

# Key Resources on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION  
CANADA

## Examples of Aga Khan Foundation's NBS Initiatives

### **Scaling-up, Promoting and Expanding Effortless Direct-seeding Rice permaculture (SPEEDRICE) in Madagascar** | <https://www.akf.org.uk/speedrice>

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is working with farmers in Madagascar to implement the Zanatany Rice Permaculture System (ZRPS), a sustainable rice cultivation system. ZRPS increases yields while reducing labour requirements (particularly for women), water use & carbon intensity while enhancing soil quality through regenerative agriculture. The AKDN aims to train 20,000 smallholder farmers in the ZRPS.

### **"Urban Forest" at AKES school in Pakistan**

[https://www.akdn.org/press-release/"urban-forest"-akes-school-pakistan](https://www.akdn.org/press-release/)

The AKDN worked with the Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan School in Karimabad, Pakistan to plant a 48m forest that contains 154 trees of 14 different native species such as mulberry, almond, fig, & lemon. The micro forest provides habitat for urban wildlife, improves air quality, absorbs carbon & creates shade.

### **Trees to filter wastewater in Hunza**

<https://www.akdn.org/project/trees-filter-wastewater-hunza>

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) worked with the village of Murtazabad, Pakistan, to develop a water supply & wastewater treatment system for 350 households. To limit the release of effluent into the Hunza River, the community planted thousands of trees & aquatic plants to filter the treated wastewater.

## Guides & Toolkits

### **AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (2022)**

#### **How to Plant a Micro Forest in 10 Steps**

<https://akflearninghub.org/documents/how-to-plant-a-micro-forest-in-10-steps>

A 10-step guide to planting a micro-forest that supports communities' efforts to conserve endemic & indigenous species, & provide a harvest of food, medicinal & feed plants.

### **AGA KHAN AGENCY FOR HABITAT (2021)**

#### **Toolkit for Urban Ecosystem Management**

<https://www.akdn.org/publication/urban-ecosystems-management-toolkit>

Developed by Aga Khan Agency for Habitat India, this toolkit promotes resilient urban ecosystem management, infrastructure & service provision through nature-based solutions aimed at supporting cities in better managing ecosystems.

### **IUCN (2020)**

#### **IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions**

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-020-En.pdf>

The IUCN Gold Standard for NBS is a user guide & self-assessment tool designed to assist governments, companies, NGOs & others to "consistently design effective NBS projects that are ambitious in scale & sustainability".

## Capacity-Building Initiatives

### **Nature for Climate Adaptation Initiative (NCAI)**

<https://ncai.iisd.org>

Led by IISD, NCAI is a capacity building & knowledge initiative aimed at helping organizations enhance their understanding, knowledge, & capacity to design & deliver nature-based climate solutions (NBCS) for adaptation that provide biodiversity & livelihood benefits to people of all genders & social groups in developing countries.

### **Nature-Based Infrastructure (NBI) Global Resource Centre** | <https://nbi.iisd.org>

The NBI Global Resource Centre provides case studies, training materials, guidance documents & a database supporting integrated cost-benefit analyses & financial modeling for nature-based infrastructure. The Centre, in collaboration with the GEF, the MAVA Foundation, & UNIDO, will also provide direct cost-benefit analysis & modeling support to identify the local project context, uncertainties, & underlying system dynamics for more than 40 nature-based infrastructure projects in developing countries over the next four years.

### **The Global Center on Adaptation** | <https://gca.org>

Carrying on the work of the UN Global Commission on Adaptation (2018-2021), the Global Center on Adaptation works to advance adaptation solutions from the international to the local level with a focus on vulnerable populations that are least prepared to withstand the triple health, social & economic impacts of the climate emergency.

### **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) E-Learning Course**

<https://ncai.iisd.org/eba-e-learning-course>

An upcoming e-learning course will offer targeted training on key principles, risk assessments, monitoring, & governance with the aim of supporting organizations' efforts to design & implement EbA initiatives.

### **NBI Global Resource Centre: Online Training Course on Nature-Based Infrastructure**

<https://nbi.iisd.org/online-training-course-about-nature-based-infrastructure>

A course supports policymakers, infrastructure planners, & investors to understand the value of nature-based infrastructure, & how to assess the economic & financial performance of NBI as well as its co-benefits in comparison with "built" or "grey" infrastructure.

## Recommended Reading

### **GLOBAL COMMISSION ON ADAPTATION (2019). ADAPT NOW: A GLOBAL CALL FOR LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

<https://gca.org/reports/adapt-now-a-global-call-for-leadership-on-climate-resilience>

This report provides specific insights & recommendations in key sectors to accelerate adaptation by elevating the political visibility of adaptation & inspiring decision-makers across society to take concrete actions – including advancing nature-based solutions for adaptation.

### **IISD (2022). SEEKING CLARITY ON NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR ADAPTATION**

<https://www.iisd.org/publications/brief/seeking-clarity-nature-based-climate-solutions-adaptation>

This guidance note aims to clarify the concepts of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) & Nature-Based Climate Solutions (NBCS) with an emphasis on climate adaptation. It considers the social & biodiversity safeguards required to ensure NbS deliver gender-responsive, socially inclusive, & ecologically sustainable solutions.

### **IISD (2021). HOW CAN INVESTMENT IN NATURE CLOSE THE INFRASTRUCTURE GAP?**

<https://nbi.iisd.org/report/investment-in-nature-close-infrastructure-gap>

A report considering the issue of how much nature-based infrastructure can save costs & create value relative to traditional grey infrastructure, & possible outcomes of shifting investments from built infrastructure to nature.