

Knowledge brief

Module on Tools for Municipal Planning of EbA

The Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Community of Practice (CoP) <http://ebacommunity.com/en/> is a group of experts and organizations that share experiences and knowledge on EbA. Around the globe, the EbA CoP faces similar challenges and seeks to learn how to overcome them by sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The **Module on Tools for Municipal Planning of EbA** (18 January – 28 February 2016) is part of the new season of the EbA CoP, in partnership with EbA South, reaching out to potential members in Asia and Africa. With this enlargement of the EbA CoP to include Asia and Africa, the community embraces the global South as a whole, where South-South Cooperation is essential to strengthening EbA adaptation efforts globally. This summary reflects on the knowledge shared during a 6-week discussion period and the key messages that emerged from the webinar associated with this module.

UNEP REGATTA Programme, the Mountain EbA project in Peru, EbA South, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Practical Action Latin America gratefully acknowledge the contributions of EbA CoP members.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR EBA INITIATIVES

Local governments are giving increasing consideration to the implementation of adaptation measures and practices to increase resilience to climate risks in urban areas. Municipal planning represents a key opportunity for integrating local adaptation efforts and for developing best practices. However, constraints to implementing adaptation interventions – and EbA in particular – include limited resources, insufficient information and inadequate organisational structures. These constraints need to be addressed in order to provide an enabling environment for systemic integration of adaptation measures. Ecosystems and biodiversity are recognised as key elements in addressing adaptation in urban settings. Therefore, the importance of EbA is increasingly recognised as a site-specific and multi-benefit approach by the EbA CoP, for example in the discussion module on EbA and Cities. Thus, there is a pressing need to understand how to move from a general conceptualization of EbA to the development of effective management and planning tools for local governments. To support this move, specific legal, financial and institutional tools for EbA need to be identified, which can guide local authorities in the integration of adaptation actions into their business-as-usual approach. In line with this need, the discussions among the EbA CoP were guided towards understanding the current practices in municipal planning for EbA and how they can be reinforced.

The integration of EbA in the policy process should also involve the identification of local human and financial resources, including the promotion of creative practical solutions and innovative funding, as well as the development of partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders with key role for the municipalities.

*Elvina Henriette
(EbA CoP member, Seychelles)*

THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING EbA INITIATIVES

It is evident that although local governments have mandates related to nature conservation and environmentally sustainable urban development, the EbA approach is not yet explicitly included in municipal management and planning strategies for climate change adaptation. Experiences from El Salvador, Peru and South Africa –shared by the members of the EbA Community of Practice – detailed pilot-level processes in which local governments have implemented adaptation measures at municipal level. In El Salvador, seven neighbouring municipalities collaborated to enable the implementation of an effective adaptation process at a large scale. In Peru, an example was presented for the local government of "Four Lakes" in Acomayo, Cusco and the Association of Municipalities of Abancay and Grau Provinces in the southern highlands of the country. In Durban, South Africa, the "Municipal Program for Climate Protection" (MPCP) has been active for over ten years. The MPCP has three components: 1: municipal adaptation; 2:community-based adaptation; and 3: urban management interventions to address the challenges of climate change. Although not explicitly addressing EbA initiatives, these experiences demonstrate that adaptation efforts involving municipalities can be effective at the local scale and can create enabling conditions through awareness raising and capacity building – both of which facilitate the integration of EbA into local development plans.

WHAT MECHANISMS AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL CAN BE USED FOR PROMOTING EbA?

While EbA has mainly been applied to rural settings, urban ecosystems can greatly benefit from them. In order to do so, policy makers first require access to relevant information needed to make strategic decisions.

*Elvina Henriette
(EbA CoP member, Seychelles)*

Tools for integrating EbA into municipal planning can be financial, legal or organizational. However, there has been only limited demonstration of tools to mainstream EbA. Currently, pilot examples of tools and legal frameworks to integrate the EbA approach are evident in municipal mandates such as environmental planning and management. Indeed, municipal sectors relating to the environment and

climate change are ideally suited for mainstreaming the EbA approach. Discussions highlighted that policymakers require access to specific information to make strategic decisions. In that regard, Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA), a methodology based on the DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, and Response) analysis, could help municipalities to: i) "map out" ecosystem services; ii) determine ecosystem vulnerability to climate change and climate-induced hazards; and iii) identify appropriate adaptation responses. The integration of EbA into policymaking should involve the identification of local technical capacity and financial resources. In addition, innovative and practical solutions should be promoted, for example: i) green corridors within and between cities to facilitate species' movements or ii) sustainable water treatment systems within cities. Opportunities for funding, and possibilities to develop partnerships with a range of stakeholders (for example, the private sector, local neighbourhoods, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia) should also be explored. Finally, integrating the EbA approach at a municipal level will benefit from the promotion of sustainability initiatives, which are often synergistic with the EbA concept. Various toolkits and guidelines have been elaborated to facilitate the mainstreaming of EbA in municipal planning and strategy development. However, the practical application of this theory through site-specific actions is limited. Therefore, there is an urgent need for tailored capacity building activities for local authorities and securing the required financing to support these activities.

EbA CoP Webinar (18 February 2016)

During the Module, a webinar on Tools for Municipal Planning of EbA took place, facilitated by Juan Torres, Practical Action Expert and EbA CoP moderator. The experts Hana Lapp and Christina Schwantes at ICLEI Canada, and Victor Bustinza Urviola and Maruja Gallardo Meneses at the Adaptation to Climate Change Programme (PACC), Cusco-Apurimac in Peru shared their experiences on the topic.

Hana Lapp and Christina Schwantes are Adaptation & Resilience Planners who presented Building an Adaptive and Resilient Cities Program (BARC), which has over 15 Canadian municipalities as members. Among the case studies presented are: (a) Vancouver, British Columbia as an example of increasing the long-term health of urban forests; (b) Surrey, British Columbia for reducing habitat fragmentation by using and protecting a comprehensive network of corridors and larger natural areas and (c) Edmonton, Alberta for wildlife passage program. It was highlighted that:

- Local authorities recognize that appropriate ecosystem management reduces the need for mechanical intervention in areas such as water quality and storm water management, thereby preserving cities' financial resources. Yet, EbA initiatives still face a range of barriers, and more efforts are needed to facilitate stakeholder engagement and inform and educate municipal practitioners.

Victor Bustinza Urviola and Maruja Gallardo Meneses presented their experiences of working with municipalities in Peru to improve food security of families and mitigate impacts of climate change through ecosystem-based approaches. The two Municipalities involved are: (a) The micro-basin Mollebamba Juan Espinoza Medrano District, Antabamba Province in Apurimac municipality and (b) Micro-basin Huacrahuacho Districts of Checca and Kunturkanki, Canas Province in Cusco municipality. It was highlighted that:

- It is essential to initiate the process of developing community plans with an emphasis on climate change; and
- Local public policies, formulated under a sustainable livelihood approach with the purpose of increasing adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities, will need to promote participation at a local level.

Experiences shared by participants in the EbA CoP

Pilot projects for EbA are a key change pattern for municipal planning in India

Dev Dutt Sharma, India



In recent years, Shimla Municipality in India has implemented a range of projects and coordinated activities that fostered the integration of EbA into municipal structures both horizontally and vertically. The key change patterns include the establishment of pilot projects on EbA through external funding.

Thus, there is an increasing integration of the ecosystem services concept into the core work of the Environmental Department through the revision of various strategic planning documents. Moreover, active collaboration between departments, practitioners, experts and researchers stimulated the mainstreaming of ecosystem-based approach at different levels of planning.

Association of Municipalities – successful prerequisite for effective planning in Peru *Nicolas Ibañez, Peru*



In rural areas of Peru, there are several experiences of adaptation planning at the municipal level, which, after implementation, have influenced the design of public policies. Such is the case of the Association of Municipalities Cuatro Lagunas (“Four Lakes”), in the province of Acomayo, Cusco, or the associations of municipalities of the provinces of Grau and Abancay in the Apurimac region. The experiences stemmed from the work of land-based participatory planning activities for water and ecosystem management. As a result of these experiences, the Association of Municipalities made proposals for the development of associations and the allocation of state funds to fund ecosystem management and conservation. The examples from Pataypampa, Grau and Apurimac incorporate reforestation programs and the management of grassland under the district development plan as a starting point.

Experiences from the Association of Municipalities at Montañona in El Salvador *Jose Salomon Martinez Alas, El Salvador*



The Association of Municipalities at Montañona in El Salvador consists of four municipalities that share similar ecosystems and three municipalities with combined ecosystems. The management committee in Rio Tamulasco oversees initiatives to protect the area’s sub-basin. Examples of initiatives related to EbA include: i) agroforestry for biodiversity; ii) campaigns advocating against slash-and-burn activities; iii) the drafting of regulations to protect natural resources; iv) conditional municipality support to producers, whereby agricultural inputs are provided in exchange for implementing sustainable agricultural practices. A challenge to upscaling these approaches is the limited capacity within municipalities to fully engage with EbA planning and implementation.

Background for EbA municipal planning in the Seychelles *Elvina Henriette, Seychelles*



The main strategic document that addresses and sets priority for sustainable development and environmental challenges is the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2012-2020. Within its policy framework, the SSDS states that ‘EbA needs to be further developed to decrease vulnerability to climate change’. In terms of national plans, the Seychelles National Agricultural Investment Plan (SNAIP) promotes climate-smart agriculture to both mitigate climate change and promote climate change adaptation – an approach that is in line with EbA principles. The SSDS and SNAIP are some areas where EbA can be promoted and mainstreamed into existing laws and policies.

EbA as part of land planning in Ecuador *Milton Pacheco, Ecuador*



In Ecuador, there is an effort to include EbA programs and projects in land-use planning initiatives. Indeed, ideally all local government bodies should be incorporating the EbA approach into their development plans and land-use planning, programs and projects, the guidelines for which were elaborated by the National Planning Secretariat (SENPLADES). Municipalities have not, for

the most part, initiated activities that promote EbA – development plans arise from the initiatives of citizen councils that participate in the drafting of these plans.

UNEP REGATTA Programme, EbA South, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Practical Action Latin America thank all EbA CoP participants who contributed to this learning process. We invite you to participate in future EbA CoP modules by enrolling through the following link: ebacommunity.com/en/

