

**Nature
based
Solutions**

The nature of progress

NbS Conference 2022, OXFORD, 5-7 JULY 2022

Session 1: *NbS: where are we now, where do we need to be?*

Nature-based Solutions and the Multilateral Policy Agenda

Stewart Maginnis, Deputy Director General IUCN

5th July 2022

‘Nature-based Solutions’ is the latest green jargon that means more than you might think



“NbS — as almost no one yet calls it — is a newly coined umbrella term...

...probably the first time you’ve heard of [it].....

...the concept it represents is of vital and urgent significance. As the grand challenges that face society continue to build, so does the need for multidisciplinary, evidence-based strategies....

.... may sound artificial and unusable at first, but then so, probably, did ‘sustainable development’ and even ‘biodiversity’ when they were first written — and both terms emerged into policy debate”

- Nature 541 (12 Jan 2017)

Advancing NbS within the Multi-lateral Policy Agenda is important but not a silver bullet !

- Recognition and ratification does not automatically equate with implementation
- Laying solid foundations critical for both adoption by agreements and meaningful follow through in terms of implementation.
- This includes:-
 - Clarity of framing (what is it)
 - Means of verification (how we know we have achieved what we wanted)
 - Means of implementation (how / where / by whom will it be delivered)
 - Stakeholder safeguards
 - Economic viability and resource availability
 - Biodiversity safeguards
 - Environmental (climate) integrity

“**Actions** to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while **simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.**”

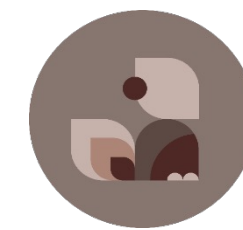
- WCC 2016, Resolution 069
- UNEA-5 2022 Resolution



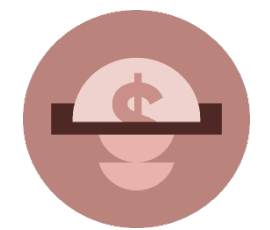
Societal
challenges



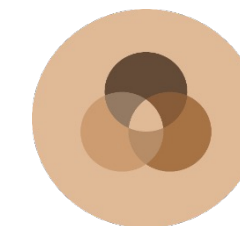
Design at
scale



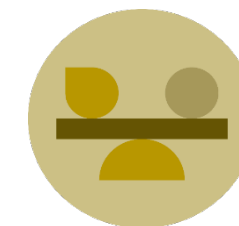
Biodiversity
net gain



Economic
feasibility



Inclusive
governance



Balance
trade-offs



Adaptive
management



Mainstreaming
for sustainability

Conditions falling in place to address implementation concerns

- Framework to address social concerns:- Criterion 5 requires inclusive, transparent & empowering governance – not only for safeguarding but promotion of local agency.
- Public and private financing initiatives – at scale – in operation and being screened against the Global NbS Standard.
- Credible frameworks and increasing guidance on setting science-based targets to reduce emissions in line with the Paris Agreement Goals, including when (and when not) to use NbS for mitigation.
- 1500 practitioners are using the Global Standard's metric framework (self assessment tool) to assess adherence of their interventions. A Certified Assurance module is under development.



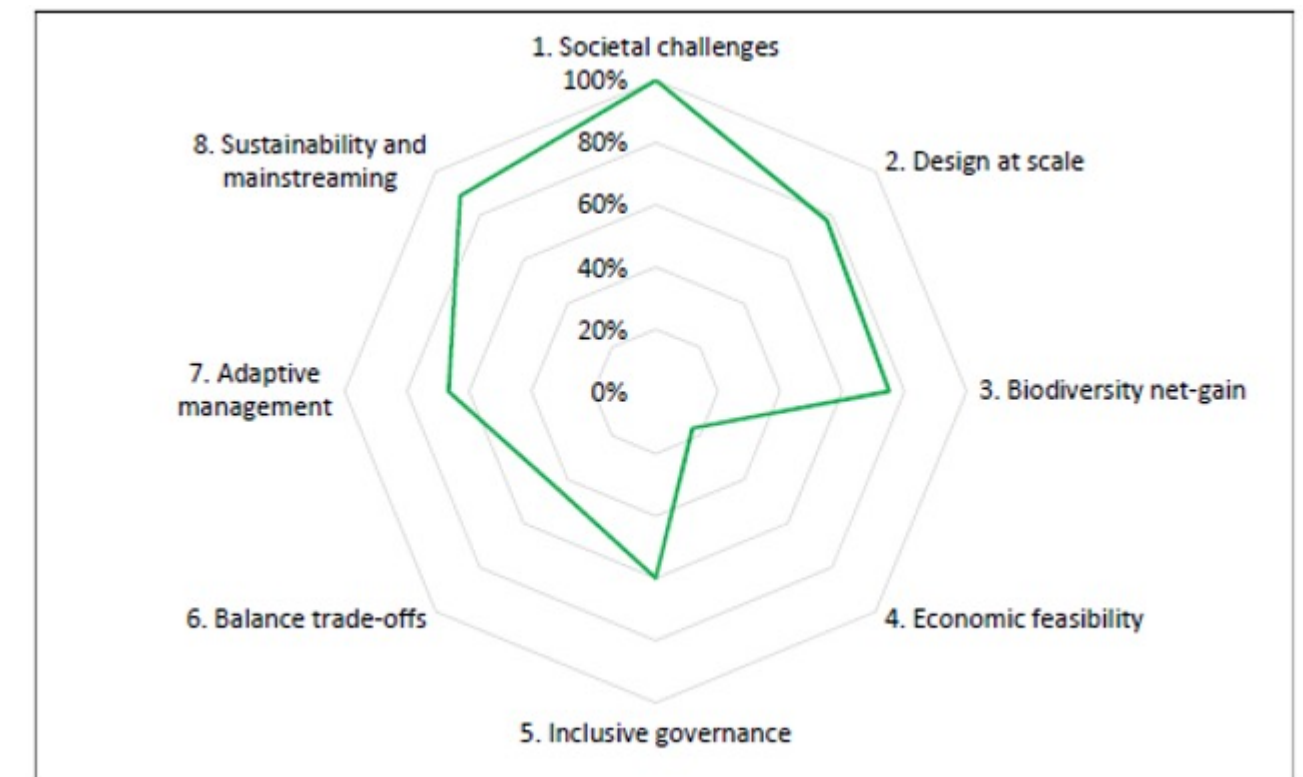
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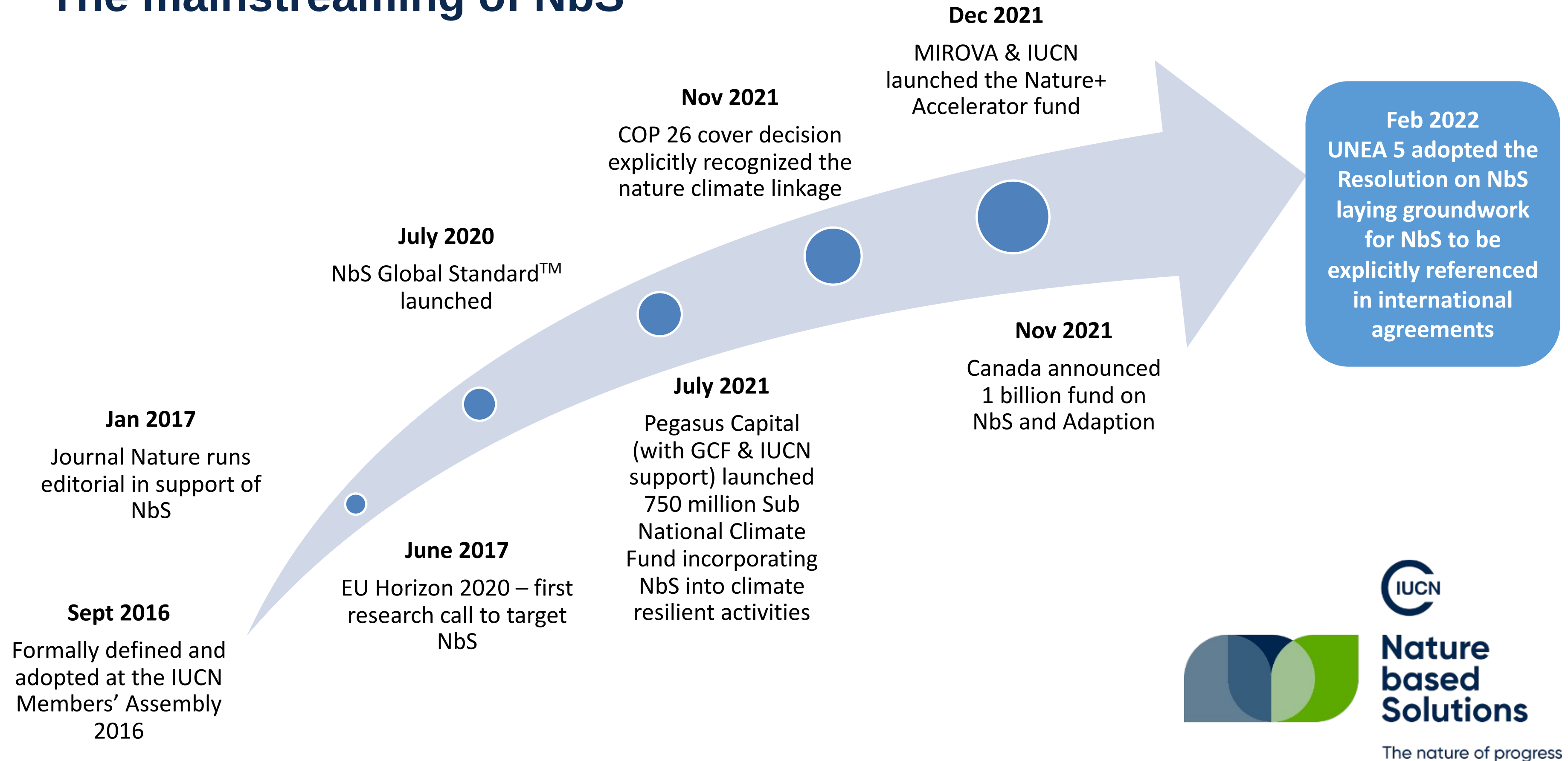


Canada

Partnering for Climate



The mainstreaming of NbS



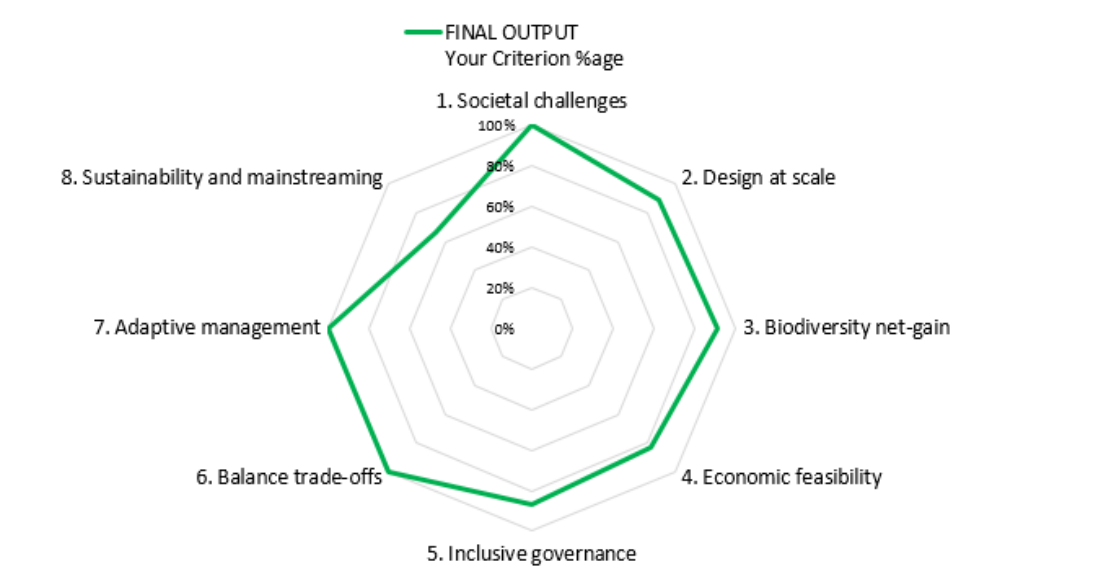
Is the time right for the inclusion of NbS in the multi-lateral framework?



- Reference to NbS in multi-lateral policy agenda could help trigger the next step up in **at-scale** national action, programmes & policies, give confidence for voluntary actions and allow Parties to Conventions exercise **greater oversight and maintain a degree of accountability** on NbS use – if foundational conditions are right!
- Broad agreement on what NbS is and the requirements to be properly & effectively implemented.
- Sufficient critical mass in terms of national interest, research, private sector engagement.
- Decision 1/COP26 opens the door *“Recognizing the **interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss**, and the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems in delivering benefits for climate adaptation and mitigation, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards”.*
- Going forward – the rationale should be that NbS provides a clear operational framework for Parties to help operationalise the COP 26 decisions, to monitor progress and to report back.
- UNCCD Decision 8 (6)/COP 15 sets a precedent: *“Invites Parties to explore complementarities within relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements including, as appropriate, in the implementation of sustainable land management, ecosystem-based approaches or **Nature-based Solutions**”.*

Concluding Comments

- Conditions right for recognition of NbS in multilateral policy agenda.
- UNFCCC is currently best bet to get started – but we need to keep messaging that NbS is not about climate (mitigation) alone!
- Alignment not a major issue as key foundations already in place.
- Be prepared for a long-game. Cannot guarantee inclusion in COP 27 or COP 15 – but UNCCD COP 15 decision certainly helps.
- Keep focusing on strengthening the foundational case:
 - More science and tools/ guidance development
 - More documented early application against standards
 - Engage with and support national / sub-national applications
 - Build up public and private sector financing options
 - Consistent messaging!



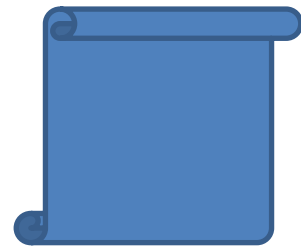
Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	9	9	1.00	1.0
2. Design at scale	8	9	0.89	0.9
3. Biodiversity net-gain	11	12	0.92	0.9
4. Economic feasibility	10	12	0.83	0.8
5. Inclusive governance	13	15	0.87	0.9
6. Balance trade-offs	9	9	1.00	1.0
7. Adaptive management	9	9	1.00	1.0
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	6	9	0.67	0.7
Total			7.17	0.9

Thank you for your attention.

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