# **Session 3B.**  **Wednesday 1 May 2019, 2.00pm – 5.00pm**

# **Oceania Pavilion**

*EU-GCCA+: Nature Based solutions as adaptation strategies for the Pacific region*

**Background**

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are defined by IUCN as actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. The NbS concept, as used in environmental sciences and nature conservation contexts, has emerged within the last decade or so, as international organizations search for ways to work with ecosystems – rather than relying on conventional engineering solutions (such as seawalls) – to adapt to and mitigate climate change effects, while improving sustainable livelihoods and protecting natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

The EU Research and Innovation policy agenda on NbS and Re-Naturing Cities aims to position the EU as leader in ‘Innovating with nature’ for more sustainable and resilient societies. In this context, the EU define NbS to societal challenges as solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.

These NbS approaches can be classified into: (i) ecosystem restoration approaches (e.g. ecological restoration, ecological engineering and forest landscape restoration); (ii) issue specific ecosystem-related approaches (e.g. ecosystem-based adaptation, ecosystem-based mitigation, and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction); (iii) infrastructure-related approaches (e.g. natural infrastructure and green infrastructure approaches); (iv) ecosystem-based management approaches (e.g. integrated coastal zone management and integrated water resources management); and (v) ecosystem protection approaches (e.g. area-based conservation approaches including protected area management).

A lack of operational clarity presents a major obstacle to the credibility and applicability of new concepts in the fields of conservation and development. Several parallel exercises are currently underway to develop operational parameters for specific NbS approaches (such as Ecosystem-based Adaptation and REDD+), each proposing its own set of criteria. Many of these criteria could be relevant for other approaches within the NbS ‘family’ and there is likely an overarching set of parameters, or ‘standards’, that can guide implementation of xiii all types of NbS interventions.

To help in this endeavor, this session will explore the current progress and challenges of NbS planning, implementation, financing and sustainability in the Pacific region. In particular, this session will discuss some key five NbS parameters: ecological complexity, long-term stability, scale of ecological organization, direct societal benefits and adaptive governance. Finally, this session strives to review and assess the best NbS- operational framework in the Pacific, so to scale up NbS implementation and strengthen their impact in the region.

**Session Objective**

1. Review current progress, opportunities and challenges of NbS implementation and planning in the Pacific;
2. Discuss the technical, management and financial elements for successful and sustainable NbS in the region;
3. Stimulate technical and management cooperation for NbS among various stakeholders in the Pacific.

**Session structure**

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| Time | Items |
| 14-14:10 | Session presentation (Objective, expected results, session structure) |
| 14:10-15:10 | Selected Presentations on NbS in the Pacific:1. **Mr. Stuart Chape**, SPREP Acting Deputy Director General Strategic Programmes and Director Islands and Ocean Ecosystems Programme,

**NbS in the Pacific: opportunities and challenges**1. **Dr. Andrew Foran**, IUCN &

**Mr Ulu Bismarck, CEO of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment****NbS and biodiversity conservation in the Pacific and Samoa**1. **Mr. Jonathan Landers,** The Blue Pledge Initiative

**Private-Public partnerships and NbS: a win-win in the Pacific**4. **Manu Manuofeta** - U-GIZ ACSE In-Country Coordinator ,Climate change DepartmentGovernment of the Kingdom of Tonga, **Coastal Protection Trials in Western Tongatapu**1. **Mrs. Habiba Gitay**, Senior Climate Resilient Development Specialist, World Bank,

**NbS Lessons Learnt in the Pacific** |
| 15:10-15:30 | Moderated Q&A |
| 15:30- 15:45 | Coffee Break |
| 15:45-16:50 | Group workGroup presentations and discussion |
| 16:50-17:00 | Conclusion |

 *Note: All presenters and presentation TBC by 25/03/19.*

**Composition of the Session Preparatory Working Group**

The below are members of preparatory working group for this session:

**Co- Leads:**

* GCCA+ Support Facility: Guido Corno, GCCA+ Support Facility Climate Expert, Guido.Corno@gcca.eu
* Dr. Herman Timmermans - SPREP/ PEBACC- hermant@sprep.org

**Other members (2-3 max):**

* SUPA team in SPC: Gillian Cambers, Project Manager, EU - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (SUPA) - GCCA+ projects, SPC, gillianc@spc.int
* SUPA Team in USP: Morgan Wairiu, Deputy Director
Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development (PACE-SD), USP, morgan.wairiu@usp.ac.fj

**Key Documents & Hyperlinks**

* [www.gcca.eu](http://www.gcca.eu)
* [GCCA+ Factsheet](http://gcca.eu/stories/gcca-glance-factsheet)
* <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-ecosystem-management/our-work/nature-based-solutions>
* <https://ndcpartnership.org/content/nature-based-solutions-policy-data-platform>
* <https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=nbs>