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Nature-based Solutions for Climate, Biodiversity, and Health

Elizabeth Pleuss
Prince Mahidol Award
Conference

January 28, 2023

Credit: Omar Lucas
USAID Pro-Bosques Activity

USAID Climate Strategy Launched April 2022

www.usaid.gov/policy/climate-strategy

Embedded Principles



Locally Led Development



Equity and Inclusion



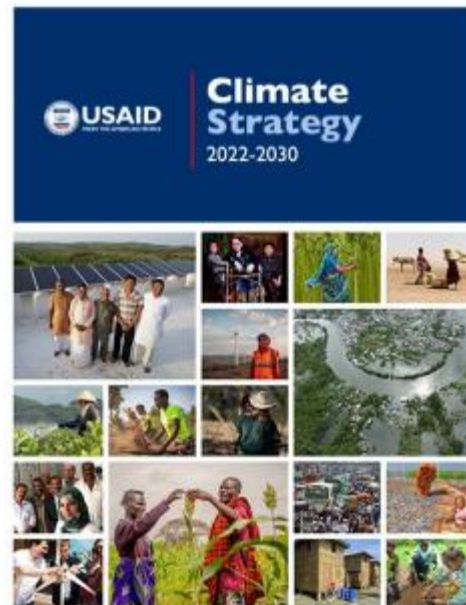
Private-Sector Engagement



Nature-Based Solutions



Evidence and Innovation





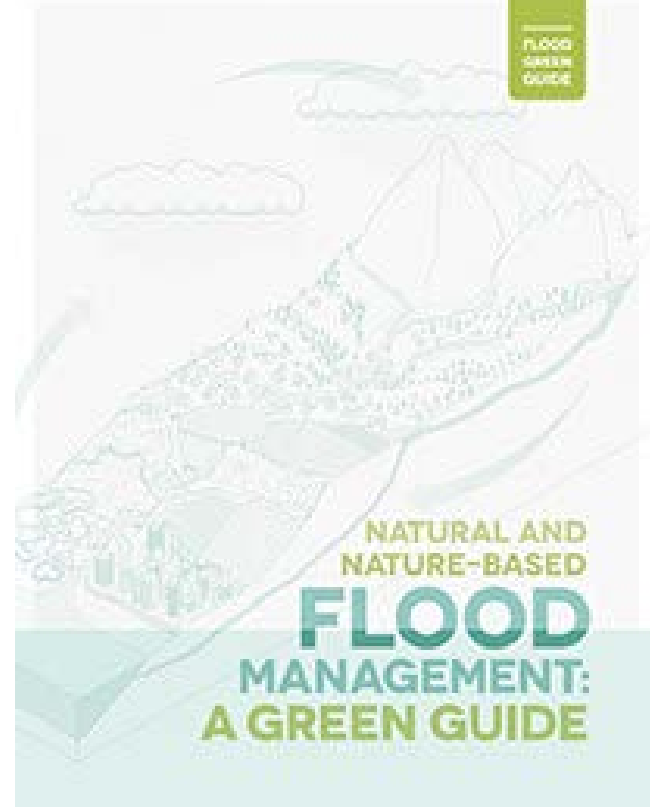
Environment
& Disaster
Management

Natural and Nature-Based Flood Management: A Green Guide (Flood Green Guide)

<https://envirodm.org/flood-management/>



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Natural and Nature-based Flood Risk Management: A Knowledge Map

STAGE 1: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

Step 1: Understand the watershed and social context

Step 2: Understand the risk and climate uncertainties

Process Step: Set preliminary flood risk management objectives

STAGE 2: METHOD IDENTIFICATION

Step 1: Identify suitable methods

Step 2: Compare the methods

Process Step: Review and revise the flood risk management objectives

STAGE 3: METHODS SELECTION AND DESIGN

Step 1: Consider preliminary specifications, management issues and cost estimates

Step 2: Combine the methods

Step 3: Review the selected methods

Process Step: Conduct feasibility studies, environmental assessments and review designs

FLOOD GREEN GUIDE FRAMEWORK AND STEPS

STAGE 4: OPERATION AND MONITORING

Step 1: Develop detailed operation plans

Step 2: Develop detailed monitoring plans

Process Step: Prepare evaluations

STAGE 5 : PROJECT EVALUATION

Step 1: Periodically evaluate the methods and the projects as a whole

Process Step: Evaluate with experts and proceed to closure or project revision

STAGE
1

STAGE
2

STAGE
3

STAGE
4

STAGE
5

Flood Green Guide Training

May 2020: Members of the Alliance for Water Security in San Pedro Sula (Honduras)

16



September 2021: USACE NNBF Guideline Launch (Global)

600



October 2021: South Asia Youth Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate crisis

98



Oct/Nov 2020: Water Professionals (South & South-East Asia)

20



October 2021: Malaysia Water Partnership

50



May/June 2022: Training of Trainers (South & South-East Asia)

14



July 2021: Women Water Professionals (South Asia)

23



March/April 2021: Professionals of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal

19



May 2021: The United Architects of the Philippines

98



April 2021: Rainy Day Readiness Livable Cities (Philippines)

60



August 2021: Professionals of Iztapa and San José Municipalities (Guatemala)

25



FGG curriculum includes a diverse range of topics, activities and experiential learning

Assessing flood risk

Setting flood management objectives

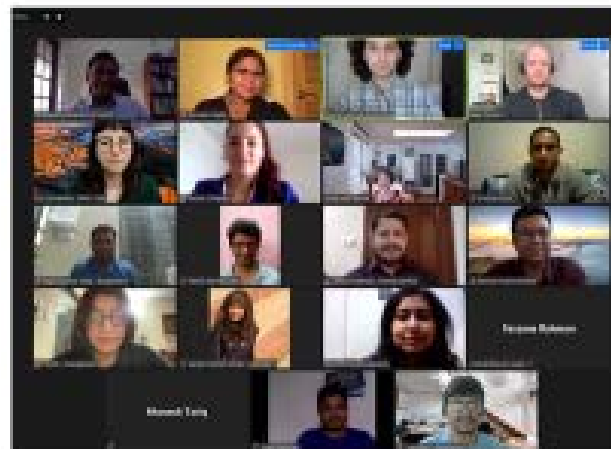
Community engagement

Understanding the use of flood risk modelling

Natural and nature-based flood management methods

Addressing urban risk

Monitoring and evaluation





Environment
& Disaster
Management

Introductory Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mypkJo-nk3o>



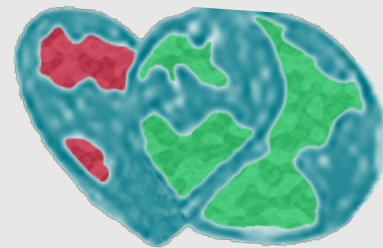
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CROSS-SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT: Health, Ecosystems and Agriculture for Resilient Thriving Societies (HEARTH) program

NEED COPYRIGHT INFO

WHAT IS HEARTH?



Health, Ecosystems, and Agriculture for Resilient, Thriving Societies

A funding call for co-creation of **public-private partnerships** with USAID for **cross-sectoral development** solutions that advance

1. **Sustainable conservation of threatened landscapes** and
2. The **well-being and prosperity of communities** who depend on them

Inspired by USAID's successful Gorongosa National Park project in Mozambique.

What three concepts drive HEARTH activities?

- 
- 1) Cross-sectoral development for human well-being & conservation of threatened landscapes
 - 2) Public-private partnerships that leverage private sector resources and energy
 - 3) Rigorous monitoring, evaluation, research & learning

HEARTH includes 18 partnerships valued at over \$150 Million

Since launch in December of 2019:

15 Awards Have Been Made; 3 Awards pending

All awards have at least 1:1 private sector leverage

\$85 Million of Private Sector Leverage Committed So Far



Note: Graphic shows private-sector partners only with awards made

WHAT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES ARE HEARTHS TARGETING?

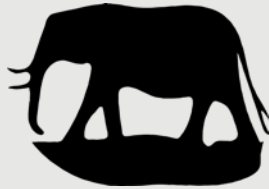


LIVELIHOODS/ STABLE INCOMES	17
RESILIENCE	15
GOVERNANCE	14
FOOD SECURITY / NUTRITION	15
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION	12
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	14
HEALTH	13
EDUCATION	6
PEACE / SECURITY	5
EMPOWERMENT (WOMEN, INDIGENOUS GROUPS, YOUTH)	5
ENERGY	2

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS ARE HEARTHs TACKLING?



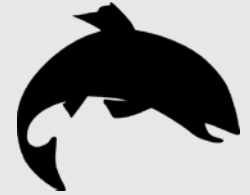
Agricultural expansion
(deforestation, pollution)



Poaching (high-value,
live trade, bushmeat)



Charcoal / fuel wood
production



Overfishing



Climate Change
(natural disasters,
climate uncertainty,
emissions)



Illegal, unsustainable
mining (deforestation,
pollution)



Illegal logging

13



Fires

GORILLA COFFEE ALLIANCE (Democratic Republic of the Congo)



Players:

- Nespresso, Olam Food Ingredients, Asili
- Wildlife Conservation Society, TechnoServe
- USAID (Missions and DC)

Idea: Improve quantity and quality of coffee harvest through **regenerative agriculture** + **improved access to health care** + **conservation enterprises** + **protection of Kahuzi-Biega National Park**

- improve economic well-being, health & nutrition
- Carbon sequestration & increased adaptive capacity
- conserve forests and species, including Grauer's gorillas

CROSS-SECTORAL PROGRAMMING, LESSONS SO FAR

We need to **work across sectors** to safeguard the health of people and the planet

Cross-sectoral work is difficult - take the time to work through the **social-organizational complexities**

Use a **common co-design approach** to unify sectors, individual projects, and help speak the same language

Integrate **MERL into the design** up front to generate much-needed **evidence** on the efficacy of a "HEARTH approach"



Thank you very much!

Why Nature based Solutions for Adaptation (NbSA)?

- Can address multiple climate stressors at once
- Increase the climate resilience of people + provide multiple development benefits
- Relevant in terrestrial, marine, urban, and rural contexts
- Often cheaper and easier to maintain than hard infrastructure
- Don't introduce additional risks



vs.



NbSA for Food Security

NbSA improves:

- Soil fertility
- Support to pollinators
- Maintains water supply
- Resistance to pest outbreaks
- Protection to fish stocks
- Diversification of food sources/safety nets



Homestead Agroforestry

USAID Example:

The Conserving Ecosystems to Support Climate Resilience in Bangladesh case study highlights how NbSA approaches such as agroforestry, the restoration of wetlands and improvements in the management of wild fisheries can improve local food security.

NbSA for Water Security

- Improves filtration
- Increases aquifer recharge
- Maintains humidity
- Prevents erosion
- Decreases agricultural demand



Riparian Buffer

USAID Example:

NbSA approaches in the Maintaining Water Security in Peru Through Green Infrastructure case study focused on green infrastructure to help local communities adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

NbSA for Coastal populations

- Attenuates coastal erosion and storm surge
- Builds barriers to extreme events
- Maintains fishery stocks



Coral gardens

USAID Example:

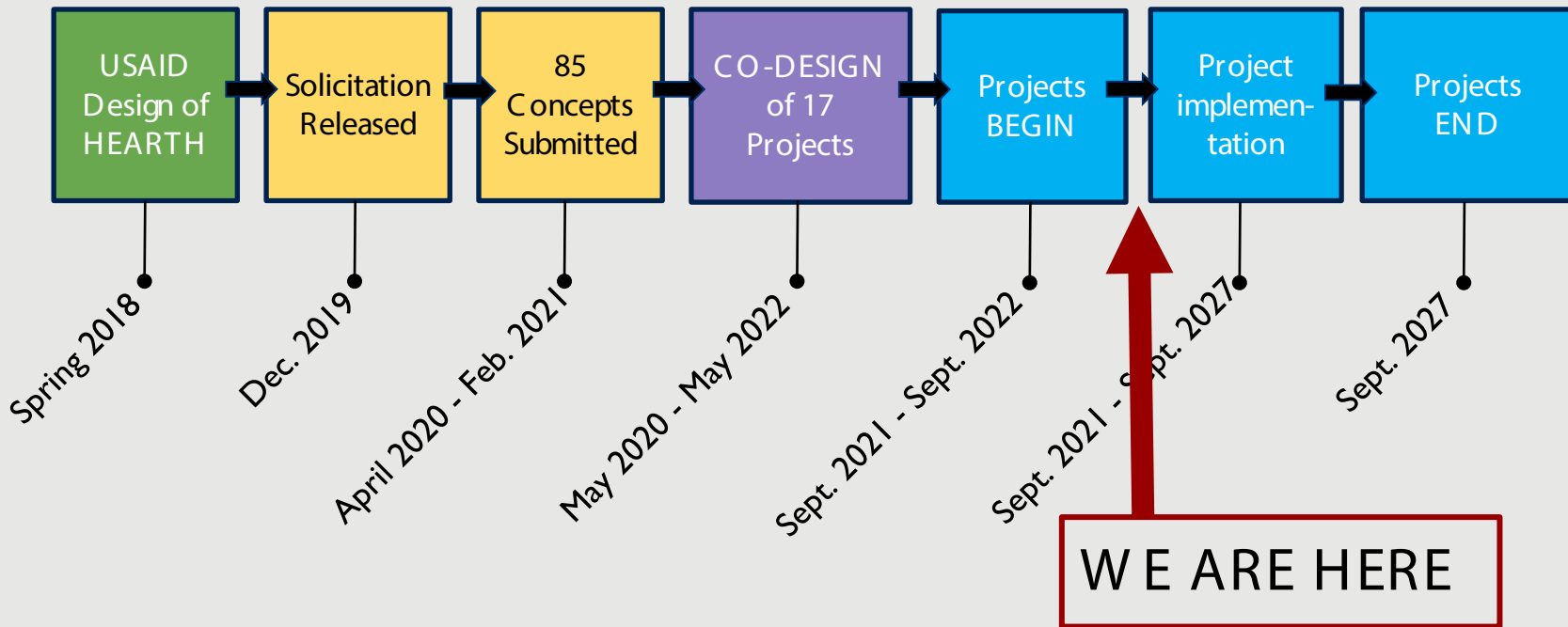
The Restoring Coral Reefs in the Face of Climate Change in the Seychelles case study highlights the successful application of NbSA to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to sea level rise, increasing ocean temperatures and ocean acidification.

HEARTH PROCESS & TIMELINE

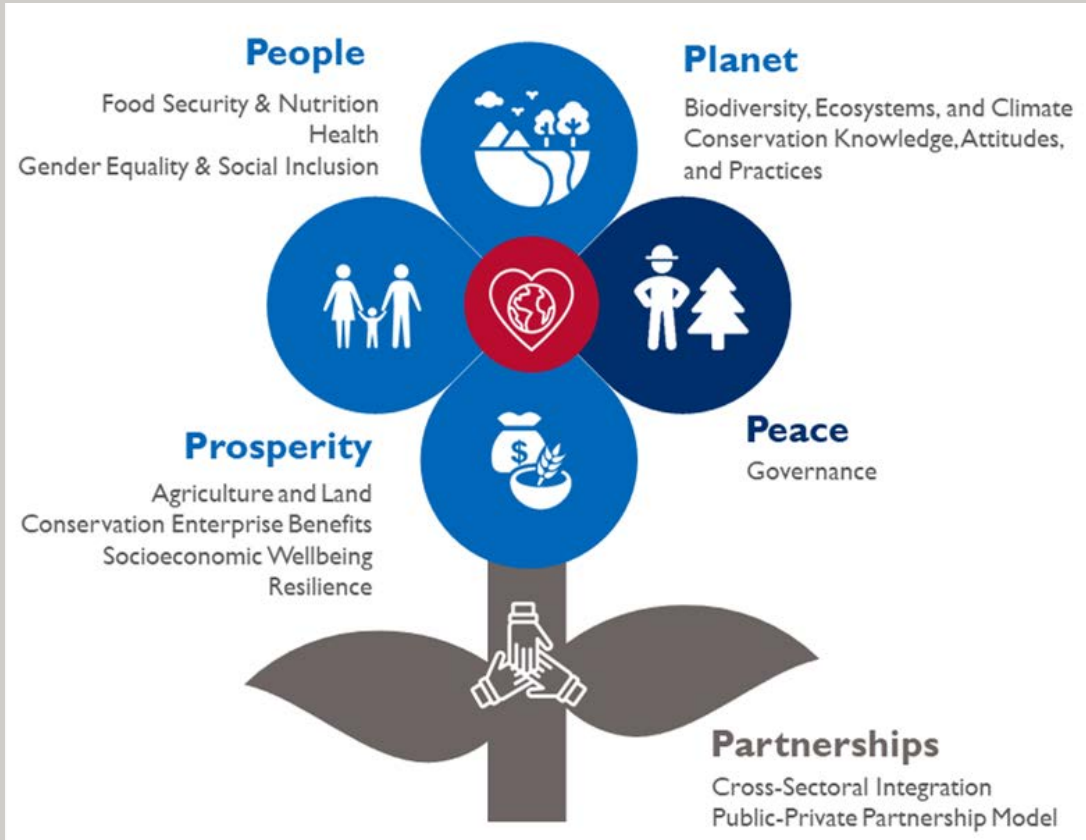
Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning

Co-creation with partners

Implementation



HEARTH MERL Framework



HEARTH Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MERL) Strategy

Goal: Understand the conditions under which private sector-driven, cross-sectoral programming results in better outcomes for people and the planet.



PHOTO: BEYOND GOOD/MADECASSE

Adhere to **accepted standards**
that yield a **strong design**

Cross-site **learning** is facilitated
by **common design principles**,
terms, and processes

Allows us to **roll up approaches**
and other project information to
get a **portfolio view**



MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND LEARNING (MERL)

MONITORING

1. Supported theory of change development across most HEARTHs using common methodology
2. Developed a modular HEARTH monitoring toolkit representing 14 USAID priority funding areas
3. Providing Technical Assistance to individual HEARTH teams to apply toolkit to monitoring and evaluation
4. Targeted support for data collection, as needed



MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND LEARNING (MERL)

EVALUATION & RESEARCH

1. Develop and implement impact evaluations
 - a. Feasibility study underway in Zambia
 - b. Baseline household survey of Madagascar completed
 - c. Cross-site forest cover monitoring using Global Forest Watch
2. Provide support for discrete research activities identified in the HEARTH Learning Agenda



MONITORING, EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND LEARNING (MERL)

LEARNING

1. Coordinate a global HEARTH **Learning Agenda** to unify the HEARTH portfolio and **learning plan** to implement it across HEARTH
1. Facilitate **cross-HEARTH learning** by convening HEARTH teams. Virtually in 2021 and 2022; in-person in 2023.



Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit

www.biodiversitylinks.org



Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM)

HEARTH Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit

APRIL 2022

- USAID will support the conservation, restoration, or management of **100 million hectares** with a climate change mitigation benefit

CLIMATE STRATEGY TARGETS 2022-2030	
Mitigation: CO2e reduced	6 Billion metric tons
Natural & Managed Ecosystems: Hectares protected, restored, or managed	100 Million hectares
Adaptation: People supported to be climate resilient	500 Million people
Finance: Public and private funds mobilized	150 Billion dollars
Country Support: NDCs/NAPs supported	80 Countries supported
Critical Populations: Increase equitable engagement	40 Country partnerships strengthened