



EbA working from Local to Global Solutions

Some Lessons & Experiences from IUCN

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Exploring IUCN's EbA Work through:

- Governance
- Gender & equity
- Capacity
- Benefits to people
- Benefits to nature
- Traditional & local knowledge
- Economics & co-benefits
- Policy

Sample of IUCN's EbA engagement

- Mt. EbA (3 countries)
- Climate Change Dev. (3)
- Mangroves for the Future (9)
- Asia coastal Resilience (3)
- Mesoamerica Water governance (4)
- Drylands natural resource management (4)

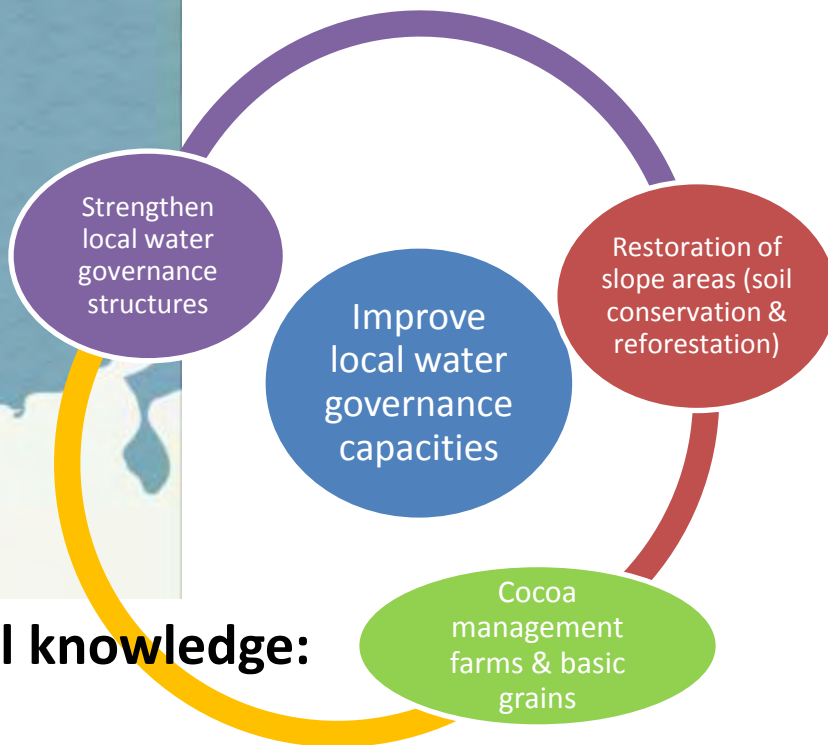
Governance & EbA

Key Message: Enable environmental & Local ownership - clear policies, legislation, rights & responsibilities (land, resources), & enforcement

Lessons from practice:

- Ecosystem – sensitive governance mechanisms
- Communities - heterogeneous
- Convene stakeholders at diff. Levels (e.g. water, forest governance) – coordination, planning
- Move beyond “project” to real local ownership
- Link local action/learning to national/regional levels
- Establish linkages between climate change adaptation & other sectors (water, envr., agric. energy, health, forests, etc.), & EbA becomes even more important

Example: 6 EbA Dem. sites – Costa Rica, Mexico, El Salvador, Panama - Transboundary Governance Frameworks



Adaptation practices based on local knowledge:

- Identify climate risk & solutions
- Improve water governance frameworks
- Build capacities for water governance

Scaling up EbA results & recommendations

- Bring knowledge & experience to decision makers
- Train local authorities – build discourses & dialogues





Capacity Building & EbA

Key Message: Build capacity to institutionalise EbA (different levels) which leads to behavioural change & ownership

Lessons from practice:

- Focus on key stakeholders at local/district levels & involve them in planning, scenarios & vulnerability (& empower)
- Improving capacity takes time, trust, learning (by doing) & testing – a constant basis for enhancing EbA – don't underestimate
- Support local level learning & action e.g. multi-stakeholder learning & monitoring (planning, stakeholders, decision makers, science, academy & civil society) - interaction & feedback
- Without capacities, plans, strategies it is not possible to implement (even if they are the best instruments)



Women's empowerment & equity a priority in EbA & adaptation. Women tend to have limited access to resources to enhance their capacity to adapt (land, credit, inputs, decision-making bodies, technology & training)

Lessons from practice:

- Countries with more female Parl. Reps. more likely to set aside protected land areas & ratify MEAs (UNDP HDR).
- If women had same access to productive resources as men, they could increase on-farm yields by **20-30%**, which could reduce number of hungry by **12–17%** (FAO).
- Women possess repertoires of “coping strategies” that they have traditionally used to manage climate variability.
- Countries that establish climate change gender action plans - more likely to incorporate gender in climate change decision-making (IUCN's *The Art of Implementation*)



People Need To See Real & Diverse Benefits & \$\$\$s

Lessons from practice:

- In Nepal, improved slope stabilisation through indigenous grass plantation increased fodder & fuel wood availability, & improved DRR
- Pilot activity (Cambodia) helped villagers cope with changing wave patterns, sedimentation, navigation, disaster risk management; & conserving mangroves
- In Laos, improved Ramsar site management enhanced local livelihoods through sustainable NTFP management
- Pastoralists diversify & manage for livelihood options to manage for risk management & improved resilience
- Link science to practice, e.g. conservation farming, soil management, ecosystem goods used by people, sustainable food production, water harvesting, health & sanitation.



Benefits of EbA to Nature: It's not either/or – But Importance of Linking Community & EbA

Lessons from practice:

- Remove, manage invasive species (islands esp.)
- Water (Thailand) restoring wetlands, improved water availability & local biodiversity, & enhanced grazing potential
- Fishery: (Pakistan), restoring mangroves improved crab & shrimp catch, shoreline protection, & saved villages from wave surges
- Forest Restoration restores ecosystems, provides important goods (Kenya, Tanzania, Mali), & for DRR
- Use of local traditional seeds/foods for improving the livelihoods. e.g. (Rwanda) women produce more than 600 vars of beans, Kenya (Turkana) 30 vars of sorghum
- Imp. of sustainable agriculture & livestock management



There are Important Traditional (& local) Knowledge Systems & Institutions – Use, Validate, Improve

Lessons from practice

- Integrate scientific with traditional knowledge in practice
- Drylands – vast wealth of knowledge on risk management & resilience enhancement – are we really learning & using?
- Many key institutions linked to these knowledge systems – but often hidden, not known
- Gender disaggregated knowledge & institutions



Implement existing policy at different levels (community, local, national)

Lessons from practice

- Policy - 2 way flow local (community, district) to/from national (it's a process not a product)
- Use research & local knowledge/practice to inform policy
- EbA potential/actual key role in CC policy – increased recognition (Uganda, Nepal, Peru)
- Involve powerful (e.g. Finance) & political in policy
- Important role of Reg. Econ. Commissions, Banks etc.
- Challenge: land use, sectoral, EIA-SEA & IWRM planning methodologies to integrate EbA, & fill gaps
- Challenge: how to bring traditional & local knowledge, & practical experiences to national & regional policy fora



IUCN Key Messages: EbA Benefits People & Nature

1. **Implement EbA** within existing policy (land/water use, dev. & conservation policies, landscape approach), avoid maladaptation
2. **Organized communities** likely to plan, own & understand EbA (e.g. restoration) as benefiting livelihoods & environment
3. **EbA helps people** understand CC & dev. challenges to build joint solutions to common problems (ownership, capacity, equity, gender, empowerment)
4. **EbA needs time** (beyond short project cycles) to show results, & even longer for political & policy changes, though eco-DRR important in shorter term
5. **Awareness & knowledge contribute** to ownership & up-scaling (e.g. sharing, appropriate languages at right levels, participatory tools (video, 3D basin models, action learning), networks
6. **Link EbA to vulnerability** (& so demonstrate additionality) so not just business as usual