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To,

Dr Heera Lal (IAS),

Additional Mission Director, National Health Mission, Uttar Pradesh, and

Additional Project Director in UP State Aids Control Society

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Dated: 04 January 2023

Sub: Invitation to speak at the regional training and dialogue on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the resilient water sector in South Asia (Virtual, 17 January 2023)

Dear Sir,

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits". NbS offers a cost-beneficial strategy to manage water provisioning services, including groundwater recharge, and to tackle water-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and extreme weather events. Harnessing nature to create solutions also resonates deeply with the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign launched by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi offering positive environmentally conscious outcomes.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) are jointly facilitating a Regional training and dialogue on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the resilient water sector in South Asia, from 16 to 18 January 2023.

The training aims to target nominated mid-level policy makers from selected South Asian countries, working on the management of water resources, such as the ministry of water, environment, agriculture, land-use, finance, and planning.

The NbS training will be for three consecutive days, divided into six sessions reviewing specific aspects of NbS.

We would like to invite you to speak during '**Session 4: NbS for resilience – examples and planning cycle,**' in **17th January, 2023, starting 10:10 am India time**. Your presentation will be for 15-20 mins, starting around 10:30 am India time.

We would be grateful if you could please make time to share the Banda district success story with water management and water table recharge. It will be illuminating for participants to learn about the process leading to this success story, particularly - how the problem and solution were identified, and the process to implement the solution, and key factors that contributed to the success.

Specific objectives of the training are summarised below. Detailed background note and agenda for the three-day training is attached for your kind perusal:

1. Introduce participants to Ecosystem Services, Nature-based Solutions, their background, definition, and examples at scale, including IUCN Global Standard for NbS;
2. Understand climate projections for South Asia and NbS approaches for building resilience in specific water-dependent sectors;
3. Discuss and identify opportunities and priority areas for mainstreaming NbS in policies
4. Strengthen participant's understanding of grey-green (or hybrid) infrastructure solutions;
5. Discuss opportunities for financing large-scale NbS initiatives for water sector resilience

Grateful if you could please confirm your participation by **Monday, 9 January, 2023**.

Kind regards,



Yash Veer Bhatnagar, PhD
Country Representative