

Friends of EbA

Biannual Members' Meeting

12th May 2017, 9.30-11.30

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3, 53175 Bonn

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting was attended by 23 FEBA member representatives (please see Annex I for list of attendees). Ali Raza Rizvi (IUCN) opened by welcoming all and thanking BMUB for hosting the meeting. He asked that any suggested additions to the agenda could be made any time.

Meeting agenda:

1. Welcome & introductions – BMUB & Participants
2. Update from the FEBA Secretariat
3. Updates from participants on EbA-related activities
4. Discussion on opportunities for collaboration, including enhancing interactions on adaptation with the UNFCCC
5. Discussion to identify next FEBA technical paper for Fiji/Bonn COP 23

Lea Herberg (BMUB) welcomed FEBA members to the BMUB offices and said she was looking forward to hearing what all have been working on. She congratulated the group on the SBSTA reception of the Nairobi Work Programme synthesis report on ecosystems and related water resources, and on the launch of FEBA's latest joint technical paper on EbA criteria and standards.

FEBA representatives in attendance introduced themselves. Two new members were present.

2. Update from the FEBA Secretariat

Kat Blackwood (IUCN) reported that FEBA now numbers over 40 institutional members. Since the last FEBA members' meeting at COP 22 in Marrakech, the new members are Ecologic Institute, German Aerospace Center, Stockholm Resilience Centre, KfW, UN University-Institute for Environment and Human Security, and Uganda's Ministry of Environment. The FEBA mailing list comprises over 90 individuals, having grown by 12 since Marrakech COP. New staff (Kat) was recruited in January 2017 to coordinate FEBA from the secretariat at IUCN, among other tasks. Since the last FEBA Members' meeting at Marrakech COP, FEBA has produced two joint technical papers, the first co-authored by UN Environment WCMC and IUCN, [Shared goals – joined-up approaches? Why action under the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 needs to come together at the landscape level](#), the second co-authored by GIZ, IIED, and IUCN, [Making Ecosystem-based Adaptation Effective: A Framework for Defining Qualification Criteria and Quality Standards](#). In addition, FEBA was invited by the UNFCCC Secretariat to review and co-produce with NWP and the LEG the [Synthesis Report on ecosystems and areas such as water resources](#).

3. Updates from participants on EbA-related activities

Lea Herberg (BMUB) reiterated the four main challenges facing the uptake and implementation of EbA: i) a lack of conceptual clarity on EbA, ii) a need for greater capacities to mainstream EbA, iii) gaps in understanding how to monitor and evaluate EbA (which she referred to as “the big challenge”; how can we measure in 30 years what has worked and what has not, and how do we set baselines now?), and iv) a need to improve communications surrounding EbA, especially regarding its holistic and no-regrets nature.

Angela Andrade (IUCN CEM) summarized the priorities of CEM, guided by its mission to provide expert guidance on integrated approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. In 2017-2020 the priority topical areas are Nature-based Solutions, Ecosystem Resilience, Culture and Ecosystem Management, Ecosystem Governance, and the Red List of Ecosystems. These will be supported by Thematic Groups, Specialist Groups, and Task Forces composed of Commission Members.

Ariane Steins-Meier (Rare) shared Rare’s work on behavior change, social marketing and climate change. Ongoing/recent work includes a joint program with CI in Indonesia (comms on EbA with local communities), a focus on national communications with Rare now partnering more deliberately on PANORAMA and Blue Solutions. Rare is starting up a new EbA project in Mozambique. In the Philippines Rare is working with the national development agency, and did an ROI study at the local level on EbA and climate change and fisheries as part of local and national development plans. Ariane shared that Rare was ready to coordinate the Working Group on Food Security together with FAO.

Mandy Barnett (SANBI) described the joint programme of work between SANBI and South Africa’s Department of Environmental Affairs, highlighting that ecological infrastructure is something they use a lot, which plays well into EbA. She explained that recent work operates at two levels: 1) a national strategy about mainstreaming EbA into various sectors with natural resource footprints, and 2) developing a guideline for practitioners and researchers. Mandy expressed that she would be sharing these guidelines with FEBA members and would appreciate their feedback. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Affairs is developing a monitoring framework, for which her colleagues would appreciate being connected to the FEBA network for reviewing and advice. Mandy reinforced that she would like to play a role in opening up practical dialogues between FEBA (especially international agencies and NGOs) and national governments not already engaged. She made the point that often the “gifts” given to practitioners in the form of technical papers, tools, etc. are not what’s needed on the ground.

Erin Beasley (CI) reported that her team has been working closely with IUCN and CEM to strategically implement a tool intended to help countries implement their NAPs. They have developed a process for countries to understand where EbA can be highlighted, including screening activities for places where EbA can fit into the NAP process, and a capacity and information needs identification process. Pilots are occurring in Madagascar and Indonesia, and in the future with South Africa.

Lisa Schindler Murray (TNC) described ongoing work related to private-public partnerships and debt swaps. One of these was the Seychelles debt swap announced at Paris COP. She added that TNC will soon announce a new initiative in Mexico working with the insurance and hotel industries on mangroves. **Marcia Toledo (TNC)** went on to describe TNC’s communications-related efforts surrounding adaptation and EbA.

Sakhile Koketso (CBD) summarized major FEBA activities that took place around the CBD COP in December 2016, including the launch of a briefing paper on joining up biodiversity work, climate change work under the Paris Agreement, SDGs, etc. There was also a joint CBD-FEBA side event. In Cancun the Parties adopted a decision on climate change that was based on the synthesis report prepared earlier that year. Sakhile went on to describe current work in developing voluntary guidelines with the help of a technical reference group. She clarified that the guidelines will not be a new set, but rather will be based on existing tools and guidelines related to EbA. She invited any FEBA Member that is interested to volunteer to join the technical reference group; it is not a closed group. Most of the work will involve setting out an outline for the consultant, and a 5-day technical expert workshop likely in December 2017.

Arno Sckeyde (GIZ) gave an introduction to the GIZ Mainstreaming EbA Global Project, which focuses on four topics: 1) Entry points for EbA; 2) M&E [GIZ is commissioning a study on monitoring, mainly of their partners' projects in Peru, Mexico, Philippines and others; and Arno expressed GIZ would appreciate inputs from FEBA on this]; 3) Economic assessments and other evidence [GIZ would appreciate a FEBA review of the draft study on EbA's economic viability]; and 4) Finance options for EbA measures.

Mathias Bertram (GIZ) briefed the group on PANORAMA Solutions, an initiative begun last September, with a portal launched at the CBD COP in Cancun. So far GIZ has collected 34 EbA solutions, and Mathias invited all present to send them concrete examples to showcase at www.panorama.solutions.

Alexandra Köngeter (GIZ) went on to describe the Mainstreaming EbA project's approach to knowledge management, including last year's launch of a community of practice surrounding EbA, now numbering over 100 members. She invited FEBA members interested to join the discussions including a webinar series (documentation available under www.adaptationcommunity.net/webinars/?topic=ecosystem-based-adaptation).

Edward Perry (Birdlife) began by reminding the group that Birdlife International is in fact an association/membership of over 122 organizations. He then gave a summary of EbA-relevant work underway, including a joint initiative with WWF UK and WCS called Trillion Trees; an initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean that is developing a regional action plan with 10 countries, as well as national plans for each, which is underpinned by regional scale assessments of vulnerability of habitats using birds as indicators; and an IKI-funded multiscale project in Africa focused on the Afro-Eurasian flyway, led by Wetlands International.

Val Kapos (WCMC) gave an overview of ongoing work, including a focus on tools and capacity through the joint project with IIED and IUCN on EbA Effectiveness. She noted that WCMC is gaining experience related to the economics of EbA, especially in the context of GCF and the economic analyses that underpin proposals. She also reflected on the collective work of the EbA community, including that the group does not publish as much scientifically as we should, and that it encouraged her to here from other FEBA members that knowledge management is a growing priority. She added that it is crucial that we look at the adaptation outcomes of mitigation actions, and bring vulnerability into an ecosystem focus. **Sylvia Wicander (WCMC)** described past work that her team is hoping to take forward: vulnerability analyses bringing together social and ecological analyses. WCMC is also hoping to support countries at these different levels in operationalizing EbA, providing assistance along the way.

Nathalie Seddon (IIED) summarized the goals and some outcomes of the ongoing IIED-IUCN-WCMC project on EbA Effectiveness. The project is assessing the social, ecological, and economic effectiveness

of EbA, with a strong research component, using question-based guidance. The research, though, is still at an early stage. There are clear signals from on-the-ground EbA projects being researched and assessed that EbA interventions are reducing vulnerability to the more extreme effects of climate change. However, there are clear trade-offs in terms of who benefits, which is a poorly understood area of EbA, and there is nuance around the accrual of benefits. Additionally, slow-impact events are poorly understood. Nathalie reported that the project has found that main obstacles are a lack of ministry cooperation and communication, and across projects there is a lack of training and tools (the latter reflecting a need for better knowledge exchange, given WCMC's recent inventory of 222 tools).

Fabrice Renaud (UN University) – one of two people at the meeting representing new FEBA members – explained that his work focuses on vulnerability and risk assessment with respect to hazards. He is working to develop approaches that incorporate more prominently ecosystems and services into these assessments. His team is finalizing a project now making an indicator library, which will be published soon. His projects in the pipeline have all been scientifically evaluated, and all focus particularly on urban environments. He let the group know that in June 2017 he is hosting a workshop/mini conference in Bonn on hybrid grey/green adaptation solutions, especially where the middle ground is and what the guidelines are, e.g. for monitoring and evaluation. Fabrice invited FEBA to lead a seminar series at UNU around COP 23, which will also be in Bonn.

Elmedina Krilasevic (IUCN) gave a brief introduction to IUCN's work in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and the Bonn Challenge. She also described the Global Mangrove Restoration Map being developed with TNC. Last, Elmedina suggested to the group that a FEBA working group be created to work more on mitigation-adaptation linkages in the future.

Tristan Tyrrell (Stockholm Resilience Centre) – representing another new FEBA member – explained that climate is a relatively new in the work of SwedBio at SRC. He described his two current major work areas within the SwedBio programme: producing briefing papers on the specific impacts on, e.g. gender, food security, and IPLCs and TEK; and bringing people together for roundtable dialogues on the more challenging issues on integrating ecosystem-based approaches into climate policy, using an approach similar to the Quito Dialogues. All SwedBio's funding comes from Sida, a fair chunk of which is re-granted to local NGOs and CBOs in LDCs. He made a note to the group that SwedBio is open to receiving proposals from such groups in FEBA members' networks.

Lea Herberg (on behalf of **Karim Ould-Chih [KfW]**, a new member of FEBA who could not attend this meeting) announced the new KfW project launching an EbA facility under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, with an endowment of EUR 25M.

4. Discussion on opportunities for collaboration, including enhancing interactions on adaptation with the UNFCCC

Discussion continued with a major focus on FEBA Working Groups (both existing and proposed). The following are notable excerpts of the conversation, sorted by relevant Working Group, area of FEBA member expertise, or topic of discussion:

NAP processes: Erin Beasley has stepped up as point person within FEBA for the NAP Working Group.

The urban environment: Fabrice Renaud made the point that the urban environment is coming up very strong in Horizon 2020. Marcia Toledo volunteered to coordinate an Urban EbA Working Group, and

Fabrice volunteered to connect a relevant colleague to Marcia. Mandy Barnett suggested that the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), co-hosted by the city of Bonn, be invited to join FEBA and the Urban EbA Working Group. Ali Raza Rizvi pointed out that CEM already has an urban adaptation working group, so synergies could be achieved with them.

CBD voluntary guidelines: Sakhile Koketso reinforced that the CBD wants to have an in-person meeting to hash through the voluntary guidelines process. Val Kapos offered to host this meeting in Cambridge at WCMC office; IUCN and Birdlife also expressed interest in joining the meeting.

EbA Good Practices/Case studies under PANORAMA: Ali offered that individually, FEBA members produce many case studies, and so much information is available, which is why PANORAMA as an IKI and GEF funded joint platform is a great opportunity to put everything in one format. Mathias Bertram (GIZ) will be the contact person and invites FEBA members to upload cases to the EbA solutions portal under www.panorama.solutions.

Food security: Ariane Steins-Meier offered to lead the coordination and facilitation of the Working Group on Food Security. Nathalie Seddon showed interest in being part of this and shared that IIED has just received significant funding jointly with Oxford University and other university partners in sub Saharan Africa, to focus on agriculture and ecosystem interactions.

Mitigation-adaptation linkages: Elmedina Krilasevic offered to lead on a Working Group on Mitigation-Adaptation Linkages, which representatives from Birdlife, WCMC, CEM, and others expressed strong interest in joining.

Eco-DRR and EbA linkages: Fabrice pledged to invite the FEBA network to future workshops he and his UNU colleagues plan on this topic. Ali encouraged the group to consider Fabrice's offer to organize a FEBA seminar series for students at UNU during COP 23, and many voiced their support for this idea. Mandy suggested that it might be good to develop the seminar series as a FEBA activity to every COP, bringing EbA learning to universities around the world.

Science integration and capacity development: Nathalie recommended a Working Group on Science & EbA Integration and volunteered to take the lead. Ali pointed out that FEBA has university members who could particularly assist with this. Mandy asked the group to consider whether a lack of science integration is as significant a blockage in the system relative to other issues. She reflected on the many case studies, tools, science, knowledge, etc. being discussed at this meeting, but what about the institutional capacity space? Nathalie confirmed that this is a significant issue detected in the current IIED-IUCN-WCMC work on EbA Effectiveness. Ali shared that IUCN's Environmental Law Centre is doing a policy and institutional analysis focused on Latin America and how this type of support can sustain impact. A discussion followed on the complexities of directing capacity building where it will have the most real impact.

5. Discussion to identify next FEBA technical paper for Fiji/Bonn COP 23

For the benefit of new members and representatives present, Ali summarized the process by which FEBA typically collaborates on technical papers every 6 months or so. He also clarified that FEBA produces these papers for the network's use and to inform and influence policy; and the process precludes redundancy of efforts among FEBA members in producing technical papers for COP and SBSTA individually. Sakhile suggested the next paper might address urban or agricultural EbA issues, or the

adaptation-mitigation nexus. Ali clarified that there could be more than one paper, if Members were willing to work on the prioritized issues, FEBA Secretariat was ready to coordinate the processes.

Meeting Action Points

- * **Arno** will share GIZ's draft study on valuating EbA benefits (economic and non-economic assessment methods) with FEBA Secretariat to be shared with interested FEBA members for info and review in early August.
- * **Ariane** will share a brief note on the next steps with regards to the functioning of the Working Group on Food Security.
 - o **FEBA Secretariat** will share with FEBA members (including those interested in joining the Working Group on Food Security) information on an upcoming draft FAO technical paper on EbA and food security in NAPs. Those interested in joining discussions (beginning mid-August) on next steps for the paper may contact the Secretariat.
- * **Mandy** will share Guidelines and Monitoring Framework with FEBA Secretariat to be shared with the interested FEBA Members for their info by the end of June.
- * **Fabrice** will coordinate with FEBA Secretariat to chalk out a plan for EbA Seminars at UNU during COP 23.
- * **Elmedina** will coordinate with FEBA Secretariat for the setting up of a Working Group on Adaptation-Mitigation linkages together with interested members.
- * **Marcia** will coordinate with FEBA Secretariat for the setting up of a Working Group on Urban EbA together with interested members.
- * **FEBA Secretariat** will invite the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to join FEBA.
- * **Nathalie** will coordinate with FEBA Secretariat for the setting up of a Working Group on Science & EbA Integration together with interested members.
- * **FEBA Secretariat** will share potential technical paper topics with the Group by the end of June to set up working groups on the development of the technical paper(s).
- * **Sakhile** will inform the group of the next steps forward regarding the CBD voluntary guidelines on EbA and DRR.

ANNEX I: Meeting attendees (alphabetical by surname)

Angela Andrade, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

Mandy Barnett, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

Erin Beasley, Conservation International (CI)

Mathias Bertram, German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd. (GIZ)

Katherine Blackwood, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and FEBA Secretariat

Paolo Domondon, Rare

Lea Herberg, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

Valerie Kapos, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)

Sakhile Koketso, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Alexandra Köngeter, German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd. (GIZ)

Elmedina Krilasevic, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Ann-Kathrin Neureuther, Rare

Edward Perry, Birdlife International

Ali Raza Rizvi, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and FEBA Secretariat

Fabrice Renaud, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU)

Felix Ries, Programme Office IKI, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

Lisa Schindler Murray, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Arno Sckeyde, German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd. (GIZ)

Nathalie Seddon, International Institute for the Environment and Development (IIED)

Ariane Steins-Meier, Rare

Marcia Toledo, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Tristan Tyrrell, SwedBio, Stockholm Resilience Centre

Sylvia Wicander, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)