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**The 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27)**

**Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

**6-18 November, 2022**

**Side Event Concept Note**

**Date:** Wednesday 9 November - 6:30—8:00 p.m. Amon Room (150)

**Title:** Addressing financial and capacity challenges for climate adaptation towards a strengthened resilience with highlight on Nature based Solutions in the Arab Region

**Lead Organization:** Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS)

**Co-organizer:** RAED – Arab Network for Environment and Development & Green Generation Foundation (GGF)

**Background**

Climate change impacts are deeply interlinked and require multifaceted responses. Unsustainable human activity continues to compound the situation, and threatens not only our own survival but the foundation of life on Earth. Our responses should address

The financial and capacity challenges in the Arab and African regions, but at the same time should follow the n0-regret process.

Nature-based solutions (NBSs) if delivered appropriately, can significantly contribute to addressing multiple societal challenges. They target major challenges like climate change, disaster risk reduction, food and water security, biodiversity loss and human health, and are critical to sustainable economic development. Active inclusion of communities, women and youth can help reduce climate change, but need to be combined with rapid cuts to greenhouse gas emissions and cannot “solve” climate change on their own.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) address societal challenges through the protection, sustainable management and restoration of both natural and modified ecosystems, benefiting both biodiversity and human well-being.

Nature-based Solutions are underpinned by benefits that flow from healthy ecosystems. The session will discuss challenges & available opportunities at the national & regional levels, especially in the Arab regions, on Environmental action and also highlight opportunities to use Nature based Solution.

**Objectives**

* Focus on addressing challenges for climate adaptation, both capacity and financial, and adopting nature-based solutions in the Arab and African regions.
* Highlight efforts to apply Nature-based Solutions NBSs, communities, women, youth and eco systems conservation against both climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss
* Encourage Party negotiators, Key Government Ministries/ Agencies and civil society organizations to review identified challenges, discuss progress, and adopt nature-based solutions and environmental action expected at COP27 and beyond.
* Contribute to enhancing finance and capacities, particularly in countries with capacity gaps and limitations, drawing on examples and initiatives in these thematic areas in these and other Regions.

**Expected Outputs**

An event report summarizing key points discussed and approaches to shaping COP 27 outcomes including:

* Recognizing and highlighting capacity and financial gaps, while identifying and reflecting on progress
* Recognizing the linkages between impacts of climate change and identifying and implementing effective adaptation responses
* Role of CSOs and their national and regional networks in facilitating local to national discussions and action on Nature based Solutions.
* Challenges of implanting Nature based Solutions and proposed actions to integrate them into addressing finance and capacity strengthening actions
* How effective engagement of relevant Ministries of national and sub-national Governments and local and regional CSOs can continue at the national and regional levels after the COPs

**Draft Agenda**

Moderator: Emad Adly, RAED

Opening remarks (5 min)

Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS)

Green Generation Foundation (GGF)

Panel discussion by Panelists (55 min)

**Questions for all Panelists:**

1. ***In the context of climate change, what are the challenges facing the Arab and African regions in terms of capacity and finance?***
2. ***What is the role and the efforts done by the regional organizations in dealing with those challenges?***
3. ***Please provide examples of efforts to enhance NBSs.***

* Eng. Bilal Shakareen, UNFCCC National Focal Points – Jordan
* Dr. Wijdan Aloqab, KEPS
* Dr. Dheaya Alrousan, GGF
* Eng. Ziyad Alawneh, Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP)
* Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah, League of Arab States (LAS)
* Ms. Verdiane Nyiramana, Chair of NBD Regional Board

Q&A session (20 min)

Closing remarks (10 min)