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Shared Ambition: Accelerating Adaptation through Building with Nature in Asia

Preamble

This shared ambition is a result of an international expert workshop and meeting from 9-11 July 2019 in Rotterdam, in which Indonesia, Wetlands International, EcoShape, Deltares and the Global Center for Adaptation, convened experts and high level representatives from the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Thailand, China and the Netherlands along with international donors, financiers and private sector to build a consortium and roadmap for 'Accelerating Adaptation through Building with Nature in Asia'.

Joint Understanding

We the undersigned, recognize the urgent need for employing socially and ecologically inclusive water engineering solutions in Asia. These will accelerate adaption to climate change impacts that are increasingly devastating given rapid urbanization, economic growth and land degradation. We are convinced that Building with Nature offers a proven participatory design approach that integrates ecosystem services into water engineering practice and is the way forward to improve climate and environmental resilience and must be widely adopted by governments and donors. To overcome barriers that hamper implementation at scale and stimulate proper investment, learning by doing and regional multisectoral collaboration is required to develop the necessary knowledge and capacity, achieve policy reform and raise awareness, with participation and inclusion of all stakeholders.

Shared Ambition

We confirm our ambition to accelerate socially and ecologically beneficial adaptation in Asia by 2030, through scaling up **Building with Nature** for effective and sustainable solutions to water-related challenges – sought by governments, cities, ports – and supported by planners and investors.

Commitment

We commit to work with all interested countries in the region to explore possibilities for the implementation of Building with Nature in 15 landscapes in 5 countries by 2030 through participatory planning processes including local stakeholders, ultimately boosting the resilience of

30 million people (*estimate*), while restoring ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

To stimulate multi-sectoral and regional collaboration to overcome barriers to the adoption of Building with Nature across Asia, we will mobilize public and private actors in a dedicated Asian Building with Nature Platform, aiming at implementation of large-scale projects in the field for which knowledge development, training and awareness raising and policy development are needed.

Next Steps

Indonesia will host a top-level meeting in Asia to bring together Asian government Ministers and decision-makers from key sectors to further shape our commitment and to develop a roadmap to facilitate implementation of our commitment. This roadmap includes identification of the required resources and a governance structure for the development and implementation of the commitment. Subsequent meetings will be organized as necessary and we will continue to carry out our shared ambition during high-level forums in the Asia region. The GCA will work with Indonesia and other interested countries to shape this into a commitment to the Nature-based Solutions Action Track of the Global Commission on Adaptation. This 'Accelerating Adaptation in Asia through Building with Nature' commitment will be announced during the Climate Adaptation Action Summit in the Netherlands in October 2020.

All signatories support the **Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Manifesto**, developed for the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 by NBS for Climate Coalition co-leads China and New Zealand, and commit to unlocking the full potential of nature in climate action.

Supported by the National Postcode Lottery of the Netherlands

