



National Policy, Local Action: Scaling Integrated Approaches to Strengthen Coastal and Ocean Adaptation

October 2021

Outcomes from the virtual event organised jointly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) Network, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) Expert Group on Oceans, and held on 13 October 2021 as an informal SBSTA event as part of the SBSTA Chair lobby in the lead up to the 26th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.



United Nations
Climate Change

TEC

NAIROBI WORK
PROGRAMME

FEBA
Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation





SESSION OVERVIEW

Innovative adaptation approaches that integrate both technology and nature-based solutions are crucial for enhancing the climate resilience of ocean and coastal communities and ecosystems across the world. Such integrated approaches urgently need to be scaled up into national and international institutions and climate strategies, translated from policy into on-ground implementation, and robustly financed to respond to the increasing threats of climate change and to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Integrated adaptation approaches are particularly critical in ocean and coastal settings, where climate change is impacting marine conditions, precipitating sea level rise and coastal erosion, and compounding unsustainable resource use to imperil marine biodiversity and livelihoods.

In this context, UNFCCC TEC, in partnership with the UNFCCC NWP Expert Group on Oceans, IUCN and FEBA, is organising a series of events to explore the main challenges and opportunities for integrating both technology and ecosystem-based adaptation to build the resilience of oceans and coastal ecosystems and communities.

This event, the second of the Technology Day (TD) series on coastal and ocean adaptation, was held as an informal Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) event as part of the SBSTA Chair lobby in the lead up to the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow. Building on the outcomes of the first event, speakers in this session presented and discussed opportunities for uptake and scaling of integrated technological and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, particularly to support countries in formulating and implementing their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

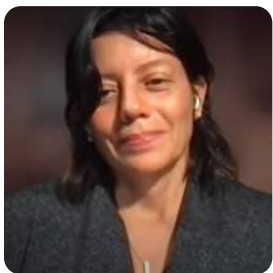
55+
live attendees

View the
Livestream recording

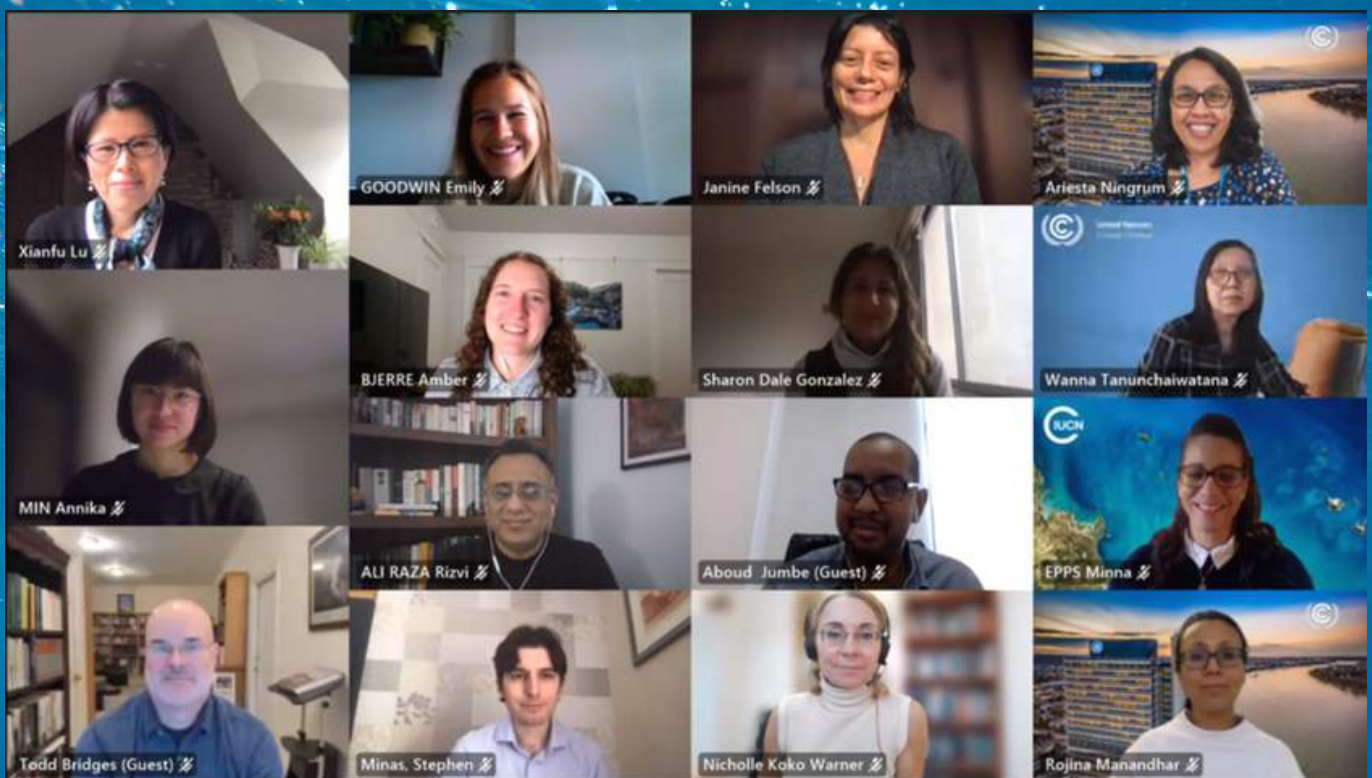
Part of the
Technology Day
event series

INSIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS

Opening remarks from Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Chair of SBSTA, highlighted the accelerating climate impacts indicated by recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. Climate change presents a moving target for adaptation and mitigation and multiple means of implementation – finance, technology, and capacity building are all needed to meet that target.



Dr. Janine Felson, Ambassador of Belize and Enterprise Fellow of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, provided a keynote speech that framed adaptation as a public good and the oceans as a global commons. Dr. Felson emphasised that we can and must work together at all scales on local, regional and global adaptation efforts to improve ocean health and protect critical marine ecosystem services. Beyond the ocean's role as a source of food security, it also acts as a resource for industries and transport, presents a frontier for energy and biomedical research, and holds deep cultural value for local and Indigenous communities. However, the ocean has faced four major threats in the past five years: pollution, fishing, extraction, and human-induced climate change. All benefits from the oceans are at risk and we must act quickly, decisively, and comprehensively to address the interrelated and cumulative challenges to ocean health and climate resilience.



INSIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS

Panellists:

- Sharon Dale González, *Director of Climate Change and Fisheries and Aquaculture Biodiversity of the Production Ministry, Perú*
- Dr. Aboud Jumbe, *Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar, Tanzania*
- Dr. Todd Bridges, *National Lead of the Engineering with Nature (EWN) Initiative and Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science, US Army Corps of Engineers*
- Dr. Xianfu Lu, *Senior Strategy and Outreach Specialist – Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), Climate Investment Funds*

Moderator: Minna Epps, *Director, Global Marine and Polar Programme, IUCN*

The panel of four distinguished speakers discussed opportunities to develop and implement inclusive and sustainable solutions through cross-sectoral collaboration at local, national, regional and global scales. Panellists highlighted the urgency of national policy – including NDCs and NAPs – as well as financial investment focused on nature-based and technological adaptation solutions that integrate climate, biodiversity, and blue economy needs. Speakers emphasised that to scale up support for and implementation of innovative approaches, we need to address real and perceived risks; coordinate synergies between climate, biodiversity and development finance; and expand communication of and knowledge transfer around nature-based and integrated solutions.



Closing remarks from Stephen Minas, Chair of the UNFCCC TEC, framed this as a critical time for the ocean-climate nexus, not least in the context of the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow. Minas emphasised the network of solutions we need for climate change adaptation and expressed appreciation for the collaboration between the UNFCCC TEC, NWP, IUCN, and FEBA.



INSIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS

"When developing policy instruments for adaptation to climate change, It is essential to promote and encourage greater international cooperation for the exchange of knowledge to achieve more effective objectives at the global level."

- Sharon Dale González, *Director of Climate Change and Fisheries and Aquaculture Biodiversity of the Production Ministry, Perú*



"Going forward, the opportunity is for agencies [within governments] to learn how to partner with each other, to combine or integrate their authorities and mandates and missions to produce systems-scale, multi-purpose solutions. That is really going to energise our ability to implement these integrated nature-based solutions with conventional approaches."

- Dr. Todd Bridges, *National Lead of the EWN Initiative and Senior Research Scientist for Environmental Science, US Army Corps of Engineers*

"With the rapid development of technologies – particularly those of a digital nature, the very rapidly growing knowledge and experience of nature-based solutions, and the growing interest from the capital market in nature-positive investments, we have a great opportunity. But to grasp that opportunity we need to harden our resolve in pursuing ultimate long-term resilience while maintaining an open mind to learn from and collaborate with each other."

- Dr. Xianfu Lu, *Senior Strategy and Outreach Specialist – PPCR, Climate Investment Funds*



INSIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS

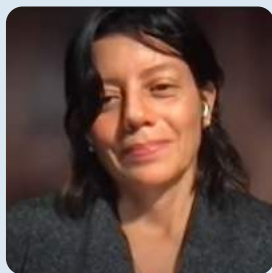


"It is important to engage global and regional environmental program dynamics. At the same time, it is also important for us as countries to look inward and say, how can we transform what is happen at the global and regional level to the local level? It's about time that these efforts are done in a cross-country, cross-oceanic, cross-sectoral aspects of multilateral engagement."

– Dr. Aboud Jumbe, *Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Zanzibar, Tanzania*

"The continually evolving challenge of both mitigating and adapting to climate change creates a moving target—that means that business-as-usual application of technologies will not be sufficient to achieve the commitments of the Paris Agreement."

– Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, *Chair of SBSTA*



"The ocean itself is a global common whose health is at risk, but we can work collectively through local, regional and global adaptation networks to improve the ocean's health and reverse current trends."

– Dr. Janine Felson, *Ambassador of Belize and Enterprise Fellow of the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute*

"When it comes to the ocean-climate nexus, these are times for making history. ... This collaboration between TEC, Nairobi work programme, IUCN and FEBA has been a significant step forward in addressing the challenges ahead."

– Stephen Minas, *Chair of the UNFCCC TEC*



KEY OUTCOMES

Adaptation to climate change is a crucial public good that is of universal interest to diverse stakeholders across coastal regions and the commons of the oceans. To meaningfully strengthen the climate resilience of ocean and coastal solutions, adaptation solutions that integrate technology and nature-based approaches are urgently needed and require coordination of policy, finance, and implementation across local, national, regional and global scales. In the session, speakers discussed opportunities for overcoming key barriers to scaling integrated adaptation approaches.



1

Cross-sectoral solutions, knowledge, partnerships, and investments must be used to strengthen the means of implementation for integrated adaptation approaches.

Adaptation success depends on the capacity of systems – economies, infrastructure, ecosystems, societies – to deal with environmental change. Climate adaptation, biodiversity, blue economy and development initiatives must be integrated to achieve post-COVID-19 economic recovery while anticipating the changes in the coming decades. Ecosystem restoration, traditional and local knowledge, and technologies – such as those in early warning systems and monitoring – can be combined to develop practical, sustainable strategies that include the full participation of local communities and other diverse stakeholders.

2

Scaling up integrated climate adaptation demands global vision and collaboration between stakeholders at all geographic scales.

Coordinated international knowledge sharing can support the capacity strengthening, access to tools, and policy development that individual countries need to achieve national objectives, reach targeted groups, and contribute to common global goals. Within national governments, institutional change and cross-agency collaboration can combine various agency mandates, missions and resources to facilitate the implementation of system scale solutions that integrate nature-based solutions and conventional approaches. Local governments are key to unlocking the scale and space needed for integrated solutions through land use planning, as well as for critical pilot projects that bring diverse stakeholders together and promote learning by doing.

3

Public, private and blended finance can play a crucial role in de-risking investment in hybrid adaptation approaches and enable flexibility in implementation.

The upscaling of climate adaptation finance for integrated approaches must overcome key barriers to investment in nature-based approaches, including real and perceived risks, differing time frames, and uncertainty over the value proposition. The public sector can strengthen enabling conditions by engaging local financiers and banks, addressing concerns over risk, providing guarantees, and familiarising them with new approaches. The private sector can be incentivised to support integrated adaptation projects by engaging in risk reduction, demonstrating their value (e.g. through pilot projects), and translating ecosystem services into company modelling and processes.



NEXT STEPS



The **COP26 event recording** is available from *Nature4Climate*.

The next joint event on this topic took place on 8 November 2021 from 11:00 – 12:30 GMT. The session, *The Best of Both Worlds: Uniting Adaptation Technologies and Nature-based Solutions to Enhance Coastal and Ocean Resilience*, was held as a Nature+ Zone Pavilion side event to the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow. Building on the concluded joint event series, the organisers are developing a policy brief on integrated adaptation solutions.



To learn more about the event series, visit:

[FEBA Events](#)

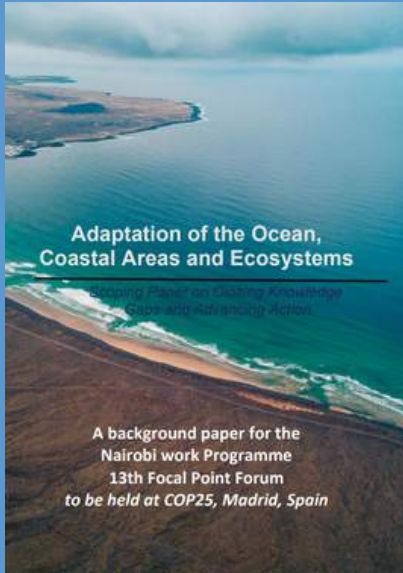
[Technology Day Events](#)



Follow organisers on Twitter for insights and updates:

FEBA: [@FriendsofEbA](#)

NWP: [@AdaptXChange](#)



HIGHLIGHT

Adaptation of the Ocean, Coastal Areas and Ecosystems: Scoping Paper on Closing Knowledge Gaps and Advancing Action UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

This [scoping paper](#) contains a partnership dialogue on the adaptation knowledge gaps in relation to the ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves as well as slow onset events. The paper identifies nine knowledge gaps across biophysical, economic, social and technical ocean issues, including in the realms of nature-based solutions, technology and innovation.



LEARN MORE

TEC

The Technology Executive Committee (TEC) is the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It focuses on identifying policies that can accelerate the development and transfer of low-emission and climate resilient technologies. The TEC and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) form the Technology Mechanism, which also serves the Paris Agreement.

TECHNOLOGY DAY

“Technology Day” (TD) is a series of events taking place in 2020 and 2021 whose objective is to promote innovative approaches to deploy, disseminate and scale up adaptation technologies in various key sectors.

NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

Oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves are amongst the priority areas under the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), the UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub for adaptation and resilience. The NWP expert group on the ocean has worked together since 2019 to find synergies to strengthen adaptation knowledge networks and address support of specific knowledge needs for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), while also collaborating with the constituted bodies under the UNFCCC process.

FEBA

Friends of EbA (FEBA) is a global collaborative network of 90+ agencies and organisations involved in Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) working jointly to share experiences and knowledge, to improve the implementation of EbA related activities on the ground, and to have a stronger and more strategic learning and policy influence on EbA. FEBA works to synthesise multi-stakeholder knowledge on EbA; disseminate this knowledge by convening the global EbA community around high-level events, technical workshops, and expert working groups; and raise awareness and understanding of EbA in adaptation planning processes and multilateral policy frameworks. The CBD COP recognizes FEBA as a key partner “to support Parties in their efforts to promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation” (Decision 14/5).



The Global Green-Gray Community of Practice is a collaboration across the conservation, engineering, finance, and construction sectors to generate learning and innovation to achieve climate adaptation benefits for communities, their future generations, and biodiversity. The multi-disciplinary Community of Practice has grown to over 100 member organizations spanning the globe, representing non-profit, academic, government and private organizations. The Community of Practice is working to: share ideas and facilitate collaboration; innovate and pilot new approaches; expand science, engineering, and policy activity; and implement and learn from projects in a multitude of geographies and settings.