

# Empowering Communities Through Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Adaptation

## International Development Week

February 8, 2024, Ottawa

This Community of Practice (CoP) event was preceded by a workshop organized by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature's Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation (NAbSA) project. The workshop convened Partnering for Climate project organizations to discuss the IUCN Global Standard for NbS, challenges, examples, and reflections. **Veronica Ruiz**, Programme Manager, IUCN, and **Veronica Lo**, Senior Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development, representing the CoP, opened the meeting by providing some reflections on the morning NAbSA workshop, the history of the CoP, and our goals for the day.

**Stewart Maginnis**, Deputy Director General, IUCN, provided the keynote speech about how effective NbS requires multi-sectorial collaboration. He also spoke about the history and evolution of NbS and some of the challenges that have arisen from its practice and policy applications.

As part of the commitment to provide multiple perspectives and learning opportunities, **Kelsey Scarfone**, Conservation Policy Advisor, Métis National Council, presented [the important distinction between rights-holders and stakeholders](#). She spoke about the importance of language used in Convention texts and how that behooves members to use proper terminology. Language can undermine Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Following this framing presentation on Indigenous Peoples and their distinction from local communities, CoP members were well prepared to discuss examples of community engagement. CoP members followed the discussion with four presentations:

- [THRIVE – Toward Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable Environments](#), ACTED, presented by **Aaron Brown**

- [Climate Resilience Community Village Plans, Lessons from Sudan](#), International Fund for Agricultural Development, presented by **Alessia Marazzi**
- [How to do NOTE: Formulating a CR CVP](#), International Fund for Agricultural Development, presented by **Alexandra Teixeira**
- [Community Engagement Experiences & Best Practice: Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration](#), Plan Canada, presented by **Annick Gillard-Bailetti**

A lively question-and-answer period took place after the presentations.

Kerry Max from Global Affairs Canada closed out the day and provided a reflection on the IUCN NAbSA Workshop and the CoP event.