

Strategic mainstreaming of ecosystem-based adaptation in Vietnam (EbA)

Context

Viet Nam is one of the countries most seriously exposed to the impacts of the climate change globally. The annual losses caused by consequences of climate change are estimated at 15 billion US Dollars (DARA climate vulnerability monitoring, 2012), or approximately 5% of the country's GDP.

Viet Nam is considered a biodiversity hotspot with a large share of endemic flora and fauna. On the one hand, impacts of climate change threaten this diversity. On the other hand, intact capable ecosystems can contribute to climate adaptation and enhance the resilience of the population concerned. Land use changes, caused by steady economic growth and a growing population, are the main driving forces for biodiversity loss.

The Vietnamese government has determined clear objectives for climate protection and adaptation to climate change, as well as for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. This is reflected in a series of laws and decrees, ratification of corresponding international agreements and participation in international initiatives. The Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach is increasingly put on the agenda as an alternative or supplement to other adaptation measures. Regeneration and preservation of mangrove forests that are implemented by local governments as natural and cost-

effective forms of coastal protection are already being applied in the field. However, a concrete starting point for the systemic anchoring of ecosystem based solutions in policy and society are absent. Furthermore, the development of effective instruments and programmatic approaches for the implementation and monitoring of the contribution of ecosystems towards adaptation is needed.

The GIZ-supported project 'Strategic mainstreaming of ecosystem-based adaptation in Viet Nam' was set up to support Viet Nam's efforts in achieving integration of EbA into both policy and society.

Project name	Strategic mainstreaming of ecosystem-based adaptation in Viet Nam (EbA)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear safety (BMUB)
Implementing partner	Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE)
Project region	National level and North Central region provinces of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
Other government partners	Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), the Provincial People's Committees of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Departments of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Departments of Planning and Investment (DPI), and Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).
Duration	2014 – 2018



Our approach

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders, at the national and provincial level, to strategically mainstream EbA into the national climate adaptation policy framework. Capacity building in order to achieve continuous implementation of EbA measures on the ground is also a priority. The project provides technical support to Vietnamese partners seeking national and international finance possibilities, as well as providing a platform to share relevant experiences and lessons learned in regional and international forums.

Expected Impacts

The project is expected to create the following long-term impacts:

- **Contribution to adaptation to climate change**

Through the project's support, innovative and effective methods, strategies and policy guidelines for supporting and implementing EbA are expected to be developed by MONRE. The planning on the legal framework for national adaptation measures, as well as upstream identification of climate risks and vulnerabilities will be improved.

- **Contribution to climate protection**

Management measures conducted in the framework of EbA (preservation, protection, sustainable use) are expected to make a mid-term to long-term contribution towards mitigation and a carbon commitment.

- **Contribution to biological diversity**

EbA is based on the principles of an ecosystem approach and therefore EbA measures often contribute to conservation of biodiversity, for example protection and conservation of forests.

- **Contribution to economic, social and ecological development (Co-Benefits)**

In addition to strengthening the resilience of the local population against climate risks, ecosystem-based solutions are a beneficial, cost effective alternative and supplement to technical measures. This is especially due to the multiple co-benefits that are generated by EbA measures, including natural disaster protection, food security, preservation of biodiversity for livelihoods and economic purposes, and climate protection towards carbon commitment.



Participatory approaches to planning are a commonly used method for EbA.

- **Multiplier impact**

National adaptation strategy, other planning procedures and planning instruments (for example land use planning) and corresponding guidelines on implementation all provide a good framework for dissemination of project approaches at the national and sub-national levels. Through training approaches, particularly involvement of training institutions in curricula development and skill development of trainers, additional capacities for EbA implementation are continuously created. Learning experiences and best practices of pilot activities, along with strategic EbA anchoring, are elaborated, disseminated and shared by project partners in exchange and learning platforms and in international dialogues.

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