



Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)

Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15)
7th – 18th December, 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

For more information, please contact :

Neville Ash
Head, Ecosystem Management Programme
IUCN HQ
Tel: +41 22 999 0273
Neville.ash@iucn.org

Ninni Ikkala
Climate Change Coordinator
IUCN HQ
Tel: +41 22 999 0106
Ninni.ikkala@iucn.org

Claire Parker
Senior Policy Consultant
Fairhaven
Long Lane
Fowimere, Cambs
SG8 7TG
United Kingdom, 151 TcU96a(T0 -1.144m39.4(d)3n)8.7(t)2.9(0

Analysis of references related to ecosystem-based adaptation in the UNFCCC draft negotiating texts and related documents

The role of ecosystems in adaptation has been referred to in various ways in the current draft negotiating texts (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1 and FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.2) and supporting documentation, including the Non-paper on adaptation (53) and the Non-paper on Shared vision (52). Below, IUCN provides some guidance on how references on ecosystems and adaptation are used in the current documentation to refer to Ecosystem-based Adaptation, the Ecosystem Approach and to the separate issue of vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change.

1. Ecosystem-based Adaptation, as defined by the CBD's AHTEG³:

“Ecosystem-based adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.”

References to ecosystem-based adaptation included in the negotiating texts and non-papers are shown in **Annex 1**. IUCN suggests using clear terminology in these instances that is in-line with the CBD's definition of ecosystem-based adaptation.

2. The Ecosystem Approach as defined by the CBD:

“The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living

The ecosystem approach, as a strategy, should be applied to all adaptation responses to ensure that they are environmentally sound. References to the Ecosystem Approach as applied to adaptation are included in the negotiating texts, as shown in **Annex 2**.

3. The negotiating texts and supporting documents also include several references to the **adaptation of ecosystems, including particularly vulnerable ecosystems. This means enhancing the ability of biodiversity and ecosystems themselves to adapt to the impacts of climate change. As referred to in Article 2 of the UNFCCC, the ability of ecosystems to adapt is dependent on stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations. Article 8 (h) also makes reference to the vulnerability of “Countries with fragile ecosystems, including mountainous ecosystems...”.**

UNFCCC Article 2:

“...stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change...”

³ **CONNECTING BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION-** Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Annex 1 – Ecosystem-based Adaptation

References in the negotiating texts and non-papers to

Enhanced action on adaptation and its means of implementation

Paragraph	Reference	Observation
Alternative 5 to subpara 22 (j) p.35	Particularly vulnerable ecosystems and species, including through promoting an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation understood as sustainable ecosystem management, conservation and restoration activities, where appropriate, to support adaptation;	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD, although ecosystem-based adaptation does NOT refer to vulnerable ecosystems and species in particular <u>IUCN suggests using the term "ecosystem-based adaptation" rather than "ecosystem-based approach to adaptation"</u> as to ensure consistency with CBD definitions.
Alternative to subpara 22 (j) (iii) p. 35	[Particularly vulnerable populations, groups and communities, ecosystems and species, including through promoting sustainable ecosystem management, conservation and restoration activities, where appropriate, to support adaptation;	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD.
Alternative to subpara 22 (m) Alternative 2 (m).4.	Protect and sustainably manage the natural resource base and recognise that ecosystems and the goods and services they provide (such as water, food, soil protection and carbon capture etc.) underpin resilience and are fundamental to support human adaptation and sustainable development;	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD.
Alternative to subpara 23 (e) p. 40	Take into account the composition, resilience and productivity of natural and managed ecosystems , and the support they provide to adaptation.	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD.
32. p. 53	In addition to the above, priority consideration should also be given to ecosystem-based and community-based adaptation activities , where appropriate, at local and national levels.	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD.
Alternative 1 to para 32. p. 53	In relation to the above priorities, consideration should also be given to sustainable ecosystem management, conservation and restoration activities , where appropriate, to support adaptation.	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD.

Text in FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.2

A Shared vision for long-term co-operative action

Paragraph	Reference	Observation
PP 15, 3 Page 7	The maintenance of healthy ecosystems and their services is necessary to maintain the life support system on earth in the face of climate change, providing food and livelihoods, contributing to human welfare and enabling sustainable economic development.	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD

Enhanced action on adaptation and its means of implementation

Paragraph	Reference	Observation
13 (c) Page 27	[Particularly vulnerable ecosystems and species, including through promoting [an ecosystem [based] approach to adaptation] [or] sustainable ecosystem management, conservation and restoration activities, where appropriate, to support adaptation.]]	This is consistent with ecosystem-based adaptation as defined by CBD However, <u>IUCN suggests using the term "ecosystem-based adaptation" rather than "ecosystem-based approach to adaptation"</u> as to ensure consistency with CBD definitions.
13 (i) Page 28	Protect and sustainably manage the natural resource base and recognise that ecosystems and the goods	

Annex 2 – Ecosystem Approach

References in the text that are in *line with the Ecosystem Approach as defined by the CBD*.

Text in FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1

The text includes several references to “*environmentally sound*” development with relation to adaptation, for example paragraphs: x.1 (d); 19 Alternative 4 (e); 20 Alternative 2.; 22 Alternative 4. (iii); 23-24. Alternative 2 (d), which are consistent with applying an ecosystem approach as defined by the CBD.

Text in FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.2

Paragraph	Reference	Observation
16 (b) Page 32	[With a view to promoting adaptation planning] [all] Parties should: (b) Promote climate-resilient development in a manner that is practical, informed by the best science, environmentally sound , and economically efficient, and that promotes on-the-ground results	