

Note: These concept notes are as received from partner organizations



**Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2016
New Delhi, India
02-05 November 2016**

Concept Note for Thematic session

Event title	Scaling-up Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction in development planning and practice in Asia
Event code	THEM-7
Date and Time	Thursday, 3 rd November, 13.30-15.00
Venue/ Room no.	Annexe A, Ground Floor, Vigyan Bhawan
Organizers	<p>Lead: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA), Pragma India</p> <p>Collaborators: National Institute of Disaster Management- India (NIDM), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Partnership for Environment and DRR (PEDRR), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), Whitley Fund for Nature-UK, IUCN India</p> <p>Contact Details* (lead): Name: Marisol Estrella Designation: UNEP, DRR Project Coordinator Email id and phone number: Marisol.estrella@unep.org +41 22 917 8448 Organization name and address: UNEP Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch Chemin des Anemones 11-13, Chatelaine, Geneva 1219, Switzerland</p>
Session Objectives	The session will bring together decision makers from the Government, scientific/academic community, private sector and grassroots community-based organizations and discuss how best to achieve large-scale

	implementation of Eco- DRR approaches and advance the Sendai Framework Priorities for Action.
Background and context	<p>The concept of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR), which highlights the role of ecosystems in preventing disasters or buffering against disaster impacts, is now well-recognized in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). Over the past decade, Eco-DRR has gained increasing acceptance within the scientific, academic as well as engineering communities. Yet Eco-DRR approaches have long been implemented by local communities, in some cases over centuries, without necessarily being named as such. A number of countries are also implementing scaled-up Eco-DRR initiatives in the region through national programmes, including India, Philippines and Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Healthy ecosystems provide multiple development benefits, including livelihoods, health, food and water security – all of which can strengthen resilience to disasters. Well-managed ecosystems function as “natural” or “green” infrastructure that can directly reduce a community’s exposure and vulnerability to a range of hazards, such as flooding, storm surge, drought and landslides among others. Healthy ecosystems also increase people’s capacities to better cope with and recover from disaster events, such as floods or landslides. Understanding such linkages between healthy ecosystems and disaster risk reduction are critical in the Asian context where livelihoods of tens of thousands of people are ecosystem-dependent and access to alternate sources of disaster recovery avenues are limited.</p> <p>However, the Eco-DRR concept is still lacking widespread practical application within the suite of solutions employed by countries and communities for disaster risk reduction. Moreover, Eco-DRR approaches are not yet fully mainstreamed into development policies, private investments, public programmes and budgets. This is due to a number of reasons, including limited awareness of Eco-DRR good practices and absence of technical knowledge. There is also tendency for Eco-DRR knowledge and know-how to be confined to the academic and research communities. Eco-DRR projects are also generally small-scale, and there is an absence of large-scale examples of Eco-DRR. The overall result is that Eco-DRR is not entering mainstream DRR and development planning and practice.</p> <p>Scaling-up Eco-DRR implementation will require a multi-pronged strategy, including scientific evidence/research/technical know-how; enabling policies/supportive Governments; private sector engagement and investments; and support from the grassroots/local communities. This session will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present practical experiences of Eco-DRR initiatives from these various perspectives • Reflect on Eco-DRR progress in the context of the Sendai Framework’s Priorities for Action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss next steps for scaling-up Eco-DRR initiatives so that they become mainstreamed into DRR and development planning and practice in Asia.
Session format and programme	<p>The session will have the following format</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Setting the Stage (10 minutes) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks – ESPA Jyotiraj Patra/DFID India Office (tbc) Short video “Voices from Pan-Asia” capturing experiences/ perspectives on Eco-DRR from varied geographic contexts across Asia (by Pragya, WFN, IUCN India) Introduction of Moderator Panel Presentations (45 minutes) Q&A / General discussions (25 minutes) – In addition to accepting questions from the floor, the moderator will also draw from queries submitted through social media using a specific hashtag (#) for the event. Pragya, IUCN and Whitley Fund for Nature would also run a pre-event consultation using online platform and the social media profiles for a week leading to the event using the event specific hashtag (#) to elicit queries which could be posed to the panel. Closing Remarks (10 minutes) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Final reflections - UNEP, Dr Muralee Thummarukudy Closing – Moderator
Intended main outcome and Key messages	<p>Discussion outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key lessons and next steps for promoting large-scale implementation of Eco-DRR Identify potential partnerships in Asia to strengthen research-policy-practice for scaling up Eco-DRR implementation, and establish an Action-oriented Agenda
List of Speakers and their interventions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Remarks - Jyotiraj Patra, Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) Moderator - Gargi Banerji, Pragya India Speakers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Priyanie Amerasinghe - International Water Management Institute (nominated by ESPA) Anil Gupta – NIDM / Government of India Mr. Ritesh Kumar - Wetlands International Dr. Deepa Gavali - Gujarat Ecology Society, India. Final Reflections/ Closing Remarks – Muralee Thummarukudy, UNEP
Technical Equipment	<p>Projector, computer/laptop, microphones, wide screen, internet connection, sound system to play video clips and pre-recorded AV messages, seating arrangements and microphones for a panel of 4 members and 1 moderator</p>

