



IUCN Action Pledge to the Nairobi Work Programme

Background

Founded in 1948, IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic union with more than 1000 government and NGO members. IUCN's work is supported by a global secretariat of 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. As a union, IUCN aspires to play an influential role in the shaping of new global alliances, new ways of thinking, and innovative solutions by linking the conservation with the development communities and enhancing their capacity to influence decisions and actions.

As part of its 2009-2012 Programme, IUCN is working to include biodiversity concerns in adaptation and mitigation policies and practice. The Union is actively involved in climate policy including advising and supporting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant international environmental negotiations. IUCN is also furthering natural resource management strategies that help biodiversity and people adapt to the impacts of climate change.

IUCN wishes to submit this action pledge in response to the call by the UNFCCC Secretariat for organizations outside the UNFCCC to submit action pledges to the Nairobi Work Programme. The Pledge is based on four IUCN initiatives:

- Mangroves for the Future Initiative
- The Water and Nature Initiative
- The Climate Change and Development project:
- Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network ELAN

Overall Objectives

The Action Pledge relates to the thematic area "Adaptation practices and planning" under the Nairobi Work Programme. The Pledge promotes the development and dissemination of methods and tools for assessment and improvement of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)¹ planning, measures and actions, including integration with sustainable development. The Pledge activities include collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on past and current practical Ecosystem-based Adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and use of local and indigenous knowledge. The activities aim to exchange information, facilitate communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society and decision makers and other stakeholders on Ecosystem-based Adaptation.

¹ Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) may be described as the use of ecosystem management activities to support societal adaptation.



Project purpose

The IUCN projects under the Action Pledge have the following objectives:

- 1) Enabling better and more rapid sharing of knowledge and good practices on Ecosystem-based Adaptation by improving connections between scientists, policymakers, practitioners at local and global scales
- 2) Facilitating best practices in Ecosystem-based Adaptation in landscapes where ecosystems and people are most vulnerable to climate change, in particular, aiming for:
 - i. Policies and strategies for adaptation in Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique that also emphasis the role of forests and water resources in supporting people's livelihoods and associated farming systems
 - ii. Conserving and restoring coastal ecosystems as key assets which support adaptation, human well-being and security in the Indian Ocean
 - iii. Mainstreaming of ecosystem services into water management, planning and policies to support sustainable use of water resources for adaptation in 4 river basins in for example Peru, Tanzania, China and Vietnam and at regional level in Mesoamerica and small islands in the Pacific Ocean

Activities

A number of different types of activities are being carried out through the projects. These include:

Policies on Ecosystem-based adaptation

- analyzing existing cross-sectoral policies, Adaptation Plans and Strategies and PRSPs for existing links with EbA and opportunities for integrating EbA
- dialogues with communities and decision makers in Eastern and Southern Africa to further inputs from local level to national and regional adaptation policies
- assessing national and regional institutional, legal and policy frameworks on coastal management and coastal zones in the Indian Ocean
- provide inputs and lessons learned for policy frameworks from EbA on the site and landscape scales
- providing inputs and guidance on integrating EbA into international policy frameworks, including UNFCCC and CBD

Tools for adaptation planning

- applying the Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) in Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique to assess vulnerabilities of local communities and their ability to cope with climate change and to help develop project and landscape level interventions that increase resilience²

² IUCN together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Stockholm Environmental Institute and Intercooperation have developed a practical tool to facilitate risk reduction and adaptation, a project



- applying the CHANGE toolkit to develop adaptation responses based on integrated water resource management in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation in 4 river basins in for example Peru, Tanzania, China and Vietnam³

Ecosystem-based Adaptation practices

- implementing adaptation practices aiming at forest landscape and watershed restoration at landscape level, with focus on environmental and social benefits as well as carbon sequestration potential of forest landscapes, in Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique
- implementing and investing in coastal ecosystem management as natural infrastructure to increase community resilience to natural disasters and to support sustainable livelihoods at community level in the Indian Ocean
- developing adaptation response measures based on floodplain storage and upper-watershed restoration in 4 river basins in for example Peru, Tanzania, China and Vietnam

Capacity Building on Ecosystem-based Adaptation

- capacity building training and workshops on ecosystem-based assessments, tools, practice and policy at community level in East Africa and Indian Ocean
- international workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation for scientists, policy makers and practitioners

Knowledge Management on Ecosystem-based Adaptation

- integrating EbA into existing adaptation information platforms at international level
- maintain a database on ecosystem-based adaptation tools and methods used by practitioners and researchers at international level

Various stakeholders are and will be engaged in the above mentioned activities, including:

- Government Ministries and agencies, at local and national level
- Regional actors and organizations
- International and national NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs)
- local communities
- academic and research institutions
- private sector associations and businesses
- UN agencies (including UNEP, UNDP and FAO)

management tool called CRiSTAL (Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation & Livelihoods). For more information, please visit www.cristaltool.org

³ For more information on the IUCN CHANGE toolkit, please visit

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/water/wp_resources/wp_resources_toolkits/



Expected Results

The following results are envisaged:

- Ecosystem-based Adaptation policy at national and regional level is informed by the practice and science of ecosystem-based adaptation
- Climate change regulatory frameworks in Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania are identified, supported and influenced with reliable data and tools on ecosystem-based adaptation and influenced
- Stakeholders' capacity for undertaking vulnerability assessments and implementing ecosystem-based adaptation activities improved at local and landscape level in Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania
- Technical support provided for implementing ecosystem-based adaptation activities in selected local communities in Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania
- National policy, legal and institutional mechanisms for conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems for human well-being are applied in certain countries of the Indian Ocean
- Greener business plans and investment in ecosystems infrastructure at selected sites in the Indian Ocean
- Community-level participation and benefit from conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems for human well-being, including reduced vulnerability and increased resilience in the Indian Ocean
- Risk and vulnerability assessments guide river basin planning and development in 4 watersheds
- Local capacity strengthened to cope with and respond to floods and droughts through integrated water resource management in 4 river basins

Indicators of Achievement

The following types of indicators will be applied to project activities:

- number of sites and landscapes in which ecosystem-based adaptation is applied in
- livelihood and socio-economic benefits of ecosystem-based adaptation measures at site, landscape and national level
- number of capacity-building workshops held
- number of multi-stakeholder dialogues held
- number of national policies and strategies that integrate ecosystem-based adaptation
- guidelines and toolboxes on ecosystem-based adaptation
- number of vulnerability assessments carried out
- integration of ecosystem-based adaptation into existing information platforms on adaptation



For more information, please visit:

www.iucn.org/climate

Mangroves for the Future Initiative: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org

The Water and Nature Initiative: www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/water/

The Climate Change and Development project: [www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/forest/Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/forest/Ecosystems%20and%20Livelihoods%20Adaptation%20Network)

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/initiatives/climate_news/_/climate_change_and_ecosystem_management/