

# Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity Community of Practice and Partnering for Climate Initiative's Annual Learning and Sharing Event

## International Development Week

February 9, 2024, Ottawa

This Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity Community of Practice (CoP) event began with opening remarks from **Chris MacLennan**, Canada's Deputy Minister of International Development, about how climate change and nature-positive initiatives have become a priority within Global Affairs Canada programs.

**Graeme Reed**, Strategic Advisor, Assembly of First Nations, and **Stewart Maginnis**, Deputy Director General, IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, were invited to speak about Indigenous perspectives on the Global Standard for Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). Reed highlighted that Indigenous Peoples represent 400 million people across 90 different countries, with unique and distinct perspectives that have an important role in development work. He also reflected on not only positioning nature as a partner but also working to prevent the instrumentalization of nature. Maginnis shared his experience working with Indigenous Peoples whose socio-economic systems are intrinsically connected to nature. He discussed how this influenced the development of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS and the intention for the standards to be adaptive to other perspectives.

A lively discussion followed, particularly about working within dominant economic, political, and cultural systems that oppose the goals of NbS.

Five Partnering for Climate projects were introduced:

- Nature-Positive Food Systems for Climate Change Adaptation, **Michael Salomons**, Canadian Food Grains Bank

- Solutions Ecosystemiques d'Adaptation Durable (Ecosystem Solutions for Sustainable Adaptation), **Nicolas Mbengue** and **Marie Madeline Gomez**, Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles
- ZanzADAPT: Zanzibar Women's Leadership in Adaptation, **Mbarouk Omar**, Community Forests International
- Femmes Pro-Forêts, **Caroline Mailloux**, UPA Développement international
- Nature-Based Climate Adaptation in the Guinean Forests of West Africa, **Philippe Dongier**, World University Service of Canada/Centre for International Studies and Cooperation

After a question-and-answer period, **Veronica Lo**, Senior Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development, provided a comprehensive overview of the Nature for Climate Adaptation Initiative, the EbA e-learning course, the resource library, and the CoP. **Ali Raza Rizvi**, Head of Climate Change, IUCN, then discussed the Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation (NAbSA) project's monitoring and impact evaluation.

Participants joined a networking event following the presentations.