



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

LET'S TALK LAND

Episode 2

Accelerating Nature-based Solutions

 Live Webinar Series



WEBINAR REPORT

LET'S TALK LAND

Episode 2:

Accelerating Nature-based Solutions

Date: 9 March 2023 Time: 15:45 to 16:45 CET

Overview

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have moved to the center of climate change and biodiversity action. The importance of the ecosystem services they provide has gained momentum in policy debates on biodiversity, climate change, and land use and management. Nature-based solutions are being increasingly promoted to synergistically address climate change, biodiversity loss, and other societal challenges. Recently both the G7 as well as G20 have highlighted NbS.

The vast majority of current spending by G20 countries (USD 105 billion) is allocated internally towards domestic government programmes, a third of which is invested in programmes to promote the protection of biodiversity and landscapes. Harnessing this, one of the key objectives of the G20 Global Land Initiative is to promote integrated, sustainable, and resilient land and landscape programs through NbS or ecosystem-based approaches.

To showcase the potential of NbS and their true implication in policy and on the ground, the G20 Global Land Initiative, coordination office organized a global webinar on Accelerating Nature Based Solutions as a part of the Let's Talk Land webinar series. In this Episode 2, policymakers from the United States and Germany and practitioners from India and the European Union shared their perspectives and experiences with NbS.

The speakers elaborated the multiple benefits of NbS and its potential to bring synergies to the climate, land, and biodiversity agendas. Without NbS, the panelists stressed, it is not possible for the international community to meet the global targets for 2030, 2040, and 2045. Additionally, the speakers emphasized the great need for collaboration between and among governments, the public and private sectors, academia and civil society organizations.

More than 480 viewers from 79 countries participated in the webinar held on 9 March 2023, and was live-streamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). **The recording of the webinar is [here](#).**

“Thanks for the excellent presentations highlighting the roadmap of different nations for accelerating NbS”

— Webinar Attendee

“Thank you so much, congratulations and best wishes for a positive projection of this seminar”

— Webinar Attendee

Guest speakers:



Dr Heather Tallis
Assistant Director
for Biodiversity and
Conservation Sciences,
Office of Science and
Technology Policy,
White House



Dr Karen Sudmeier
Senior Expert, NBS,
G20 Global Land
Initiative



Mechthild Caspers
Head of Division, N III 2
Climate Policy in the Land
Sector, Federal Ministry for
the Environment, Nature
Conservation, Nuclear
Safety, and Consumer
Protection, Germany



Dr Shalini Dhyani
Senior Scientist CSIR-
National Environmental
Engineering Research
Institute, Vice Chair
Asia IUCN Commission
on Ecosystems
Management

Speakers highlights

“The Nature Based Solution Roadmap announced by the White House is a primary tool for federal action that calls for nature to be our first choice for climate progress, ecosystems, equity and prosperity. This roadmap marks the beginning of many more opportunities for continued federal action, partnership and collaboration.”

- Dr Heather Tallis

“There are three main elements of drivers for accelerating NbS: the public and private sector investments; government regulations and incentives; and practitioners and civil society -- research on NbS, including on performance standards, consumer preferences and activism”

- Dr Karen Sudmeier- Rieux

“In order to reach our goals, we need a broad mix of instruments such as: financial incentives and funding; awareness rising; review of the regulatory framework to enable voluntary contributions; research and development; and international cooperation. That is why I am so happy to be here today. International knowledge-sharing is an important part for being successful with NBS.”

- Mechthild Casper

“There is a huge opportunity in integrating indigenous knowledge and sacred groups together with modern scientific implementation in NbS. Local people know best about their landscape and there are many things to learn from them. Indigenous knowledge systems can be mainstreamed and integrated within the planning, implementation and monitoring phases.”

- Dr Shalini Dhyani

Speakers Profiles

Dr Heather Tallis

Assistant Director for Biodiversity and Conservation Sciences in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Heather Tallis is the Assistant Director for Biodiversity and Conservation Sciences and the Acting Director of the National Nature Assessment in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She has deep experience advancing science and policy that bridges nature, the economy and people's lives. She provides evidence-based input to the Biden-Harris Administration's America the Beautiful effort, leads cross agency action on nature-based solutions and, with the US Global Change Research Program, established the National Nature Assessment. Through previous work with The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Capital Project, she has designed and informed conservation practice with local communities, governments and the private sector around the globe. Heather also serves as Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley's School of Public Health.



Dr Shalini Dhyani

Senior Scientist, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Vice Chair Asia IUCN Commission on Ecosystems Management

Shalini Dhyani is Senior Scientist at CSIR-National Environment Engineering Research Institute, India. She is Asia's Vice-Chair and Steering Committee member in the Commission on Ecosystems Management of IUCN. Shalini works on interlinkages between socio-ecological systems, including indigenous and local knowledge systems for ecosystem health assessments, restoration of degraded landscapes, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation using Nature-based Solutions (NbS), and sustainability science approaches. Shalini is experienced in sectoral integration for developing resilient landscapes and improving corporate community partnerships for climate-sensitive landscape restoration from multidisciplinary efforts. She brings experience in science-policy integration as the lead author of the recently released IPBES global thematic assessment on the Sustainable Use of wild species and, the Asia-Pacific regional assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services. She has many high-impact, peer-reviewed national and international research papers, edited books and popular articles to her credit.



Ms Mechthild Caspers

Head of Division, Climate Policy in the Land Sector, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection, Germany

Mechthild Caspers is heads the “Climate Policy in the Land Sector” division of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). She joined the Ministry in 2002 and has been working in the Directorate for Nature Conservation since 2017. One of her main priorities is the development of the German Federal Action Plan on Nature-based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity.



Dr Karen Sudmeier-Rieux

Senior Expert, Ecology and Disaster Risk Reduction

Environmental education outreach specialist with two decades of experience researching, teaching and publishing on ecosystem restoration for reducing climate risks.

Karen was the lead developer of two Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), most notably: ‘Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience’, with over 60,000 registered. She is an affiliated Senior Scientist at TH-Köln, Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany. Prior to this, Karen was a Senior Adviser, Disaster Risk Reduction with the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Disasters and Conflicts program in Geneva Switzerland, where she managed several large projects related to ‘Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction’.

Karen is also a scholar of ecosystem management for landslide management and developed the concept of “Eco-Safe Roads”, with expertise from the Himalayas. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and Masters’ degrees in international development and forest ecology from Switzerland and the United States. She continues to give university lectures and mentors students worldwide.



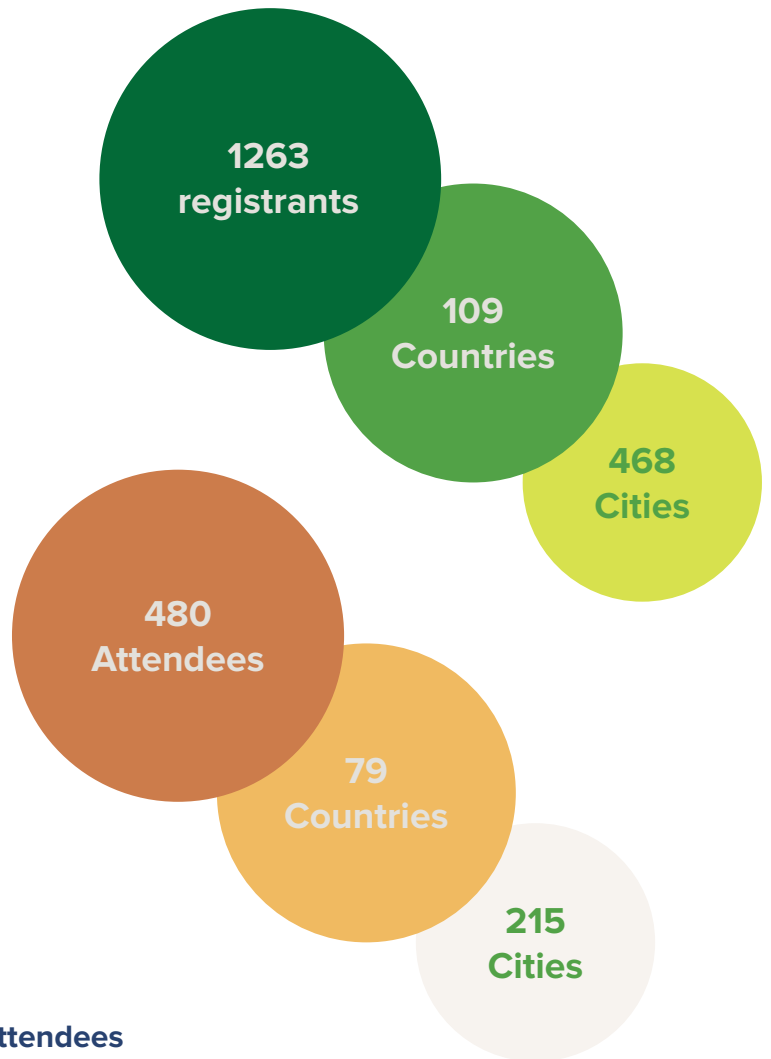
Webinar Participation

Registrants

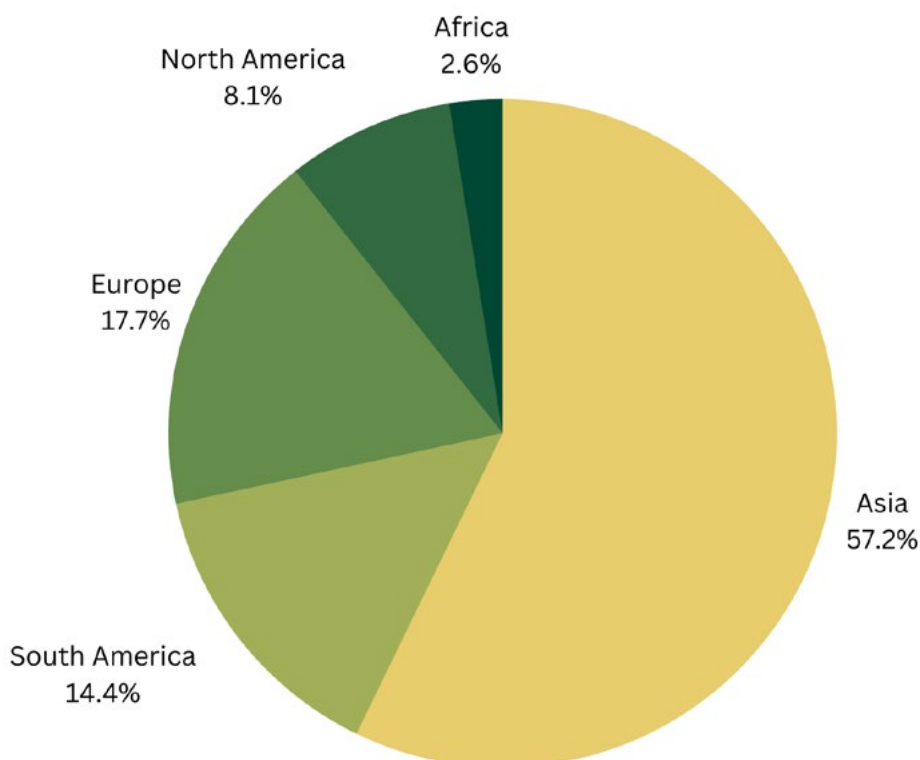
The webinar had 1263 registrants from 109 countries and 468 cities around the world. India, United States, Germany, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom respectively registered the highest number of people.

Attendees

At least 480 participants from 79 countries and 215 cities attended via the Zoom webinar platform. Most of the participants were from India, the United States, Germany, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom respectively. Additionally, some participants joined via the live streams on YouTube and Facebook page of the G20 Global Land Initiative.



Regional distribution of attendees



Annex I. Webinar Agenda

Episode 2: Accelerating Nature-based Solutions

Date: 9 March 2023

Time: 15:45 to 16:45 CET

Duration: 60 Min

| Starting Time | Duration | Activity |
|---------------|--|--|
| 15:45 | 5 min | Webinar commences Welcome and Introduction note from the moderator Dr. Muralee. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome note to the audience- Introduction of the panelists- Walking the audience through the agenda |
| 15:50 | Total: 40 mins 10 mins 10 mins 10 mins 10 mins | Panel session Ms Mechthild Caspers: Federal Action Plan on NbS for Climate and Biodiversity of the Government of Germany. Background, key features, opportunity, and action plan target. Dr Heather Tallis: Introduce Nature-Based Solutions Roadmap report and its five strategic recommendations. Background, key features, opportunity, and target of the following report Dr Shalini Dhyani: Enabling policies, practitioners and international community in NbS to accelerate the momentum for a paradigm shift Dr Karen Sudmeier-Rieux Accelerating Nature-based Solutions to meet global targets |
| 16:30 | 10 mins | Panel discussion Questions and Answers from the audience |
| 16:40 | 5 mins | Thank you note by Dr Muralee Thummarukudy |