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# Meeting Summary: Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) Members' Meeting

Hosted by IUCN 25 June 2020, Virtual



#### 1. Welcome by FEBA Secretariat

65 colleagues representing 30 FEBA members and partner institutions attended the virtual meeting; see **Annex I** for the full list of attendees, affiliations, and email addresses.

Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN Global Programme Manager on EbA, welcomed attendees to the first virtual FEBA members' meeting by recognising the changed context of our interactions in 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, where the world is adjusting to virtual interactions. Ali remarked that at previous FEBA members' meetings in-person, participation has been at around 20 individuals but this year more than 70 colleagues and 35 organisations had RSVP'd, showing that these virtual formats opened the doors for even wider network engagement. Ali commented on the growth of the FEBA network over the years, with over 81 organisations in the network as of June 2020, including new members PlanAdapt, the Global Adaptation Network (GAN), the Kenya National Environment Management Authority, and the Ministry of Environment of Haiti. Ali also highlighted the successful 6<sup>th</sup> EbA Knowledge Day held earlier in the month, a virtual event that focused on maximising the potential of EbA by bridging the gap between the climate change and biodiversity agendas. It was a great success, attaining 300 registered participants and over 100 waitlisted, with five Ministers contributing video statements on the importance of EbA in their national contexts, from Costa Rica, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan and Peru.

#### 2. Opening remarks by IKI-ZUG

Thea Konstantinidis, Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH, shared opening remarks for the meeting, highlighting that over the last five years, FEBA members and partner institutions have strengthened the concept of EbA and moved from implementing pilots in EbA to consolidating and upscaling. The German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety through the International Climate Initiative (BMU-IKI) has supported EbA since its early stages, achieving tangible gains and milestones through a coordinated approach to EbA, with progress achieved by FEBA members and partners. Through the collaboration of FEBA members, the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction institutionalised the FEBA EbA Qualification Standards and Quality Criteria. Thea also introduced that IKI's support of the Global EbA Fund, implemented by IUCN and UNEP, will continue the good work already being done on ecosystem-based adaptation by providing rapid and flexible funding to innovation in EbA. Though COVID-19 is shifting the focus on maximising short-term gains, Thea reminded attendees that post-COVID-19 economic recovery must be green recovery and as practitioners, FEBA members and partners must not fall back on the gains that have been achieved in EbA. Ecosystems contribute to human resilience, and green recovery approaches should incorporate EbA approaches. Thea closed her remarks by looking to attendees and the FEBA network to reflect and think through the ways that EbA itself needs to adapt and grow further, such as stronger engagement with the private sector, green recovery, and public health.

## 3. Remarks and update by UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme – Rojina Manandhar

Rojina Manadhar, Programme Officer of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on Adaptation at the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**, gave a short presentation on the NWP, a knowledge-to-action hub of the UNFCCC which engages diverse actors focusing on the packaging and sharing of knowledge. FEBA and the NWP have continued a close collaboration for years, and there are key opportunities in 2020 for further engagement of FEBA members with the UNFCCC Secretariat under all four of the thematic priorities of the NWP:

- a. Biodiversity and climate change adaptation
- b. Oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems
- c. Partnering with universities, research centres and other academic institutions through the Lima Adaptation and Knowledge Initiative
- d. Engaging the adaptation community

Rojina highlighted one example of collaboration falling under the third thematic priority: recently, the UNFCCC, IUCN and The Mountain Institute (TMI) worked together through FEBA to collaborate with students from the Yale School of the Environment to appraise evidence of the effectiveness of EbA measures using evidence from a field project in Peru. The findings from this study contributed to the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative of the NWP.

Rojina shared that further collaboration opportunities for FEBA members will be distributed in 2020, including through a new FEBA working group led by the NWP on biodiversity and climate change adaptation.

## 4. Member Updates

Kathrin Ludwig, from Adelphi provided updates about two reports on EbA and water conducted together with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) Thailand. Adelphi also conducted a climate risk vulnerability assessment and trainings with focus on EbA in Central Asia (GIZ). Additionally, the organisation conducted a workshop on nature-based solutions in European cities and an internal policy brief on NbS with the GIZ Biodiversity programme.

Drs. Camila Donatti and Giacomo Fedele shared updates on Conservation International's recent publications. The Guide to Including Nature in Nationally Determined Contributions provides a checklist of the considerations that governments should take when including ecosystems in NDCs. The document is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. A second publication "Limited use of transformation in response to social-ecological shifts driven by climate change" was published in Ecology and Society, which summarises shifts in trajectories of social-ecological systems driven by climate change and other drivers and provides examples of how nature can be used to respond to climate change in a transformative way. Finally, the "Indicators to measure the climate change adaptation outcomes of ecosystem-based adaptation" published in Climate Change identifies seven indicators to measure the adaptation outcomes of EbA.

Protected Areas in Mexico (CONANP) provided updates on a new methodology for climate change adaptation programs for protected areas on EbA, gender and disaster risk reduction. CONANP has developed 19 climate change adaptation programs in 53 protected areas as well as a platform for climatic corridors and climate change scenarios for protected areas. Finally, CONANP contributed to the National Monitoring System of Biodiversity (NMSB) through the creation of a web platform for biodiversity and climate change. Together with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UN Development Programme (UNDP), CONANP published a book on Resilience, Natural Protected Areas: natural solutions for global challenges.

Julia Wolf from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presented on Scaling Up Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA), which aims to accelerate innovative approaches and contribute to a paradigm shift through NDCs and NAPs addressing both adaptation and mitigation. The six-year, EUR 20 million project co-led by FAO and UNDP will be implemented in 12 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America and will build up Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag) Programme. SCALA can contribute to FAO and UNDP's post-COVID-19 response by supporting greener and resilient pathways in climate, agriculture and land-use. Further, FAO and UNDP published a briefing note on EbA.

Lis Bernhardt, representing the **Global Adaptation Network (GAN)**, introduced the network as a new FEBA member and shared the history of its creation in 2010 to provide a worldwide platform to distribute and exchange climate adaptation knowledge. GAN is composed of regional networks and partners, each providing knowledge services in their regions. GAN has a unique relationship with UNFCCC and other global processes through a variety of linkages. More information about GAN's work can be found here.

Arno Sckeyde from **GIZ** provided updates on the Global EbA Mainstreaming project. Working together with FEBA, GIZ and the Global EbA Mainstreaming project successfully co-organised the 6<sup>th</sup> EbA Knowledge Day, the largest-ever of its kind. GIZ also led, along with UNEP-WCMC, the development of the <u>Guidebook for Monitoring and Evaluating EbA Interventions</u> with the FEBA Working Group on M&E. GIZ has also contributed to strategic studies on gender, governance and integrated water resources management, climate proofing through the Nile Basin Initiative, organising the 5<sup>th</sup> EbA Conference of Parties, and mainstreaming EbA into agriculture and land management. *Ika Rachmawati Suratno* from **GIZ Indonesia** also provided updates on Climate Governance in Indonesia in which GIZ is supporting the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to disseminate a decree on Guidelines for identifying EbA approaches. Ecosystems is one of the focuses in the NDC Roadmap in Indonesia.

Anika Terton shared that the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) has recently finalized a analysis of the role of ecosystems in countries' adaptation priorities and uptake of EbA measures in 19 NAP documents. IISD also provided a review on insights related to inclusion of ecosystems, biodiversity and EbA measures as part of an overall adaptation strategy. This analysis will be part of a larger knowledge product that aims to establish the NAP process as a key opportunity and driver to mainstream EbA into multiple sectors, as well as improve the overall quality of EbA measures. Together with GIZ and Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP), IISD is designing a Peer Learning Summit on Mitigation-Adaptation Strategies, which includes a focus on NbS. This is scheduled for February 2021. Finally, IISD is expanding on its tool, Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVI), to include natural infrastructure.

Dr. Margaret Caso of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, Mexico (INECC), shared that Mexico is in the process of updating its NDC with an important component on adaptation, including a pillar on NbS and EbA. INECC is also contributing to supporting monitoring and evaluating for adaptation to climate change in Mexico, including developing criteria for the design of adaptation measures, tools and indicators.

Rachel Nisbet from the International Rain Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) shared that in the last year, the organisation has launched three EbA projects, two in Senegal and one in Nepal. IRHA has developed a monthly monitoring dashboard to track project indicators. IRHA has continued its commitment to collaborative, intercultural projects that utilise rainwater to foster communities' resilience in regions where climate change jeopardises people's livelihoods. IRHA participated in the "Can I Eat EbA?" FEBA webinar and in 2020 is continuing to participate in the Urban EbA and Humanitarian EbA working groups.

*Dr. Nazmul Huq* from the **University of Applied Sciences, Germany**, shared updates on a current project being implemented by the university -- the PolyUrban Water Project -- which is developing and demonstrating practice-relevant tools that enable municipalities to implement polycentric approaches to urban development and integrated, cross-sectoral water management. The pilot cities interventions include river restoration, water sensitive public space and housing. Institute for Technology and Resources Management in the Tropics and Subtropics (ITT) will be hosting the <u>Water Security and Climate Change</u> conference in March 2021 in Vietnam.

Standard for Nature-based Solutions, which builds on the work of the FEBA Qualification Standards and Quality Criteria for EbA, and sets criteria and indicators of NbS. IUCN and UNEP are launching the Global EbA Fund with support from IKI. The Fund will provide grants to address barriers to implementing, upscaling and funding EbA and will prioritise innovation and urgency. IUCN is also supporting countries mainstreaming Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)/EbA in their NDCs and just became a member of the NDC Partnership. In South America, IUCN has been sharing lessons through virtual courses and seminars as well as contributing lessons and evidence on EbA to various publications. In Sri Lanka, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a project to strengthen the resilience of subsistence farmers and plantation communities, and in Pakistan, the government is initiating the Ecosystem restoration initiative to finance EbA programmes. In the Balkans, IUCN has been implementing NbS for resilient societies through strengthening knowledge, policy integration and implementation.

Sarah Henley-Shephard from Mercy Corps shared an update of recent publications including (1) a set of case studies on Climate Resilient Development focusing on water and integrated resource management and Community Conserved Areas, (2) a brief on climate change and conflict, peace building and natural resource management, and (3) a toolkit tested in Zimbabwe and India to integrate EbA & Eco-DRR considerations into humanitarian response and recovery. Sarah also shared that Mercy Corps is chairing a new joint working group of FEBA, the Partnership for Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), and the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network (EHAN) focused on the EbA-Humanitarian Nexus: Environmental Safeguarding and NbS to DRR & CCA in Humanitarian Contexts. More information on this group is available in the working group updates.

Annelie Fincke from **OroVerde** - Tropical Forest Foundation shared a brief update from the GreenWatersheds Project in Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Guatemala, which is currently working on elaborating governance mechanisms as a prerequisite for targeted funding mechanisms, and planning cost-benefit in a next step. Furthermore, a new eight year project on EbA and Forest Restoration in Vulnerable Rural Communities of the Caribbean Biological Corridor, by Welthungerhilfe (lead), OroVerde and five local partner organizations in Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic was approved in midst of the COVID-19 crisis and started virtually.

Jesse DeMaria-Kinney from PlanAdapt gave a brief introduction to the organisation highlighting that PlanAdapt is a global network-based organisation that provides knowledge services to support effective, economically just and socially inclusive climate change adaptation and climate risk management, with particular focus on the Global South. PlanAdapt is co-chairing the Urban EbA working group to identify, collect and analyse examples of Urban EbA in the Global South. The Working Group launched an online survey to collect case studies. PlanAdapt is also contributing to the FEBA/PEDRR policy brief on the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework; co-designing a short course on adaptation with the Indian School of Business to target professionals and civil servants; and working with GIZ on Urban EbA in Vietnam looking at participatory identification, selection and assessment of potential urban EbA measures in central Vietnam.

Frederik Stapke from Rare updated participants that the organisation is involved in three new EbA programmes including "Lands for Life", "Fish Forever" and the Center for Behavior and Environment. Rare's flagship EbA project "Fishing for Climate Resilience" is currently being implemented in Indonesia, Philippines, Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands with the aim of mainstreaming EbA into small-scale fisheries production sectors to support partner countries in implementing NAPs and NDCs. The project's most recent achievements include the formation of technical working groups, climate vulnerability assessments and analyses and an on-going assessment on the impact of COVID-19 and the importance of small-scale fisheries and marine ecosystems. Rare is also conducting an on-going assessment on COVID-19 and the implications for green recovery.

Jaee Nikam from the **Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)** provided a brief summary of the international non-profit research and policy organisation. SEI tackles environment and development challenges, with stakeholder involvement at the heart of SEI's efforts to build capacity, strengthen institutions and equip partners for long-term change.

*Veronica Lo* from the **Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences** shared work on the <u>Envision project</u>. Envision seeks to improve biodiversity and well-being through inclusive conservation by developing novel participatory scenario planning tools and processes; identifying, comparing and balancing multiple visions for conservation planning; understanding the social and ecological consequences of these visions; and making evidence-based recommendations to inform post-2020 biodiversity policy.

Mirella Gallardo from the Mountain Institute - Peru (Instituto Andino de Montañas) shared progress on the Scaling Up Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation implemented across Asia, Africa and Latin America with a focus on building evidence, replicating success and informing policy. Thus far, project lessons have contributed to 35 policy documents and processes. In Peru, this includes the NDCs, climate change by-laws, protected areas master plan and online courses on NbS and EbA.

Marcia Toledo from **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** shared progress on TNC's EbA portfolio being implemented across the world spanning national policy, food and agriculture, water security, coastal resilience and other sectors. TNC has also worked on a number of reports and

publications, tools and guides and processes and partnerships including <u>Cost-benefit analysis of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures</u> (2019); <u>The global flood protection benefits from Mangroves</u> (March 2020); <u>Lima Water Funds Toolbox</u>; <u>Maps launched to EbA for Climate Adaptation</u>. TNC will be a part of the NbS focused meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance at the UNFCCC COP 26 and invited FEBA members to engage.

Chawii Chhakchhuak highlighted UNDP's current EbA portfolio which includes over 47 projects in 31 countries including 6 small-island developing states and 22 least-developed countries (LDCs). Since 2006, UNDP has replanted 213,400 hectares (ha) of mangrove and forests, protected 154,800 ha of marine and 2 million ha of land area, secured 853,890 ha of agricultural land under improved management and 20,000km of coastline protected. UNDP aims to include EbA in green commodities to promote deforestation-free and climate resilient value chains; climate-informed protected areas based on climate scenarios with the biodiversity and socio-economic filters; and mainstreaming valuation of ecosystem services across its EbA portfolio.

Sylvia Wicander from UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) reported on work to advance monitoring and evaluation for EbA, including sharing details on the recently published Guidebook for Monitoring and Evaluating EbA Interventions, support to M&E processes for EbA interventions in South Africa and developing new work around metrics and processes for adaptation in agriculture. UNEP-WCMC is supporting private sector uptake of NbS for climate resilient infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through this engagement, UNEP-WCMC has contributed to a discussion paper, technical guidance for project developers and policy makers and market assessment to understand barriers, enablers, opportunities and actions. UNEP-WCMC is assessing co-benefits of NbS for a post-COVID-19 economic recovery as part of UNEP's pandemic response, aiming to promote the design of climate-resilient and sustainable economic support packages. UNEP-WCMC is also contributing to the joint FEBA/PEDRR policy brief on the post-2020 biodiversity framework supporting strong reference to NbS in the new strategic framework for the CBD.

#### **Additional Updates from Members:**

Tristan Tyrrell from **SwedBio** shared that in November 2019, SwedBio completed the final regional dialogue on linking national biodiversity and climate change policies (focusing especially on EbA, as well as EbM and Eco-DRR, to guide the synergies) for the Central America and Caribbean region. With various partners, including the CBD Secretariat, SwedBio is now pulling together a synthesis of the six dialogues that includes common opportunities and challenges, as well as specific examples of lessons learnt, and hope to release it later in the year. SwedBio has also been supporting partners on developing a regional EbA Network for government staff across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, and the provision of awareness raising and training to municipality staff and community members on the use of green infrastructure in the Pacific Islands region.

*Larissa Stiem-Bhatia* provided updates on behalf of **TMG Research gGmbH.** The <u>"Climate-SDG integration Project: Supporting the implementation of Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda</u>

through Ecosystem-based Adaptation", which has conducted case studies on the effectiveness of EbA in Guatemala and India. The evidence will feed into national policy processes to upscale EbA. In Guatemala the project, in collaboration with leading EbA supporters, has implemented the first national multi-stakeholder Forum on EbA in November 2019. The event culminated in the signing of a joint declaration on the importance of EbA in Guatemala. A technical advisory group for EbA was established, which consists of key national actors, adding to the enabling environment for EbA. A trimestral newsletter gives regular updates, and videos documenting the EbA Forum were produced in Spanish and English. In India, the paper titled "Scaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Maharashta, India: An Analysis of Policies and Programmes" was published to identify opportunities for upscaling EbA action in the State of Maharashtra. The project is currently conducting a series of virtual multi-stakeholder dialogues to foster political support for EbA and to jointly develop a roadmap for scaling and mainstreaming of EbA in the State of Maharashtra.

## 5. Update by FEBA Secretariat & Chairs of FEBA working groups on activities and outputs

Emily Goodwin, IUCN, representing the FEBA Secretariat, shared that since the last members' meeting, new members joining the FEBA network include PlanAdapt, the Global Adaptation Network, the Kenya National Environment Management Authority, and the Ministry of Environment of Haiti. FEBA now numbers 81 organisations representing over 185 individuals. Thanks to the collaboration of FEBA members in the working group on M&E, the Guidebook for M&E of EbA was recently launched, led by GIZ & UNEP-WCMC.

Building on FEBA's engagements with the UNFCCC, FEBA also contributed to making a submission on EbA to the dialogue on the relationship between land and climate change adaptation at SBSTA 52, and facilitated the production of an adaptation gap report as a contribution to the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), appraising evidence of the effectiveness of EbA measures using evidence from the field. FEBA members and partners are working on a synthesis of Urban EbA examples, measures, and guidance in the Urban EbA working group, as well as a joint policy brief with PEDRR on the incorporation of EbA & Eco-DRR in the CBD post-2020 biodiversity framework.

The 6th EbA Knowledge Day, hosted by FEBA and GIZ in a first-ever virtual format, focused on the opportunities, challenges and examples of linking climate change and biodiversity conservation efforts through EbA. FEBA facilitated <a href="https://high-level-Minister remarks on the importance of EbA in different national contexts">high-level Minister remarks on the importance of EbA in different national contexts</a> from the Hon. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, MOE Costa Rica, the Hon. Fabiola Martha Muñoz Dodero, MOE Peru, the Hon. Malik Amin Aslam, MOE Pakistan, the Hon. Saleh Al-kharabsheh, MOE Jordan, and the Hon. Yasmine Fouad, MOE Egypt.

FEBA will be engaged with the <u>Alliance for a Climate Resilient Earth (ACRE)</u> to represent EbA in a new thinktank alliance on climate resilience that aims to break down silos in adaptation and syngerise the sectors of infrastructure, finance, insurance, academics and practitioners.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation of EbA – Sylvia Wicander, UNEP-WCMC

Sylvia Wicander, chair of the FEBA working group on Monitoring & Evaluation of EbA, introduced the recently launched <u>Guidebook for Monitoring and Evaluating EbA Interventions</u>, produced by UNEP-WCMC and GIZ in collaboration with the FEBA Working Group on M&E. The Guidebook is a practical guide for planners and practitioners for monitoring the outcomes and impacts of EbA, and to better understand the outcomes and impacts of on-the-ground projects working with and enhancing nature to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on people. It describes key considerations and components for each step of M&E of EbA projects and points to additional tools and methodologies that can be used in specific circumstances. Structured in four steps (developing a results framework, defining indicators & setting baselines, operationalising the M&E system, and using and communicating the results), the Guidebook should ideally be consulted in the early stages of designing an EbA intervention, but it can also be used if an intervention has already begun to help make improvements.

#### Urban EbA – Jesse DeMaria-Kinney, PlanAdapt

Jesse DeMaria-Kinney, the chair of the Urban EbA working group, introduced the scope of the group to identify, collect and analyse examples of Urban EbA in the Global South, given the lack of available examples and evidence for the implementation of EbA in urban ecosystems. The working group brings together researchers and practitioners from fields of urban development, EbA, and green-grey infrastructure to address this knowledge gap with a plan to produce a joint FEBA technical paper on Urban EbA.

To begin the process of collating case studies and key examples, the Working Group has just launched an <u>online survey</u>. All FEBA members are encouraged to participate!

# EbA in Humanitarian & Post-Disaster Contexts – Sarah Henly-Shepard, Mercy Corps, and Verónica Ruiz, IUCN

Verónica Ruiz from IUCN introduced the EbA-Humanitarian working group, which is a joint initiative of FEBA, PEDRR, and EHAN. Co-chaired by Verónica and Sarah Henly-Shepard of Mercy Corps, this group is focusing on environmental safeguarding and NbS to both climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Humanitarian Contexts. They shared that the group has created a learning & influence agenda organized around working group themes that will be explored across institutions and networks to advance and influence the programmatic evidence base, best practices and policy/advocacy on this topic. New members are always welcome and can reach out to the chairs to become engaged in this process.

#### EbA & NAP Guidelines – Lis Bernhardt, UNEP/Global Adaptation Network

Lis Bernhardt introduced an upcoming FEBA working group which will be focused on contributions & review on the Supplementary Guidelines for Integrating EbA into NAPs. The objective of the group will be to support LDCs programme/design NAPS linked to EbA, and in doing so support the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG). The anticipated role of the FEBA working group will be to share case studies, provide suggestions on resources and literature, and assist in the technical review of the draft Guidelines. More information on how FEBA members can participate in this group will be circulated soon.

## NWP Biodiversity-Climate Change Working Group - Fatema Rajabali, UNFCCC NWP

Fatema Rajabali introduced another upcoming FEBA working group which will focus on biodiversity & climate change, chaired by the UNFCCC NWP. This group will build on the NWP's thematic work on the role of biodiversity and ecosystems for adaptation, and work to fill identified knowledge gaps on EbA in this thematic area through the NWP platform. The scope of the working group will include the following:

- 1. Bring together a community of practice to focus on biodiversity and climate change with an emphasis on forests and grasslands (mandated thematic work under the NWP).
- 2. Strengthen synergies between relevant work under the UNFCCC, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the FEBA network, as well as other relevant processes.
- 3. Technical knowledge sharing and exchange including case studies, lessons learnt and content specific examples of practice.
- 4. Facilitated discussions for inputs and guidance on knowledge gaps that emerge from the UNFCCC thematic work. This will also include webinars.
- 5. Support in co-designing actions for Governments and non-state actors to ensure that the actions are applicable and relevant.
- 6. Invite experts from organisations/sectors within and beyond current members of the FEBA network.
- 7. Share relevant opportunities of engagement with UNFCCC constituted bodies and processes.

For more information on how to join any of the FEBA working groups, please contact the chairs of the groups. If you are interested in discussing a new thematic working group, please contact Emily Goodwin.

#### 6. Update on Global EbA Fund - Emily Goodwin and Lis Bernhardt

Lis Bernhardt and Emily Goodwin introduced The Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation. Implemented by IUCN and UNEP and funded by BMU-IKI, the Global EbA Fund is a quickly deployable mechanism for supporting innovative approaches to EbA. The Fund will be structured to support catalytic initiatives to help to overcome identified barriers to upscaling EbA. Furthermore, it is expected that the Fund will address the gaps in knowledge and planning for EbA, as well as to increase access to public and private funding for catalytic adaptation interventions. The Fund will prioritize filling in resourcing and knowledge gaps with a broad thematic focus on **innovation and urgency**, thus encouraging creative solutions and "unlikely matches" in partnerships among funding applicants and the wider EbA community. By supporting catalytic interventions, the Fund will address research gaps, pilot innovative EbA approaches, engage in strategic EbA policy mainstreaming, and incentivise innovative finance mechanisms and private sector EbA investment. The Fund will mobilize and leverage relevant partnerships and networks including FEBA, GAN, and the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), among others.

The Fund has a duration of 5 years (starting in July 2020). With the first call going out this year, the Fund will encourage a range of high-quality, diverse and innovative applications, to which the Global EbA Fund will be able to respond quickly with its rolling application process (three-month response time). Next steps for the Fund were shared (e.g. operational plan and grant screening criteria currently in development), as well as logistics: request for proposals (RFPs) will be advertised and processed through IUCN's website, and announcement of all RFPs will be shared with FEBA.

#### 7. Closing Remarks & Reflections

The FEBA Secretariat closed by reflecting on the purpose of these biannual meetings: the opportunity for Members to get to know each other's work on EbA and connect Members to establish linkages shared across relevant partners and projects. With the shift to a virtual format and therefore even greater attendance across FEBA, this is more important than ever. A core value of the FEBA network is that our EbA work should not be done in a vacuum: we have a stronger and more strategic field and policy influence together by linking our work to showcase EbA as a key approach to climate adaptation. Members were encouraged to be in touch with one another on projects and initiatives that aligned with their own work.

The Secretariat also shared that beyond the biannual meetings, the Working Groups are in place for more in-depth discussions on knowledge gaps, policy advocacy, and ongoing thematic collaboration on specific areas. All members are encouraged to join the working groups they are interested in to continue FEBA collaboration year-round. If there is interest in starting a new working group on a thematic topic or as a platform for consultation with the FEBA network on specific knowledge products, members can always be in touch with Emily Goodwin to discuss further for FEBA's facilitation.

The Secretariat thanked all participants of this first-ever virtual meeting, and invited members to share reflections, inputs and perspectives on post-COVID-19 green recovery and adaptation as a key priority for FEBA engagements in 2020.

**Annex 1: List of Participants** 

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