



## Announcement and Save-the-Date

### Exploring the Potential of Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development



#### Background

Everyone seems to be talking about Nature-based Solutions (NBS) these days. A silver bullet for fostering sustainable development and to tackle pressing global challenges – or rather (another) passing hype with limited practical potential for development cooperation?

This year's Swiss thematic network event jointly organized by the Global Programme Climate Change and Environment (GPCCE) and the Global Programme Water (GPW) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will provide a floor for discussing and learning more about the topic of 'Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development' - and sounding the true potential of this new kid on the block from a perspective of climate change, environment and water.

#### Aims of the event

The main objective of the one-day event is to embark on a joint learning journey and to foster a shared understanding of the development relevance and potential of the NBS concepts - and to work out the areas of tension and trade-offs that these concepts inevitably inherit. What is working, what is not and why?

This shall be achieved by sharing approaches and concrete positive and negative experiences about the application of NBS for sustainable development – with a particular focus on the fields related to climate change, environment and water. Of course, the event aims also at connecting those interested in the specific topic and at promoting networking in general.

#### Date & venue

The event will take place in Bern at the 'Berner Bildungszentrum Pflege' (Freiburgstrasse 133, CH-3003 Bern, nearby SDC's head office) on 21 November 2019 from 9 am to 5 pm.

## **Participants and involvement**

The invitation for this thematic event is addressed primarily to Swiss-based members of the two co-organizing networks Climate Change and Environment and Water. However, the event is also open to others who either take a special interest in the topic of NBS in support of sustainable development or are simply curious to discover the potential benefits of such approaches. As this event is meant for sharing experiences, we call upon interested participants to let us know if and what kind of experience with NBS they would like to present, share and discuss. Please submit a short proposal of maximum half a page to [madeleine.guyer@infras.ch](mailto:madeleine.guyer@infras.ch).

## **Draft programme**

The event will start with few inspiring plenary inputs. Subsequently, the majority of the day will be held in break-out groups. At the end of the day, the most interesting and inspiring learning moments will again be shared in plenary and possible follow-up activities explored. A detailed programme will be sent out to registered participants in due time.

## **Pre-registration and costs**

We encourage you to save the date in your calendar and to pre-register as soon as possible sending a short message indicating your name, position and institutional affiliation to [madeleine.guyer@infras.ch](mailto:madeleine.guyer@infras.ch). The event is free of charge and the coffee/tea breaks as well as a joint networking lunch will be provided.

## **Contacts / organizers**

For further information or questions, please contact either of the two network focal points: for the 'Climate Change and Environment' Network [patrick.sieber@eda.admin.ch](mailto:patrick.sieber@eda.admin.ch) and for the 'Water/RésEAU' Network [daniel.maselli@eda.admin.ch](mailto:daniel.maselli@eda.admin.ch).