



**Working with Nature for  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
&  
Climate Change Adaptation**

*Let's help nature to help us*

**Felice Zaccheo**  
**European Commission**  
**Head of Unit – C6**  
**DG DEVCO**



European  
Commission



**Today – 2 February 2017**

**Is the World Wetlands Day**

*this year dedicated to*

***“Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction”***

Recall that:

- Environmental degradation contributes to disaster risks
- Hydrological disasters represented **77.3%** of occurrence of all natural disasters in Africa (2013)\*
- **Healthy ecosystems reduce exposure to hazards and increase resilience**

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/>

International  
Cooperation &  
Development

\* Source CRED -Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2013



**Nature-based solutions** provide:

- Sustainable
- Cost-effective
- Multi-purpose and
- Flexible alternatives for

**Disaster Risk Reduction  
Adaptation to Climate Change**

Nature-based solutions enables massive participation of **grassroots communities**

- ✓ it is their **engagement and knowledge** for their surrounding nature and ecosystems that are put in motion....and
- ✓ it is this **engagement** that creates a compelling hope for **a sustainable future, right at their heartland**



## Three Global Policy Agreements in 2015

- ✓ The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)
- ✓ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and
- ✓ The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

**Clearly recognise the role that ecosystems play in**

- ✓ Safeguarding development gains
- ✓ Building resilience against disasters and climate change

- ✓ **The European Union played a leading role in the negotiations and agreements of these three policy frameworks**

Although the Sendai Framework is a voluntary instrument:

- ✓ The **EU** issued in June 2016, a Commission staff working document for an **Action Plan on the Sendai Framework\***
- ✓ Outlines a palette of 'tools' that the EU is using to promote ecosystem-based approaches for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystems in urban, rural, coastal and natural areas in Europe and in developing countries

\* [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/1\\_en\\_document\\_travail\\_service\\_part1\\_v2.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/1_en_document_travail_service_part1_v2.pdf)