



A summary of the session at the [Rio Conventions Pavilion](#) @ UNFCCC COP 17

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in a Changing Climate: From Practice to Policy?

Lessons learnt from islands

3 December 2011, Durban, South Africa



Ambassador Ronald Jumeau, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations/ Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) introduced the session by reminding that islands are places of high biodiversity and that local economies and identity are highly dependent on islands ecosystems and associated natural resources. Yet islands are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and least able to address them effectively. 'Working with nature' as EbA proposes is an attractive and cost-effective measure to build the resilience of island environments in the face of climate change.

Implementing climate change adaptation programmes in island regions: A European Union perspective on the role of EbA

Etienne Coyette, in charge of adaptation issues within the climate change team of the Development Cooperation Service of the European Commission argued that EbA is a very interesting approach to adaptation as it is often **low-cost, local and building on existing activities**, as well as makes an important link to poverty alleviation. EbA is also a win-win approach allowing the **implementation of the three Rio Conventions**. The European Commission works on integrating EbA in its approaches – although no specific strategy yet, but a strong will to move towards better integration.

What can we learn from implementing EbA in islands and island territories: From practice to policy

Dominique Benzaken from IUCN presented the results of a pilot study on the implementation of EbA in islands. **National adaptation plans** are a critical framework for strategic EbA implementation and mainstreaming into national and sectoral

management and be informed by vulnerability assessments. **Communicating EbA** concepts and guidance for EbA implementation as well as demonstrating the effectiveness of EbA (including cost effectiveness) were needed. **EbA can also apply to mitigation co-benefits** (e.g. coastal carbon) given the extensive coastal and marine domains of islands. Finally

EbA has been mainly for other sectors such as partnerships needed to beach). The role of nature in this approach.

Concluding remarks based on responses, from problem guidelines and the new vulnerability assessment innovative financing

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