

Making Ecosystem-based Adaptation effective – A framework for defining qualification criteria & quality standards

About the FEBA partnership

The Friends of EbA (FEBA) group is an informal network of over 30 organisations with an interest in promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing on Ecosystem-based Adaptation through joint events and initiatives, as well as the development of position papers and technical documents on EbA. This document is an output of the FEBA Working Group on EbA Standards & Guidelines.

Key messages



Ecosystem-based Adaptation as a nature-based solution links **biodiversity and ecosystem conservation approaches with sustainable socio-economic development as part of an overall adaptation strategy**. EbA is gaining significant importance in the context of climate change (UNFCCC Paris Agreement, NDC, NAP) & biodiversity conservation policies (CBD Strategic Plan 2011–2020, Aichi targets).



A **common understanding** among policy makers and practitioners about **what qualifies as EbA** is relevant, to avoid incorrect re-packaging of “business-as-usual” conservation or development approaches.



This **practical assessment framework** is based on a review of more than 30 publications; it helps designing, implementing and monitoring **effective EbA measures** by proposing a **clear set of qualification criteria, quality standards and example indicators**.



The Friends of EbA network (FEBA) encourages decision makers and practitioners to **use this assessment framework** as a common set of qualification criteria and standards in the context of **implementing EbA** within the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and NDC commitments as well as the national adaptation planning processes.

Assessment framework

Part 1

Part 2

What is EbA?

Ecosystem-based adaptation is ...

- the use of biodiversity and *ecosystem services* ...
- as part of an overall adaptation *strategy* ...
- to help *people* to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

CBD, 2009
(emphasis added)

What qualifies as Ecosystem-based Adaptation?

3 elements

5 qualification criteria

Ecosystem-based Adaptation ...



1 Reduces social and environmental vulnerabilities

2 Generates societal benefits in the context of climate change adaptation

3 Restores, maintains or improves ecosystem health

4 Is supported by policies at multiple levels

5 Supports equitable governance and enhances capacities

20 Quality standards (only 5 illustrated here as examples)

Quality standards	Continuum of EbA quality				Example indicators
	Very strong Yes, short-, medium- and long-term	Strong	Weak	Very weak Very limited or not at all	
1.1 Use of climate information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of information about future climate change used Quality of climate data sources
2.1 Quantity & quality of societal benefits compared to other adaptation options	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity of monetary & non-monetary benefits provided (e.g. income, resource access, reduced risks) Quantity & quality of provisioning ecosystem services (e.g. water, food, fibre), regulating ES (e.g. erosion prevention, extreme event buffering, climate regulation) as well as supporting and cultural ES Extent of physical asset damage or destruction avoided (e.g. <i>Saved Wealth</i> index) Extent of avoided deaths and injuries (e.g. <i>Saved Health</i> index)
3.1 Appropriate scale of management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size of the area (e.g. in ha) under management
4.2 Multi-actor & multi-sector engagement (communities, civil society, private sector)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level or % of civil society engagement in policy discussions Level or % of private sector engagement in policy discussions n of sectors involved n or % of people participating in activities
5.3 Status of indigenous and local knowledge and institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n or % of indigenous or local people represented in the governance structure



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