

# From Knowledge to Practice: Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation

## Meeting of the Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity Community of Practice

October 19, 2023, Ottawa

Global food supplies and stocks today are ample to meet demand, with agricultural commodity and oil prices at relatively low and declining levels. In contrast, in 2007/08, export restrictions exacerbated shortages on global markets, as high energy prices, biofuel blending mandates, and harvest failures in major producing countries contributed to tight markets for several staple foods. Recently, difficulties in ensuring food availability have related more to logistical challenges in ensuring smooth functioning of food supply chains as governments impose.

As part of the hybrid event [From Knowledge to Practice: Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation](#), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) convened a meeting for the Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity Community of Practice (CoP) in Ottawa. The focus of this meeting was to highlight some of the recently announced Partnering for Climate (P4C) projects and host discussions to explore nature-based solutions (NbS) in practice.

The meeting opened with an introduction by Kerry Max, Deputy Director and Senior Advisor, Partnering for Climate with GAC. This introduction focused on providing background to the multi-year information exchanges, GAC programming content, and reflections from GAC on areas of improvement and needs for support. Veronica Lo, Senior Policy Advisor at IISD, spoke about the context of the day's meeting, including IISD's role, and provided an update on the CoP Steering Committee's recent meeting and work plan.

The presentations were short 5-minute snapshots of these P4C projects:

- [Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems](#), Plan International, by **Ashley Dawson**
- [Natur'ELLES](#), SOCODEVI, by **Frédérique Thomas**
- [Feminist Climate Action in West Africa](#), Inter Pares and Solidarité Union Coopération, SUCO, by **El Hadji Faye**
- [ReSea: Regenerative seascapes for people, climate and nature](#), Mission Inclusion, by **Josée Lemire**
- [Knowledge, Rights and Leadership: Actions by and for Women to Adapt to Climate Change](#), Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie, by **Marie-Eve Rheault**

After the presentations, breakout groups were hosted by NbS specialists in a World Café style, with the following topics for discussion: planning, integrating adaptation, developing a gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) strategy, and planning for biodiversity co-benefits.

The in-person and virtual breakout groups exploring the **Planning** topic had discussions surrounding the project implementation plan process. Key takeaways were the importance and challenges of the sequencing of activities and the feasibility of activities within the given project time frames. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, the group acknowledged the complexity of the issues being tackled. They explored how to develop indicators that can accurately measure the change and the challenge of ensuring you have the breadth of expertise to do so.

The **Integrating Adaptation** groups acknowledged that among the challenges were different understandings of the core climate change or NbS concepts at local levels and the additional challenges of translating these concepts into local languages. There was also a deep discussion about a lack of awareness, understanding of, or access to data, as well as the consequences of poor-quality data or a lack of data that is disaggregated and site specific.

The **Developing a GESI Strategy** groups explored how donor expectations around gender can be tricky in certain cultural settings where women are not present. Context is very important, especially in different country settings. An intersectional approach is necessary, as it may lead to innovative solutions to complex problems in relation to GESI.

The **Planning for Biodiversity Co-Benefits** groups discussed the need to incorporate local and Indigenous Knowledge systems. They agreed that community consultations are a

key tool for gaining local perspectives, involving leaders, and discussing governance systems. They also examined the difficulty of finding a direct link to NbS. Understanding how to enhance the community's overall resilience is necessary, particularly through a process led by local knowledge.

The CoP meeting was a successful exploration of current NbS for Biodiversity projects and some of the key areas of importance for NbS practitioners. We thank our speakers, group facilitators, and note-takers for helping to capture the enlightening discussions.