
- The need to always emphasize on having all key stakeholders in the self-assessment
- Expand on how the tool can be linked with other tools

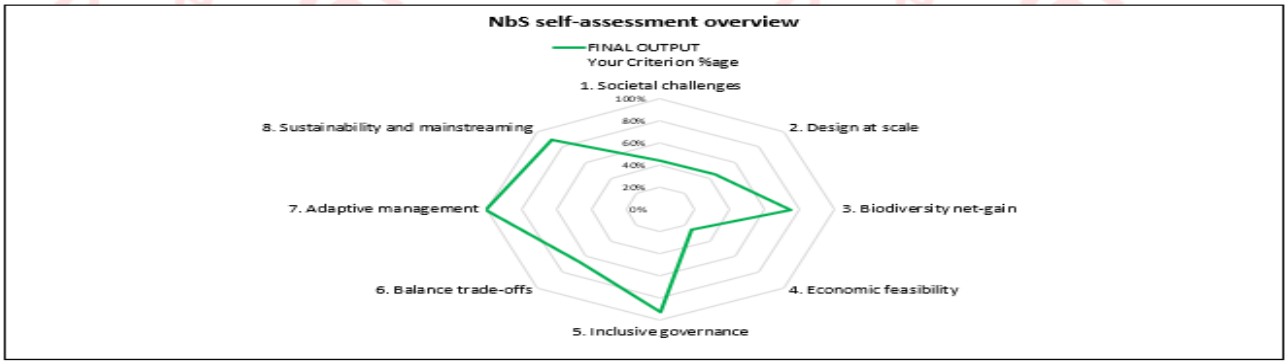
GROUP WORK

Group 1:

Topic: NBS in Basin Management for Ecosystem Resilience, sustainable livelihoods and food security in Ghana

CHALLENGES	- Ecosystem degradation - Biodiversity loss - Food and Water insecurity - Reduced land productivity, loss of livelihoods, loss of food sources, - desertification, water insecurity
NBS INTERVENTION	- Forest landscape restoration - Watershed protection - Green infrastructure promotion - Ecosystem Restoration
OUTCOMES	- Sustainable livelihoods - Functional Ecosystem - Food and Water secured country - Improvement of crop yields, increase of water table - Improved forest Cover, - Resilient watershed with improved and inclusive governance and management
POSSIBLE AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION	- Ghana

Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	4	9	0.44	0.4
2. Design at scale	4	9	0.44	0.4
3. Biodiversity net-gain	9	12	0.75	0.8
4. Economic feasibility	3	12	0.25	0.3
5. Inclusive governance	14	15	0.93	0.9
6. Balance trade-offs	6	9	0.67	0.7
7. Adaptive management	9	9	1.00	1.0
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	8	9	0.89	0.9
Total			5.38	0.7



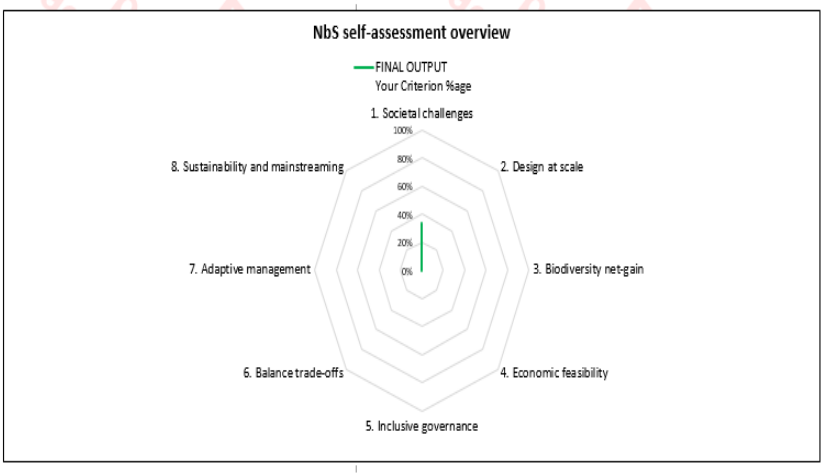
Key	Output
Strong	Intevention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
Adequate	
Partial	
Insufficient	Intervention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.

Group 2:

Topic: NBS for Managing Water Resources Availability for Sustainable Economic Transition: A Case of the Volta System in Ghana

CHALLENGE	- Limited water resource - Siltation of Small Reservoirs - High Evapotranspiration caused by deforestation and Vegetation removal - Increased soil erosion and river sedimentation - Flooding
NBS INTERVENTIONS	- Grey-green Infrastructures - Combination of dams and floodplains - Vegetation of riparian buffer zone - Vegetative strips/cover planting
OUTCOMES	- Flood risk management/protection - Regulating water quality and quantity – Climate change adaptation - Improved soil water retention - Improved water storage
POSSIBLE AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION	- Volta Basin In Ghana

Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	3	9	0.33	0.3
2. Design at scale	0	9	0.00	0.0
3. Biodiversity net-gain	0	12	0.00	0.0
4. Economic feasibility	0	12	0.00	0.0
5. Inclusive governance	0	15	0.00	0.0
6. Balance trade-offs	0	9	0.00	0.0
7. Adaptive management	0	9	0.00	0.0
8. Sustainability and mainstreamin	0	9	0.00	0.0
Total			0.33	0.0



Key	Output
Strong	Intevention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
Adequate	
Partial	
Insufficient	rvention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.

Group 3:

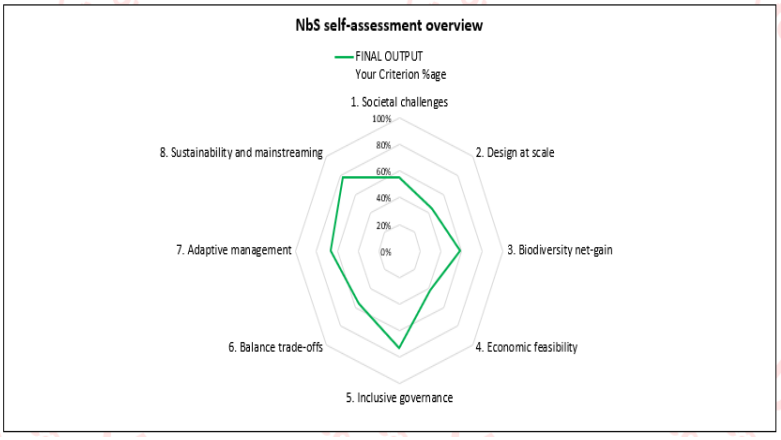
Topic: NBS for Managing and Protecting Water Quality: The case of the Volta Basin in Ghana

CHALLENGE	- Illegal Small scale mining activities Nation wide - Sand wining - Agricultural intensification with chemical use (both point and Non-point source) - Ecosystem degradation - Flooding
NBS INTERVENTIONS	- Protecting source water quality - Sustainable ecological intensification (FAO, 2011b; 2014b) e.g conservation agriculture - Afforestation and Vegetation improvement - Targeted land protection e.g San winning sites - Riparian restoration - Agricultural best management practices (BMPs) - Buffer striping (Riparian grass and tree buffers, Vegetative waterways, Water and sediment control basins etc)
OUTCOMES	- Improved water quality - Improved human and ecosystem health and functioning - Reduction in water treatment cost
POSSIBLE AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION	- Ghana

NbS self-assessment overview

Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	5	9	0.56	0.6
2. Design at scale	4	9	0.44	0.4
3. Biodiversity net-gain	7	12	0.58	0.6
4. Economic feasibility	5	12	0.42	0.4
5. Inclusive governance	11	15	0.73	0.7
6. Balance trade-offs	5	9	0.56	0.6
7. Adaptive management	6	9	0.67	0.7
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	7	9	0.78	0.8
Total			4.73	0.6

Key	Output
Strong	Intevention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
Adequate	
Partial	
Insufficient	tervention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.



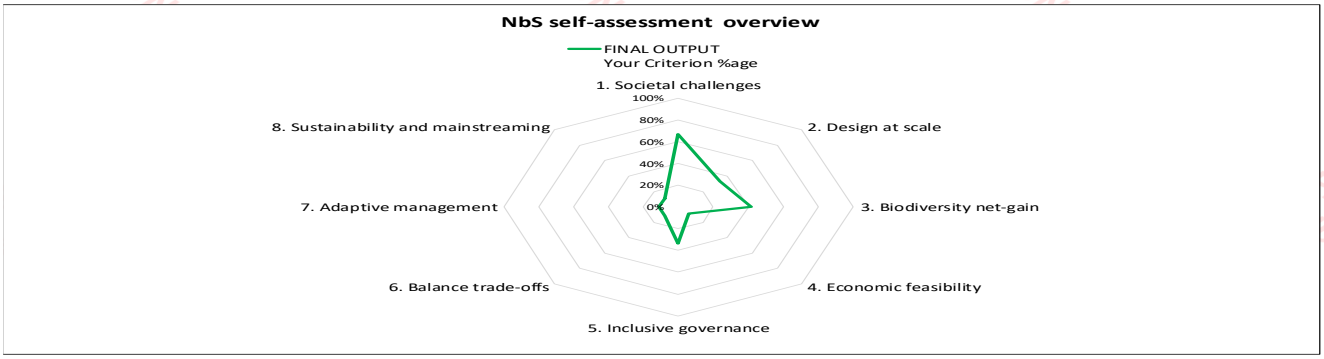
Group 4:

Topic: NBS for Disaster Risk Reduction in Coastal and Riverine communities in Ghana

CHALLENGES	- Storm surges - Coastal flooding - Floods and droughts - Climate Change and Rising sea levels
NBS INTERVENTIONSNS	- Creation and restoration of wetlands - Making space for water: floodplain conveyance and storage - Buffer strips and buffer zones - Wetlands improvement - Community based Ecological Mangrove Restoration
OUTCOMES	- Coastal protection management - Restoration of the biodiversity of riverine and mangrove habitat - Creating carbon storage capacities in mangrove ecosystems - Surge height reduction - Maintaining habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries - Provide nesting habitat for threatened and endangered species
POSSIBLE AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION	- Ghana (Lower Volta, Black, White Volta, Oti Rivers and Coastal zone)

NbS self-assessment overview

Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	6	9	0,67	0,7
2. Design at scale	3	9	0,33	0,3
3. Biodiversity net-gain	5	12	0,42	0,4
4. Economic feasibility	1	12	0,08	0,1
5. Inclusive governance	5	15	0,33	0,3
6. Balance trade-offs	1	9	0,11	0,1
7. Adaptive management	1	9	0,11	0,1
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	1	9	0,11	0,1
Total			2,17	0,3



Key	Output
Strong	Intevention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
Adequate	
Partial	
Insufficient	Intervention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.

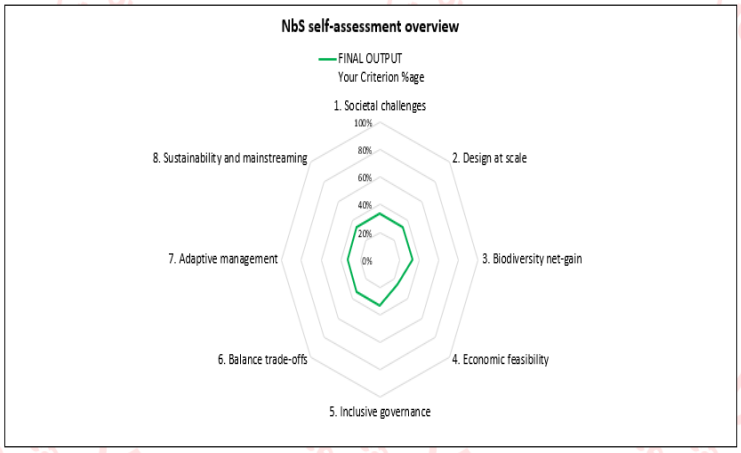
Group 5:

Topic: NBS for a sustained WASH outcomes in Ghana

CHALLENGES	- Water Pollution - Desertification, - land degradation and drought - Vegetative cover removal
NBS INTERVENTIONS	- Cities Wetland development - Grass and tree terracing
OUTCOMES	- adequate water supply for all uses - Improve water security
POSSIBLE AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION	- Ghana

Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	3	9	0.33	0.3
2. Design at scale	3	9	0.33	0.3
3. Biodiversity net-gain	4	12	0.33	0.3
4. Economic feasibility	3	12	0.25	0.3
5. Inclusive governance	5	15	0.33	0.3
6. Balance trade-offs	3	9	0.33	0.3
7. Adaptive management	3	9	0.33	0.3
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	3	9	0.33	0.3
Total			2.58	0.3

Key	Output
Strong	Intevention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
Adequate	
Partial	
Insufficient	tervention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.



CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

Madam Adwoa Paintsil, Director of Environmental Quality with WRC who stood in for the Executive Secretary of WRC took her turn to read the closing remarks of the Executive Secretary and presented participants with certificate of participation. In his closing address read on his behalf, the Executive Secretary of the WRC noted the timely adoption of the Global NbS standard from IUCN, as the world faces with challenges in address DRR resulting from climate change issues. Relying on nature for ways to protect and restore degraded ecosystems is the only chance we have to push back the effects of climate change and ensure sustainability of the ecology. He encouraged collaboration and the sharing of experiences amounts the nations of the Volta Basin in addressing societal needs and challenges arising from climate change and to continually strive to put theses issue ahead as national concerns. He wished all participants a safe trip back to their stations and with this the workshop came to a close.

ANNEXES:

Annex 1: TOR of Workshop

Annex 1: Adopted Agenda

Annex 2: List of participants

Annex 3: Group work

Annex 4: Press releases https://www.floodmanagement.info/6th-national-capacity-building-workshop-on-nature-based-solutions-for-flood-and-drought-management-in-the-volta-basin/

Annex 1: TOR of Workshop

1. Context and rationale

The Consortium, comprising the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialized United Nations agency, the Volta Basin Authority (ABV) and the Global Water Partnership in West Africa (GWP-WA) implement the project titled “Integrating Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin (VFDM).” Project activities, started in June 2019, are continue and will end in late June 2023. The project is financed by the Adaptation Fund.

The implementation of the project involves, in addition to the National Agencies in charge of meteorology, hydrology, water resources management, civil protection, etc.), regional institutions and partners of the OMM, such as the CIMA Research Foundation, the Italian Civil Protection Directorate, UNITAR / UNOSAT, IUCN and CERFE.

One of the activities of the Project is the evaluation of indicators and environmental services offered by ecosystems in connection with the prediction and management of disaster risks. This activity emphasizes the “nature-based solutions” approach to support flood and drought forecasting and management processes. It builds on and enhances the characteristic functions of ecosystems.

Indeed, climate change and climatic variability, associated with a decline in biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, pose considerable risks that call for solutions that are not only sustainable, but also accessible and applicable locally. The sustainable management of ecosystems and ecosystem services is therefore increasingly seen as an effective approach to implement priorities for action in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA).

IUCN, through the environmental component of the VDFM project, proposes ways to integrate ecosystem benefits and ecosystem-based approaches into DRR and CCA actions, with an emphasis on long-term planning and risk prevention and preparation. The analysis and integration of ecosystems and the services they provide to communities is one of the foundations of capacity building for the forecasting, warning and management of floods and droughts as well as adaptation to climate change. in the Volta basin.

It is in this sense that studies to evaluate the services rendered by ecosystems to environmental and human environments, to the forecasting, early warning and management system for floods and droughts, were carried out in 2020. These studies allowed, on the one hand, to analyse the feasibility of considering ecosystem services in the SAP and on the other hand, to analyse the scope of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems to guide the use of the guidelines in planning for the sustainable management of wetlands, natural refuges for ecosystems and biodiversity that provide enormous services against floods and droughts in the Volta Basin.

The results of these studies were the subject of a regional workshop held on June 15 and 16, 2021 in Ouagadougou, whose theme focused on "nature-based solutions as a mechanism to respond to floods and drought", see Annex 1.

During this workshop, each of the six (6) VBA member countries was able to develop a summary action plan including some essential points such as:

- organize a national workshop for each riparian country to build the capacities of stakeholders in the Volta Basin in connection with nature-based solutions and the IUCN Global Standard;

- finalize national and / or regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) action plans for droughts and floods through nature-based solutions;

- prepare a concept note for each country and then for the regional level with the support of National Agencies, IUCN, VBA and GWP-AO;

- organize a national workshop to present to political decision-makers, national project designers, national structures in charge of investment plans and technical and financial partners the projects or action plans developed by the six (6) countries;

- organize a regional workshop to capitalize on the results of the work carried out at the level of each country, examine and validate the draft regional action plan for considering nature-based solutions in the forecasting, early warning and flood and drought management;

- capacity building stakeholders on the concept of and related approaches to nature-based solutions to allow its consideration in the development of bankable projects for the mobilization of funding.

It is with this in mind that the OMM-ABV-GWP-AO Consortium in collaboration with IUCN, as a partner in this project, is considering the holding of six (6) national workshops, the general objective of which is strengthening national capacities on the nature-based solutions approach and taking it into account in identification and development of bankable projects for the mobilization of related financing.

These terms of reference are prepared to serve as a guide for the organization and holding of these national workshops.

2. Objectives of the regional workshop

2.1.- General objective

The main objective targeted through these national workshops is to build the capacities of actors in the national portion of the Volta Basin on the nature-based solutions approach and its inclusion in the development of bankable adaptation projects. climate change.

2.2.- Specific objectives

- to improve participants' knowledge of the concept of "nature-based solutions" and its importance in building resilience and adaptation to climate change in the Volta Basin

- to present the approach for the integration of the nature-based solutions approach in national and transboundary flood and drought management projects and programmes in the Volta Basin;

- share with the participants the opportunities for financing existing climate projects with a focus on the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund among others;

- identify and explore ideas for projects to strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change that meet the criteria for assessment of NbS in the national portion of the Volta Basin.

3. Expected results

The expected outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

- participants' knowledge of the concept of “nature-based solutions” and its importance in building resilience and adaptation to climate change in the Volta Basin is improved;

- the process for considering the “nature-based solutions” approach in national and cross-border flood and drought management projects and programs in the Volta basin is presented;

- funding opportunities for existing climate projects with a focus on the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund among others are shared with the participants;

- project ideas for building resilience and adaptation to climate change for meeting the evaluation criteria of NbS in the national portion of the Volta basin are identified and deepened;

4. Methodological approach

A. Workshop calendar

The OMM-ABV-GWP-AO team will be in contact with the national focal points to determine the best dates for holding the workshops. Please note that the deadline for the workshops is January 27, 2022. The OMM-ABV-GWP-AO team will therefore consult with IUCN to set the dates and then coordinate the logistics.

B. Virtual sessions

In order to optimize the time to be devoted during these workshops and to achieve the expected objectives, see section above, the OMM-ABV-GWP-AO team in collaboration with IUCN will organize a virtual session (duration: one hour - in French and English) on nature-based solutions. This will allow all participants to have a common level of understanding on the subject.

These sessions will be held in October, the connection link will be communicated later. Likewise, a reminder e-mail will be sent a week in advance to ensure the availability of all participants.

We advise all participants to read the two attached documents in the email sent by the VBA Secretariat:

– **IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions** - https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-Fr.pdf

- **General Guidance for Using the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions: First Edition -**https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49074

These documents will allow a better understanding of the NbS approach but also, they will make it possible to identify potential NbS projects and to develop the explanatory or guidance note for the choice of project or project ideas, appendix 1.

C. Methodology of national workshops

A total of ten (10) sessions will be organized throughout the workshop.

These sessions range from the preliminary presentation of project ideas or projects identified at country level, to the restitution of bankable project roadmaps and key messages and recommendations, to the evolution of the Nature-based Solutions approach and the sharing and explanation of the IUCN Global Standard.

The content of these ten (10) sessions is specified in the indicative agenda of these workshops, see section 8.

5. Duration and location of the workshop

The workshops will each last three (03) days according to the agenda indicated in section 8.

6. Workshop participants

They will include, among others, representatives of hydrological and meteorological services, Civil Protection, agencies specializing in environment and sustainable development, projects and programs working on the theme or similar themes.

A category of participants will be invited for the last day. These are the heads of the Cooperation and Finance / Investment Directorates of the different countries, the technical and financial partners (Focal points: Green Fund, Adaptation Fund, ADB, World Bank, various development cooperation).

7. Schedule for the organization of workshops in each country

The organization and holding of national workshops for capacity building on nature-based solutions and the development of bankable projects for the mobilization of related funding are programmed in each country as follows:

Pays	Période	Commentaires
Burkina Faso	8-10 Février 2022	Confirmé
Côte d'Ivoire	23 au 25 Novembre 2021	Déjà exécuté

Benin	17-19 janvier 2022	A confirmer
Mali	11 au 13 Janvier 2022	Confirmé
Togo	30 novembre au 1er décembre 2021	Déjà exécuté
Ghana	24 au 26 Janvier 2022	A confirmer

8. Indicative agenda of national workshops

JOUR	SESSION	CONTENU	ACTEURS RESPONSABLES
JOUR 1			
08h30-9h00		**Accueil des participants**	**Comité d'organisation**
9h00-10h00	**Session 1**	Mot de bienvenue aux participants	Point focal ABV – M. BOUCOUM
		Allocution du Représentant de l'UICN	Jacques Somda - Directeur Bureau UICN Burkina Faso
		Allocution Représentant de l'OMM au nom du Consortium	Ramesh Tripathi
		Allocution du Directeur Exécutif de l'ABV ou de son Représentant	Directeur Exécutif de l'ABV
		Discours de Monsieur le Ministre de Tutelle ABV du Pays ou son Représentant	Ministère concerné
		Tour de table - participants	Participants
		Mise en place du Présidium	Participants
		Séances médias et photos avec les Autorités	Comité d'organisation
10:00 - 10:30		**Cocktail overture**	**Comité d'organisation**
10h30- 11h15	**Session 2**	- Examen et validation de l'Agenda - Attentes des participants - Pré-évaluation des connaissances sur le concept SfN - Présentation du projet VFDM - Présentation des objectifs et des résultats de l'atelier	Présidium, UICN, ABV
11h15-11h30	**Session 3**	Etat de lieux la portion nationale du bassin de la Volta	Coordinateur SFN
11h30 - 12h15	**Session 5**	Présentation des projets ou idées de projets nationaux suivie d'échanges	Responsables de projets
12h15-13h00	**Session 6**	Développement et appropriation du concept **« Solutions fondées sur la nature »**	UICN
13h00-14h00		**Pause déjeuner**	**Comité d'organisation**
14h00-16h00	**Session 7**	Prise de contact avec le **Standard Mondial sur les Solutions fondées sur la nature**	UICN
JOUR 2			
08h30-9h00		Rappel de la journée 1	presidium-rapporteurs

JOUR	SESSION	CONTENU	ACTEURS RESPONSABLES
9h00-9h30	**Session 8**	Encadrement et Financement axés sur les **« Solutions fondées sur la nature »**	Jacques Somda – UICN
9h30-10h00	**Session 9**	Expériences actuelles et futures axées sur les **« Solutions fondées sur la nature »**	ABV
10h00-10h30	**Session 10**	Instructions et Initiation des travaux de groupe	UICN / Participants
10h30-11h00		**Pause-café**	**Comité d'organisation**
11h00-13h00	**Session 10 suite**	Travaux de groupe : approfondir les idées de projets et compléter le canevas	Participants / équipe VDFM
13h00-14h00		**Pause-déjeuner**	**Comité d'organisation**
14h00-16h00	**Session 10 suite**	Travaux de groupe : approfondir les idées de projets et compléter le canevas	Participants / équipe VDFM
JOUR 3			
8h30-9h00		Rappel de la journée 2	presidium-rapporteurs
9h00-11h00	**Session 10 suite**	Travaux de groupe : approfondir les idées de projets et compléter le canevas	Participants / équipe VDFM
11h00-11h30		**Pause-café**	**Comité d'organisation**
11h30-12h30	**Session 10 suite**	Travaux de groupe : Elaboration des présentations	Participants / équipe VDFM
12h30-13h30	**Session 11**	- Présentations - Evaluation des connaissances acquises - Remise des attestations	Participants / équipe VDFM
13h30-14h00		**Clôture de l'atelier**	**Présidium**

Annex 2. Nature-based solutions

Over the decades, IUCN has led innovative biodiversity conservation initiatives that have not only protected, managed and restored the environment, but also provided tangible and lasting benefits for humans. This type of approach is now widely known as nature-based solutions (Figure 1).

Figure 1. "Nature-based Solutions are actions aimed at protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems, to directly address societal challenges in an efficient and adaptive manner while ensuring human well-being and benefits for biodiversity"(IUCN, 2016).

As the NbS is integrated into policies and adopted on the ground, it becomes urgent to clarify and specify what the concept implies and the conditions to be fulfilled for a successful deployment. Otherwise, the implementation of NbS could lack coherence and relevance. Thus, the Standard also provides a systematic learning framework so that the lessons learned can improve and evolve the applications, thus strengthening the confidence of decision-makers in the NbS.

This Standard comprises 8 criteria and 28 indicators (Figure 2). Criterion 1 aims to identify the societal issues that will find an answer thanks to the NbS. While societal challenges today include climate change (adaptation and mitigation), reduction of the risks of natural

disasters, degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, food security, improvement of human health, social development -economic and security of water supply, other specific issues could be addressed as the scope of NbS evolves. It is possible to tackle one or more societal issues but the priority is to exploit the possible NBS to draw multiple ones, knowing that a single intervention makes it possible to address several challenges.

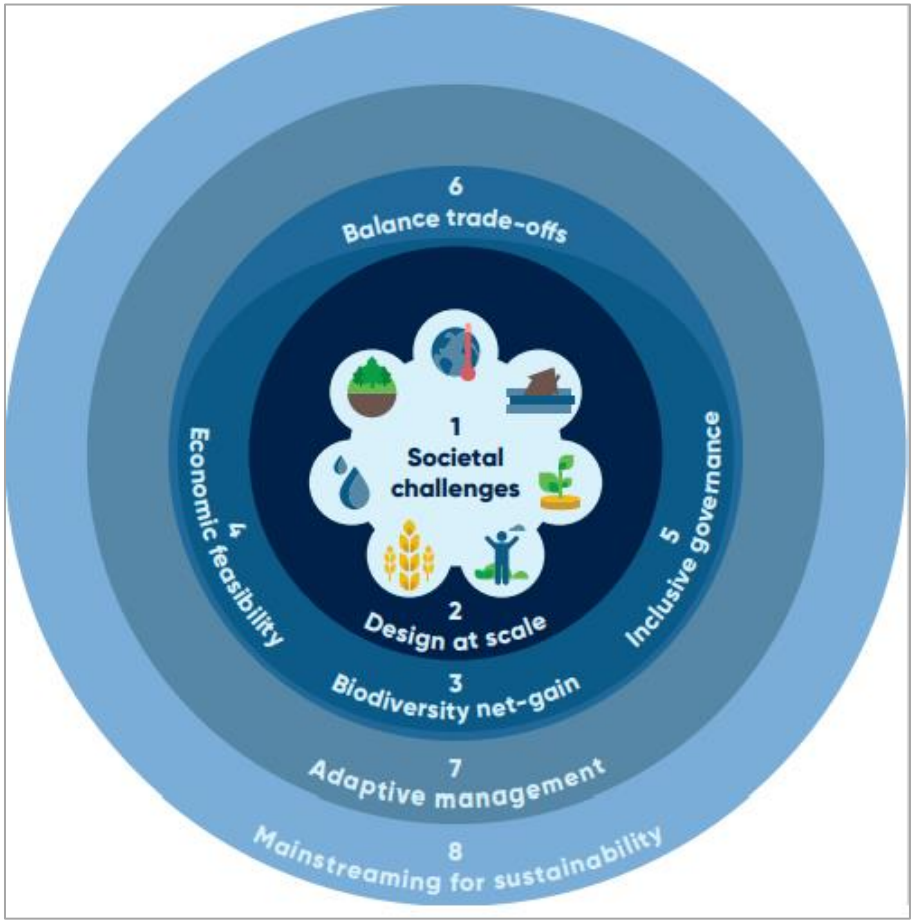


Figure 2. The eight criteria of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS™ are all linked.

The second criterion helps guide the design of a solution adapted to the scale of the problem. By scale, we mean here first of all the geographic, land and marine scale, as well as the economic, ecological and societal dimensions of the land / seascape. The target area where the societal challenge arises is usually part of a larger system, be it ecological, economic or social. If the activities of the intervention are limited

to the scale of the site, the robustness, the applicability and the adaptability of the solution must be thought out in such a way as to consider the larger systems in play.

Criteria 3, 4 and 5 correspond to the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental sustainability, social equity and economic viability. The establishment of an optimal NbS requires for each criterion a certain understanding of the existing resources and the context, which will serve as a reference, and sustainable measures are necessary for the implementation of strong NbS.

Criterion 6 deals with the balance to be struck between compromises and the choices to be made to achieve short and long-term objectives, and how to ensure an approach allowing these compromises to be defined transparent, equitable and inclusive. NbS rely on the resources of ecosystems, which are complex, dynamic and self-organizing systems. Ecosystems can respond favourably to a NbS, but the project can also cause unintended, unintended or undesirable consequences.

Criterion 7 therefore responds to the need to adopt an adaptive management mode that facilitates continuous process improvement at the system level and makes it possible to adapt the NbS according to systemic changes. The real potential of NbS lies in their long-term and large-scale implementation, made possible by an integration of concepts and measures into policy or regulatory frameworks and by their link with national targets or international commitments, such as the advocates criterion 8.

Annex: 3. Explanatory note or guidance for the choice of project or project ideas

1. Context. Describe the relevant environmental and climate challenges of the country / basin and note commitments, existing investment frameworks and if possible ongoing projects / activities on DRR and CCA in the country / basin.

2. Duration

3. Challenges and obstacles

4. Target area and beneficiaries

5. Policy review - NDC, regulatory frameworks, etc. in the country and the basin

6. Project objective and expected results - indicators if possible

7. Approach envisaged - Results and activities

Examples of activities

a) Components of local disaster management targeting local actors and populations in disaster-prone areas: early warning systems, mapping and computerization of data, local capacity building, training.

b) Institutional links and advocacy, targeting institutions involved in disaster management / disaster risk reduction: advocacy, facilitation of coordination, institutional strengthening.

c) Information, education, communication, targeting direct and indirect beneficiaries (population served): awareness of the general public and education.

d) Small-scale infrastructure and services at community level: infrastructure support and mitigation work, operation and maintenance systems; non-structural mitigation activities.

8. Implementation schedule

Annex 4: participants' list

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Annex 5: Press releases https://www.floodmanagement.info/6th-national-capacity-building-workshop-on-nature-based-solutions-for-flood-and-drought-management-in-the-volta-basin/