



UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Accelerating Blue Financing of Nature-based Solutions for water security and disaster risk reduction

Friday 24th of March 2023, 15:30-16:45 CET, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Organized by: Royal Van Oord, Royal Haskoning DHV, WWF The Netherlands, Conservation International, Rabobank, EcoShape, SIWI

Background on the event

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) help increase water security and reduce disaster risk effectively and adaptively while simultaneously providing significant human well-being and biodiversity benefits, aligning with the strong link between water and climate. According to the UN Environment Program, to meet the investments in climate, nature, and land-neutrality targets, Nature-based Solutions must triple by 2030. There is an urgent need to mobilize resources and expertise to support the definition and implementation of freshwater restoration targets and co-create solutions with indigenous people, local communities and other national and international stakeholders.

Our coalition contributes to this pledge with new insights and scalable solutions and broadens the scope of coastal systems. More effective blue financial investment in NBS and the restoration of biodiversity call for developing mechanisms and instruments that allow public support and private investment to join efforts and action.

Key Issues discussed

- Generating revenue streams from the investments made during NbS projects and lack of insurance, especially in developing countries.
- There isn't a lack of budget; there is a lack of NbS consolidated projects.

- NbS has yet to be perceived as bankable.
- The potential of NbS has yet to be reached; we need to see multiple benefits.
- Risk models are obstacles for the NbS business case.
- There is a lack of early stakeholder engagement.

Key recommendations for action

- To implement NBS on a large scale, we need to join forces and partner up with public, Private sector, Knowledge Institutions and NGOs
- With an innovative financing scheme, we want to use the collaborations made at UN Water Conference to realise a tangible NBS project.
- We should not wait until we have all the answers and start learning by doing.
- We need to look at the whole system and include Water, Economic development and Energy in our NBS approach to repay the investments.
- We will explore how to value the prevention of human and financial losses and damages resulting from flooding to be used as a revenue stream to make the business case for coastal defence in developing countries. In parallel with applying the source-to-sea principle as a holistic view of coastal defence projects.

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UN Headquarters, New York, United States.