



9th Ecosystem-based Adaptation Knowledge Day Brief

Discussion Track: Global Stocktake

21st September 2023

Session Leads:

Nadia Sitas, Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) at SouthSouthNorth with Charles Tonui, African Research Impact Network & Shuchi Vora, Global Resilience Partnership

Brief overview:

This Brief is a consolidated documentation of knowledge shared during the Global Stocktake Discussion Track at the 9th EbA Knowledge Day (KD). It serves as a knowledge product for practitioners and policymakers engaged in this topic at the global, national, and local levels. The Brief summarises discussions and insights that emerged during the session - highlighting the views and ideas shared by participants representing various stakeholder groups (national governments, civil society, academia, etc.) - and offers several suggestions and recommendations for activities that would contribute to the advancement of this topic.

Disclaimer:

This brief is submitted as a contribution from the EbA Knowledge Day to the ongoing discourse and initiatives surrounding the Global Stocktake within the context of ecosystem-based adaptation. It is important to note that the perspectives expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the organisations mentioned.

Introduction

This discussion track focused on the [Global Stocktake](#) (GST), which as referred to in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement takes stock of the state of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and assesses “the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals”. Ecosystem based adaptation (EbA) is a critical consideration both in the GST and for encouraging countries to adopt more ambitious climate targets as it has shown to enhance climate resilience, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to biodiversity conservation, provide cost effective opportunities for simultaneously advancing on multiple sustainable development goals and offers multiple co-benefits for people and nature¹²³. However, unless EbA activities are implemented in ways that are adequately supported by transboundary and interjurisdictional policies and practices that support locally led action and consider multiple dimensions of justice, the outcomes of EbA activities can lead to maladaptation and further entrench inequities⁴⁵.

In light of the recent release of the [synthesis report](#) on the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake a week before the event, this discussion track also aimed to convene a dialogue to reflect on the outcomes of the report and to enhance understanding of how to measure progress, effectiveness and efficiency of the co-benefits of Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) and Nature based Solutions for Adaptation (NbSA) in ways that foreground dimensions of equity, based on locally led adaptation (LLA) approaches & principles.

Key questions that were explored during the session were:

- How can data from LLA approaches help co-develop EbA and NbSA indicators to strengthen effectiveness of adaptation?
- How can we learn from existing efforts to operationalise LLA metrics in EbA/NbSA?
- What cooperation pathways exist, or are still needed between multiple actors across scales, sectors and disciplines, for the co-development of tools and specific indicators for more equitable adaptation and resilience measurement?

The discussion track also built on regional and global consultations that took place at the [African Climate Summit](#) and [associated side events](#), the [Resilience Evidence Forum](#), and the preliminary findings from a call from the [Global Centre on Adaptation’s call for Stories](#) on Locally Led Adaptation which will be launched at COP28.

The discussion track was co-convened by a number of organisations and individuals from the global South and was moderated by Nadia Sitas from the [Climate and Development Knowledge Network](#) (CDKN) at [SouthSouthNorth](#).

In addition to supporting ongoing work of the co-convening organisations, the key messages and recommendations outlined in the brief are already being used to inform and enrich further discussions,

¹ Munang et al. 2013 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2012.12.001>

² Woroniecki et al., 2022 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17565529.2022.2129954>

³ Chausson et al. 2020. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.15310>

⁴ Woroniecki et al. 2019 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26796957>

⁵ Seddon 2022 <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abn9668>

research, policy, advocacy and practice. Session co-conveners have amplified the work of locally-led EbA and action through presentations during the [Gobeshona](#) webinar series, sessions at the [Adaptation Futures Conference](#), other regional climate summits and the contents of brief has also informed session proposals for [Paris Committee on Capacity Building](#) events at COP28 which have been accepted. Unresolved questions and evidence gaps are being integrated in ongoing assessments of the [Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) Nexus Assessment and supportive initiatives such as informing [Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts](#) (CABES) capacity strengthening activities. Cross-cutting findings across discussion tracks will inform and inspire the advancement of work within existing [Friends of Ecosystem Based](#) Adaptation (FEBA) working groups.

Approach & Key Messages

Design of the Session

The session consisted of a series of brief interventions from speakers featuring work from local to global scales. A menti-meter was used to facilitate engagement with participants in the session linked to two questions 1) With the momentum to co-develop metrics for measuring adaptation and resilience, how can we co-develop priority metrics for measuring EbA/NbSA among the vulnerable communities? and 2) What are some of the priority metrics for developing and measuring EbA/NbSA which you have identified so far in your work? The session ended with a brief questions & answer session where questions were raised and answered in the chat or posed verbally to session speakers.

Summary of Interventions & Key Findings

Vositha Wijenayake, the Executive Director of the [SLYCAN Trust](#) opened the discussion by providing an overview of the GST process and how it links to ongoing policy discussions and negotiations and especially how it links to EbA efforts from local to global scales. The next speaker, Irene Walimbwa, Executive Director of A.W. Bamboo from Uganda, [gave an account](#) from the frontline of community and ecosystem-based restoration efforts, providing an insight into the co-benefits that restoration efforts have led to such as creating and diversifying livelihoods and value chain opportunities from bamboo cultivation, especially for women and young people, enhancing disaster risk reduction from less soil erosion, reducing conflicts between protected area management around benefit sharing of natural resources and enhancing knowledge around traditional foods and cultural practices linked to bamboo cultivation.

Building on Irene's remarks, Shuchi Vora, the Resilience Knowledge Coalition lead from the from the [Global Resilience Partnership](#) (GRP) highlighted key messages from tracks at the [Resilience Evidence Forum](#) reminding participants about the importance of locally-led adaptation metrics for evidence co-creation, validation and use in decision making concerning resilience building initiatives and that from community perspectives, there is '*no evidence about us, without us*'. Charles Tonui, the Strategic Engagement and Partnership Lead for the [African Research and Impact Network](#) (ARIN) supported the discussion with an intervention reflecting on the recent [Nairobi Declaration](#) following the African Climate Summit, how it connects to the GST and how ARIN through their [Locally-Led Adaptation Metrics Platform for Africa](#) (LAMA) will explore contextual initiatives for assessing adaptation activities in Africa and how these can be shared, discussed, and synthesised towards supporting global framework goals. The final speaker, Mairi Dupar who leads the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion work for CDKN while also being a

Senior Analyst for [ODI](#) shared information on a [review of African experience and potential of nature-based green infrastructure](#) and offered provisional reflections on how the GST synthesis report findings were aligned with some of the stories shared on locally led adaptation stemming from a [Global Center on Adaptation call](#). All speakers shared ideas on the best ways to enable and support the dissemination of information on good practices and lessons learned from local levels to facilitate the identification of impactful initiatives for replication or inspiration at national, regional and global levels.

Mairi Dupar synthesised key implications for enhancing biodiversity and climate science-policy-practice alignment for EbA leaders and their partners.

To address fragmentation and systemic constraints on locally-led EbA and advance transformational changes further solidarity building and strategic policy partnerships are needed to: i) pursue changes in law, policy, regulation and their implementation, that enable locally led EbA, not only through environmental laws, but also through the realisation of women's and marginalized people's human rights and equitable access to productive assets such as land, ii) address the wide external drivers of ecosystem damage that are undermining locally-led EbA which can also be transboundary or influenced by cross-scale dynamics. In addition, research and analysis through multidisciplinary and diverse knowledge partnerships are needed to undertake power and investment mapping to understand where the entry points are, including the transboundary drivers of environmental damage.

To address the gaps in climate literacy, especially knowledge of likely future climate trends and implications, there is a need to fuse scientific understanding of nature and climate with indigenous ways of knowing to situate key concepts with knowledge users and keep innovating appropriate solutions. This can support improved understanding of climate risks and more climate-informed locally led EbA.

To address gaps in UNFCCC GST discourse about 'what is really happening' in locally led EbA and 'what is needed next', well written materials are needed to translate local knowledge including holistic, cross sectoral visions and implementation by local actors into accessible documentation to i) facilitate peer-peer learning on implementing EbA and ii) make these approaches and the needs of local actors more visible in national and international processes.

To facilitate better assessment of local, subnational, regional and transboundary EbA experiences there is a need to engage with the IPCC in the current AR7 cycle scoping processes as there is appetite for of this rich, diverse material to inform the AR7 cycle, however, it needs to be documented and published in text to be included in the process. While there is recognition of the wider dynamics around who writes and who reviews IPCC relevant text, more inclusive processes need to be established before the next cycle of assessments. All of these efforts require versatile, appropriate and responsive finance mechanisms.

Additional key takeaways:

- Focus on rights-based LLA approaches for EbA/NbSA that foreground gender, equity, local and indigenous knowledge.
- Recognize the role of knowledge brokers in co-creating diverse evidence for decision-making.
- Despite data blind spots, utilize context-specific and disaggregated data for informed climate actions and combine indigenous wisdom and local knowledge with advances in technology.

Recommendations & Follow-up Activities

- **Recognise the urgency for transformative climate action.** For local adaptation champions, this means recognising and acting on people's rights which calls for constellations of actors from local, national, regional and transnational levels to recognise and implement EbA and NbSA activities in ways that facilitate the realisation of those rights. In this way EbA and NbSA initiatives can act as catalysts for change, but still require the mobilisation of enabling mechanisms, including appropriate and accessible finance and a greater attention to how power mediates EbA and NbSA decisions.
- **Scale change by replicating and adapting what works for people and nature, impacting laws and policies that centre rights-based approaches, and connecting with people's values.** More evidence is needed on what mechanisms and methods can assist with connecting diverse and plural values, especially intrinsic and relational values of nature which are often not able to be accounted for in monetary terms.
- **Recognize decision makers, including researchers, practitioners and community members to as both producers and users of diverse evidence.** This can be strengthened through co-designing and updating qualitative and quantitative metrics and indicators that measure progress which accounts for informality, operates across and between different scales, and is aligned with local to global policy frameworks and priorities.
- **Support partnerships for capacity strengthening and strategic policy alliances.**
- **Promote versatile, inclusive, appropriate, and responsive finance mechanisms for EbA.**

Additional Literature Resources

- [What Is the "Global Stocktake" and How Can It Accelerate Climate Action?](#)
- [Nature-based green infrastructure: A review of African experience and potential | ODI: Think change](#)
- [Locally Led Adaptation Principles](#)
- [Resilience Evidence Forum Synthesis Report](#)
- [Resilience Evidence Coalition](#) & associated [Resilience Platform](#)

Upcoming Events & Participation Opportunities

- Watch out for aligned sessions from co-convening institutions at the [COP 28 Resilience Hub](#) and associated [Africa Regional Resilience Hub](#) and [PCCB Hub at COP28](#)
- Participate in the [second order draft review of the IPBES Nexus assessment](#) and IPBES Nexus Assessment [Stakeholder days](#)
- Sign up for newsletters from [CDKN](#), [GRP](#), ARIN, SLYCAN and [ODI](#)
- Join the [Resilience Evidence Coalition](#)
- Join the emerging community of practice of CDKN and partners for co-learning about transformative EbA, contact [CDKN](#) for more information.