

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change

Rio Conventions Pavilion, CBD COP 14, Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt

- **Partners:** SwedBio, Friends of EbA (FEBA), GIZ, IUCN, PEDRR
- **Date:** Monday, 26 November, 2018

1. Introduction:

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are an important natural solution to the climate crisis. They offer opportunities for reducing, avoiding and removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, have the ability to strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters and are also critical in the efforts to combat land degradation and desertification. As such, biodiversity and ecosystems are a critical resource for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In fact, actions to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystems, can help countries to achieve their poverty eradication, climate change, disaster risk reduction, land degradation and desertification, and biodiversity goals. A growing number of recent publications show that ecosystem-based approaches (EbA) for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and other nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate change can help countries achieve these goals quickly and cost-effectively.

2. Context:

The NbS day will focus on initiatives considering ecosystem-based approaches and other nature-based solutions for climate change.

At COP 13, the Parties to the CBD recognized that ecosystem-based approaches can be technically feasible, politically desirable, socially acceptable and economically viable and that implementation and investment into these approaches are, in general, increasing at the international and national levels. Decision XIII/4 encouraged Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to integrate ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, into their strategic planning across sectors. More specifically, the COP encouraged "Parties and other Governments, when developing their Nationally Determined Contributions and, where appropriate, implementing associated domestic measures, to fully take into account the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, and to integrate ecosystem-based approaches" (decision XIII/4 paragraph 2). The NbS day will also provide a platform for their dissemination and discussion of the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to decision XIII/4, paragraph 10. The guidelines will be considered for adoption by Parties at COP 14.

3. Objectives:

The events will aim to raise the profile of the work on climate change and biodiversity undertaken in the context of the CBD while showcasing the work being done with different partners. Anticipated outcomes include:

- Discussing the links between biodiversity and climate change, including the role of conservation and restoration of ecosystems for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- Sharing knowledge on, and exchanging experiences with, ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- Providing opportunities to exchange on ways for promoting natural climate solutions in the context of the Paris Agreement (and countries' NDCs) and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Leveraging partnerships to accelerate progress in raising the profile of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services;
- Avoiding duplication and capitalizing on existing work among the organizations specializing in the science and policy of climate change and biodiversity; and
- Enhancing synergies between the Rio Conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

4. Agenda

Time	Event
09:30-10:30	<p>Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity in National Level Policy (<i>SwedBio</i>)</p> <p>The session, based on findings from a series of regional dialogues on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, will provide opportunities for countries to share and exchange experiences with developing and implementing ecosystem-based approaches in national level policies and plans, including their Nationally Determined Contributions. The session will also discuss potential implications for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p>
10:30-12:30	<p>Implementation of EbA and Eco-DRR across sectors (<i>CBD, xx, xx</i>)</p> <p>This event will discuss effective design and implementation of EbA and Eco-DRR, based on information contained in the voluntary guidelines on ecosystem-based approaches and their associated briefs on sectoral integration (e.g. planning and finance, infrastructure, agriculture, health, etc.).</p>
12:30-13:30	<p><i>Lunch</i> <i>(event tbc)</i></p>
13:30-17:30	<p>EbA Knowledge Day on “Biodiversity conservation and infrastructure development - aligning nature-based with engineering-based solutions for disaster and climate resilience” (<i>FEBA/PEDRR</i>)</p> <p>During this event, discussions will focus on the current approaches, opportunities and challenges for aligning biodiversity conservation with infrastructure development in the context of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction both at policy and implementation level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and objectives of the Knowledge Day by IUCN and GIZ (5 minutes) 2. Opening remarks by CBD Secretariat (10 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input on opportunities and barriers for aligning nature-based (green) and engineering-based (grey) infrastructure • Input on Voluntary Guidelines for EbA & Eco DRR esp. on linkages with the infrastructure sector

Time	Event
	<p>3. High level panel (45 minutes) <i>“Strengthening resilience through better alignment of green and built infrastructure – a policy perspective”</i> with inputs and discussion by 3-4 high-level national policy-makers and government officials, and discussion with audience.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Green Spaces & Heatwaves, German Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU) (TBC) 2. E.g. Mangroves & Coastal Infrastructure, Panelist TBC 3. E.g. Wetlands, Urban Planning & Flooding, Panelist TBC 4. E.g. Mountains as Water Towers, Dams and Hydropower, Panelist TBC <p>4. Market place with examples for aligning nature-based with engineering-based solutions for disaster and climate resilience (45 minutes) Light refreshments and EbA + Eco-DRR Market Place by FEBA members, PEDRR partners and other organizations to showcase their initiatives, display posters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EcoShape (WI, Deltares) on Building with Nature (TBC) 2. WWF/GIZ on Integrating Climate Risk, Resilience, and Nature’s Values in Infrastructure Planning (TBC) 3. PANORAMA EbA Solutions from Mountains to Oceans 4. GIZ EbA Valuation Sourcebook 5. xxx <p>5. Technical panel (40 minutes) <i>“Strengthening resilience through better alignment of green and built infrastructure – a practitioner perspective”</i> with inputs and discussion by 3-4 experts from international organizations, and discussion with audience.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mike Beck (TNC) or Glenn Marie Lange (WB) on Storm protection from mangroves and coral reefs (TBC) 2. Pieter van Eick (Wetlands International/EcoShape) on experiences on Building with Nature (TBC) 3. Ryan Bartlett or Shaun Martin (WWF) on Improving Infrastructure Planning to Enhance Social-ecological Resilience in a Changing Climate (TBC) 4. Karen Sudmeier-Rieux (UN Environment) (TBC) <p>6. Group Discussion & Open discussion (30 minutes) Part 1 – Discussion in small groups according to certain perspectives on a better integration of nature based solutions into infrastructure planning (e.g. policy maker, implementer, researcher etc.) & based on “controversial” statements (15 min): Group members will pick 1 predefined controversial statement from a list they do not agree with and discuss within their group why they disagree. The discussion should be linked with a concrete example of their work. The group summarizes up to 3 key recommendations how to better integrate nature based solutions with infrastructure planning.</p> <p>Part 2 - Open discussion in plenary based on “controversial statements” and summarized key recommendations (15 min).</p> <p>7. Concluding remarks by IUCN and GIZ (5 minutes)</p>
18:00-20:00	Evening Reception (tbc)