Nature-based Solutions
Portfolio review of WCS Climate NbS Projects

Caleb McClennen, Ph.D.
Wildlife Conservation Society

May 19, 2020
WCS

- Field Conservation in > 60 Countries
- 14 Global Priority Regions
- 400+ peer-reviewed publications per annum.
- Ongoing partnerships with more than 300 IPLCs
- > 50 Publicly Funded Climate NbS projects 2015-2019
Protect Intact Forests

Reduce Deforestation Frontiers

Ecosystem Based Adaptation
WCS Analysis of 50 Publicly Funded Nature-based projects 2015-2019
Methods

- Reviewed portfolio of 600 publicly funded projects 2015-2020 to select subset of 50 with NbS climate focus.

- Utilized subset of the STAP/U of Michigan analytical framework

- Categorized projects by: geography, partnership with IPLCs, policy objectives and NbS type.
Focal Ecosystems: Forests and Marine

- Forest: 32 projects, 60.4%
- Coastal/Marine: 16 projects, 30.2%
- Rural/Agricultural: 3 projects, 5.6%
- Montane: 6 projects, 11.3%
- Riparian: 2 projects, 3.7%
 NbS Focus: Protection, Adaptation & Management
Key NbS Project Elements

- Research and Analysis = 35 projects, 66%
- Capacity Building/Training = 42 projects, 79.2%
- Policy Change = 26 projects, 49.1%
Partnerships

Local communities: 30 projects, 56.6%
Local governments: 17 projects, 32.1%
Indigenous communities: 10 projects, 18.9%
Case Study 1: Enhance Stakeholder Engagement for Uganda’s National REDD+ Programme in the Albertine Region
Case Study 2: Scaling up marine protected areas in Melanesia for biodiversity conservation, food security and livelihoods
$19.6 million invested in 104 adaptation projects from 40 U.S. states and territories
CAF Criteria for success

1. **Use of Information:** Adaptive Management, Knowledge, M&E

2. **Project Management:** Achievement of Objectives, Engagement, Finances, Sustainability, Partnerships and Capacity

3. **Social and Ecological Effects:** Ecosystem Function, Social, Wildlife

4. **Advancing the Field:** Capacity Building, Innovation, Mainstreaming, Policy
Preventing species transition by eliminating non-native species

Protecting important ecosystems (creation, expansion of PAs in climate refugia)

Re-introduce ecosystem engineers (e.g., beavers); restore corridors to allow for species movements; restore with native species

Assisted migration w/in a population or spp current range; climate-informed forestry that directs future spp composition

Create new climate-informed connectivity; living shorelines; climate-informed forestry without directing spp. composition

Assisted migration outside spp current range

Protecting important ecosystems (creation, expansion of PAs in climate refugia)

Preventing species transition by eliminating non-native species
CAF: From Resistance to Transformation
1. Mainstreaming Climate NbS in Policy still work in progress.

2. The portfolio addresses multiple societal challenges beyond climate, specifically food security and economic development.

3. Notable lack of Climate NbS projects linked to health.


5. More comprehensive review and post-project interrogation needed.
