



RECOGNISE TRADE-OFFS

All nature-based solutions will involve trade-offs that need to be explicitly recognised.

While nature-based solutions can be designed to address multiple issues simultaneously they will always involve trade-offs in terms of what and who is prioritised. Making such trade-offs explicit is critical if these interventions are not going to always benefit the same places, communities and agendas. By recognising the trade-offs and compromises involved, remaining issues that need to be addressed can be identified and new measures to foster greater inclusion established. At the same time, it is important to remain flexible through the design and implementation phases of nature-based solutions so that as trade-offs emerge these can be accommodated and addressed. Where such trade-offs emerge that may involve undermining fundamental principles of sustainability – such as reducing inequality or ensuring that environmental risks are not displaced to other people or places – projects can be reassessed and reworked. It will be critical that the demands of policy actors and investors do not mean that such trade-offs are ignored and their consequences neglected. Such actors can support nature-based solutions in being transparent about the trade-offs they face and how they are managed by requiring multi-criteria assessment approaches that are used at all stages from project design to implementation and evaluation.