

LEARNING DAYS AND ANNUAL EVENT 2025

10–12 SEPTEMBER 2025 | ONLINE & BERN



Nature-based Solutions in Practice: Insights, Inclusion & Impact

PROGRAMME

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly integrated into climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, yet practitioners often face unclear definitions, unrealistic expectations, and limited guidance on implementation. This event invites a grounded conversation on what NbS can—and cannot—achieve in real-world contexts. Together, we will explore practical examples, discuss how to ensure inclusivity and tangible local benefits, and unpack the challenges of financing and sustaining NbS over time. With a focus on applied insights, this event aims to support practitioners in navigating the complexities of designing and delivering effective, equitable, and context-specific NbS interventions.

Are you supporting and implementing projects and programmes related to climate change and disaster risk reduction, with an interest in learning and exchanging on the importance of NbS for climate and disaster resilience?

Join us to share and learn from existing experience of platform member organizations and their partners, as well as other organizations and stakeholders involved with NbS in the development and humanitarian contexts.

In **4 online thematic sessions** we will get an introduction to NbS, explore the applicability of NbS in displacement settings, discuss scientific evidence for NbS, and get familiarized with a new Valuation Guideline to evaluate NbS.

At the **annual event** on Friday afternoon, we will explore pathways for localizing NbS, focusing on key drivers for success from different perspectives. We bring together distinguished panel guests from the public and private sector, NGOs, and academia.

Objectives

With the learning days and the annual event, our aim is to bring together **NGO practitioners and all interested professionals involved in planning and implementing NbS**, promote exchange and learning on the topic, and discuss good practices and opportunities creating co-benefits for people and nature.

Thematic sessions

Several thematic sessions aim to answer frequently asked questions and encourage reflection on challenges and opportunities that NGOs may face when working in the field of NbS. Although mainly addressing NGO practitioners, these sessions are open to all interested parties and will combine experiences from different stakeholders to paint a comprehensive picture and strengthen capacities towards successful implementation.

All thematic sessions will take place online, and most will have simultaneous translation into English, French and Spanish. You can participate in all or select sessions of your interest.

All sessions will be recorded and uploaded on our [Youtube channel](#).

Annual event

To conclude the learning days, the annual event of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform will bring together a broad audience in-person in Bern. Speakers will reflect on how different sectors (donors, academia, private sector, NGOs) can support local communities in planning, implementing and maintaining Nature-based Solutions with lasting benefits for both nature and people.

The annual event will be held in Bern, Switzerland, in English.

Registration

Please register for each thematic session and the annual event [here](#).

You will receive the zoom-link for participation upon registration via e-mail.

Participation is free of charge.

Online participation is unrestricted. Places for on-site participation at the annual event on Friday afternoon in Bern are limited. Please only sign up for on-site participation if you can be present.

Contact

In case of questions, please contact the lead of the NbS working group:

Maria Claudelin (Caritas Switzerland)
mclaudelin@caritas.ch

Who we are

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform is a network of NGO professionals dedicated to increase the resilience of women and men, communities and governments to all aspects of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. It strives for enhanced quality of Swiss NGO services related to disaster risk and climate change, promotes the diversity of know-how experience, provides guidance for increased effectiveness and advocates for the importance of risk-informed development, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

A working group on Nature-based solutions of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform has been operating since 2019, with the aim of guiding the platform's learning journey to enhance understanding and improve practice of member organisations in NbS. Its work culminates in the learning days and the annual event 2025.

<https://drrplatform.org>

Organised by:

CARITAS Schweiz
Suisse
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

PROGRAMME

WEBINAR 1

Working with Nature: An Introduction to Nature-based Solutions

WED, 10 SEPTEMBER

16:00 – 17:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated into French and Spanish

THU, 11 SEPTEMBER

09:00 – 10:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English

Organized by **Helen Gambon** (Swiss Red Cross) and **Johanna Zwahlen** (Zöi Environment Network)

Nature-based Solutions can be difficult to grasp, as definitions, goals, and approaches often vary. This introductory session will clarify what NbS means in the context of climate and disaster resilience, particularly in rural and developing settings. Through practical examples and diverse perspectives, we will explore the benefits, challenges, and narratives that shape NbS. The session will conclude with key recommendations from the Swiss NGO DRR Platform.

SPEAKERS

- **Naomie Kayitesi**, IUCN
- **Felipe Valderrama Escallón**, Fundación Humedales, Colombia
- **Alexandre Chausson**, NbS Initiative and WWF-UK

WEBINAR 2

Nature-based Solutions in Displacement Settings

WED, 10 SEPTEMBER

10:00 – 11:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated into French

Organized by **Arabela Philipona** (HEKS/EPER) and **Maria Claudelin** (Caritas Switzerland)

Nature-based Solutions are increasingly recognized as functioning tools in humanitarian and displacement settings—but their application can be complex. This webinar will explore what NbS can look like in these contexts, drawing on practical experiences from Bangladesh, Chad and Uganda. We will examine what works where, and why, highlighting key success factors such as community ownership, inclusive design and long-term sustainability. The session will also explore donor perspectives and opportunities to support NbS in crisis contexts.

SPEAKERS

- **Ali Neumann**, Swiss Humanitarian Aid
- **Deborah Nabukeera**, HEKS/EPER Uganda
- **Ehsanul Hoque**, UNHCR
- **Urs Bloesch**, Adanson Consulting

WEBINAR 3

Implementing Nature-based Solutions with Academic Insight

THU, 11 SEPTEMBER

11:00 – 12:30 CEST | Online

Languages: English, translated into French

Organized by **Ernst Schaltegger** (INNOVABRIDGE)

The potential of ecosystem-based interventions, also known as Nature-based Solutions (NbS), for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) is now recognized by major national policies and international framework agreements. However, currently there is limited scientific evidence about their typology, economic viability and equity impacts. This webinar invites three recognized researchers for an exchange with NGO practitioners to discuss the available scientific evidence supporting NbS.

SPEAKERS

- **Dr Karen Sudmeier-Rieux**, UNEP
- **Dr Simone Sandholz**, UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security
- **Dr Marta Vicarelli**, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

WEBINAR 4

Valuing Nature-based Solutions benefits with emphasis on social impact and climate adaptation — A guide for practitioners

THU, 11 SEPTEMBER**13:30–15:00 CEST | Online**

Languages: English, translated into French and Spanish

Organized by **Sophie Nguyen Khoa** (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation) and **Arabela Philipona** (HEKS/EPER)

Nature-based Solutions promise multiple benefits for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem health—but how can we effectively assess their true value and compare NbS with infrastructure-based and hybrid solutions? This session introduces a practical guide developed by the Swiss NGO DRR Platform to help development actors value NbS with a focus on climate and disaster resilience, equity, and livelihoods. Drawing on case studies—presenting one in Tajikistan—and expert insights from IISD, IUCN and implementing partners, we will explore a multi-dimensional valuation approach and tools, challenges in capturing the whole range of co-benefits and costs, and how insights can inform project design, implementation and adaptive management, and help avoid maladaptation.

SPEAKERS

- **Ilhom Gulomjanov**, Acted
- **Janina Schnick**, IISD Economic Law and Policy Program
- **Leander Raes**, IUCN
- **Nidhi Nagabhatla**, UNU-CRIS & PEDRR

ANNUAL EVENT

Localizing Nature-based Solutions: Key Drivers of Success from Different Perspectives

Welle 7 (Deck 3) in Bern, Switzerland

FRI, 12 SEPTEMBER**14:00–16:00 CEST | Followed by an apéro riche**

Languages: English

Moderated by **Maciej Chmielewski** (Caritas Switzerland) and organized by the **NbS Working Group**

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform's annual event 2025 summarizes key findings from a series of four webinars and concludes with a panel discussion featuring invited guests from NGOs, donors, the private sector and research. The session highlights the importance of local embeddedness and inclusive decision-making for the success and sustainability of NbS. Participants explore the diverse roles of stakeholders in driving and supporting NbS implementation, offering practical insights on bridging the gap between locally-led initiatives and global frameworks and financing mechanisms. Drawing on lessons from previous sessions, the event serves as both a culmination and a stand-alone platform for dialogue among DRR and CCA practitioners, thematic experts, and the general public.

PANELISTS

- **Riccarda Caprez**, SDC
- **Kevin Douglas**, IFRC
- **Alexandre Chausson**, NbS Initiative and WWF-UK
- **Andrew Kirkby**, Lindt & Sprüngli