Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA): A review of the constraints

Aim

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) uses ecological processes and systems to help communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. EbA is a relatively new approach in climate adaptation although ecosystem-based approaches have a long history in conservation. Our aim was to synthesise the kinds of factors that constrain the effective implementation of EbA and to identify key knowledge gaps in this area of research.

Method

- Qualitative Review of over 60 peer-reviewed papers that specifically focus on EbA.
- Analytical framework from The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report (AR5, Cp 16) in constructing constraints categories for further analysis.

Constraints

- Gender imbalance in access to climate and EbA information
- Difference in risk perceptions (what is at risk and why)
- Cultural preferences how a landscape should look like

Knowledge Gaps

- Limited capacity to mainstream EbA across sectors
- Strong emphasis on current climate variability, not future climate projections
- Lack of participatory processes

- Biophysical constraints and limits (e.g. low topography, species range)
- Ecosystems already highly degraded, challenging baseline for EbA

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