

**Virtual Classroom Based Training Program  
on  
Eco-DRR: Nature based Solution (NbS) for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Through Zoom Platform  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sept., 2023 (Time: 15:00 to 17:15 Hrs.)**

**Concept Note**

The world gradually dealing with the impacts of climate change, rapid environmental shifts, and escalating societal challenges, traditional and novel strategies alike are sought for effective disaster risk reduction (DRR). Among the promising approaches that have emerged is Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), which both captures the essence of innovation and proved as time-tested wisdom.

At its core, Nature-Based Solutions refers to the strategic use of nature's processes to address societal challenges. For instance, instead of relying solely on constructed barriers like dams to mitigate floods, one could consider the restoration of wetlands that naturally absorb excess water or the planting of mangrove forests which act as natural buffers against storm surges. This idea, while articulated in modern terms, finds its roots in ancient practices. Indigenous communities across the world have, for centuries, leaned on nature's bounty and rhythms to adapt to and mitigate environmental challenges.

The 21st century saw the formalization and rising prominence of the NbS concept in international dialogues and conservation discussions. But what has triggered this recent emphasis?

Three primary drivers may be identified as:

1. Marked increase in global temperatures leading to more frequent and intense natural disasters,
2. Widespread ecosystem degradation due to human activities,
3. Increasing understanding and emphasis on sustainable development that resonates with nature, not against it.

One might wonder about the tangible benefits of embracing NbS, especially in a disaster context. Economically, these solutions often prove to be more cost-effective than traditional engineered infrastructures. Moreover, the multifaceted advantages extend beyond mere disaster protection.

By implementing NbS, there's potential for biodiversity enhancement, water quality improvement, and a boost to local livelihoods through eco-tourism and sustainable resource harvesting. Furthermore, robust ecosystems, such as mangroves or coral reefs, inherently possess the resilience to recover from disturbances, thus ensuring continued protection against calamities.

On a global scale, the United Nations, recognizing the indispensable value of NbS, has propagated guidelines to foster their adoption. These include integrating NbS into broader developmental frameworks, advocating for robust community involvement in the design and realization of such solutions, and promoting ecosystem conservation, management, and restoration as pillars of global DRR strategies.

India, a country adorned with a vast mosaic of ecosystems and frequently on the receiving end of natural calamities, is uniquely poised to benefit from NbS. The government has echoed this sentiment in its policies and directives. Urban centres, like Chennai, & Ahmedabad are exploring wetland restoration as a countermeasure to recurring urban floods. Traditional practices, such as the 'johads' or rainwater harvesting structures in Rajasthan, serve as stellar examples of indigenous NbS. Moreover, the country's biodiversity targets resonate with this philosophy, with a commitment to restore 30% of its degraded ecosystems by 2030.

For effective on-ground realization of NbS in India, a multi-pronged strategy is essential. This encompasses grassroots campaigns for awareness, integration of NbS in extant policy frameworks, collaboration with diverse stakeholders including NGOs and academic institutions, and dedicated research to unearth indigenous, region-specific NbS.

Humanity facing major environmental crisis, Nature-Based Solutions present a beacon of hope. They are not just strategies; they are a philosophy, a commitment to intertwining our future with the rhythms of nature, ensuring a resilient and harmonious coexistence.

Keeping these views in mind Virtual Class Room Training Program is scheduled to conduct on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept., 2023 with the following objectives:

**Objectives:**

1. To Introduce the Concept of Nature based Solutions
2. To Introduce Benefits and Constraints of NbS
3. To Illustrate the Case studies of Gujarat

**Target Audience for Proposed Online Training**

S. No.	Department	Designation
1.	Forest and Environment Department	ACF, RFO, Forester and ground staff
2.	Agriculture Farmers Welfare & Co-operation Dept.	DAO, Dy. Dir. Agri., Agri. Ext. Officer, Agri. & Horti. Supervisor, Agri./ Horti. Assistant.

**Resource Persons:**

1. **Shri R.D.Kamboj**, Former Director, GEER Foundation
2. **Shri B.J.Pathak**, Ex. APCCF, F&E Dept., GoG
3. **Dr. V. Vijay Kumar**, Director, GUIDE, Bhuj, Kachchh

**Expected outcome:**

This will increase the capabilities of employees to understand the importance of NbS to achieve SDG Goals & safeguard community from Disaster.