



Draft Principles and Guidelines for Integrating Ecosystem-based approaches to Adaptation in Project and Policy Design

A Discussion Document

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Introduction



Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation (EbA):

- ✓ 'the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change';
- ✓ 'sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities'.



Principles for EbA



1. Promotes the resilience of societies by using ecosystems:

- ✓ Understands what makes resilient ecosystems and the services they supply;
- ✓ Works with rural communities and vulnerable peoples to create local ownership and resilient local institutions;
- ✓ Ensures that local stewardship enhances livelihoods and ecosystem management.

2. EbA promotes multi-sectoral approaches, and ensure:

- ✓ Collaboration between sectors managing ecosystems and those benefiting from ES;
- ✓ Cooperation across multiple levels and sectors to avoid conflicts;
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder processes.



Principles for EbA



3. EbA operates at multiple geographical scales:

- ✓ Landscape approaches and impact assessments to identify cumulative and indirect drivers of vulnerability;
- ✓ Lessons from integrated approaches for natural resource and ecosystem management;
- ✓ Develop strong and multi-scale linkages, as ecosystems do not necessarily relate to political or administrative units, or to the scale in which the private sector operates.

4. EbA integrates flexible management structures that enable adaptive management:

- ✓ Decentralized management to the lowest appropriate level to foster greater efficiency, effectiveness, equity and ownership, as advocated by the Ecosystem Approach;
- ✓ Addressing the lack of resources at these levels of management to ensure ecosystem processes and services are not adversely affected;
- ✓ Enabling local institutions to be key actors in adapting planning;
- ✓ Sustainable, long-term monitoring systems.



Principles for EbA



5. EbA minimizes tradeoffs and maximizes benefits with development and conservation goals to avoid unintended negative social and environmental impacts

- ✓ Participatory planning, recognizing the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable;
- ✓ Multiple benefits of EbA channeled to the stakeholders and local communities.

6. EbA is based on the best available science and local knowledge and should foster knowledge generation and diffusion

- ✓ Facilitate networks to ensure that information is updated and provided in usable forms;
- ✓ Best available scientific knowledge and climate modeling used in conjunction with local knowledge;
- ✓ Sharing (complying with FPIC) and incorporating indigenous and local knowledge.



Principles for EbA



7. EbA is participatory, transparent, accountable, culturally appropriate and actively embracing equity and gender issues.

- ✓ Recognize the underlying causes of vulnerability such as power imbalances and entitlements to resources;
- ✓ Focus on equality and the special needs of marginalized social groups and full participation of stakeholders;
- ✓ Vulnerability assessment process and adaptation measures must be gender sensitive;
- ✓ Empower local people as rightful directors of their own future in the face of climate change and development.



Guidelines for designing EbA projects



- ✓ Draft guidelines to be developed into step-by-step guidance
- ✓ Important to establish process
- ✓ Current steps highlight steps sometimes missing in existing adaptation guidelines/guidance
- ✓ If you wish to comment/ be involved – please contact:

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Guidelines for designing EbA projects



1. Prepare project structure;
2. Gather relevant data and expertise;
3. Conduct integrated vulnerability assessments and impact projections with flexible criteria that address the linkages between human and environmental systems;
4. Locate projects within robust national and subnational frameworks to enhance long-term chances of success;
5. Integrate EbA into wider plans for adaptation and wider regional settings;
6. Ensure the sustainability of monitoring and adaptive management.



Guidelines for designing EbA projects



6. **Ensure the sustainability of monitoring and adaptive management**
 - ✓ Ensure sufficient resources for **monitoring** and support adaptive 'learning-by-doing';
 - ✓ Design monitoring systems to cover an **adequate time period** and operate at the most **appropriate scale** to assess project effectiveness and any changes in vulnerability;
 - ✓ Involve local **communities in monitoring** to enhance efficiency, local capacities and overall learning;
 - ✓ Choose **indicators** that reflect resilience of all the components of the human-environment system and their inter-linkages;
 - ✓ Regularly evaluate and adapt the effectiveness of adaptation actions by **using monitoring results**, and use a participatory process; and
 - ✓ Design **knowledge dissemination and learning mechanisms for effective learning**.



Next Steps



- ✓ Assemble team interested in developing principles and guidelines;
- ✓ Expand target audience to different sectors;
- ✓ Adjust principles/guidelines accordingly;
- ✓ Principles to be considered in medium-long term adaptation planning process.



Next Steps



- SBSTA report (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.8) *Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation: Compilation of information* also recommends the following:
 - ✓ Better collaboration between those working on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation to create a pool of expertise;
 - ✓ National adaptation plans and projects recognising the importance of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation (in order to facilitate ‘learning by doing’);
 - ✓ Advances in monitoring;
 - ✓ Find out Parties ‘needs’;
 - ✓ Improve collaboration between Rio Conventions at national level.
- Developing principles/guidelines are important steps to overcoming ambiguity regarding ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation – **is this enough, what else is needed?**