Enhancing the role of nature for adaptation: governance dimensions

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1. Governance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation

2. Normative integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation

3. EbA Governance Principles

4. Conclusions
Governance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation
Governance for EbA: Definition

“Governance for EbA refers to norms, institutions and processes that determine how a society exercises power, distributes responsibilities and makes decisions to protect, sustainable manage and restore ecosystems, as part of an overall strategy to adjust to actual and expected climate and its effects.”

(ELC)
Governance for EbA: Components

**Policies**
- Establish visions, strategies, plans and guidelines
- Guide legal and institutional reforms for EbA

**Laws**
- Establish institutions for the adaptation process.
- Distribute competencies, mandates and roles
- Define processes and implementation mechanisms
- Detail rights and obligations

**Institutions**
- Planning, implementing, evaluating, overseeing, **controlling**, sanctioning and enforcement

**Processes**
- Public participation and communication
- Monitoring and evaluating
- Conflict resolution (adjudicative and non-adjudicative)
Normative integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation
Normative integration of EbA

Science and evidence

- Global
- Regional
- Nacional
- Sub-nacional
- Local

P&LF

PROJECTS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE
Normative integration of EbA: Global level

- Paris Agreement (Preamble, Art. 7).

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Art. 2, Cancun Agreements).

- Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision VIII/30, Aichi Target 15, Decision 14/5).

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Decision 4/13, Decision 21/13).

- Convention on Wetlands on International Importance (Resolutions VIII.3, X.24, XII.2, XII.13).

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Decisions 12/72 to 12/74).

- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Tasks Force on Water and Climate Change and pilot projects).

- Other instruments (UNESCO, SDGs, Sendai Framework, Bonn Challenge…).
Normative integration of EbA: regional level

Regional Organizations

- African Union, East African Community, Andean Nations Community
- ASEAN, European Union

Findings in these Regional Organizations:

- **Different stages** of designing, development and implementation of adaptation plans
- **Thematic approaches** (Agriculture, Health, Water)
- **EbA is broadly recognised** but, in some cases, there is a lack of adequate guidance on measures and implementation tools.

Benefits:

- **Enhanced coordination** in large spatial areas
- **Integration** of EbA in multi-thematic frameworks
- **Strengthened institutional architecture**
- **Support** to States to address climate change
- **Financial resources** to fund EbA initiatives
Normative integration of EbA: regional level Latin America

Tratado de la Cooperación Amazónica (Framework + bi/tri-lateral Agreements)

- **Institution**: Organization of Amazon Cooperation Treaty

- **2011 – Project on Water and Climate Change**
  
  - Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
  - Fydro-climatic Vulnerability Atlas
  - Strategic Actions Programme
  - Integrated Information System
Normative integration of EbA: regional level Latin America

EbA Strategic actions:
- IWRM
  - Protection, management and monitoring aquifers
  - Conservation and sustainable management of springs and lower parts
  - Land use planning
- CCA
  - Hydrometeorological monitoring network at basin level
  - Integrated monitoring system of vulnerability and CCA
  - Risk management system
  - Coastal protection
Normative integration of EbA: Transboundary level in Europe

The Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean

Sustainable Development Strategy for the Mediterranean 2016-2025
- Objective 4: “recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems”

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean and coastal areas
- Promote the right enabling environment for mainstreaming adaptation in national and local planning (+ specific guidance)
Normative Integration of EbA: National level (Costa Rica)

- **National Policy for ACC 2018**
  - Guiding Framework on ACC
  - 6 axis with strategic guidelines each that combine:

- **Enabling conditions ("strategic guidelines")**:
  - Knowledge on CC, Ecosystem services, etc.
  - P&LF on Adaptation
  - Finance and investment

- **Substantive guidelines**:
  - Ecosystem Services for Adaptation
  - Resilient public services and infrastructure
  - Resilient productive systems
Normative integration of EbA: Local level pilot sites
Normative Integration of EbA: Local level (Guatemala)

Vulnerability
- Climate
- Environmental
- Governance

Governance
- Comité de Microcuenca Esquichá
- Municipality of Tacaná
- CORNASAM

EbA Measures
- Communal forest management
- Soil conservation practices
- Agroforestry systems and tree nurseries

Upscaling
- Comité de Microcuenca de Esquichá
- Municipal Development Plan Tacaná
- GEF project proposal
EbA Governance Principles
EbA Governance Principles

1. Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Integration of science and traditional knowledge
3. Innovation
4. Cross-sectoral coordination
5. Multi-level coordination
6. Decentralization
7. Public participation
8. Indigenous peoples rights
9. Women's and vulnerable groups rights
10. Ecosystem services for adaptation
11. DRR
12. Ecosystems’ carrying capacities
13. Capacities
14. Finance
15. Dispute settlement
16. Environmental law
Conclusions

- EbA offers an effective strategy to adjust to climate change. The success or failure of any EbA strategy is contingent on the existence of effective governance arrangements.

- During the past decade there has been an increasing number of EbA policies at different levels affecting water resources. It is important to recognize the opportunities and limitations of each level, as well as to ensure coherence and synergies across them.

- Integrating EbA into regional adaptation policies may have multiple benefits (e.g. enhanced coordination, integration of EbA in multi-thematic cooperation frameworks). Transboundary and regional policies should inform each other to support national and local governments on EbA implementation in relation to water.

- EbA integration into policies is only a first step for strengthening governance arrangements. Legal and institutional adjustments and enhancement of rule of law may be needed to enable successful EbA strategies,
Thank you