



Joint Statement on:
Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction:
Scaling up EBA investments that reduce disaster risk and catalyze
social, economic, and environmental dividends

CBD CoP 13 Climate Change Day
6 December - Rio Pavilion
17:00 – 18:30

The United Nations Development Programme, European Commission, and Ramsar Convention Secretariat:

Recognize the importance of:

- mainstreaming and prioritizing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) investments that assist with adaptation to climate change, reduce disaster risk (DRR) and catalyze social, economic, and environmental dividends across multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- gathering and disseminating evidence on the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of EbA-DRR work, including South-South sharing of good practices across regions and ecosystems.
- leveraging partnerships that bridge the biodiversity, climate change, and disaster risk reduction communities, and encourage scaling up of successful EbA-DRR approaches across sectors.
- increasing EbA-DRR awareness through COPs and events such as World Wetlands Day on 2 Feb 2017.

Recognize the key findings and recommendations derived from country programming; and highlighted through such networks as Friends of EbA, the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), and the Synthesis Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change on Experiences with Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and DRR;¹

Highlight in particular the following key points from the Synthesis report:

EbA and Eco-DRR are flexible and cost-effective strategies that deliver multiple development benefits including contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, improving livelihoods, enhancing food and water security and reducing poverty of vulnerable groups dependent on nature.

It is therefore crucial that EbA and Eco-DRR approaches are fully integrated into strategies on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. EbA and Eco-DRR strategies do not replace traditional DRR and climate change adaptation measures, but can complement them.

Making the economic case for investment in EbA and Eco-DRR based on systematic analyses and evidence of their effectiveness is critical. Economic valuation can illustrate the benefits and costs of EbA and Eco-DRR measures, while other approaches can assess non-monetary cultural and spiritual benefits.

¹ [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/2](https://www.unep.org/cbd/sbstta/20/inf/2).

Need for better integrating of EbA and Eco-DRR into Policy and Planning through effective mainstreaming into policy and practice at all levels and across sectors. Mainstreaming of EbA and Eco-DRR into national plans, strategies and targets is already occurring, as evidenced through submitted national NBSAPs, NAPAs, disaster management plans, development policies and drought relief policies.

Need for an integrated approach and more effective coordination and engagement mechanisms: For the EbA and Eco-DRR interventions to deliver multiple benefits they have to be well designed and implemented. This requires greater engagement between the scientific, biodiversity management, adaptation, development and disaster reduction communities, as well as between engineers, practitioners, local and indigenous communities, civil society and the private sector.

Participation of indigenous peoples and local communities is often promoted as a guiding principle of EbA and DRR implementation: EbA and Eco-DRR initiatives should ensure prior and informed consent, as well as ensure that gender is mainstreamed in adaptation and DRR planning and implementation.

Capacity building and awareness raising on Eco-DRR and EbA is needed to their implementation and national mainstreaming efforts. Mechanisms for promoting and sharing knowledge need scaling up and linked to policy-makers. Existing knowledge platforms, such as the UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme, the Paris Committee on Capacity Building, [NBSAP Forum](#) and [BES-Net](#), should continue to be used.

Harnessing synergies between MEAs - Strong coordination between focal points for MEAs such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNFCCC and CBD can help to enhance the synergies between the relevant MEAs.

The United Nations Development Programme, European Commission, and Ramsar Convention Secretariat call on all Parties, other governments, and partner organizations to promote and operationalize the key points outlined above. Looking forward, our focus will remain on protecting ecosystems, demonstrating the multiple benefits of EbA-DRR approaches, integrating EbA into planning and policy at all levels and building the global and economic case for EbA, including innovative approaches across sectors. This includes sharing lessons from our projects and programmes and scaling up successful EbA and eco-DRR cases, as well as further nature-based solutions. We will continue our advocacy efforts, starting with World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2017 with the theme 'Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction'.

EbA and eco-DRR approaches complement traditional DRR and climate change adaptation measures. To make these tools more widely applied and mainstreamed further into policies, we need to promote and prioritize the development and cross-sectoral use of these approaches, including green and natural infrastructure, natural water retention measures, and nature-based solutions.

At the same time ecosystems themselves are under severe threats and their continued functioning and service provision cannot be taken for granted. Urgent action is needed to maintain and restore the integrity of ecosystems so that they can provide their wide range of goods and services to people and advance multiple SDGs, including disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Sources:

SYNTHESIS REPORT ON EXPERIENCE WITH ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/2, 4 FEBRUARY 2016) [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/2](#).

PEDRR: <http://pedrr.org/>

FEBA draft paper on: Qualification and Quality Criteria for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)

FEBA Discussion Paper – Version 1 for Marrakesh (November 10, 2016)

Expert report on nature-based solutions (2015): <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/towards-an-eu-research-and-innovation-policy-agenda-for-nature-based-solutions-re-naturing-cities-pbK10215162/>