



# **Financing Nature-based solutions (NbS)**

## **Overview of NbS-relevant finance options**

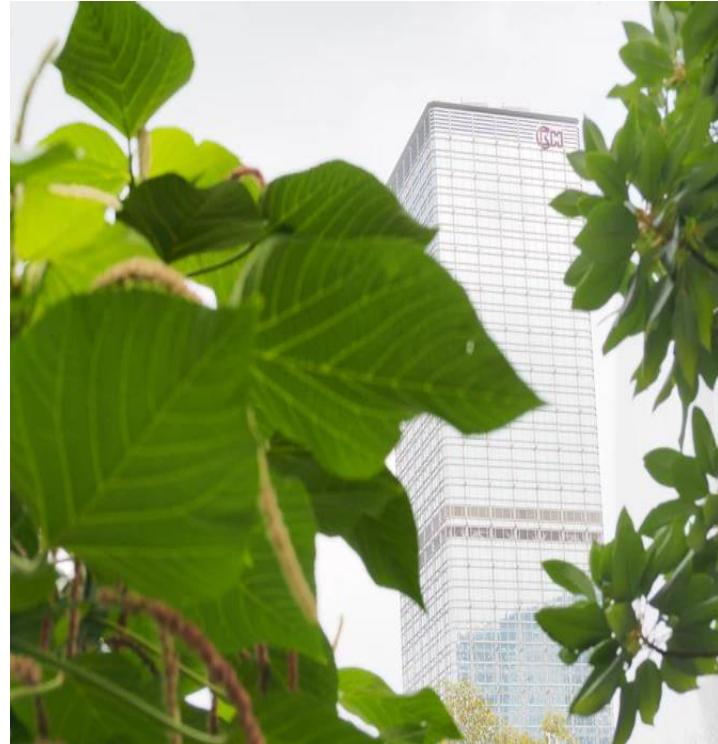
NbS Training SNRD

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# Financing NbS status quo and potential



- While there is great demand for NbS, so far NbS are not applied at a larger scale
- NbS financing mostly from the **public sector, mostly smaller scale projects...**
- NbS are considered **more cost-effective** than alternative interventions
- NbS are expected to be particularly cost-effective when addressing multiple objectives at the same time



Credit: Unsplash Images

Sources: The NBS for Climate Manifesto, Developed for the UN Climate Action Summit, 2019, Retrieved from <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/29705/190825NBSManifesto.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>  
UNEP. 2019; UN Global Compact. 2020; UICN, 2020; University of Oxford, 2020.

# Examples of the economic effects of ecosystem degradation



## Pollinators

- global annual market value of animal pollinated crops: 235–577 billion USD
- Population of insects have declined by 40%.
- 75% of critical food crops depend on animal pollination.

## Disaster risk

- coral reef mining in Sri Lanka has caused severe coastal erosion
- increased onshore destruction and loss of life from storms and tsunamis (e.g. the earthquake and tsunami event in 2004).

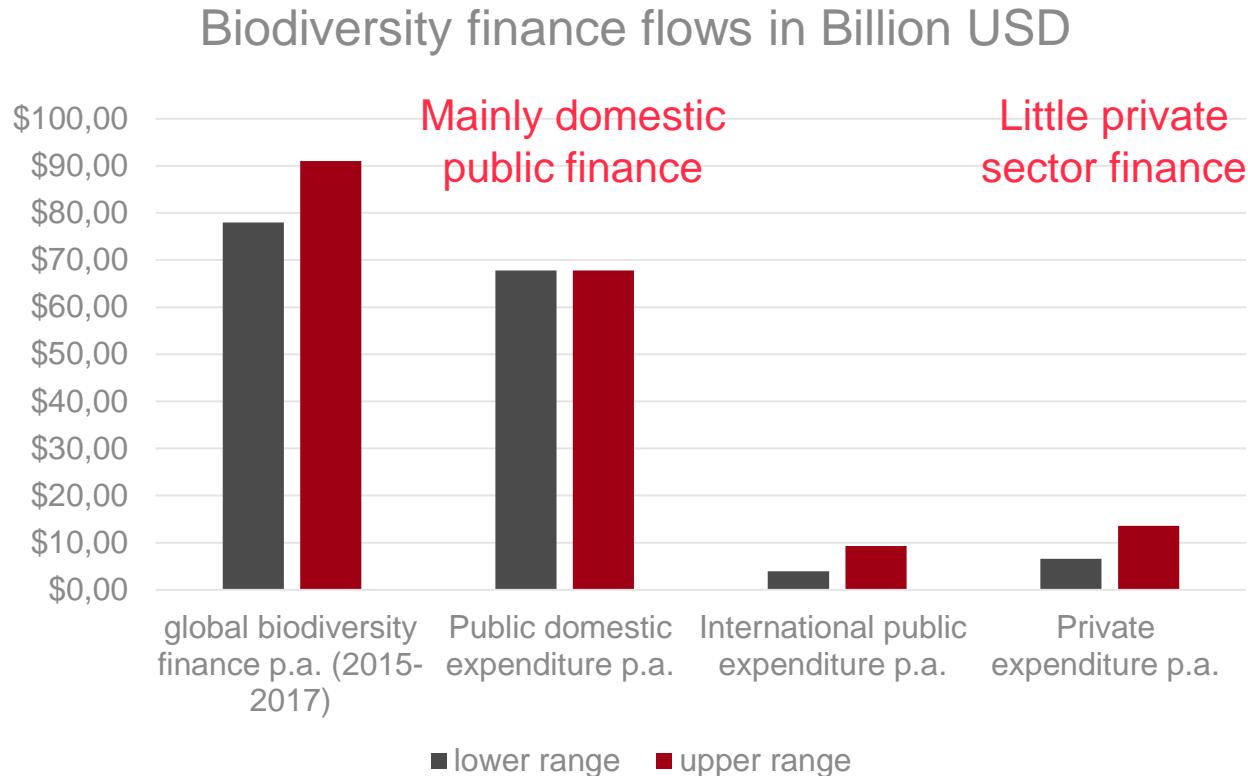
## Nutrient run-off

- nutrient run-off (nitrogen and phosphorous) in the Gulf of Mexico creates “dead zones”
- collapse of shrimp and oyster fisheries, estimated at 300 million USD per year.

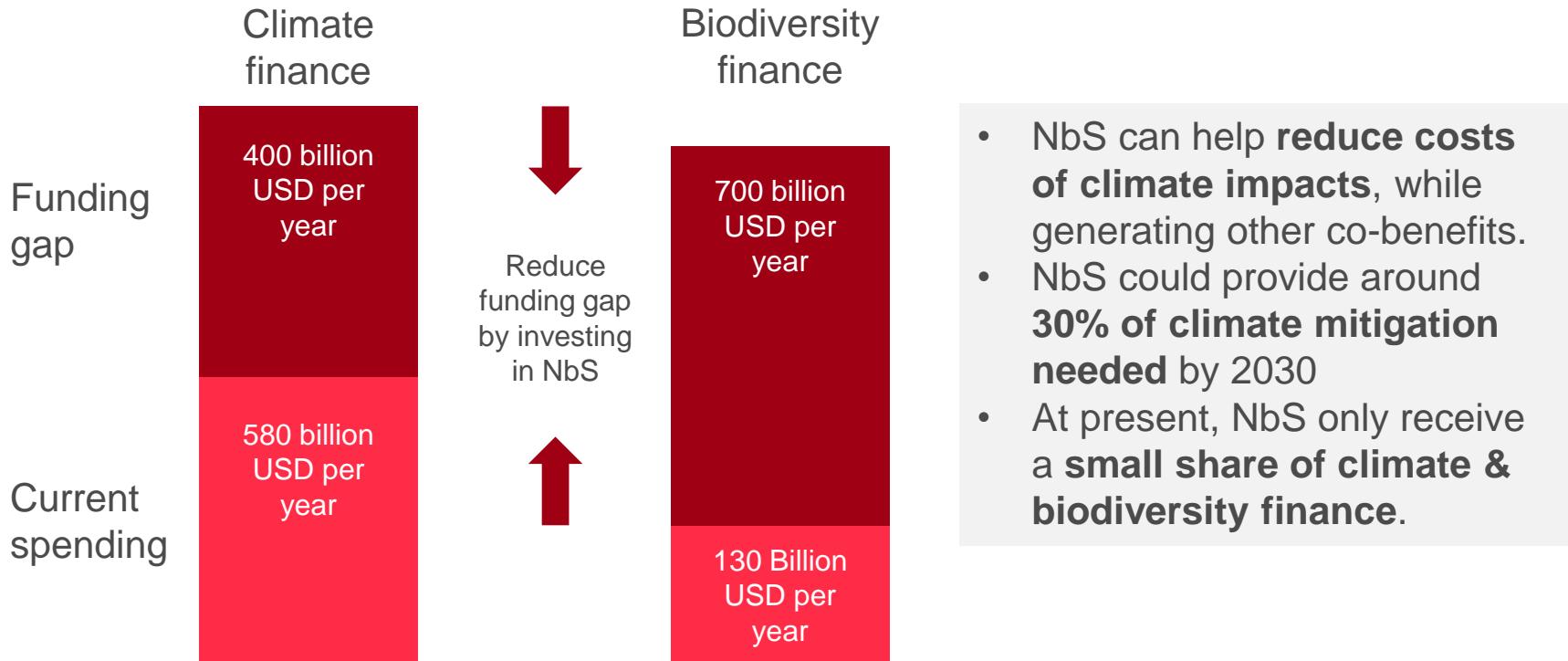


Credit: Unsplash Images

# Biodiversity finance and needs



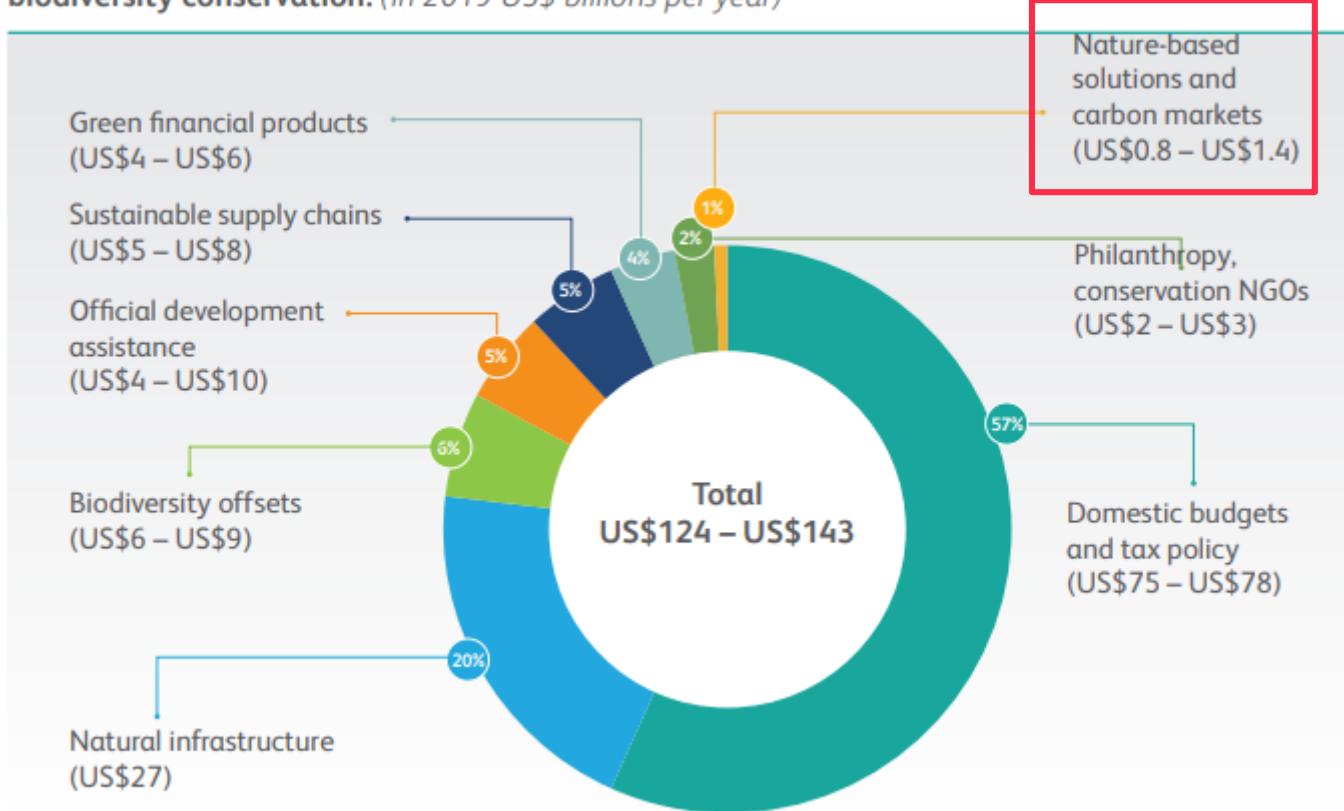
# Estimated climate and biodiversity finance expenditures & needs



Climate: GGGI (2016) [http://gggi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Mind-the-Gap\\_web.pdf](http://gggi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Mind-the-Gap_web.pdf) CPI (2020) <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/global-landscape-of-climate-finance-2019/>

Biodiversity: TNC (2020) [https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/FINANCINGNATURE\\_FullReport\\_091520.pdf](https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/FINANCINGNATURE_FullReport_091520.pdf)

**FIGURE 1.** Global biodiversity conservation financing in 2019: Summary of financial flows into biodiversity conservation. (in 2019 US\$ billions per year)



# Challenges and needs to scale up NbS finance

- Lack of awareness and/or understanding of NbS
- Limited availability of knowledge and evidence to help make the case for NbS
- Policy and regulatory environments and governance challenges
- Access to finance for applying and scaling up NbS
- Technical challenges and gaps in capacity that impede design and wider implementation.



# NbS financing sources

- Financing sources can come from domestic or international, from public or private funds.
- **International public sources:**
  - multilateral funds (e.g. GCF, Adaptation Fund),
  - multilateral development banks (e.g. ADB)
  - bilateral technical and financial cooperation
  - debt-for-nature swaps
- **Domestic public sources:**
  - national development banks, and budgets
  - national funds, e.g. People's Survival Fund in the Philippines
- **Domestic and international private sources:**
  - certification schemes, market debt, Corporate Social Responsibility
  - philanthropy



# NbS financing instruments

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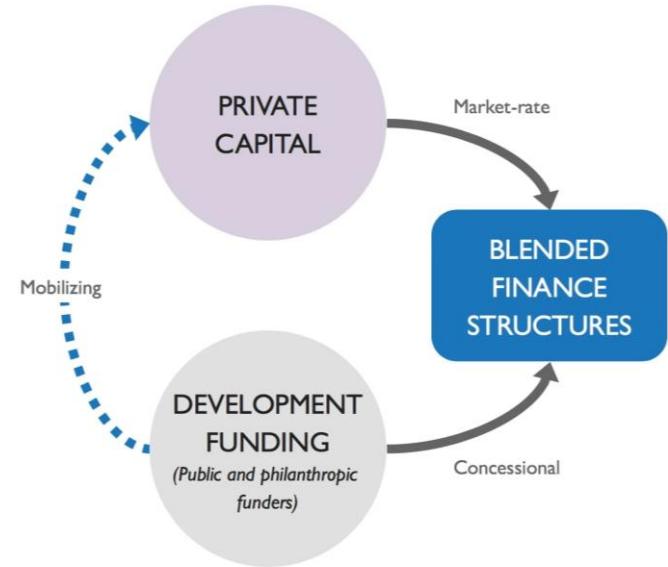
- grants
- debt financing: e.g. green bonds or bank loans
- payment for ecosystem services
- risk insurance
- taxes and subsidies
- access to green markets
- guarantees

***no one-size-fits-all solution →  
NbS are highly context specific,  
e.g. regarding climate risks,  
ecosystems, geographical scale  
and level of implementation.***

# Blended finance



- NbS investments involve entering in unfamiliar settings reducing the risk can help to attract private capital.
- **Blended finance** combines public- and private-sector finance to help offset risks and distribute benefits of the NbS.



# Blended finance: The Meloy Fund – Indonesia and Phillipines



- Meloy Fund is the first fund for sustainable small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia.
- **Investors:** development cooperation (e.g. GEF), family offices, investment managers, and foundations
- **Aim:** provide debt and equity finance for commercially viable agribusinesses that directly work with local fishery enterprises to rebuild fish stocks and conserve coral reef ecosystems in the Philippines and Indonesia
- Managed by Deliberate Capital LCC



Credit: Pexels Images.



# Blended finance: ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF) - 2019



- Green infrastructure financing facility under ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- **Investors:** e.g. ADB, AFD, KfW and EU
- **Aim:** accelerate development of green infrastructure projects across Southeast Asia in support of ASEAN members' climate change and environmental sustainability goals.
- **Means:** de-risking approach (\$1.4 billion funding commitments) to create bankable green infrastructure projects that can catalyze private capital, technologies, and management efficiencies.

**Project Eligibility:** Projects supported must

- Be “Green” - per the ACGF Green Framework
- Be “Bankable” - the ACGF team will help structure
- Have a roadmap for private capital flow - the ACGF will help structure
- Have a sovereign guarantee for ACGF Funds.

**ACGF Funds aim to leverage each \$1 of public funds to attract at least \$3 of commercial funds to projects**

# Nature+ Accelerator Fund

A new market strategy for nature-based solutions

# Nature+ Accelerator Fund

Conservation finance webinar

4 November – 16:00 CET





## Nature+ Accelerator Fund (2021)

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- New private sector focused conservation fund intended to create a scalable pipeline of investments rooted in NbS.
- **Focus:** Marine conservation and coastal resilience; smallholder production systems and sustainable agriculture; ecosystem conservation and restoration; and innovation in services, finance, and technology
- **Aim:** develop a 200 Million USD project portfolio
- Develops pipeline of NbS projects:
  - identify investable NbS projects
  - accelerate growth of mature and near-mature investment plans in NbS
  - help prepare NbS projects to access commercial financing
- Experts from private and public sector:
  - Global Environment Facility (GEF) - anchor investor (8Mio USD concessional finance)
  - Mirova - structures and operates the fund.
  - IUCN - technical expertise
  - Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC) - investment blueprints.

# NbS and the insurance sector

- NbS can play a role to help manage risks, by improving disaster risk reduction and loss prevention.
- However: insurance sector is still new to this.
- → only few fully integrated products



Credit: Unsplash Images

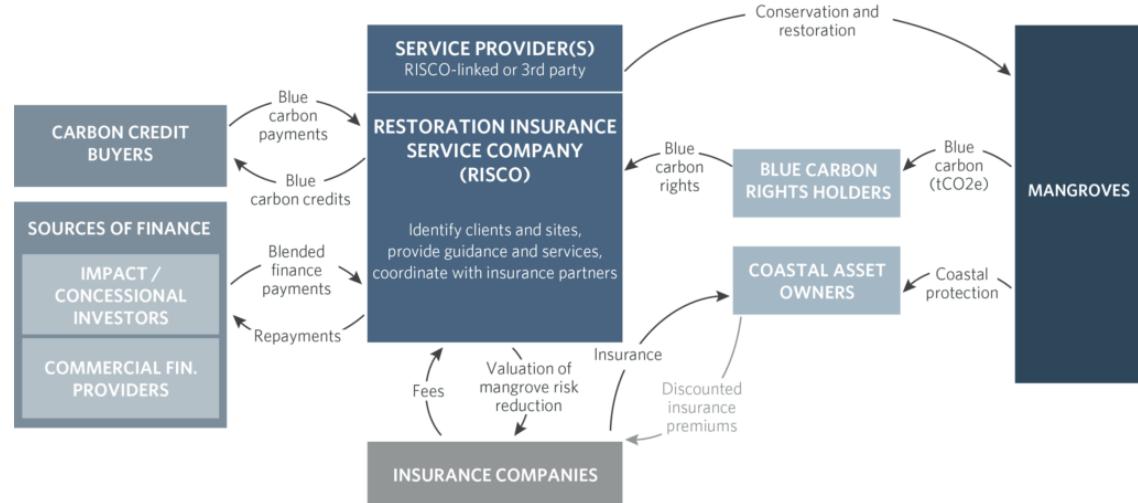
# NbS can build resilience to multiple hazards



# Insurance sector example: The Restoration Insurance Service Company (RISCO)



- RISCO invests in mangrove conservation and restoration
- Approach:
  - 1) coastal asset owners or insurers would pay RISCO to reduce their risk exposure,
  - 2) carbon credit buyers (companies or governments) purchase blue carbon credit produced by RISCO.
- First pilot in the Philippines, replications planned in Asia and LAC





# Overarching recommendations

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## Transparency of investments

- Provide transparency of investments associated with the funding, to allow stakeholders to trace the utilization of their investment and participation.

## Scalability of measures

- Allow for and plan the scalability of measures to increase the impact and attract new commitments from investors.

## Measuring and reporting achievement of financed activities

- showcase finance providers that the objectives are being met. This helps to establish a trustworthy relationship with investors.

## Tap into climate finance

- Obtain access to additional financial sources and realize synergies

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