

Ecosystem-based Adaptation is recognised widely as an important strategy that is cost-effective, yields multiple benefits and can be implemented by communities themselves.

To help build support for EbA approaches in mountain ecosystems, the Scaling-up Mountain EbA Project seeks to benefit local communities directly, as well as millions downstream who depend on the water and other benefits that are derived from mountains. The project does so by

- scaling-up and replicating effective EbA actions;
- building wider support across governments and multistakeholder platforms; and
- facilitating opportunities for financing and supporting EbA within national governments and at international fora.

## Scaling-up Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA): building evidence, replicating success, and informing policy – key achievements

### 1. Targeted countries are becoming champions of EbA



Nepal

“EbA has now spread all over Nepal”.



Perú

“EbA has been integrated not only at the community level, but knowledge has been shared into by-laws, plans and other projects also at regional and national levels”.



Uganda

“In Uganda, the project provided a platform for generating evidence-based information, which helped in the development of several national level programmes”.



Colombia

“In Colombia, different spaces have been organised for discussions about EbA and to share lessons learned”.

### 2. EbA actions in flagship countries have become self-sustaining



Nepal

In the Harpan khola watershed, Nepal, the cultivation of broom grass along roadsides to reduce erosion has socially and financially empowered communities.



Perú

Improved management of grasslands in Miraflores in the Nor Yauyos Cochis Landscape Reserve of Peru brings larger dividends to communities, resulting in community ownership.



Uganda

In the Uganda side of Mt. Elgon, on-farm agroforestry in the micro-catchments of Chebonet and Kaptokwoi rivers has improved food security amongst villagers, resulting in sustainability.

### 3. Integrating EbA into local and national policies and plans, and the global policy arena has been successful



Nepal

4 local plans  
4 national plans



Perú

2 local plans  
1 national plan  
1 national bylaw



Uganda

1 local plan  
2 national plans  
1 law



Colombia

Through the development of an EbA e-learning course in Spanish



Kenya

1 national plan

### 4. In addition to the range of impacts resulting from EbA actions, there also have been some indirect co-benefits



Nepal

In the Chilime watershed of Nepal, bee-keeping to improve livelihoods would have improved the ecosystem service of pollination in an expected 10,400 ha.



Perú

In the Nor Yauyos Cochis Landscape Reserve of Peru, improved management of grasslands has supported the conservation of the globally Vulnerable Andean condor and Taruca.



Kenya

When part of the Ogiek Indigenous Peoples ancestral lands was annexed into the Chepkitale National Reserve, they sued the government in a two-decade long court battle and won in September 2022. IUCN acted as a peacekeeper, building trust between the local government and the community.

### 5. Knowledge shared by countries has supported the development of and networking with other EbA projects to boost the spread of EbA



Nepal

3 projects



Perú

3 projects



Uganda

2 projects



Bhutan

1 project



Colombia

1 project and many others through the development of an EbA e-learning course in Spanish



Kenya

1 project

### 6. Practising adaptive management, critical for EbA projects, where unexpected externalities arise



Bhutan

At the end of 2019, the project was closed abruptly because of unexpected administrative issue, followed almost immediately by the pandemic of COVID-19 and its lockdowns. The global and country teams excelled in adapting actions and re-starting the project after a two-year hiatus. However, for Bhutan, this hiatus was complicated by structural restructuring, which meant continuation of planned work was not possible. The course-correction of work following this hiatus exemplified adaptive management.

Adapted after the hiatus

Planned before 2019

1. Analysis of the policy framework for the EbA (with a focus on water)
2. Site-based EbA dialogues and training in two pilot sites

The project was adapted to support the application of EbA measures in two demonstration sites by the Tarayana Foundation and the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan to

1. support the application of EbA measures in the two demonstration sites
2. develop a technical and policy brief on springshed management
3. carry out a training mission