7th ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EbA) KNOWLEDGE DAY

Overcoming Barriers to Adaptation: Employing Innovative EbA Approaches to Upscale Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

26 May 2021

Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IUCN

FEBA Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) has the potential to provide combined solutions for climate change and biodiversity loss. Leading up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 26 and the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the 7th EbA Knowledge Day created an opportunity to discuss how EbA can be a vehicle to maximize the synergies between climate change and biodiversity agendas.

This EbA Knowledge Day focused on identifying and overcoming key barriers to adaptation planning and implementation through innovation in EbA, including through reaching across sectors and highlighting new approaches and opportunities. The event included remarks by high-level officials, a panel discussion, and in-depth interactive sessions. This documentation and links to recordings will be available on the FEBA and Adaptation Community webpages.

The event was jointly organized by GIZ & IUCN, under the Friends of EbA (FEBA). FEBA is a global collaborative network of more than 90 agencies and organisations working in EbA working jointly to share experiences and knowledge, to improve the implementation of EbA related activities on the ground, and to raise awareness and understanding of EbA in adaptation planning processes and multilateral policy frameworks. The EbA Global Project on Mainstreaming EbA is also supporting an EbA Community of Practice, with an annual EbA Community of Practice Workshop, the next which will be held in November 2021.

450+ registered participants *across* **220** organisations *and* **84** countries

WELCOME BY ORGANISERS

Summary of welcome by
Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN
Full welcome available here

Ali Raza Rizvi, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Programme Manager on EbA, highlighted how much has happened since the last EbA Knowledge Day in 2020: one year ago, everyone was still adjusting to a new normal – sitting in our homes making sense of the various virtual platforms and trying to remain focused in spite of all the associated distractions. Ali mentioned that while many of us are still mostly at home, we are more or less comfortable in this virtual environment now.

However, Ali focused on the fact that this 'new-normal' of meeting virtually has not come in the way of effective performance, especially for knowledge sharing and policy discourse, and is a huge step towards 'greening' the conservation sector. These carbon-friendly processes have surely made these meetings cost-effective, if not totally efficient. And as we return to so-called 'normal' times, there is a need to see how best to return to mostly in-person formats – including putting measures in place to tackle the inevitable consumptive way of business-as-usual.

Ali set the stage for the 7th EbA Knowledge Day: we must reconsider our coping strategies for tackling climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has refocused our attention on holistic, better-integrated solutions – like EbA – to deal with global challenges. This coronavirus has no respect for personal space and does not recognise national or international borders – we are not out of this until everyone is safe.

We need to tackle global issues with global to local actions, prioritizing traditional knowledge, including diverse stakeholders and remaining data-driven and forward-thinking.

Ali concluded by asking: Where are the gaps in policy and knowledge and how do we overcome these barriers to adaptation, now?

WELCOME BY ORGANISERS

Summary of welcome by Harald Lossack, GIZ

Full welcome available here

Harald Lossack, head of the Global Project on Mainsteaming EbA, began his welcome by mentioning how the COVID-19 pandemic has forced yet another event to take place virtually. Despite this rather sad circumstance, there is a silver lining: we will reduce our carbon footprint, while broadening outreach and audience considerably.

As it is widely known, EbA, or Nature based Solutions (NbS) for Adaptation, exists in the context of a broad range of climate change related problems. At its core, EbA concentrates on the protection of people and livelihoods.

EbA does so by focusing on ecosystem conservation, restoration, and sustainable management. EbA measures are often based on known techniques, particularly in the fields of agriculture, forestry, water and landscape management.

The main challenge for effective EbA mainstreaming and implementation lies in the need for building strong political will and backing from the highest level. In order to achieve this, Harald highlighted the need for more exchange on good practices, as well as what could be improved. With the establishment of several exchange formats and platforms, including the EbA Knowledge Day and the EbA Community of Practice (this year to be held second half of November), we are working together in a great variety of knowledge networks. Harald concluded by framing the challenge for the coming months: to build strong advocacy to guarantee full integration of NbS and EbA in the upcoming negotiations of the UNFCCC and the Global Biodiversity Framework. While good steps are being taken, convincing decision makers is still urgently needed.

OPENING REMARKS

Summary of opening remarks by Dr. Philipp Behrens, International Climate Initiative (IKI), BMU

Full opening remarks available here

Dr. Philipp Behrens, Head of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) at the German Ministry of Environment (BMU), highlighted how EbA remains a top priority of BMU-IKI's climate adaptation portfolio and shared how IKI continues to expand its work in EbA. IKI is currently actively promoting upscaling through second-generation EbA projects - that is, shifting from short pilot projects to larger, longer-term projects implemented by diverse consortia well placed on the ground and developing strong alliances with political and strategic partners. He also shared that three new second-generation EbA projects are being initiated focused on EbA in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"'Nature-based solutions for adaptation' is synonymous with 'ecosystem-based adaptation' – and when using these terms it is important to acknowledge that we have over 12 years of evidence, investment, and established understanding and political support for these approaches of working with nature.

"BMU's investments in and the evidence generated from EbA over the last decade have in fact underpinned the development of the very umbrella concept of NbS, catalysing the idea that nature could also contribute directly to solutions beyond adaptation."

Dr. Behrens stressed the importance of knowledge sharing across regions, organisations, and donors is critical for scaling up the uptake of EbA approaches. He also shared that we need to break past our siloes in adaptation and accelerate cross-sectoral collaboration, including by meaningfully engaging with the private sector of the business case for EbA.

He ended by noting that the pandemic provides a window of opportunity to expand EbA and to incorporate EbA into further green recovery initiatives to support a sustainable, resilient, and green recovery.

REPORTS FROM MINISTERS ON OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO ADAPTATION

Full Minister Statements' available here

"It is essential that we will not only enhance the resilience of our communities and territories to climate change, but also reduce and reverse the degradation of our ecosystem - recovering the wealth of our biodiversity."

- Minister Carolina Schmidt, Ministry of Environment of Chile

"In the frame of Peru's bicentennial, we aim to make adaptation a central priority for the country, not only as part of climate management, but of economic development as well, with nature as our main partner."

- Minister Gabriel Quijandria, Ministry of Environment of Peru

"Under the current global emergency situation, it's necessary to promote cost-efficient synergistic actions, such as restoring health in the ecosystems and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. This allows for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in the productive sectors and the participation of the private sector."

- Minister Fernando López, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador

REPORTS FROM MINISTERS ON OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO ADAPTATION

Full Minister Statements' available here

"We recognize the importance of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation approach as a valuable tool to boost environmental protection and conservation, through the creation of productive models that preserve ecosystems and, in turn, foster the country's sustainable and productive development."

- Minister Mario Roberto Rojas Espino, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala

"Guinea Bissau strongly advocates for the necessary support to access to green finance in order to effectively deploy nature-based solutions and ensure the restoration and sustainability of ecosystems."

- Minister Viriato Luís Soares Cassamá, Ministry of Environment and Biodiversity of Guinea Bissau

PANEL ON EMPLOYING INNOVATIVE EbA APPROACHES TO UPSCALE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Full panel available here

The panel discussion, facilitated by Ali Raza Rizvi of IUCN, centered around a diverse set of voices focusing on identifying and overcoming barriers to adaptation planning through innovation – reaching across sectors and highlighting new approaches and opportunities to mainstream EbA. Panelists discussed how to accelerate **cross-sectoral collaboration** in NbS initiatives, including by **building bridges between climate technology and locally led adaptation**.

There was resounding agreement about the need for a **fundamental shift in long-term monitoring and evaluation of EbA interventions**, including the importance of building in **iterative, systemic research and mutual learning beyond the *project* level to a *national* level**. This learning component is critical to not only support adaptive management of initiatives, but also to promote global upscaling and collaboration. Panelists agreed it is critical to look at both EbA successes and failures using this monitoring, evaluation, and mutual learning framework. Dr. Behrens closed the panel by asking EbA Knowledge Day participants to "dare to fail" - to accept failure, learn how to name it, and share the lessons learned to make sure we do not repeat the same mistakes.


Ariesta Ningrum, UNFCCC


Cristina Romanelli, WHO


Dr. Philipp Behrens, BMU-IKI


Dr. Joth Singh, CBF


Moderator: Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN


Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, NASA GISS

TAKEAWAYS FROM EMPLOYING INNOVATIVE EbA APPROACHES TO UPSCALE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Full panel available here

Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS)

It is critical that the planning and implementation of EbA initiatives better integrate climate risk information to successfully create resilience and impactful long term EbA projects, with improved long-term monitoring of ongoing and completed initiatives.

Dr. Rosenzweig noted that EbA interventions can be at risk of the moving target of climate impacts – another reason why it is critical to use the best available climate projects when designing initiatives. EbA is vital – but may only be effective under the lowest levels of warming. We must create synergies between adaptation and mitigation and tackle these two issues concurrently, as they cannot be separated from one another.

Dr. Joth Singh, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)

CBF is designed by the Caribbean for the Caribbean. CBF is a $50 million regional, environmental fund whose mission is to secure continuous conservation funding for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean. Funded projects work to support national policies and build capacity of local organisations to ensure long-term sustainability of EbA interventions.

Key take home messages included that limited data and baselines makes long term M&E difficult – especially when baselines are different project by project, even in the same country. Dr. Singh emphasized the need for strengthening repositories of data within the regions and ensuring equitable access to data. He also emphasised that in the context of green recovery, investments in local groups and communities is at the heart of what builds resilience.

TAKEAWAYS FROM EMPLOYING INNOVATIVE EbA APPROACHES TO UPSCALE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Full panel available here

Ms. Ariesta Ningrum, UNFCCC

Ms. Ningrum shared the work of the UNFCCC in mainstreaming technologies into adaptation planning and supporting technology transfer to developing countries.

A key take home message is that technological and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation should not be separated, but approached in tandem, to work hand in hand to create long-term successes in building resilience. To scale up adaptation approaches, we need innovation in integrated approaches to ecosystem and technology-based adaptation – and ensure such approaches are inclusive, equitable, and don't leave anyone behind.

Dr. Philipp Behrens, BMU-IKI

Dr. Behrens' key take home message is that there is a critical need to catalyze public investment, including more of these cross sectoral engagements. Part of the answer is bringing these different disciplines and sectors into one room. Approaches must address this cross-sectoral collaboration at the planning level and ensure coherence in national level strategies.

Dr. Behrens emphasized that green recovery is not only a climate change issue, but also a biodiversity issue, a health issue, a development issue – among many other issues. Knowledge exchanges and networks (like seen at this 7th EbA Knowledge Day!) are critically important. Dr. Behrens concluded by encouraging participants to work together to see how best to monitor projects, and see lessons learned from other sectors and fields.

TAKEAWAYS FROM EMPLOYING INNOVATIVE EbA APPROACHES TO UPSCALE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Full panel available here

Ms. Cristina Romanelli, WHO

WHO is dedicated to a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19, that better links ecosystems, climate change, and human health and resilience – and catalysing change in a more integrated manner. WHO is deeply involved in supporting countries in climate adaptation planning, including through health, climate change, and vulnerability assessments and supporting the development of health components of NAPs, improving climate resilience of health systems and streamlining financial resources for health and climate change.

Ms. Romanelli's key take home message is that it is **critical to ensure policy coherence across sectors such as health, climate change, and food systems and *implement more coordinated programmes across the ground***.

Success as a global community in tackling interrelated biodiversity, climate, and health challenges hinges on establishing strategic partnerships and policy coherence and alignment at local, national, regional, and global level. A cross-sectoral iterative learning process is critical for a healthy green recovery.

If we're learning from failures, we have faced some catastrophic failures when it comes to our management of ecosystems and how that permeates into tangible human health outcomes. **We have all the right building blocks** – we have more evidence, a greater awareness and a pressing need than any other time in recent history. What we desperately need now, is to **catalyze that political will and to put in place the essential governmental, political, legislative and financial structures** to use these building blocks to **build back greener, to build back better, and to achieve a more just and equitable society**.

INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT ROOMS

To facilitate interaction between and engagement among attendees at the virtual 7th EbA Knowledge Day, there were 2 rounds of breakout sessions. Each round held 5 sessions in parallel, for a total of 10 sessions.

Given that EbA is a cross-cutting approach, these sessions addressed a broad range of topics, thereby encouraging attendees to share their own experiences and/or to learn from fellow participants.

ROUND 1

1. New EbA projects in the BMU IKI portfolio with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean
   Hosts: BMU-IKI and ZUG
2. Subnational EbA implementation Case São Paulo
   Hosts: ProAdapta Brazil and the State of São Paulo
3. EbA Goes Digital: Plans and Needs for the Upcoming Virtual Training Course
   Hosts: GIZ and IUCN
   This session was part of the process to develop a new e-learning course, which will be finalized within the next months.
4. Green Gray Infrastructure
   Hosts: Green-Gray Community of Practice, CI, FEBA and AECOM
5. Long term monitoring of the performance of EbA projects
   Host: NWP Expert Group: Knowledge Gaps

ROUND 2

1. Engaging stakeholders on overcoming EbA barriers through the new Global EbA Fund
   Hosts: UNEP, GAN, IUCN and FEBA
2. Why EbA matters in infrastructure
   Hosts: Eco-Consult and GIZ
   This session was part of the process to develop a new publication on arguments on the effectiveness of EbA, which will be available on Adaptation Community later this year.
3. Integrating the forestry and fisheries/aquaculture sectors in NAPs
   Host: FAO
4. Why Gender matters for EbA
   Hosts: IISD and GIZ
   This session was part of the process to develop a new publication "Toward Gender-Responsive Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: Why it's needed and how to get there", which will be available on Adaptation Community later this year.
5. Biodiversity, Climate, One Health and EbA
   Hosts: EcoHealth Alliance, WHO, IUCN and FEBA

NEW EbA PROJECTS IN THE BMU-IKI PORTFOLIO WITH A FOCUS ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Full session available here

Hosts: BMU-IKI and ZUG
Speakers: Nikola Zug (ZUG)
Eric Philipp (ZUG)
Pilar Lozano-Rivera (TNC)
Hanna Maass (Welthungerhilfe)
Aracely Salazar-Anton (GIZ)

- This session introduced recent IKI EbA projects to the FEBA Community, thereby facilitating exchange of knowledge and experience between the recently started IKI EbA projects and experienced EbA project implementers. The discussion focused on a) the challenges encountered in the project design and the kick-off phase of the projects and b) barriers and opportunities for the development, implementation and mainstreaming of innovative EbA approaches.
- The following three IKI EbA projects from Latin America and the Caribbean pitched their projects as a basis for further exchange on common challenges and promising approaches:

1. Ecosystem-based Adaptation and forest restoration in vulnerable rural communities of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (Welthungerhilfe, CEDAE, Oroverde)
2. Scaling-up Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Measures in rural Latin America (GIZ, IUCN, CATIE)
3. Implementation and Financing of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) by the Food and Agriculture Sector to reduce climate risk and environmental impacts in Latin America (TNC, UFZ; Nestle´, ECLAC)

SUBNATIONAL EbA IMPLEMENTATION: CASE SÃO PAULO

Full session available here

Hosts: ProAdapta Brazil and the State of São Paulo
Speakers: Armin Deitenbach (GIZ)
Jussara de Lima Carvalho (State Secretariat of Environment of São Paulo)
Eduardo Hosokawa (Environment Department of the City of Santos, São Paulo)

- Regarding barriers to EbA adoption, very few subnational and local governments have adaptation plans with EbA.
- There is a need to provide climate change data in a user-friendly form to scale up the development and the implementation of these plans.
- For EbA mainstreaming and scaling up, it is important that adaptation plans with EbA are integrated into other plans.
- International cooperation can provide access to important international experiences and examples that can boost EbA in the country.
- Subnational governments may be larger than many countries in terms of territory and population size, so they, along with local governments, represent an important factor in driving EbA.

EbA GOES DIGITAL: PLANS AND NEEDS FOR UPCOMING VIRTUAL TRAINING COURSE

Full session available here

Hosts: GIZ and IUCN
Speakers: Annika Min (IUCN)
Luise-Katharina Richter (GIZ)

- GIZ and IUCN are collaborating to develop a virtual, self-paced course that provides training on EbA principles, vulnerability assessments, criteria, monitoring and evaluation, communication, implementation and policy, with a focus on cross-sectoral integration (mainstreaming) of EbA. The course will be published by late 2021 or early 2022.
- The course will be targeted to a diverse global audience of practitioners, actors at various scales, university students, and traditional natural resources and conservation actors seeking to integrate EbA in their work.
- To provide the course participants with tools to take the newly gained knowledge back to their respective working environments, it was recommended to include one or multiple sessions on how best to reach out to and communicate with groups that might not have access to the internet or written documents, or might not be able to read them.

GREEN-GRAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Full session available here

Hosts: Green-Gray Community of Practice, CI, FEBA and AECOM
Speakers: Emily Corwin (CI)
Don McNeill (CAT)
Bregje van Wesenbeeck (Deltares)
Will Peterson (AECOM)
Justin Vandever (AECOM)

- Green-gray infrastructure is a type of ecosystem-based adaptation that draws upon the best of our engineering achievements to create hybrid solutions along the infrastructure spectrum.
- To realize more green-gray projects we need to: increase client awareness that green-gray solutions exist, invest in data collection to support green-gray design, create the enabling conditions for engineers to design for uncertainty without judgement, and prioritize green-gray opportunities where ecosystems add much more than aesthetic benefits to project outcomes.
- Any incentives for green-gray projects need to not artificially enable project implementation; projects need to be evaluated and justified based on an accounting of their REAL costs and benefits.

LONG TERM MONITORING OF THE PERFORMANCE OF EbA PROJECTS

Full session available here

Host: NWP Expert Group: Knowledge Gaps
Speakers: Fabrice Renaud (University of Glasgow)
Veronica Lo (Biodiversity consultant, UNFCCC)
Thora Amend (Conservation & Development)
Vositha Wijenayake (SLYCAN Trust)
Mariam Allam (UNFCCC Adaptation Committee)

- Long-term monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programs are essential components of EbA to ensure that the intended benefits of EbA materialize, as many adaptation and societal benefits are only realized beyond typical project implementation time horizons, and are complex to evaluate.
- Beyond evaluating an initiative for its results or performance, M&E for EbA also needs to integrate learning and capacity-building outcomes, including strengthening incentives to report on failures. While this is recognized, it is not currently widely practiced or prioritized.
- Capacity for long-term monitoring of EbA can be increased by strengthening and formalizing partnerships between government entities, private sector and civil society. Participatory and equitable approaches to M&E are key to accounting for the diverse motivations, values, and knowledge systems of different actors.

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS ON OVERCOMING EbA BARRIERS THROUGH THE GLOBAL EbA FUND

Full session available here

Hosts: UNEP, GAN, IUCN and FEBA
Speakers: Lis Mullin Bernhardt (UNEP)
Norah Ngeny (UNEP)
Wendy C. Atieno (IUCN)
Oscar Ivanova (UNEP)
Anna Kilponen (UNEP)

- The Global EbA Fund is a quickly deployable mechanism for supporting scalable innovative approaches to EbA, drawing on the growing momentum behind EbA, and promoting synergies and collaboration with traditional and non-traditional EbA stakeholders.
- Participants were welcomed to take part in the upcoming survey and regional dialogues aimed at collecting and analyzing evidence on EbA barriers and how to overcome these barriers. The survey is available until July 30, 2021.
- Based on inputs gathered during the session, limited access to finances ranked as the most significant barrier to EbA impacting the work of practitioners from the global to the local scale. Various examples of innovative and catalytic EbA initiatives mentioned for further exploration include: forest protection with insurance for vulnerable families ; mainstreaming EbA in local and regional biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation plans among others.

WHY EbA MATTERS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Full session available here

Hosts: Eco-Consult and GIZ
Speakers: Michael Hoppe (Consultant)
Lisa Kirtz (Eco-Consult)

- EbA measures can play an important role to help buildings and infrastructure become more resilient to climate change. Alone or in combination with grey or blue infrastructure, they can serve multiple purposes and bring important co-benefits, including an improvement of quality of live through green recreation areas.
- For convincing actors like construction engineers and urban planners, arguments need to address their motivation and talk their language. Once convinced, these individuals can be great multiplicators among their peers.
- Cost is a decisive factor and analysis should include cost-efficiency and cost of inaction.

INTEGRATING THE FORESTRY & FISHERIES/ AQUACULTURE SECTORS IN NAPs

Full session available here

Host: FAO
Moderator: Julia Wolf (FAO)
Speakers: Alexandre Meybeck (CGIAR)
Dr. Xuechan Ma (FAO)

- Healthy and biodiverse seascapes and landscapes are more resilient. By protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, we can reduce the loss of biodiversity, mitigate and adapt to climate change, achieve food and nutrition security, and create jobs and livelihoods. EbA in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture systems will improve risk management and resilience building while bringing mitigation and other co-benefits.
- The NAP process gives the opportunity to mainstream EbA in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture and strengthen their contribution to national adaptation. It shall be supported: a) by evidence-based knowledge on EbA, and associated monitoring systems, improving understanding on the economic viability and benefits of EbA; b) by appropriate fostering of cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder adaptation planning structures and mechanisms at various levels.
- Designing participatory methodologies for monitoring and for assessing costs and benefits of EbA is essential. This includes methodologies that support decision-makers and practitioners to implement a systems approach to integrating the protection, sustainable management, and restoration of terrestrial and aquatic agroecosystems into the NAPs.

WHY GENDER MATTERS FOR EbA

Full session available here

Hosts: IISD and GIZ
Speakers: Angie Dazé (IISD)
Anika Terton (IISD)

- A gender-responsive approach to EbA is not only the right thing to do; it will improve outcomes from EbA initiatives, build synergies with other objectives, and contribute to more equitable and inclusive governance of natural resources.
- The biggest challenges to integrating gender considerations in EbA work are the existence of a mandate and/or political will and the availability of data.
- The greatest needs for EbA practitioners to adopt a gender-responsive approach are practical guidance and exchange of learning.
- Gender-responsive EbA involves a number of building blocks that include gender analysis, inclusive decision-making processes, and gender-equitable governance of natural resources.

Image Credit: IUCN / MFF

BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, ONE HEALTH AND EbA

Full session available here

Hosts: EcoHealth Alliance, WHO, IUCN and FEBA
Speakers: Catherine Machalaba (EcoHealth Alliance)
Emily Goodwin (IUCN)

- Nature provides crucial health-benefiting ecosystem services, ranging from disease regulation, food and water security, mental health, and more. The anthropogenic drivers and practices linked to degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity are putting people into increased contact with other species in ways that facilitate disease spillover and pandemic risk.
- EbA, and nature-based solutions more broadly, are key to "building back better and greener" in COVID-19 recovery. Specific examples include improved linking of health and ecosystem information for more robust early warning systems, incorporating disease risk into land use planning, and in the design and delivery of biodiversity-sensitive disease risk communication and surveillance efforts.
- Upstream prevention efforts to reduce zoonotic disease risk are largely lacking, with limited involvement of the environment sector to prevent, detect, and respond to disease threats (whether to human or wild animal populations). Case studies, guidance and tools can help to better articulate entry points for the sector for more equitable involvement in One Health approaches, including to minimize trade-offs and promote co-benefits of investments under the SDGs.

CLOSING REMARKS

Summary of closing remarks by Harald Lossack, GIZ

Full closing remarks available here

On behalf of the organizers of the 7th EbA Knowledge Day, Harald Lossack of GIZ thanked all participants for the excellent, meaningful, dedicated, emotional and future orientated contributions and discussions during the virtual event. Harald emphasized that we have clearly seen the growing importance of NbS for adaptation/EbA in the wake of the multiple crises due to climate change and biodiversity loss, affecting all aspects of human well-being.

We heard encouraging contributions from decision makers and practitioners – on how to tackle the challenges of interdisciplinary and cross sectoral approaches and how to overcome existing barriers to adaptation – with inspiring case studies and initiatives – as well as new and, so far unexplored perspectives.

There are challenges for our future work: breaking silos, expanding innovation, increasing ambition, prioritizing healthy ecosystems and societies, validating EbA to integrate mitigation/adaptation/biodiversity related efforts, and more. These considerations have been reflected as well in the very rich variety of break out sessions, opening new fields for future activities. Harald thanked all for encouraging new dimensions for EbA and NbS.

With the 7th EbA Knowledge Day being the largest yet, Harald reflected that this shows a successful mainstreaming and growing number of actors concerned with EbA and NbS, encouraging participants to continue contributing well into the future. Harald concluded by wishing all the best, with hopes that we will see all attendees at the 8th EbA Knowledge Day in 2022!

LOOKING FORWARD

Many events are still taking place virtually or in a hybrid format due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, though there is no shortage of upcoming events, publications, launches and more related to EbA and NbS. So, a look at 2021:

June FEBA Members' Meeting – *Virtual*

IIED's 15th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA15) – *Virtual*

Sept IUCN World Conservation Congress

Oct CBD COP15

Nov UNFCCC COP26

EbA Community of Practice Workshop

Several new publications are in the works, by members of the EbA Community and FEBA members, including:

- From GIZ: new publications on the *Effectiveness of EbA*, *Gender and EbA*, *EbA in Buildings*, and *Ecosystem Soil*.
- From the FEBA Urban EbA Working Group: *Climate Justice for people and nature through urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation: A focus on the Global South*
- From IUCN: *Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience: Mapping Analysis of IUCN's Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience Projects*

The virtual conference space, including all recordings and publications shared by participants, will be available to registered attendees until end of September 2021.

Jointly hosted by the BMU-IKI funded and GIZ implemented Global Project Mainstreaming EbA and IUCN under the Friends of EbA (FEBA) network, EbA Knowledge Days are held each year. To learn more, visit www.FriendsofEbA.com and www.AdaptationCommunity.net.

Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IUCN

FEBA Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Supported by: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag