

Nature-Based Solutions:

A Climate Strategy That Begins with Ecosystems

Can nature help fight climate change and protect people at the same time? From mangroves to urban parks, this blog explains how.







What Are Nature-Based Solutions?

NbS is a multifunctional, people-centric, and systemic approach which aims to benefit all three important pillars in a manner that yields a positive net impact on biodiversity, provides long-term socio-economic benefits, while addressing one or more societal challenges in an inclusive and collaborative multistakeholder approach.

Think:

- Mangroves protecting coasts from floods
- Forests absorbing carbon
- Urban wetlands cooling cities





Where Did NbS Come From?

NbS builds on similar ideas of:

- Ecosystem-based adaptation (for climate resilience)
- Nature-climate solutions (for emissions reduction)

It was only in 2022 that the United Nations Environment Assembly formally defined NbS.





Is Every "Nature-based" Solution a True NbS?

Planting trees ≠ is a climate solution

- If they're non-native
- If they're monocultures
- If local communities aren't involved

A genuine NbS must attempt to:

- Deliver net-positive biodiversity outcomes,
- Address one or more societal challenges,
- Be inclusive of local knowledge and community,
- Provide lasting socio-economic co-benefits





Why NbS Matter Now

NbS could provide up to 37% of the climate mitigation needed by 2030. That's around 5 to 11.7 GtCO₂e in potential emission cuts. Today, over 90 countries have already included NbS in their climate action plans.

Nature is no longer a 'nice to have'—it's central to solving the climate crisis.





The Challenges

Even with their potential, NbS face hurdles:

- Limited finance
- Operational complexity
- Low scalability

How can we turn potential into policy-backed action?
Stay tuned—we're unpacking this in our upcoming articles.





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