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NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER RESOURCES

UNECE

Nature-based Solutions Workshop, 6 July 2023

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Water resources management benefiting from NbS

NBS for water resources:

- enhancing water availability (soil moisture retention, groundwater recharge),
- improving water quality (natural and constructed wetlands, riparian buffer zones),
- reducing risks associated with water-related disasters and climate change (e.g., floodplain restoration, green roofs).



NbS provide **multiple benefits** to the society, to the economy and to the environment: food security, raw materials, carbon storage, biodiversity, medicinal materials, pollination, recreation, etc.



Adequate valuation of all benefits: **“no-regrets solutions”**.

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Water Convention and NbS

Over **60% of the global freshwater flow occurs in transboundary basins**. Transboundary water cooperation is thus a prerequisite for ecosystem and climate resilience and sustainable water management.

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (**Water Convention**) addresses conservation and restoration of ecosystems as well as application of the ecosystem approach.

Nature-based solutions are often effective from a **basin perspective** bringing benefits for all riparians. They offer an opportunity to initiate and strengthen transboundary cooperation.



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Prerequisites of successful NbS

Key elements of successful planning and implementation of nature-based solutions:

- adequate knowledge
- appropriate policy and planning
- sufficient funding
- adopting a landscape approach
- engaging in multi-stakeholder processes at the basin level (communities, governments, civil society and development agencies)



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NbS in the EU4Environment Water and Data

Support in better understanding, identifying, implementing and monitoring NbS:

- raise awareness
- identify opportunities for NbS
- promote mainstreaming of NbS into the countries' policy and planning frameworks
- support integration of NbS into River Basin Management Plans and national water policies
- facilitate access to financing for NbS including operational, maintenance and monitoring costs
- engage public and private sector actors in design and implementation
- initiate pilot projects and enhance learning



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THANK YOU



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