



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



PEDRR
Ecosystems for Disaster Risk Reduction
and Adaptation

LET'S TALK LAND

Episode 3: The Role of Land Restoration in Disaster Resilience

● Live Webinar Series

*Thank you to the organizers,
host, and presenters for this
webinar. Very informative!*

— Webinar Attendee

*I found the session valuable to learn about
different collaborative nature-based projects
related to ecosystem restoration and
disaster risk reduction.*

— Webinar Attendee

EPISODE 3:

The Role of Land Restoration in Disaster Resilience

Date: 27 June 2023 **Time:** 11am - 12pm CEST

Overview

Disasters, including droughts, typhoons and forest fires are increasing in severity, number and frequency worldwide. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) projects a significant rise in the rate of annual disasters. The impacts of these disasters are impacting all of society - from lives and communities lost to livelihood and economic losses.

In response, policy-makers are shown interest in Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) to improve the condition and resilience of ecosystems and people in urban, rural and coastal areas. For instance, the European Commission has “been actively engaging the research community to better address disaster risk management knowledge and technology gaps through its Research and Innovation Strategy and Framework Programmes, notably Horizon 2020.”

The G20 Indian Presidency recently established the first working group on DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) to encourage collective work by the G20, undertake multi-disciplinary research and exchange best DRR practices. Working within the Sendai Framework for DRR, the working group will prioritize increasing the application of Ecosystem-based DRR.

Amplifying the importance of land restoration in disaster risk reduction, the G20 Global Land Initiative coordination office conducted a global webinar on “The Role of Land Restoration in Disaster Resilience” under their Let’s Talk Land Webinar series. The webinar was held on 27 July 2023, and organized in collaboration with UNDRR and Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction.

The panel had speakers from international organizations from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), UNDRR and the Netherlands Red Cross (Detailed biography of the speakers in Annex I).

The speakers discussed the links between land restoration, climate change and disaster risk reduction as well as how to include land restoration into resilience planning using the most up-to-



date methodologies, technologies and best practices. Additionally, the speakers emphasized on the importance of working in collaboration with different organizations and communities to build a holistic and complementary approach (Agenda of the webinar in Annex II).

The target audiences of the webinar were environmental and land management professionals, practitioners, academics and youth. Participants included representatives from ministries, intergovernmental agencies, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as youth and land-right activists.

Guest speakers:



Bora Masumbuko
Senior Programme Officer, Drylands,
International Union for Conservation of
Nature (IUCN)



Vincent van Haaren
Programme Lead and Advisor, Making
Disaster Management Sustainable:
Understanding the Role of nature-based
solutions –Zambia, Netherlands Red Cross



Kristin Meyer
Programme Management Officer,
Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency
Cooperation and Partnerships Branch,
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk
Reduction (UNDRR)

Moderator



Devashree Niraula
Research and Outreach Specialist, G20
Global Land Initiative Coordination
Office, UNCCD

Key Highlights from the Speakers

“Land restoration is important for disaster resilience because land supports life and provides a number of ecosystem services. About 40% of the world’s land is estimated to be degraded, most of which are thought to be induced by human activity. If Land is degraded, it loses its capacity to produce and generate ecosystems, which increases the risk of disasters and aggravates vulnerabilities and disaster impacts on people. Therefore, restoring degraded land and ecosystems will help them better cope and resist disaster. “

- Bora Masumbuko

“ Nature is our biggest ally; working with Nature and not blaming nature for disasters. It’s important to work in partnerships with other organizations that have a different type of expertise to bring different work streams together and have a more holistic and complementary approach.”

- Kristin Meyer

“Partnership is key in the successful implementation of NbS and DRR projects along with the guidance of extensive research. There are many examples of projects that have been successful in both smaller and larger scales in which this statement is applicable.”

- Vincent van Haaren

Webinar Participation

The webinar held on the zoom platform, and live streamed on [Youtube](#) channel of the G20 Global Land Initiative. The webinar had **566 people** from **289 countries** registered. Most were from **India, Germany** and **Nigeria** respectively.

A total of **331 people** from **72 countries** attended the webinar via zoom, in addition to the those on live streaming (Figure 1). The top ten countries of origin of the attendees, excluding those on livestream, were **India, Germany, Nigeria, Nepal, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Zambia, Kenya, Türkiye** and **the United Kingdom**. The webinar recording is accessible [here](#).



Figure 1: Stats of the registrants and attendees

Feedback From the Attendees

How would you rate the overall session?

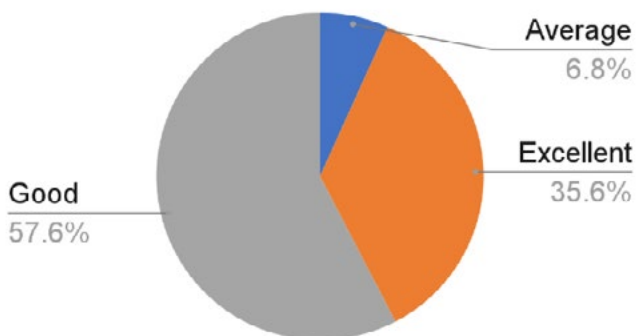


Figure 2. Attendees rating of the overall webinar session

Did the session meet your expectations?

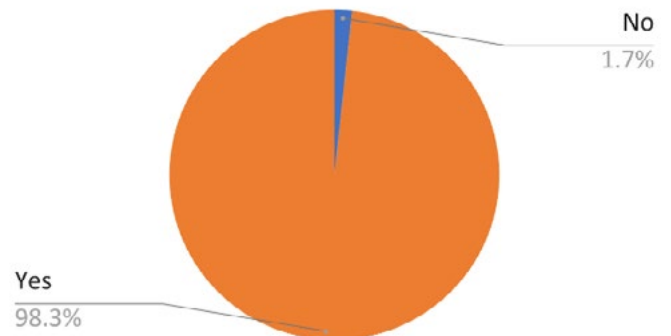


Figure 3. Attendees rating of their expectation of the webinar

The participants' feedback shows that a majority had a positive view of the webinar. Approximately 57.6% rated the webinar 'good', while 35.6% regarded it as 'excellent'. Most (98.3%) stated that the webinar fulfilled their expectations.

In what way do you think we can improve our webinar organization?

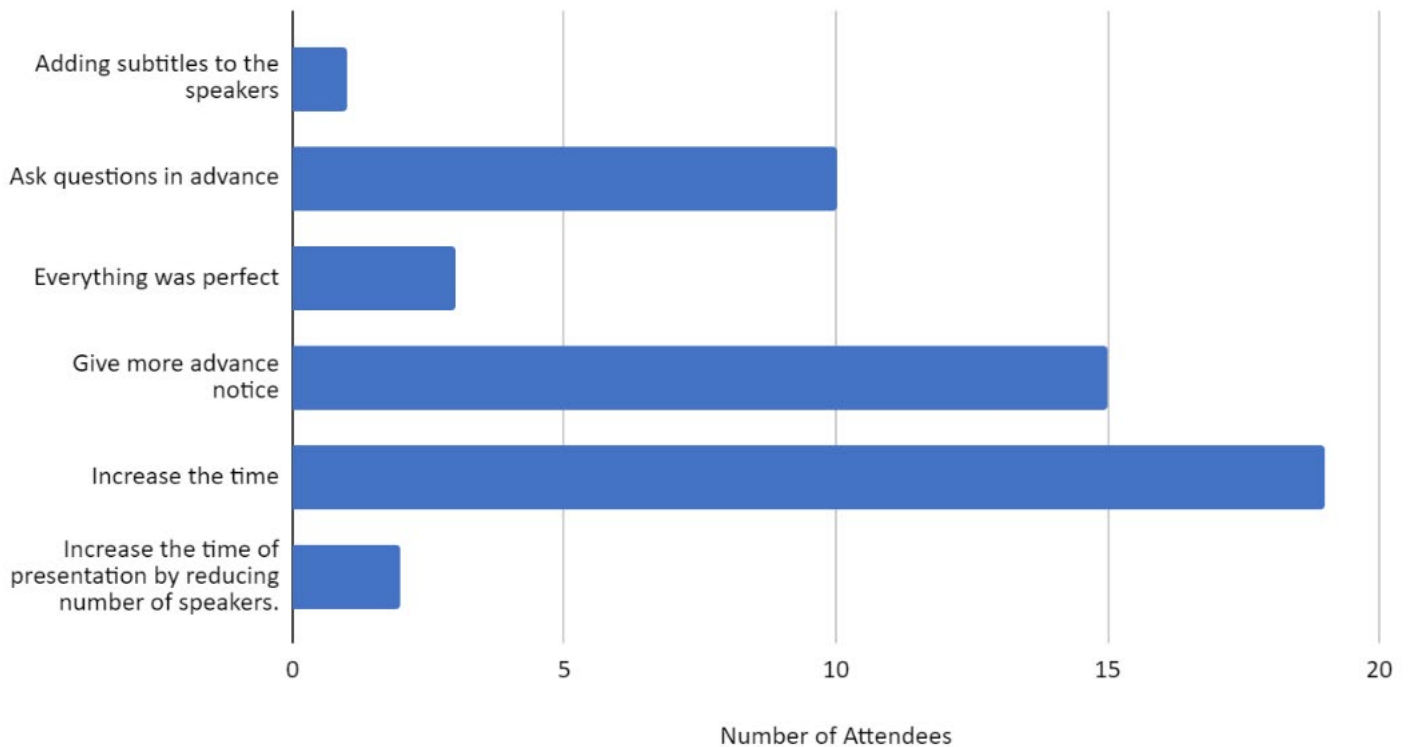


Figure 4. Attendees feedback on how to improve the webinar series

Regarding the areas for improvement, a majority of attendees recommended extending the duration of the session beyond one hour. The second largest group of respondents suggested providing more advance notice for the webinar. Additional feedback highlighted the potential benefits of asking questions in advance. Only a few people think it is necessary to reduce the number of speakers to create more time for speakers or to incorporate subtitles for the speakers.

Replay the webinar on YouTube, [here >>](#)

Annex I. Speakers Biography

Bora Masumbuko, Senior Programme Officer, Drylands, IUCN

Ms Bora Masumbuko is an environment and biodiversity conservation specialist. Over the past 20 plus years, Bora has contributed to and led global, regional and national initiatives and programmes related to protected area management, sustainable land management and governance, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, and climate change resilience and adaptation, including in drylands. Bora is particularly interested and engaged in ecosystems' and human populations' resilience to global environmental changes, communities' engagement in natural resources management and strengthening institutional and human capacities in natural resources management. Bora has been instrumental in, among other things, strategically and collaboratively developing policy-oriented solutions to key environmental challenges. Bora is currently working with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a Senior Programme Officer, based in Bonn, Germany. Bora holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences and Biological Engineering from Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech University, Belgium, and a Bachelor's degree in Populations' and Ecosystems' Biology from the University of Science and Technologies of Lille, France.

Kristin Meyer, Programme Management Officer, Intergovernmental Processes, Interagency Cooperation, and Partnerships Branch, UNDRR

Kristin Meyer is a Programme Management Officer at the UNDRR. Her primary focus is on strengthening partnerships and collaboration in nature-based solutions and water and integrating disaster risk reduction into relevant global policy processes. Ms. Meyer has extensive experience in fostering dialogue across sectors, disciplines, and levels of governance. Prior to joining UNDRR, Ms Meyer worked with the IUCN, first in the Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and later as Legal Officer at the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, where she led nature-based solutions, climate change and water-related initiatives, with a particular focus on multi-stakeholder governance. In her previous roles at the United Nations University and the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, Ms Meyer contributed to intergovernmental processes, developed governance approaches, supported policy-science dialogues and implemented capacity development initiatives. MsMeyer received her LL.M. in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham and completed her Bachelor of Law at the University of Sheffield, which included study abroad in Iceland.

Vincent van Haaren, Programme Lead and Advisor, Making Disaster Management Sustainable: Understanding the Role of Nature-Based Solutions –Zambia, The Red Cross Netherlands.

Mr Vincent van Haaren has 15 years of experience as development consultant. He is an experienced team leader, who has worked closely with private enterprises, line ministries, public utilities, local governments, etc. For the past 4 years, he has coordinated a global program on Eco-DRR. The Eco-DRR programme focuses on the implementation of Integrated Risk Management with disaster prevention, climate change adaptation, ecosystem management and recovery to enhance local resilience. Currently, he is the program lead for the “Making Disaster Management Sustainable: Understanding the Role of Nature-Based Solutions – Zambia,” a program of the Netherlands Red Cross and WWF-NL. He has national and extensive international experience in the DRR and water sectors, and holds a Masters Degree from the University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Urban and Rural Planning.

Annex II. Webinar Agenda

Segment	Activity	Time
1	Welcome, and Introduction: -Welcome note to the audience -Introduction of the Speakers -Walking the audience through the agenda	10 minutes
2	Presentations - 10 minutes per speaker	Total: 30 minutes
3	Panel discussion Questions and Answers from the audience	15 minutes
4	Thank you note by the moderator	5 minutes