

# Let's Talk About Nature-Based Solutions

**The climate crisis is at a point of no return**, and we are already seeing its environmental and social impacts. Extreme events such as droughts and heat waves have doubled. **Every year, 13 million hectares of forest disappear.** The world's glaciers have lost 9.6 billion tons of ice, and by the end of the century, sea levels are expected to rise by 0.8 meters. **By 2050, there will be areas that will be uninhabitable, which could displace up to 140 million people.** In addition, it is estimated that between 2030 and 2050 there will be 250,000 additional human deaths due to climate change.

As the climate crisis intensifies, and we are faced with a rapidly changing environment, how can we cope and help people and wildlife adapt?





# Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

**Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems,** that address the most pressing social challenges, such as the climate crisis, food security, and disaster risk.

NbS are designed and managed by or in partnership with local communities through a process that respects and upholds local rights and knowledge.





# Nature-Based solutions

Restoration Specificity Infrastructure Management Protection

ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES



These solutions simultaneously provide benefits for human well-being and biodiversity. However, be aware that NbS do not replace the need to move away from fossil fuels and should not delay the goal of carbon neutrality.

One example of Nature-based Solutions is whale conservation.





# Large cetaceans, such as the blue whale, **accumulate carbon in their bodies throughout their lives.**

**When they die and sink to the ocean floor, this carbon sinks with them.** A single whale sequesters an average of 33 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over its lifespan, having an effect similar to that of thousands of trees. **Conserving whales helps fight the climate crisis.**

We treat the ocean as a source of raw materials and resources to extract, often overlooking the fact that its ecosystem services are NbS for the climate crisis (they provide oxygen, sequester CO<sub>2</sub>, regulate the climate, etc.).

**Thus, the blue economy aims to work in a way that is as close to nature as possible.** It seeks to make the most of the available resources to ensure the sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources. For this to happen, **the valorization of the ocean is essential.**

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tons of CO<sub>2</sub>  
are sequestered by a whale  
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on average.





# The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global initiative focused on “making nature’s values visible.”

Its main objective is to incorporate biodiversity values and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels. To do this, **TEEB places a value on a species or ecosystem, allowing decision-makers to recognize the multiple benefits provided by ecosystems and their biodiversity, and thus contributing directly to their conservation.**

This has already been done with elephant and blue whale populations, for example. **Do you know how much a live blue whale is worth?**

Source: On Valuing Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change. Chami et al. 2020

