Tools and Methods for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Practitioners and Planners

Cordula Epple, Climate Change and Biodiversity Programme
Why focus on tools and methods for EbA?

Uptake of nature-based solutions to climate change, including EbA, is constrained by a number of barriers:

- ‘Young’ concept – limited experience and evidence
- Lack of awareness and entrenched attitudes / expectations
- Policy, regulatory and funding landscape not suited to particularities of EbA (such as long time horizons, cost-effectiveness dependent on multiple benefits, site-specificity, number of actors and sectors involved)
- Capacity gaps (different disciplines involved)
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Uptake of nature-based solutions to climate change, including EbA, is constrained by a number of barriers:

**Improved access to tools and methods can help!**

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- Lack of awareness and entrenched attitudes / expectations ✓
- Policy, regulatory and funding landscape not suited to particularities of EbA (such as long time horizons, cost-effectiveness dependent on multiple benefits, site-specificity) ✓
- Capacity gaps (different disciplines involved) ✓ ✓
EbA Tools and Methods – what can they do for you?

Taking account of ecosystems in vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning

Identifying and selecting adaptation options

Costs-benefits analysis

Developing an implementation strategy

Developing a monitoring and evaluation system

Integrating EbA into existing policies or frameworks
HOW TO FIND AVAILABLE TOOLS?
Ecosystem-based Adaptation Tool Navigator

A searchable database of tools and methods relevant to EbA
What is the EbA tools and methods Navigator?

- Searchable database of existing tools and methods that are relevant to EbA
- Collection of examples of tool applications

What is the aim of the Navigator?

- To help planners and practitioners easily find and understand the tools and methods available to support their EbA work
- To understand gaps in the current availability and accessibility of tools and methods
Navigator content

Number of tools: 240

Stages:
- Large number of tools cover most stages of EbA
- Fewest for ‘Valuation’ and ‘Mainstreaming’

Ecosystems coverage:
- Most tools are general (i.e. applicable to a range of ecosystem types and contexts)
- A few entries in the database are designed for specific ecosystem types (particularly for rangelands & grasslands, mountains, drylands & deserts)

Scale:
- Most tools are applicable to a range of scales (204 tools applicable at local level)

Targeted users:
- Project planners / managers: 210
- Policy makers: 166

Languages:
- Mostly English – only 35 tools available in other languages (incl. Spanish, Italian, German, French, Afrikaans, Nepali, Bengali, Mandarin, Arabic, Urdu, Burmese, Thai, Portuguese, etc.)

Access:
- Most are open access (only 9 restricted)
Navigator Search Interface

**SEARCH INTERFACE**

This tab allows you to search the database of tools and methods by making selections, based on certain criteria. Use the drop down lists for one or multiple criteria, from the ecosystem type you are interested in to the target audience, scale, type of resource and language of the tools. Another option is to search for tools according to the 'stage of EbA' they support. This can be done in combination with the other criteria. Results from your search are displayed in the 'Search Results' tab. (Each new search will replace the results from the previous search).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Ecosystem</th>
<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Type of Resource</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Designed for</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Local/Site-level</td>
<td>GIS application</td>
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**EbA Stage**

<table>
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<th>Planning</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Valuation</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>M &amp; E</th>
<th>Mainstreaming</th>
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Guidance on Integrating Ecosystem Considerations into Climate Change Vulnerability and Impact Assessment to Inform Ecosystem-based Adaptation
Aim: Provide guidance on how to integrate consideration of ecosystems and ecosystem services into VIAs.

Audience:
- Climate change practitioners interested in holistic adaptation planning and in EbA
- Policy-makers commissioning VIAs
- Ecosystem-based management practitioners integrating climate change into their initiatives

Scale: subnational (e.g. community, watershed or regional level)
Complementing the steps of a ‘conventional’ vulnerability assessment

1. Define the scope of assessment
2. Understanding the context: livelihoods and ecosystems
3. Assess current exposure and sensitivity
4. Assess current adaptive capacity and vulnerability
5. Assess future vulnerability

Next Steps
Coastal EbA options guide
On-site conservation and restoration
- Mangrove forests
- Coral reefs
- Seagrass beds
- Sand dunes

Area-based planning frameworks
- Marine spatial planning
- Marine Protected Areas

Policies and governance
- Sustainable fisheries management
- Livelihood diversification
Coastal EbA Decision Support Tool

Seven steps for planning and implementing EbA:

1. Understanding EbA
2. Understanding the planning context
3. Understanding the adaptation context
   a. Understanding climate change hazards
   b. Understanding vulnerability
   c. Identifying EbA options
4. Selecting adaptation options
5. Developing an implementation strategy
6. Monitoring and adaptive management
7. Capacity building and mainstreaming
Monitoring and Evaluation for EbA


Under development...

Guidebook for Monitoring & Evaluation for EbA

Aim: Provide an overview of the process needed for designing and delivering effective monitoring and evaluation for EbA interventions

Audience: Practitioners and planners who design and implement EbA interventions and who are interested in assessing and understanding the results of their interventions in relation to helping people adapt to climate change
Conclusion

• Nature-based solutions can have great value for national adaptation planning
• They are still under-utilized, in part due to limited awareness and access to information
• However, a significant and growing body of tools and information materials is available and waiting to be used!
Resources available at:


Mountain EbA Project outputs, including VIA Guidance: Resilience and Adaptation Planning:
http://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/mountain-eba

Coastal EbA Options Guide: https://web.unep.org/coastal-eba/coastal-EBA-DST

QUESTIONS?
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