

Meeting Summary

Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) Members' Meeting,
Co-hosted by the Nairobi Work Programme and IUCN

5th December 2019, 14:00-17:00

UNFCCC COP 25

IFEMA - Feria de Madrid

Avda. del Partenón, 5 28042 Madrid, Spain

Meeting room 23/NCC



Figure 1. FEBA partners and Secretariat.

1. Welcome from the UNFCCC Secretariat and IUCN

The meeting was attended by 10 FEBA member representatives, representing 8 institutions; please see Annex II for list of attendees and their affiliations.

Ali Raza Rizvi (IUCN) delivered the opening remarks, an update on FEBA engagement at UNFCCC COP25 and acknowledged the high participation and organization of EbA related events and achievements on this 2019. Then, Rojina Manandhar - Programme Officer in the Adaptation Programme at the secretariat of the UNFCCC – gave an update on the 13th Focal Point Forum, Expert Group and Scoping Paper on the thematic area of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves as well as slow onset events. This was in

preparation to their main objective for 2020 onwards to “facilitate partnerships to mobilize support to undertake next steps”.

2. Updates from the FEBA Secretariat

Currently FEBA has 70 member institutions represented by over 170 individuals. Since the last members meeting in June, our 7 new members are Adelphi, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Defenders of Nature Foundation, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Wageningen University & Research, and Youth4Nature.

New joint products have been released recently thanks to the work done by members of the FEBA working groups: 1) first ever Wikipedia article focusing on EbA which went live in August 2019, 2) the Guidebook on Monitoring & Evaluation for EbA that will be published early 2020 and 3) FEBA-FAO co-hosted webinar on knowledge and science needs and advances in EbA for food security. The working group leads are considering producing a policy brief following from the key messages.

New ideas on future collaborations are being discussed amongst working groups particularly on EbA Financing, EbA and NAP processes, Youth and EbA, and revisiting the EbA Standards & Criteria for a possible 2.0 version.

In the coming months, FEBA will be coordinating exchanges and cooperation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress events and workshops as well as a members’ survey to help improve our network.

3. Updates from Meeting Participants

BMU: BMU very much appreciate the work of the FEBA Secretariat and all the partners involved in moving forward and mainstreaming EbA implementation worldwide as well as catalysing the implementation of NDCs and contributing towards achieving country needs in terms of climate change adaptation.

BMU has invested 180€ million on IKI initiatives and will support new 3 projects: 1) A Global EbA Facility jointly managed by IUCN and UNEP (20€ million), 2) Caribbean EbA Facility upgrade (20€ million) and 3) Caribbean regional climate change adaptation strategy (20€ million).

Stephanie Kimball (Conservation International): CI in Madagascar is working on a project to promote sustainable restoration practices and implement blue carbon initiatives while providing guidance on how to integrate them on NDCs. CI is also working on few new scientific papers on how nature-based solutions drive to transformative adaptation, showing the pathways for better implementation and adaptation indicators.

Chiara Franco (The Nature Conservancy): working in two projects: 1) the “Unlock the power of diversity and gender inclusion for enhancing Climate Change Resilience in Micronesia” where

communities have assessed their climate risk and are adopting nature-based risk reduction or adaptation strategies or interventions that contribute to healthier ecosystems and reduce community vulnerability; and 2) “[Building the Resilience of Communities](#) and their Ecosystems to the Impacts of Climate Change in Micronesia and Melanesia” helping inhabitants on the island states of Micronesia and Melanesia to understand climate risks and improve their ability to adapt to climate change.

Vania Olmos Lau (Youth4Nature): the organization has been working mainly on capacity building – including a series of webinars – and awareness raising, by gathering stories from all over the world from youth on experiences on nature-based solutions. At the IUCN World Conservation Congress, they are organizing an inter-generational dialogue.

Val Kapos (UNEP-WCMC): as mentioned in the last FEBA members’ meeting report UNEP-WCMC has worked this year on the Global Commission on Adaptation flagship report about the role of nature on adaptation. Also notable is a joint project with IDB, on infrastructure resilience and sustainability, barriers and enablers to the private sector to embrace these approaches. A market assessment report will come later including on how and why the role of nature should be considered when working in the infrastructure sector. UNEP-WCMC will also prepare a technical guidance for policy makers to make more attractive nature-based solutions to the private sector (small consultations and meetings to get people interacting and identify opportunities; opportunities in procurement, regulations; and growing the connection between adaptation and mitigation).

Sandeep Chamling Rai (WWF Singapore): WWF African offices together with IUCN – at the project implementation scale critical hotspots around the globe are being identified to test key indicators to recognize the important role that nature plays on climate adaptation. In the Asian region, WWF is working in a large-scale delta initiative to embed EbA into project actions. In general, the tendency is to work towards upscaling nature-based solutions and keep moving forward.

Jaymee Silvia (The Mountain Institute): the Scaling up Mountain EbA project, jointly coordinated by TMI and IUCN, is getting positive results on their efforts on community-based activities. In Peru, the work in camelids is advancing and the dialogue platforms called “Dialoguemos” are helping to foster the above. These positive impacts are also being reflected at the policy level through the revision of the “Protected Areas manual plan”. In Nepal, the community-based activities focus rather on the bee-keeping and livestock sustainable practices.

Verónica Ruiz (IUCN): The final document for the IUCN Global Nature-based Solutions Standard will be launched in June at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille. To support the increased uptake of NbS in future NDCs, a [report published by IUCN and the University of Oxford](#) presents an overview of the current level of ambition for nature within them, and highlights what can be done further to fully harness the potential of NbS in global climate action going forward. This is based on an analysis of several major comparative assessments of nature’s prominence (biodiversity and ecosystems) in NDCs to date. The authors analyse the framings, methods and

results of these different studies, and identify a set of clear common findings. On this basis, they have developed recommendations for the consideration of policy makers on how climate ambition within future NDCs can be raised through the more substantive inclusion of NbS.

IUCN has also been supporting the [Caribbean Biodiversity Fund's EbA Facility](#) through technical advice. In addition, in November, IUCN brought together highly qualified and experienced policymakers from nineteen countries around the world, in Bangkok, Thailand. [During the workshop](#), IUCN created safe and inclusive learning spaces for Government officials to apply and share knowledge to the concept of EcoDRR.

A new [IUCN report](#) launched in September that shows that greater coordination between the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and Bonn Challenge commitments is urgently required, because commitments for landscape restoration under the Bonn Challenge contribute to many of the LDN goals established by countries, and vice versa. Moreover, this could also contribute to biodiversity conservation as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. IUCN's Regional Office for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean and the Environmental Law Centre launched together earlier this year (at the PreCOP25) the book [Gobernanza para la adaptación basada en ecosistemas](#) which gathers 10 years of experience on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins in Mesoamerica.

4. Key follow-up actions:

- Methods and goals for engaging with diverse and complementary networks

- FEBA members who are doing work on the ground could help Youth4Nature gather more stories of youth who are taking nature-climate action in the sites where FEBA members have projects:
 - Y4N could serve to connect FEBA member's projects with youth on site if the need arises;
 - Regarding the story line or story board. These are our [guidelines](#) for the stories we include in our [story map](#). Please let me know if these guidelines serve the purpose of the story line FEBA members were aiming to get from us;
- Learning from youth how to frame the messages; inter-generational dialogue;

- Disseminating FEBA and member knowledge products to the audiences most in need of this knowledge, or not yet adequately reached

- Motivating the insurance sector to implement EbA pilots. Huge appetite from the insurance sector; it's important to involve other groups that are not necessarily EbA but can help communicate in different ways – how to communicate differently;
- Stakeholder mapping & audience characterization: city planners are a key player because of the investment in infrastructure – who to target and which message and setting a common understanding and developing key messages for further influencing and promotion.

- Contributing to incorporation of EbA and NbS into NDC revisions and their implementation

- Disseminate guideline with our national colleagues to encourage their counterparts to use guidance to influence NDCs review processes – What guidance are they providing? Quick analyses (rapid analysis to review if EbA if being part or not) – Email from UNFCCC to encourage countries on FEBA recommendation;
- Mobilising national offices & partners. Inject ecosystem-based elements to help phrasing NDCs :
 - Develop guidelines on how to influence those processes
 - Analyse NDCs implementation

- Upcoming opportunities for FEBA collaboration (networks, publications, conferences, etc.)

- Plan for Adaptation Futures 2020: (April in Delhi) - deadline 17th December
 - UNEP-WCMC: M&E / private sector / EbA experiences in Asia
 - IPCC-WMO
 - Link with the UN Decade on Restoration – 6th December FEBA event

- Others

- Growing challenge of interpreting and communicating NbS and EbA as similar and complementary (and nested) concepts, rather than competing ideas, e.g. donors such as BMU is taking pride of EbA and understand NbS in a large sense so the focus will keep on EbA
- Work together to fulfill the increasing number of requests for webinar – work together towards building capacities
- Schedule one meeting another time of the year so people that not attend COPs will have the opportunity to join FEBA meeting
- Working groups – M&E, Standard and Wikipedia – please take forward any topic you will like
- Survey – how better improve the functioning of FEBA – how better to impact

Annex I. Updates from FEBA members not present

Oroverde: Welthungerhilfe and OroVerde, together with local partners in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, are planning to launch a new IKI funded project on EbA and forest restoration in vulnerable rural communities of the Caribbean Biological Corridor in early 2020. Exchange including on potential synergies with other projects in the region would be very welcome. In the frame of OroVerdes GreenWatersheds project, a report from the workshop on Governance, Economic Valuation and Finance for EbA held in México was published – available [here](#) (in Spanish language). Contact [Annelie Fincke](#) for more information.

Annex II. Post-COP25 EbA analysis by FEBA Secretariat

COP25 is being termed by some as a lost opportunity not only for failing to have increased ambition on mitigation (Article 6) but also on adaptation in order to tackle the climate crisis. With regards to the enhanced funding for adaptation, there was not much headway for generating enough backing for adaptation financing through Article 6 trading. This point was pushed as a top priority by the African Group, and the G77 plus China. However, majority of the Annex 1 countries opposed the idea terming it as a “transaction tax” which could potentially limit trade.

The issue of Loss and Damage (L&D) also remained an unfinished business at COP25. Vulnerable countries view L&D as an existential issue that requires additional action and support, mainly in terms of finance, technology and capacity building, to assist countries which have been affected by the impacts of climate change. The L&D review was critical to ensure that the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) could effectively respond to climate impacts and support those most affected in vulnerable developing countries.

The proposal coming from vulnerable countries about setting a new financial facility under the WIM triggered controversy amongst countries. Countries such as Vanuatu stated that it was already exploring legal justice pathways for climate finance, such as compensation systems, due to WIM inaction on Loss & Damage. Mr. Simon Stiell, Minister for Climate Resilience and the Environment (Grenada) and Mr. Ola Elvestuen Minister of Climate and Environment (Norway) facilitated the review of the WIM during the second week at COP. Modalities, and activities of the potential “Santiago Network” and the identification of potential accesses to finance for mobilizing further action on loss and damage were the key topics discussed and that will be taken to the next COP in Glasgow (UK) where a consolidated consensus is expected.

Annex III. Participant information

Name	Email address	Affiliation
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