



The negative effects of climate change are being experienced by local communities within a range of economics sectors in developing countries across Africa and Asia-Pacific. Multiple factors make them particularly vulnerable to observed and expected climate change impacts, including poverty and limited capacity to plan and implement adequate adaptation technologies and practices. There is an urgent need for immediate actions to address climate change before its impacts become unmanageable.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EbA South, 2013-2019) is a full-sized GEF project funded through the Special Climate Change Fund. Officially known under the title "Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries", the project is implemented by UN Environment and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) through the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural

Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR, CAS). The UN Environment–International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) provides overall project management services, technical support and fosters South-South linkages for the project.

EbA South seeks to build climate resilience in developing countries by increasing institutional capacity, mobilising knowledge and transferring appropriate adaptation technologies. It is considered a "first mover" in catalysing global and regional collaboration on EbA under GEF guidelines, in particular within the framework of South-South cooperation.

In addition to interregional activities, the project led concrete, on-the-ground adaptation interventions in three pilot countries: Mauritania, Nepal and Seychelles, representing three vulnerable ecosystems (dryland, mountain and coastal respectively) within institutionalised, long-term research frameworks.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**  
Interregional coordination activities; thematic training workshops

**KNOWLEDGE SUPPORT**  
Web platform for EbA knowledge-good practice; knowledge products

**TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**  
Concrete, on-the-ground EbA interventions within a long term research framework



## Highlights

### Interregional capacity building and knowledge sharing

Capacity building activities, tools and knowledge products developed to support effective planning and implementation of EbA technologies as well as fostering South-South cooperation worldwide:

- An interactive, dynamic web-based platform (<http://www.ebasouth.org/>) that hosts a variety of e-discussions, webinars and, importantly, EbA good practice case studies mainly from China that are applicable elsewhere;



- A series of project's knowledge products, including "EbA planning tool ALiVE–Adaptation, Livelihoods and Ecosystems", "Ecosystem-based adaptation: a handbook for EbA in mountain, dryland and coastal ecosystems", "Research on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA): A reference guide" and "Integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Education Curriculum: A resource guide";
- A number of events for the dissemination of key lessons and experience from the project, including UNFCCC CoP side events and other international workshops;
- South-South coordination mechanism established through expertise exchange, training workshops, exchange visits, web platform and institutional cooperation.

### Transfer of EbA technologies to pilot countries

Concrete, on-the-ground EbA interventions implemented within a rigorous scientific framework of long-term research framework, gaining tremendous government support and community buy-in:

- Climate-resilient mangrove restoration and measures to improve hydrological flow in the Seychelles;
- Community-based watershed restoration with focus on livelihood improvement in Nepal;
- Desertification control using multi-use greenbelts in Mauritania.



EbA research agendas institutionalised through the development of long-term research programmes in partnership with local universities and research institutes. The long-term research programmes were employed for measuring the short- and long-term effects (ecological, hydrological and socio-economic) of EbA interventions being applied within the project. Findings in the form of research reports, theses and peer-reviewed papers were developed by the leading universities with support from international experts.

## Lessons learned

- The project was pioneering in its approach to science and therefore to support the **credibility of EbA** it is critical to collect actual data (e.g. survivorship, growth rates, economics etc.);
- **Opportunities for sustainability** are extremely variable according to each EbA site;
- **Adaptive management** is a key component in ensuring sustainability of interventions, and an adaptive management plan should be engrained into the design, documenting the facts and lessons, and monitoring not only the environment aspects, but also the social and economic factors;
- **South-South Cooperation dimension** of the project strengthened the continuation of cooperation beyond the project period.



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