



Virtual Training on Unlocking the Potential of Nature-based Solutions for Climate Action and Green Recovery

Background

ASEAN Member States (AMS) have been increasingly responsive to how climate change is impacting agriculture, forestry and food systems throughout the region. This is being reflected in a number of ASEAN strategies, work plans, guidelines and other policy outputs, most prominently in the Vision and Strategic Plan (SP) for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) (2016-2025), and recently also in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). Against this background, the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) continues to play an important role to ensure that AMS are in a better position to adapt their land use sectors to climate change and optimize their mitigation potential.

As the threat of climate and biodiversity collapse to all countries is increasing, there is an urgent need to scale-up response efforts. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are essential components of the overall global effort to avoid the collapse while achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. NbS, including in forests, agriculture, grasslands, and coastal wetlands, offer the potential to provide global reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, ensure the integrity of ecosystems and ecosystem services and contribute key adaptation benefits. Currently, these natural climate solutions are underrepresented in many countries' existing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). To harness this potential and enhance ambition, NDCs should fully integrate the NbS so that the important climate actions may be prioritized for implementation and support.

NbS have been an emerging topic in the context of ongoing multilateral environmental agreements such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Amongst others, the UK identified it as a campaign issue in the run up to its presidency of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 26) in November 2021 and together with the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity organized a virtual dialogue event on this topic in June 2021. There is a considerable attention to value the intact ecosystem and their services to maintain the planet and its people while achieving NDCs. Furthermore, the newly proposed ACRF and its Implementation Plan highlights the relevance of climate-responsive approach to COVID-19 pandemic recovery, and in this context, calls for promoting the importance of the NbS as stated in the Broad Strategy 5.

As a contribution to the aforementioned ASEAN's strategies and plans of actions, the project of Climate Smart Land Use in ASEAN (CSLU) aims to strengthen cooperation within and between AMS for promoting climate-smart land use in the ASEAN region. Through assisting the ASEAN CRN, it aims to extend supports in designing and implementing regional and national policies that promote integrated solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, enhance food security and consider different natural functions a landscape can provide. One of the joint activities is the technical training on "**Unlocking the Potential of Nature-based Solutions for Climate Action and Green Recovery**" as part of the series of capacity development and knowledge exchange events under the auspices of ASEAN-CRN.



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Objectives

In the run-up to the upcoming CBD COP 15 (October 2021) UNFCCC COP 26 (November 2021), CSLU project offers a training on NbS for ASEAN representatives to:

- (1) Strengthen the understanding of NbS in a view of emerging discussions around the topic and considering the ASEAN policy context;
- (2) Provide clearer picture of mainstreaming and financing of the concept into effective climate actions and green recovery in agriculture and forestry contexts;
- (3) Reflect on the potential of the NbS in agriculture and forestry in AMS and reflect on mainstreaming and financing of the approach in attaining NDCs.

Participants

The target group of the course is government representatives working on forestry and agriculture of 10 ASEAN Member States nominated through the following ASEAN bodies and network: ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development (ATWGARD), ASEAN Working Group on Forest and Climate Change (AWGFCC), ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWGSF) and ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN).

The nominated participants should be engaged in planning and implementing activities that promote climate smart agriculture and sustainable forestry and play role in the respective countries' engagement with the UNFCCC and the CBD.

The course will be held in English and take in maximum 60 participants, with a gender balance of at least 40% female participants.¹

Approach

The training will be held virtually in two batches (one training, provided twice), each covering the following topics:

- Introduction to NbS: Concept, co-benefits and key aspects of the approach
- NbS in ASEAN: how is the topic being addressed so far?
- Principles of integrating NbS into NDC, with a focus on the agriculture and forestry sectors
- Standard-setting for good practices: Mainstreaming of NbS
- Financing of NbS initiatives during implementation in agriculture and forestry sectors
- Opportunities and challenges of the implementation of NbS
- Insights into current discussion on the role of NbS in climate discussions and actions

Rough Agenda

GIZ will offer two training batches of **three hours** on **three consecutive days**:

1st batch : 28-30 September 2021

2nd batch : 4-6 October 2021

¹ In case we receive more registrations than places, the CSLU team will select based on balance between countries and gender.



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Day 1

Duration	Item	Speakers
13:30-13:50	Welcome and Introduction	Dr. Pham Quang Minh Assistant Director for Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division of ASEAN Secretariat Carolin Frisch, GIZ
13:50-14:00	Reminder on training objectives and programme	
14:00-14:15	Round of introduction	
14:15-15:00	<p>Introduction to Nature-based Solutions</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, IUCN NbS Standard • Key elements of the concept • Connection with other existing concepts and strategies e.g. EbA, FLR, REDD+, CSA, etc. • International frameworks (UNFCCC, UN CBD) • NbS and green recovery <p>20min Input + 25min Q&A</p>	Kathrin Ludwig, Adelphi
15:00–15:30	<p>Nature-based Solutions in ASEAN</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of awareness on and dissemination of NbS • NbS examples in ASEAN and emerging discussions in the region: initiatives that can be covered/enhanced by NbS; main barriers in policy that impede enhancement (national and/or regional context) 	Till Pistorious, Bunafsha Mislimshoeva, Agus Suratno, UNIQUE
15:30-15 :45	<i>Short break</i>	
15:45-16:45	<p>Examples of NbS in agriculture and forestry sector</p> <p>15min input on NbS in agriculture +10min Q&A</p> <p>15min Input on NbS in forestry + 10min Q&A</p>	Elisabeth Simelton, ICRAF & UN FAO Regan Pairojmahakij, RECOFTC
16:45	Closing	



Day 2

Duration	Item	Speakers
13:30-13:40	Recap of Day 1	Kathrin Ludwig, Adelphi
13:40-14:20	<p>Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is mainstreaming and how can it be achieved • Principles of integrating NbS into NDC, with a focus on the agriculture and forestry sectors • Standard-setting for good practices in implementing NbS • Opportunities and challenges of the implementation of NbS <p>25min Input + 15min Q&A</p>	Mathias Bertram, GIZ
14:20-14:55	<p>Financing Nature-based Solutions</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial opportunities to support the implementation of the NbS i.e. a mix of public and private financing • Opportunities and challenges of financing NbS to achieve climate targets <p>20min Input + 15min Q&A</p>	Manar Abdelmagied and Neha Rai, UN FAO
14:55-15:05	<i>Short break</i>	
15:05-15:55	<p>Group work on mainstreaming and financing NbS in agriculture and forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 break outs that work on 2 cases related to agriculture and forestry, guided by one facilitator from the organizer per group <p>5min explanations, 45min group work</p>	<p>RECOFTC facilitates the 2 breakout groups</p> <p>GIZ/Adelphi facilitates the 2 breakout groups</p>
15:55-16:30	<p>Reflection in the plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the main challenges and opportunities related to mainstreaming and financing in your case studies? • What are lessons learned for the utilization of NbS for relevant national climate targets? <p>Closing</p>	Kathrin Ludwig, Adelphi





Day 3

Duration	Item	Speakers
13:30-13:50	Recap of Day 2	Kathrin Ludwig, adelphi
13:50-14:30	<p>Governing Nature-based Solutions Implementation</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-stakeholder planning • IUCN governance matrix • Institutional arrangement • Real case scenario to utilize NbS in achieving climate targets in Southeast Asia <p>20min input, 20min Q&A</p>	Thora Amend
14:30-14:40	<i>Short break</i>	
14:40-16:15	<p>Unlocking the Potential of Nature-based Solutions in International Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of Day 1, 2 and 3 (Kathrin Ludwig) • Challenges and opportunities for NbS in international climate and biodiversity negotiations (Mathias Bertram – 25min) • Q&A and moderated discussion: how can ASEAN make best use of NbS when implementing international commitments? 	Thora Amend Mathias Bertram, GIZ Kathrin Ludwig, Adelphi
16:15-16:25	Training evaluation	
16:25–16:30	Closing remarks	Hanna Reuter





Linkages with Selected ASEAN bodies' Plan of Actions

Reference	Contribution to Activities
POA AWGFCC (2021-2025)	3.1.4. Promote dialogue at the national and regional level on the role of the forestry sector in addressing climate change issues and in contributing to sustainable development objectives.
	5.2.1. Exchange information on forest and forest-related issues and challenges affecting the interest of AMS, including experiences and lessons learned in addressing them.
SPA ATWGARD (2021-2025)	4.2.1. Packaging of CSA technologies as landscape approach in different agroecological vulnerabilities
	4.2.2. Scaling-up/scaling out of identified CSA best practices at community level.
ASPEN (2016–2025)	2.1. Organise workshops, forums and exchange of personnel to share best practices on mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from energy production and use, agriculture, land use, land-use change and forestry (including REDD/REDD+), forest fire prevention, industrial
	2.7. Organise training(s) for relevant officials and national experts on streamlining climate change mitigation into sectoral workplan.



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