



Meeting Summary: 8th EbA Knowledge Day

Hosted by

GIZ and IUCN, under the FEBA network

2 June 2022, Virtual

View the full recording [here](#).



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Background

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) has the potential to provide combined solutions for climate change and biodiversity loss. As an umbrella term, Nature-based Solutions, or NbS, encompasses approaches of working with nature, such as EbA.

This 8th EbA Knowledge Day focused on analysing the latest, cross-sectoral developments related to EbA in policy, practice, research and financing. Participants discussed outlooks and priorities for EbA, identified opportunities for capitalising on EbA action to date, and explored innovative avenues for maximising adaptation benefits in the future. The day included input by high-level officials, an exciting panel discussion, and several interactive thematic sessions.



Welcome by Organisers

[Full opening remarks available here](#)



Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN

Ali Raza Rizvi, Head of Climate Change at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), began by identifying that one of the first critical pillars of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) concept was the integration of EbA strategies as one component of adaptation strategies, rather than it being used as a standalone solution. With more than a decade of evidence on EbA demonstrating that there is a strong social, environmental, and economic impact from working with nature to build human resilience, Mr. Rizvi emphasised that we need to ensure that EbA strategies work in tandem with other approaches. For example, EbA can play a crucial role in infrastructure strategy, as with green gray infrastructure, or with green recovery from the pandemic. In a way, everything we do needs to link with nature through specific ecosystems and then link back to human wellbeing.

Mr. Rizvi underscored the importance of accompanying adaptation strategies with mitigation – citing that, beyond the 1.5-degree threshold, warming ocean temperatures and ocean acidification would limit the efficacy of coral reefs and their benefits for storm surge reduction. Given this, EbA discussions should focus on exploring the critical linkages between EbA, energy access, and decarbonization strategies. Mr. Rizvi elaborated on the point of energy access, stating that more than 10%

of the global population – 759 million people – currently do not have regular access to energy. In addition to this, the COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated discrepancies in energy access, with basic electricity made unaffordable for 30 million more people.

Mr. Rizvi concluded that energy access is critical for poverty alleviation, economic growth, improvement of living standards, as well as building climate resilience across all sectors from education, medicine, infrastructure, agriculture, and business. Mr. Rizvi highlighted that we have an opportunity to ensure that this energy transition is underpinned by both human rights and biodiversity protection. With this, Mr. Rizvi looks forward to continuing to explore opportunities to work together and share experiences to understand how diverse areas of work can consider biodiversity, human rights, and sustainability to advance our shared goals.

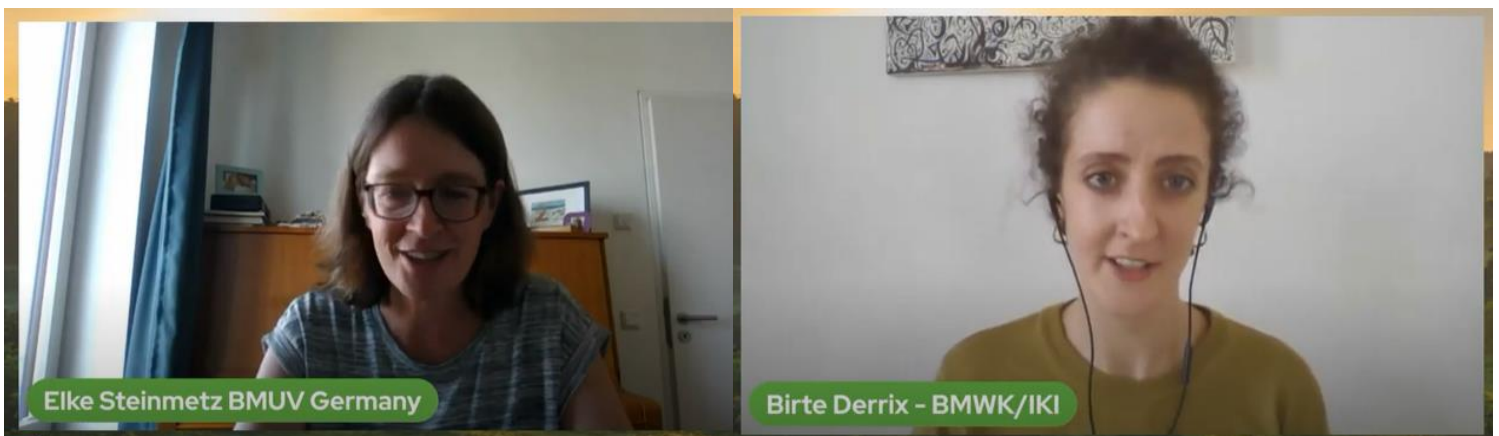
Harald Lossack, GIZ

Harald Lossack, Head of the Global Project on Mainstreaming EbA at GIZ, reflected on the international situation, which underscores that EbA is more important than ever. Mr. Lossack described multiple crises that illuminate the connection between human and ecosystem health – from the COVID-19 situation to the aggression against Ukraine. At the same time, according to recent figures from the IPCC and other scientists, the climate crisis is accelerating. As international climate negotiations grow and a new Global Biodiversity Framework forms, 2022 is the year of adaptation – and Mr. Lossack emphasised that EbA is crucial to meet the multiple challenges we are facing.

With the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) having officially defined Nature-based Solutions, Mr. Lossack stressed that along with this exciting step, governments, social, and economic actors must recognize the multiple dividends of EbA benefits as a contribution to social and economic development. Mr. Lossack pointed out that a major challenge for effective EbA mainstreaming and implementation lies more than ever in the need for building strong political will and backing from the highest level. Mr. Lossack reiterated that given the concurrent international crises, there is a strong threat to the fight against climate change and the loss of biodiversity by the overshadowing of prioritizing solutions to energy supply, security issues, and the food crisis. Mr. Lossack called on the international community of EbA practitioners to work together to prove that these issues are strongly interlinked.

Mr. Lossack concluded by recognizing the EbA Knowledge Day as an exchange and a platform that will continue to make the case for the importance of employing innovative EbA approaches and upscaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

Recent institutional changes, policy developments and priorities for climate and biodiversity action: Insights from the German Government



Elke Steinmetz, BMUV, Germany

Elke Steinmetz, the Head of Division for International Cooperation on Biodiversity at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (**Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz, BMUV**), opened by providing an update on the re-structuring of the German Government, which has integrated climate into the economic affairs ministry, in addition to it being addressed by other ministries, saying that there would be further efforts to continue to integrate climate across the government as a whole. Ms. Steinmetz shared that at the recent G7 Ministers Conference in Berlin, the Environment and Energy ministries made the decision to maintain this structure indefinitely, signalling the recognition of the importance of addressing biodiversity loss and climate change.

Ms. Steinmetz explained that the upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 15 has a dedicated goal to adopt a new global framework, which she expressed is urgently needed to broaden the biodiversity targets and update them from the 2010 targets.

“We must strive for ambitious goals and clear, measurable, time-bound targets, along with synergies with other solutions to develop an effective global framework to combat climate change.”

Ms. Steinmetz expressed that Ecosystem-based Adaptation is the most elaborate approach to tackling climate change risks and vulnerabilities, which makes her hopeful for EbA integration into the Global Biodiversity Framework as climate risk will be included among the new targets. There will be a strong need for financial targets to be met by the Global Biodiversity Framework; Ms. Steinmetz specified that this means strategies on financial resources needed for the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework have to be adopted. Finally, Ms. Steinmetz pointed out that synergies with other conventions and resolutions should be highlighted – in particular with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2030 SDG goals.

Ms. Steinmetz pointed out that there is a window of opportunity at this critical moment in the relationship between the CBD and the UNFCCC following the prominent connection between climate and nature that was emphasised at the UNFCCC COP26. Given this, Ms. Steinmetz concluded that EbA and NbS will play a crucial role in the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Birte Derrix, BMWK, Germany

Birte Derrix, Policy Officer for the International Climate Initiative (IKI) at German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz, BMWK), reiterated that we are at a critical moment in time to fight the impacts of climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, the negative effects of climate change would still be unavoidable. Therefore, Ms. Derrix emphasised that adaptation is and will become increasingly important. Ms. Derrix shared a quote from the recent IPCC report where EbA was named for its ability to reduce a range of climate risks to people, biodiversity, and ecosystem services while providing multiple co-benefits such as food and material provisions, climate mitigation, and societal wellbeing.

Ms. Derrix continued by explaining that cross-sectoral EbA approaches can be applied in several contexts from coastal ecosystems to urban areas. She identified National Adaptation Plans and Strategies as a key instrument for enabling these cross-sectoral EbA approaches. Ms. Derrix emphasised that EbA solutions should be considered a cost-effective, no-regret solution in these NAPs.

As EbA has been a key funding priority since 2018, IKI has continued moving EbA as a strategy forward through working to establish EbA as an approach in the international adaptation discussion. To date, IKI has financed 56 projects focusing on EbA and has [11 projects that are soon to be implemented](#). Ms. Derrix explained that one of IKI's most important instruments for implementing EbA is the [Global EbA Fund](#) that is hosted and implemented by IUCN and UNEP and has a funding volume of €30 million to fund more than 80 small-scale interventions over the coming years.

Ms. Derrix closed with several announcements and updates from IKI. This included the launch of the IKI Gender Strategy at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow. This strategy works to pursue a comprehensive gender mainstreaming approach that actively considers the impacts of IKI projects on gender relations. Ms. Derrix also mentioned the launch of the IKI complaints mechanism that enables individuals to file complaints to IKI, such as violations of environmental and social safeguards or to report misuse of funds and corruption. More information on the complaints mechanism can be found [here](#). Lastly, Ms. Derrix announced that IKI has started to promote youth environmental activism, such as through the Costa Rica Forum on Youth and Climate, with support from the IKI interface project in the country. Ms. Derrix concluded by expressing that she was impressed by how involved the youth has been not only on a national level but through advocating this agenda on the global level as well.

Video Statements: EbA making a difference in global long-term resilience

[Video messages available here](#), and [further Thailand specific video messages available here](#)

With videos from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and a few further countries, a video report was shown that showcased the breadth of benefits and co-benefits that EbA can facilitate in communities around the globe, along with necessary steps taken in climate negotiations to facilitate adaptation and resilience.

Nguyen Cong Toai, Deputy Director of Lang Sen Wetland Reserve, Viet Nam

“Lang Sen WR supports local households in buffer zones of the conservation to pilot flood-based models” which “increases income from livelihood, brings high benefit for farmers” and “promotes positive impacts on biodiversity of the conservation area.”

Alex Saer, Climate Change and Risk Management Director, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

“Ecosystem-based Adaptation has multiple benefits, not only because it takes into account local communities, their knowledge and ancestral knowledge, that together with scientific knowledge, can help to design strategies based on ecosystems to be able to adapt and reduce our risks.”

Fabiola Quijivix, Executive Director, “ASOGTUR Explorando el Valle,” Guatemala

“The ‘Altiplano Resiliente’ project “supports capacity strengthening of young people and women to implement community-based entrepreneurship projects. Doing so, we contribute to climate change adaptation to have a sustainable and healthy forest.”

Hon. José Miguel Duro, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), Guatemala

“We view EbA as the use of ecosystems, or better use of ecosystems to boost climate change adaptation and to rethink development models.”

Inés Arias Machado, Under Secretary of Climate Change (Subrogate), Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ecuador

“The evidence increasingly suggests that natural systems or processes used to achieve social goals could greatly contribute to minimising climate change and its effects, such as the understanding of Ecosystem-based Adaptation.”

Yenny Cedeño García, Beneficiary in Mercedes 1 community, Manabí, Ecuador

“Water “is a very important benefit for producers and especially for the entire community.”

Kevin Cedeño, Beneficiary in Laguna community, Honorato Vásquez-Manabí, Ecuador

“Families are already adapting to the new changing climate that we are facing daily in our communities and in our farms. The EbA measures that were/are implemented in the territory also help us to improve our living conditions as farmers.”

Mr. Attapong Chantanumate, Director of the Policy and Master Plan Division, Office of the National Water Resources, Thailand

“EbA and related approaches, especially in the water sector, will “help us achieve the country’s goal of stability, possibility, sustainability based on the sufficient economic philosophy.”

Panel: Enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration to identify new opportunities for adaptation / climate resilience

Full panel available [here](#)

Ali Raza Rizvi of IUCN facilitated a panel discussion centred around innovation and collaboration towards climate adaptation efforts. Panellists discussed **how to ensure the inclusion of people from all socioeconomic backgrounds and communities in adaptation activities, ways to maintain a participatory approach in scaling up EbA, and the development of sustainable infrastructure to support the growth of renewables.**

In discussing the importance of an **inclusive and participatory approach to EbA implementation**, panellists agreed that **inclusion must move beyond a check-mark approach to ensure the incorporation of local communities in decision-making processes.** This is a key component to consider when discussing **innovation and collaboration in the EbA space** – which extends to the renewables space.

The panellists emphasised that **the engagement process for the renewable energy transition should be coupled with green infrastructure, and it should reflect the needs of those that will be impacted by this implementation.** In order to successfully scale up EbA, there was agreement among the panellists that **we need to utilise policy and regulatory instruments to ensure that EbA becomes the preferred option as countries and communities consider how to adapt to climate change.**



Takeaways from Panel discussions

Dr. Barney Dickson, Senior Programme Officer, UNEP

- Dr. Barney Dickson identified a number of measures that should take place in order to scale up EbA. He explained that we need to create a supportive policy and regulatory framework promoting EbA. Dr. Dickson also mentioned that increasing the range of actors that can further support EbA is important. This includes, for example, creating innovative approaches to financing EbA.

- Dr. Dickson offered ideas and recommendations for scaling up EbA in several capacities. For example, in creating supportive and regulatory frameworks, Parties of the UNFCCC could demonstrate ambition with real measurable targets in regard to EbA and NbS. Strategies that advance policy changes could include evaluating and incorporating the stock condition of ecosystem services to manage both natural and non-natural capital in national capital accounting. Creative ways to include the finance sector include green bonds, debt relief, use of insurance, and increasing risk disclosure requirements. Dr. Dickson explained that we can target areas where the majority of benefits will accrue, for example, low-lying cities in urban contexts that are subject to risks of flooding; coastal areas, where we can implement EbA to build resilience to sea level rise and storms; and agricultural landscapes, which provide a huge opportunity for EbA to advance.
- Dr. Dickson's takeaway message was to encourage FEBA to set targets on where we would like to see EbA in ten years' time.

"We need to move beyond just making the case for EbA to advocating for detailed, concrete, practical measures, and policies. We need to move from the 'why' questions to the 'how' questions."

Cristina Simiolo, Programme Manager of Offshore Energy & Nature, Renewables Grid Initiative

- Cristina Simiolo offered several considerations for the implementation of renewables. First, she emphasised that we need green infrastructure to support the growth of renewables. Ms. Simiolo posed the question, "what is needed to make this infrastructure more sustainable?" From the social perspective, Ms. Simiolo asked, "how can we better involve the communities that are impacted?" Ms. Simiolo expressed hope in the fact that renewables, especially offshore renewables, are now a top priority in political contexts.
- Ms. Simiolo continued by stating that communities should be invited to engage in the design process in order to have an active role in renewables and green infrastructure in cities. Ms. Simiolo suggested that we proceed by developing pilot projects, evaluating the outcomes, and sharing the findings and lessons learned with other regulators and implementers in order to enable a framework that can incentivize more projects of this kind.
- Ms. Simiolo emphasised the importance of the cross-sectoral mind shift that needs to occur within businesses and other sectors to integrate EbA in the way they operate.

"It's important to bring together actors that would usually be considered 'enemies'. We must bring them together with a common objective: a just transition to renewables and green infrastructure."

Motoko Aizawa, President, Observatory for Sustainable Infrastructure

- Motoko Aizawa spoke about strategies to scale up EbA while achieving human rights in sustainability. Ms. Aizawa explained that sustainable infrastructure should be multidisciplinary, by incorporating the social, economic, environmental, and governance aspects of each situation. More information on this dynamic approach can be found in the recent [Executive Summary](#) that Ms. Aizawa authored on the overarching structure of climate and human rights.
- Ms. Aizawa explained that inclusiveness can be a process element that leads to sustainable infrastructure; she elaborated by pointing out that stakeholder consensus can lead to a more sustainable outcome. Ms. Aizawa underscored that this can be done by evaluating who will benefit from the services the most, and who has to pay for those services. Ms. Aizawa also mentioned there are many techniques that need to be documented and socialised, such as life cycle analysis, costs involved in green-gray infrastructure, and standardised insurance products that provide assurance of the expected environmental outcomes.
- Ms. Aizawa's takeaway message emphasised the importance of including a budget line on inclusiveness in sustainability projects, citing that restricted funding from donors can make inclusive aspects of climate adaptation initiatives more difficult to apply to projects.

"The term inclusivity has more potency as we live in the time of COVID, and deal with social justice and equity issues. Inclusiveness in infrastructure ensures valuable services and benefits for all individuals and groups, with a special focus on the marginalised and vulnerable."

Fatema Rajabali, Programme Officer, Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), UNFCCC Secretariat

- Fatema Rajabali spoke about the importance of filling knowledge gaps in order to fulfill the Paris Agreement. Ms. Rajabali elaborated on NWP's role as a bridge between partners, constituents, and countries to provide advice and technical input in order to advance the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.
- Ms. Rajabali explained that it is important to translate the knowledge in sub-national implementing agencies in order to apply this knowledge at a regional scale and to strengthen capacity for long-term M&E. In this regard, there is a challenge in matchmaking available finance for adaptation action. For example, small and developing states have limited capacity to apply these funds – which exemplifies the need to put this knowledge and practice into context for the needs of the specific country. An example of this is NWP's current LIMA work with partners at the sub-regional level, where they are identifying knowledge gaps and the actionable steps to address these.
- Ms. Rajabali closed by reiterating the importance of the recent IPCC report, which addresses the need to ensure that the most vulnerable are supported and protected.

“In order to build a successful climate adaptation strategy, we need climate policy and real-world action bridged with financing.”

Breakout Sessions

To facilitate interaction between, and engagement among, attendees at the 8th EbA Knowledge Day, there were 2 rounds of breakout sessions. Each round held 3 sessions in parallel, for a total of 6 sessions: the first round focused on breaking down sectoral siloes and learning from other sectors and the second-round dove into the long-term sustainability of EbA.

ROUND 1: Breaking down sectoral siloes and learning from other sectors

- 1** Synergies between biodiversity and climate policy frameworks
Host: GIZ
- 2** EbA in humanitarian contexts
Hosts: FEBA-PEDRR-EHAN working group on Nature-based Solutions in Humanitarian Contexts
- 3** EbA in infrastructure and engineering
Hosts: GIZ and Green-Gray Community of Practice

ROUND 2: Long-term sustainability of EbA

- 4** Integrated long-term strategies on mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation
Host: GIZ
- 5** Just transition and resilience: Climate justice
Hosts: GIZ and FAKT
- 6** Innovative financing for EbA: Engaging the private sector in EbA planning and implementation
Hosts: IUCN and GIZ

Round 1: Breaking down sectoral siloes and learning from other sectors

1. Synergies between biodiversity and climate policy frameworks

Full session available [here](#)

Hosted by: GIZ

Speakers:

- Elsa Tsoumani, elsa@iisd.net, Editor Earth Negotiations Bulletin, IISD
- Johannes Förster, johannes.foerster@ufz.de, Researcher, UFZ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
- Mathias Bertram, mathias.bertram@giz.de, Biodiversity Expert, GIZ
- Ulrich Kindermann, ulrich.kindermann@giz.de, Advisor on EbA, GIZ

Summary:

- This session looked at linkages between biodiversity and climate change from the perspectives of policy (IISD), science (UFZ), and implementation (GIZ). It presented and discussed current work on better harnessing synergies, e.g. between updated NDCs and a new Global Biodiversity Framework.

Key messages:

- Policy: Legal and policy mechanisms currently exist to support synergies between the CBD and the UNFCCC, and enable coordinated implementation of climate and biodiversity commitments. Mechanisms and opportunities for synergies at the international level include CBD negotiations on the GBF, UNFCCC work under the NWP and the LCIPP, Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions
- Science: Climate change and biodiversity loss are global security issues: their negative impacts undermine many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), challenging the stability of states and societies: Science–policy processes that bring together actors with different knowledge on climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development can support the co-creation and implementation of more coherent policies and actions from the local to the global scale.
- Implementation: Nature-based Solutions (NbS), building on existing concepts (such as EbA) in various ecosystems, with and for people, with clear definition (UNEA 5), safeguards, criteria and standards (e.g. IUCN, etc) are key for wide-scale implementation, avoid misuse, ensuring quality and credibility and multiple benefits. Reorganising governance processes (rules, practices, policies and institutions for decision making) is at the heart of the transformative action required to solve the climate and biodiversity crises
- Lessons learnt from the NDC update process can be drawn not only for the next NDC update – but for the next “update process” – which will be the update on National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAP) after a new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is adopted. EbA approaches in NDC can build the bridge between climate and biodiversity frameworks

2. EbA in humanitarian contexts

Full session available [here](#)

Host: FEBA-PEDRR-EHAN working group on Nature-based Solutions in Humanitarian Contexts

Speakers:

- Annika Min, annika.min@iucn.org, Programme Associate, EbA, IUCN
- Verónica Ruiz Garcia, Veronica.RUIZ@iucn.org, Programme Manager, EcoDRR, IUCN

Summary:

- This breakout session showcased and facilitated an interactive dialogue on the working group’s efforts to transform humanitarian action through the integration of nature-based solutions as a key component and strategy for achieving humanitarian objectives and climate resilience.

Key messages:

- EbA can contribute cost-effective and durable solutions that build resilience and provide multiple benefits for humanitarian outcomes.
- Funding, guidance, policy advocacy, capacity-building, knowledge and evidence generation, and cross-sectoral collaboration are needed to integrate EbA into humanitarian action.
- The timelines of EbA approaches and humanitarian action must be aligned to support implementation and achieve short-, medium-, and long-term benefits.

3. EbA in infrastructure and engineering

Full session available [here](#)

Hosts: GIZ and [Green-Gray Community of Practice](#)

Speakers:

- Emily Corwin, ecorwin@conservation.org, Director of Nature-based Engineering Solutions, Conservation International
- Ellis Penning, ellis.penning@deltares.nl, Aquatic Ecology and Nature-based Solutions Expert, Deltares
- Katherina Schmidt, katharina.schmidt@giz.de, Advisor on Climate Services for Infrastructure, GIZ

Summary:

- Hybrid EbA solutions like green-gray infrastructure, hold incredible promise as a climate adaptation solution, but accepted norms and engineering standards are a key barrier limiting applications. How can we provide information about nature-based solutions performance in the absence of standards? One pathway forward is to collaborate across disciplines and geographies to create 21st century engineering guidelines and data sharing mechanisms for our 21st century challenges. The session speakers shared first-hand experiences with these challenges and discussed potential solutions to addressing the problem in a joint discussion round with all participants.

Key messages:

- Green-grey measures such as hybrid EbA approaches are key for climate resilient development. However, the perceived complexity and the lack of institutionalized norms and engineering standards are hindering them to reach their full potential. a. A mix of approaches is needed to address this challenge. Specific guidelines to “green the grey” by mainstreaming green, systems-thinking approaches into existing grey standards, guidelines and protocols is one way to get there. Here GIZ is working on developing a protocol that mainstreams systems-approaches and EbA into climate risk assessments for grey infrastructure, the so called PIEVC-Green.
- Another proposed approach is creating a 21st Century Engineering Guideline – an international resource for how to design, build, monitor, measure, maintain and adaptively manage nature-based engineering solutions that closes and shortens the feedback loop between discovery, application, and advancing practice while giving engineers and regulators access to information to increase confidence and outcomes.
- The majority of session participants agreed that a Natural Infrastructure Engineering Hub would be new, useful, and potentially helpful – while some identified the risk of duplicating existing resources – and they would participate in creation and data-sharing required for this "modern engineering guideline". Paramount to any successful green-gray project is system-understanding and that inclusion of knowledge on natural processes and ecosystem dynamics is of crucial importance.

Round 2: Long-term sustainability of EbA

4. Long-term visions for climate and biodiversity, and the potential role of EbA

Full session available [here](#)

Host: GIZ

Speakers:

- Carolina Useche, Coordinator of the Long-Term Climate Change Strategy in Colombia, Expertise France
- Nuraeni Tahir, Head of sub-directorate of climate change adaptation tool development, D. Ministry of Environmental and Forestry Ministry of Environment and Forestry Indonesia
- Muhammad Semambo Kasagazi, Principal Climate Change Officer Adaptation, Ministry of Water and Environment Uganda
- Roziya Kirgizbekova, Advisor on Long Term Strategies, GIZ

Summary:

- This session looked at "long term strategies" (LTS) in which countries outline their visions for 2050, often focused on mitigation. The examples of countries linking adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development beyond 2030 in their long-term strategies are Indonesia, Colombia and Uganda

Key Messages:

- Colombia's LTS is based on two main principles: Nature-based Solutions to achieve carbon neutrality through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and climate resilience by increasing socio ecosystems health. Colombia will not achieve carbon neutrality if it doesn't focus on adaptation measures and strategies at the same time. Mitigation and adaptation goals are blended, not considered in isolation.
- Uganda's LTS envisions "A climate resilient and low-carbon society by 2050, that is prosperous and inclusive". The two processes of NDC update and LTS development were run concurrently to ensure alignment between the two national climate action plans. The development of Uganda's LTS undertook a whole of government and society engagement through a sector-wide approach
- Linking mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity conservation/restoration and sustainable development requires "integrated" long-term visions, i.e. net-zero, climate resilient and nature-positive development strategies. Such long-term strategies can provide the foundation for a transformation to clean and sustainable economies, healthy ecosystems and human prosperity.

5. Just transition and resilience: Climate justice

Full session available [here](#)

Hosts: GIZ and FAKT

Speakers:

- Moderator: Erinda Pubill Panen, GIZ Advisor for the Global Project Mainstreaming EbA
- Christine Lottje, christine.lottje@fakt-consult.de, Climate change, rural development and stakeholder engagement Expert, FAKT Consult
- Kathryn Bimson, Kathryn.bimson@iucn.org, Programme Officer, Water, Wetlands and Nature-based Solutions for Climate, IUCN Asia

Summary:

- Moving from traditional adaptation pathways, the global agenda is transitioning to greener and more systemic approaches with an emphasis on climate resilient development. Here, the role and potentials of ecosystem-based adaptation are many-fold. However, for it to be effective, any adaptation measure needs to ensure it is equitable and just. Picking up on the discussions on human rights in the context of nature-based solutions, this session provided an overview of the state of knowledge around justice-based EbA. To put the theory into context, an example intervention was shared that highlights the process of working with local wetland communities IUCN's Mekong WET project.

Key messages:

- In the international context, climate justice and the needs and rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples are gaining attention and are increasingly included in international frameworks, standards and safeguards. But despite significant progress there are still challenges and loopholes in EbA implementation.
- Participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessments, facilitating a community planning process, capacity building and citizen journalism combine important elements of climate justice in practical project implementation in the Mekong context. Finding the right timing for such processes seems to be key.

- Meaningful community participation needs time and flexibility. The Mekong Wet project has made good experiences, including a planning phase at the beginning of the project or a small grants scheme for EbA plans that are developed from the community assessments.

6. Innovative financing for EbA: Engaging the private sector in EbA planning and implementation

Full session available [here](#)

Host: IUCN and GIZ

Speakers:

- Moderator: Wendy Atieno - Programme Officer, EbA, at IUCN
- Dorothee Herr - Manager, Oceans and Climate Change at IUCN
- Nicolas Pascal - Executive Director & Co-Founder of Blue Finance
- Alcides Andrade - Executive of Financial Institutions and Strategic Programs at the Central American Bank for Economic Integration
- Celia Harvey - lead author of the report on “Harnessing Nature to build Climate Resilience: Scaling up the use of Ecosystem-based Adaptation”
- Mirella Gallardo is co-director of Instituto de Montana in Peru

Summary:

- With financing and investment being some of the main challenges to mainstreaming EbA, the session aimed to: (i) explore the landscape for business engagement in EbA, focusing on the identified barriers for a transformative shift; and (ii) discuss innovative solutions and opportunities for their adoption at scale. Experts from around the world shared their experiences on the topic, whilst the session also provided room for a thorough discussion.

Key Messages:

- The rate and scale of implementation of EbA falls below its potential: A lack of finance is the most significant and most encountered obstacle preventing the scaling up of EbA. Private sector funding can provide vital resources to scale up EbA and NbS, but private finances are not a silver bullet. Cooperation with governments is still strongly required, supported by public policies in order to activate private sector investment. In addition, blended finance from the public and private sector through the use of concessional or grant funding to leverage commercial finance can attract other players to invest in NbS and EbA solutions.
- EbA and NbS should be articulated in a language that the private sector can understand. This includes KPIs to measure impacts vis-a-vis adaptation benefits, and the use of data to capture costs and benefits of investment. In addition, projects have to be bankable and should be financially sustainable to draw private sector finance. Finally, the use of tangible revenue models and inclusion of local partners is important for the success of private sector investment.
- The use of innovative solutions such as green bonds, blue bonds, resilience bonds, debt for nature and other exciting initiatives for business can de-risk and expand EbA investment. EbA in the context of insurance schemes should be integrated as a solution to increase the attractiveness of EbA investment: The insurance sector can provide discounts to clients who use EbA or innovative insurance mechanisms important for adaptation.

Closing Remarks: Harald Lossack, GIZ

Full closing remarks available [here](#)

On behalf of the organisers of the 8th EbA Knowledge Day, Mr. Lossack thanked all participants for their excellent and dedicated contributions and discussions during the breakout sessions. Mr. Lossack reflected on all of the very promising

perspectives shared during the event. He expressed gratitude for the **encouraging contributions from decision makers and practitioners on how to tackle the challenges of cross-sectoral approaches and how to establish synergies between the different communities, break silos, foster innovation, and increase ambition.**

Mr. Lossack reflected on the very rich variety of breakout sessions, which opened new fields for future activities of EbA in humanitarian and conflicts contexts, engineering and infrastructure, long-term visions, as well as climate justice and innovative financing.

Mr. Lossack shared participation related figures from the 8th EbA Knowledge Day, including an extraordinary number of 154 registrations from 32 countries and 70 organisations. Mr. Lossack expressed that these encouraging figures reflect successful mainstreaming and a growing number of actors concerned with EbA. Mr. Lossack asked participants to continue contributing their valuable feedback to the event.

Mr. Lossack concluded by notifying attendees that the virtual conference space including the recording would remain online for another 4 months. Recordings of the event are available on the EbA Mainstreaming project's [YouTube channel](#).

Looking Forward

Many events are still taking place virtually or in a hybrid format due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, though there is no shortage of upcoming events, publications, launches and more related to EbA and NbS. So, a look at 2022:

May	FEBA Members' Meeting – <i>Virtual</i> (Documentation here)
June	Stockholm+50 – <i>Stockholm, Sweden</i> Bonn Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC SB56) – <i>Bonn, Germany</i> UN Ocean Conference – <i>Lisbon, Portugal and Virtual</i>
July	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) – <i>New York City, USA</i>
Nov	UNFCCC COP27 – <i>Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt</i> Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP14) – <i>Wuhan, Hubei, China</i> EbA Community of Practice Workshop – <i>Virtual</i> (Final dates TBD)
Dec	CBD COP15 – <i>Kunming, China</i>

Several new publications are in the works, by members of the EbA Community and FEBA members, including:

From GIZ:

- [Why working with nature pays off: The case for investing in Ecosystem-based Adaptation](#)
- Synergies between adaptation, biodiversity, and mitigation: How EbA can build bridges between NDC and the new Global Biodiversity Framework (*expected September 2022*)
- EbA and Climate Justice

From FEBA:

- [Ecosystem-based Adaptation and the successful implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Jointly hosted by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funded and GIZ implemented Global Project Mainstreaming EbA and IUCN under the Friends of EbA (FEBA) network, EbA Knowledge Days are held each year. The virtual conference will remain available to registered attendees. To learn more, visit www.FriendsofEbA.com and www.AdaptationCommunity.net.