

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> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tristan Tyrrell (SwedBio) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kotchikpa Okoumassou (Government of Togo) • Marie-May Muzungaile (Government of Seychelles) TBC • Paul Kipyegen Chepsoi (Endrois Community, Kenya) • Oscar Guevara (WWF-Colombia) TBC
10:30-12:30	<p>Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches for Climate Change Adaptation (EbA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) across sectors</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening and overview presentation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of EbA and Eco-DRR (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Janishevski (CBD) 2. Short overview of opportunities for EbA and Eco-DRR within sectors (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian Sector (Verónica Ruiz – IUCN) • Spatial Planning in Land- and Seascape (Arno Sckeyde – GIZ) • Forestry Sector (Oscar Guevara – WWF) 3. Advocating for ecosystem-based approaches within sectors - Break-out group discussion (45 minutes) <i>How to support decision makers and practitioners to more efficiently and effectively advocate for EbA and Eco-DRR within sectors.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group, representing one sector (Humanitarian, Spatial Planning and Forestry), will be asked to develop messages that could be used to get the attention of decision makers and practitioners and convince them to consider, integrate and make use of EbA and Eco-DRR? (Identifying 3-4 key points). 4. Report back from groups and discussion (30 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronica Lo (CBD Moderator) 5. Final remarks and Closing (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Janishevski (CBD)
12:30-13:30	Lunch

Time	Event
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”</p> <p>‘Hard’ or engineered approaches have been by far the most common way to reduce climate and disaster risks. However, these approaches tend to address single hazards, risking increasing vulnerability in the long-term by not considering future and multiple climate hazards. There is growing support for integrating ecosystem-based or hybrid approaches into infrastructure planning as evidence of their effectiveness and their potential for generating multiple benefits.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathias Bertram (GIZ) & Angela Andrade (IUCN) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Janishevski, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • Sandra Müller-Volk, German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) • Tom Wilms, Witteven+Bos / EcoShape, the Netherlands • Thora Amend, Conservation & Development, Germany • Oscar Guevara, World Wide Fund for Nature, Colombia (WWF) • Mahlodi Tau, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and objectives of the Knowledge Day by IUCN and GIZ (10 minutes) 2. Opening remarks by CBD Secretariat (20 minutes) <i>Opportunities and barriers for aligning nature-based (green) and engineering-based (grey) infrastructure based on the Voluntary Guidelines for Ecosystem-based Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction</i> 3. Panel Session (90 minutes) <i>Strengthening resilience through better alignment of green and built infrastructure – opportunities & barriers for strengthening ecosystem-based approaches into policies, planning and practice</i> 4. Market place (45 minutes) <i>Practical examples of nature-based solutions and better alignment with engineering-based solutions for disaster and climate resilience</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction and elevator pitches for market place - Open exchange among participants - Short reflections on market place take-aways 5. Interactive expert dialogue with participants (60 minutes) <i>How to better integrate nature-based solutions into infrastructure planning (e.g. policy maker, implementer, researcher etc.)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group discussion based on ‘controversial’ statements - Open discussion in plenary - Take away messages for UNFCCC COP24, Poland 6. Concluding remarks & take away messages for UNFCCC COP 24 (15 minutes)