

Friends of EbA

Advancing awareness, understanding and uptake of nature-based solutions for adaptation and resilience

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FEBA
Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation



About

FEBA is a global collaborative network of 100+ organizations with a shared interest in advancing awareness, understanding and uptake of nature-based solutions in adaptation and resilience efforts around the world.

FEBA prioritizes collaboration and knowledge sharing across organizations and sectors, convening the global adaptation community around expert working groups, joint publications, technical workshops, and high-level events, with the belief that by working together we can accelerate global efforts on nature and adaptation.

What Is EbA?

Ecosystem-based Adaptation is a nature-based solution, defined as the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

EbA describes a range of ecosystem management activities, such as the sustainable management of forests, grasslands, and wetlands, that increase resilience of people and the environment to climate change. For example, restoration of coastal mangrove ecosystems can absorb wave energy and storm surges, adapt to rising sea levels, and stabilize shorelines from erosion.

EbA focuses on benefits that humans derive from biodiversity and ecosystem services and how these benefits can be used for managing risk to climate change impacts.





Early development of FEBA

Working Together on EbA

- The term EbA was coined In 2008 at UNFCCC COP14 - following which, many organizations began working separately on piloting EbA approaches In their work.
 - The FEBA network was born as a hub to Improve collective understanding, share experiences and knowledge, accelerate the Implementation of work on the ground, and build a strategic policy Influence around nature and climate adaptation.
 - The inaugural meeting of FEBA was held In June 2015 In Bonn.
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Themes of FEBA:

01

Defining and operationalizing the concept of EbA, and building the evidence base

- defined the first EbA Standards and Qualification Criteria
- created an inventory of EbA tools and case studies
- worked towards the recognition of EbA in multilateral policy frameworks including the UNFCCC, CBD, and UNDRR
- supported the development and review of key EbA publications such as the CBD Voluntary Guidelines on EbA and Eco-DRR
- Advanced general understanding of EbA concept (e.g., Wikipedia page)
- Launched the Guidebook on Monitoring and Evaluation of EbA.

Themes of FEBA:

02

EbA evidence underpins the development of the broader concept and uptake of Nature-based Solutions

- Informed the development of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS with FEBA's preceding EbA Standards and Qualification Criteria;
- Advocated for recognition of NbS in the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework throughout negotiations;
- developed close working partnership with the UNFCCC NWP to support UNFCCC parties on NbS for climate adaptation;
- worked with UNEP and UNDP on guidance for UNFCCC Parties to incorporate EbA into NAPs;
- produced specific guidance on the recognition of NbS into UNFCCC negotiations around both the Global Goal on Adaptation and Loss & Damage.

2022 saw the adoption of a formal UNEA definition on NbS – and the following recognition of NbS at both the 2022 UNFCCC COP27 and within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at CBD COP15.

Themes of FEBA:

03

Supporting cross-sectoral partnerships around nature and climate, and breaking siloes around “who” can use and implement EbA

- Encourages members to not think of EbA as a standalone intervention, but rather as an underlying tool within the context of adaptation and development efforts;
- Collaborating with the Green-Gray Infrastructure Community of Practice to support the integration of EbA into infrastructure planning and development;
- Working jointly with the UNFCCC NWP and TEC on integration of NbS and adaptation technologies;
- Partnership with the PEDRR and EHAN networks on the implementation of NbS in humanitarian & post-disaster contexts, with the upcoming 2023 launch of a Sphere handbook on NbS;
- collaboration with the World Health Organization on integration of nature and climate into the health sector;
- Supporting the development of the strategy and efforts of the Global EbA Fund in financing innovation in EbA.

Convening the adaptation community

- FEBA convenes an annual members' meeting and an annual EbA Knowledge Day, In addition to thematic technical workshops, webinars, and policy engagements throughout the year.
- Produce an Annual Members' Newsletter of events, covering projects, events, and publications.

Facilitating cross-organizational and cross-sectoral collaboration

- FEBA hosts a number of revolving expert working groups on Issues Identified as network priorities. These groups collaborate on producing joint reports, guidance, and events.
- 17 joint publications to date, across a variety of themes.

Influencing Policies on Nature and Climate

- FEBA works to bridge biodiversity and climate agendas in the UNFCCC, CBD, and UNDRR frameworks.
- Direct engagement of UNFCCC and CBD Secretariats, in addition to policy briefs, high-level technical workshops, and strategic events at COPs.
- Integration of adaptation into NbS agenda (e.g. early development of ENACT Partnership)

Improving the Implementation of EbA

- Production of key tools, methodologies, and guidance, such as the EbA Tools Navigator, and the Guidebook on Monitoring and Evaluation of EbA.
- Connecting members on different topics, geographies and themes

FEBA at UNFCCC COP27

FEBA hosted a number of sessions at COP27, working with members and the COP27 Presidency to elevate nature-based solutions for adaptation on the agenda.

FEBA also launched two Issue briefs for the COP27 to Inform the negotiations:

Loss and Damage, Ecosystem Integrity and Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based Solutions and the Global Goal on Adaptation





Upcoming Work: Launch of Sphere Unpacked Guide on NbS

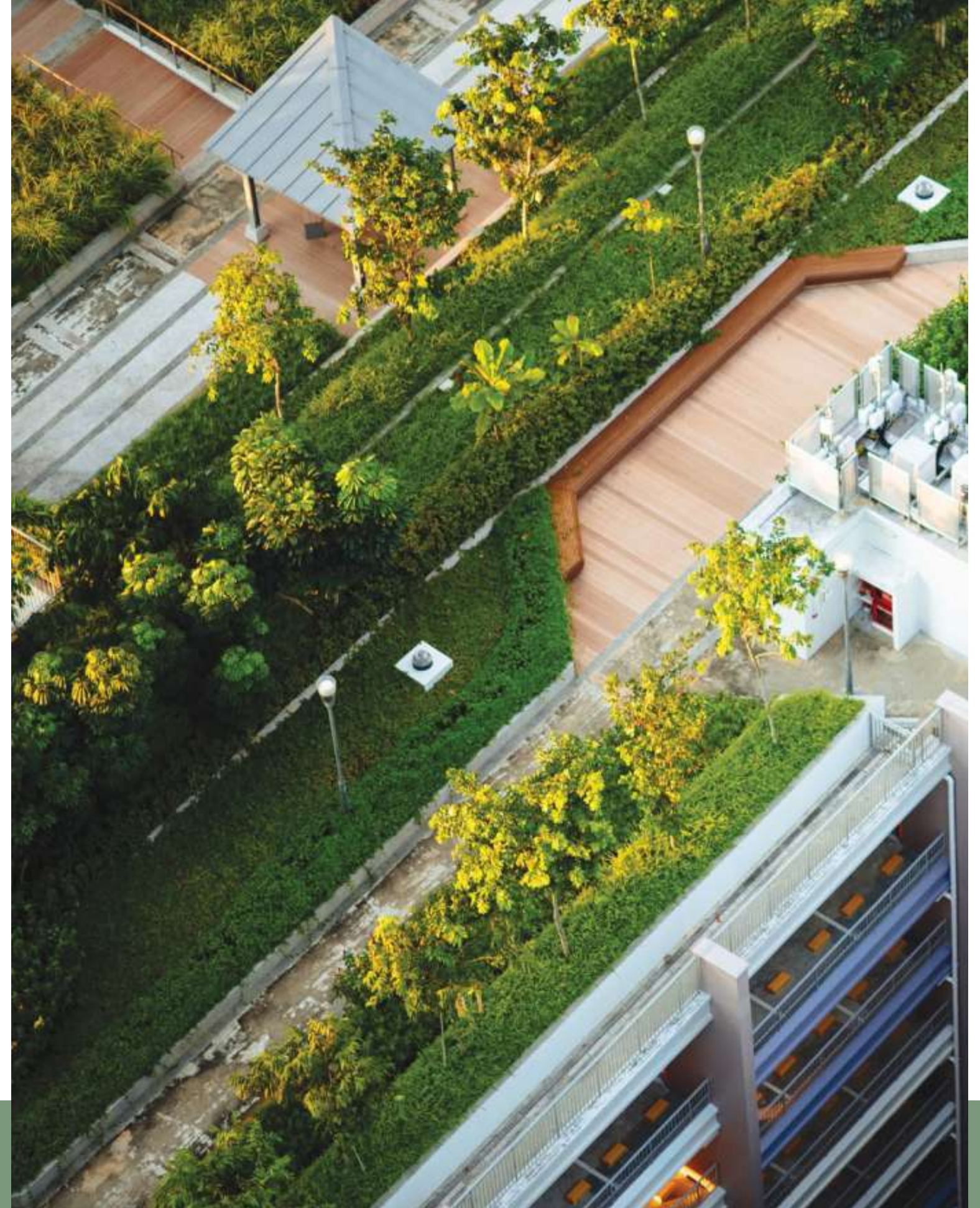
In April 2023 at the Humanitarian Networks & Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) 2023, the FEBA WG will launch the “Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience in Humanitarian Contexts – A Sphere Unpacked Guide”, which Identifies best practices for planning, designing and Implementing NbS In humanitarian efforts.

Sphere Standards are the most widely recognized and utilized humanitarian standards across the globe. They are used to improve the quality and accountability of the humanitarian sector, used as reference tools by humanitarian agencies, advocacy groups, governments, and donors.

Upcoming Work: Policy Brief on Integration of Green-Gray Adaptation In NDCs and NAPs

In collaboration with the Green-Gray Infrastructure Community of Practice, this joint policy brief sets out recommendations to help countries set ambitious green-gray infrastructure goals for adaptation in their national planning, as well as offering strong examples of relevant language across existing NDC

This builds on a history of collaborative work on integrating EbA into infrastructure development, and publications such as the Practical Guide to Implementing Green-Gray Infrastructure and the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee brief on Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solutions.





Upcoming Work: ENACT Partnership on Nature-based Solutions

Launched at COP27, the ENACT initiative aims to accelerate collective global efforts on NbS, serving as a hub for Party and non-state actors to support collaboration and foster an enabling environment for NbS across the Rio Conventions. ENACT is co-chaired by the governments of Egypt and Germany, with IUCN serving as Secretariat.

The ENACT Partnership will build a united, collective narrative of the global value and impact of NbS, including through the publication of an annual State of Nature-based Solutions report for the COP Presidencies.

FEBA played a critical role in the incubation, development and launch of the initiative, and will be facilitating the development and consultation of the State of NbS Report.





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