

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP FOR REVIEW OF THE VOLUNTARY
GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGN AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOSYSTEM-
BASED APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION***

Bonn, Germany, 20-22 November 2017

INTRODUCTION

1. Vide paragraph 10 of decision XIII/4 of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation (EbA) and disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the fourteenth meeting of the COP.
2. Accordingly, a draft of the voluntary guidelines was prepared by the Secretariat and this technical workshop was conducted for its review. The workshop was held at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) headquarters in Bonn, Germany, from 20-22 November 2017 with the generous support of the European Union, and the Governments of Sweden and Germany.
3. The workshop comprised 50 participants selected for their expertise, geographic representation and gender equality. Twenty-one participants were country-nominated experts, two represented indigenous peoples and local communities, and twenty-five participants were from organizations including 3 staff members from the Secretariat and a consultant for the Secretariat. The list of participants is presented in Annex I.
4. The workshop was organized in plenary and included presentations and group exercises. The proposed organization of work is provided in Annex II.

DAY 1 AM – SESSION 1 - OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The meeting opened on Monday, 20 November 2017 at 9am.
6. Dr. Almuth Ostermeyer-Schlöder from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Germany, delivered an opening statement warmly welcoming the participants on behalf of the government of Germany. She mentioned the importance and value of ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and encouraged the participants in their work over the three days of the workshop.

* Issued without editing.

7. Dr. Claudia Mayer, of GIZ, welcomed the participants on behalf of GIZ. Ms. Mayer outlined the work of GIZ on ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, mentioning that these are critically valuable approaches to promote resilience in a changing climate.

8. Ms. Lisa Janishevski of the CBD Secretariat made an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Dr. Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, expressing appreciation to the Government of Germany and to GIZ for hosting the workshop, and to the European Union, and the Governments of Sweden and Germany for their generous financial support for the workshop. She reminded participants that the great challenges of halting biodiversity loss, limiting climate change and adapting to its effects, combating desertification and land degradation, reducing the risk of disasters, and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals can be addressed through the natural solutions provided by biodiversity. For example, a recent study demonstrated that ecosystem based approaches can provide over one third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 toward stabilizing warming to below 2°C. She stressed the fact that it is timely to look more closely at ecosystem-based approaches and adopt them as solutions, as they have the potential to deliver multiple benefits to biodiversity and human well-being. The voluntary guidelines being reviewed at this workshop can therefore be a tool to advance national commitments across multiple agencies including those in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions, as well as commitments to land degradation neutrality amongst others.

9. Ms. Janishevski provided an overview of the mandate for the workshop, its objectives, scope and expected outcomes. She highlighted relevant CBD decisions on EbA and Eco-DRR, and introduced the workshop agenda. She explained that the inputs from the workshop participants will directly feed into the revision of the guidelines to be considered at SBSTTA 22 and COP 14, so this is a useful and important opportunity for the participants to contribute to improving global policy.

10. Ms. Janishevski then presented an overview of relevant decisions of the COP that relate to biodiversity and climate change, and EbA and/or Eco-DRR. In particular, in decision XIII/4, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

11. The participants then undertook an exercise in groups to introduce the other participants at their table.

12. Shaun Martin of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) provided a breakdown of the definition of EbA and Eco-DRR, providing the basis for the discussion. He presented the four cornerstones of EbA and Eco-DRR (adverse effect of climate change, and the need to respond to future and current impacts of climate change and disaster risk reduction; use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; help people adapt; part of an overall strategy) and how these four cornerstones help build upon and strengthen the definition. He highlighted the fact that our role is to help other sectors understand why biodiversity is important and how it can help their work.

13. Ms. Veronica Lo, consultant for the Secretariat, presented an overview of the content of the draft guidelines which are being prepared in response to decision XIII/4. She reviewed common features of EbA and Eco-DRR, noting the significant overlap in what is considered EbA and Eco-DRR. She also outlined the rationale for the guidelines, their objectives, and target audience. The primary audience is the CBD focal points, and the goal is that the guidelines will also be used by people working in various sectors and in other conventions.

DAY 1 PM – SESSION 2

14. Ms. Susanna Tol of Wetlands International and Mr. Shaun Martin of WWF introduced the concepts of principles and safeguards to guide the group work.

15. Participants were divided into groups to review the principles and safeguards. Group 1 reviewed principle 1 and safeguards 2-3; Group 2 reviewed principles 2-4 and safeguards 3-4; Group 4 reviewed principles 6-7 and safeguards 8-9; Finally, group 5 reviewed principles 8-9 and all the safeguards, and group 6 reviewed all the principles. Each group provided feedback from their group discussions.

16. Ms. Tol and Mr. Martin introduced the topic of addressing ecosystem-based approaches to EbA and Eco-DRR on different scales. Participants were divided into groups and reported back.

17. Ms. Zita Sebesvari of United Nations University introduced the mainstreaming session. She discussed the importance of ensuring that the right people and experts are consulted in the planning and implementation process, as well as how EbA and Eco-DRR can be brought into the discussion on grey infrastructure.

18. Participants were divided into groups and provided feedback from their discussions. Comments from the group discussion led to a discussion on top-down vs. bottom-up approaches to mainstreaming. Several examples were discussed to compare the process in different countries.

19. Given that this section speaks to different sectors, the idea of having lessons learned was suggested. Some of these sectors are already using ecosystem based approaches, and the participants identified a need to coordinate and advise sectors on effective implementation.

20. Participants described that the managers of EbA and Eco-DRR policies and programmes need to engage meaningfully with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to ensure success. This is a challenge, as it involves communicating complex issues and scientific evidence as well as relevant local knowledge and perspectives. Communicating about EbA and Eco-DRR requires a planned systematic approach that takes into account the interests of stakeholders and beneficiaries.

DAY 2 AM – SESSION 3

21. Ms. Lisa Janishevski of the CBD Secretariat facilitated a discussion on defining the target audience, the guideline objectives, and identifying sectors on which to provide advocacy briefs.

22. In group work, the participants discussed the target audience, objectives, and structure for the sectoral outreach briefs, the main core of the guidelines for CBD focal points and practitioners, and a summary for policy makers.

23. Group 1 feedback included discussions on the length and content of the section for policy makers. The group discussed the utility of the document as a marketing tool, as it highlights the benefits of EbA and Eco-DRR to health and employment, and can help highlight how biodiversity contributes to, for example, job creation, gender equality, and investment. Climate change especially affords an opportunity for communication on this topic, as EbA can be highlighted as a possibility for furthering the objectives of all the relevant conventions within a given country. A diagram can be useful for mapping out what is relevant to all the conventions.

24. Group 2 found that the audience should be practitioners of ecosystem-based approaches, policy makers and CBD focal points. The participants felt that the guidelines should provide information on how to design and implement EbA and eco-DRR at the project and programme level. The group suggested modifying the document structure to include a stepwise project cycle approach including matching relevant tools to the steps (e.g. stakeholder engagement, appraising options, monitoring and evaluation, raising awareness). It should also include briefs to support advocacy on how EbA and Eco-DRR can benefit other sectors (e.g. maintenance of support and regulating ecosystem services).

25. Group 3 reported that there should be one set of CBD guidelines, which the focal points can then use to come up with their own guidelines. However, the group also felt that it was possible to make a set that was broader in scope. They proposed developing briefs for outreach into sectors, indicating what kind of actions can be taken, what the hooks and benefits are, as well as sector entry points for EbA and Eco-DRR practitioners. Overall, the group agreed that the document should outline basic EbA and Eco-DRR design actions.

DAY 2 PM – SESSION 4 - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

26. Mrs. Edna Chepkorir Kaptoyo and Mr. Onel Masardule Arias opened the session on addressing indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and traditional knowledge in EbA and Eco-DRR. Ms. Kaptoyo reviewed important decisions, including the recent UNFCCC COP 23 decision on IPLC engagement. She also presented four questions to be addressed in group work: (1) Review guidelines section on stakeholder engagement and assess any gaps; (2) Discuss how IPLC's can be involved effectively in EbA and Eco-DRR at different levels, and identify best practices in engagement of IPLCs (3) Discuss best practices for integration of traditional knowledge in EbA and Eco-DRR planning and implementation and propose mechanisms to promote integration; and finally, (4) Identify the challenges experienced in the integration of traditional knowledge in EbA and Eco-DRR and how they can be addressed.

27. The first group highlighted the fact that it is not useful to think of limitations in traditional knowledge, but to think of how to integrate all types of knowledge with respect to EbA and Eco-DRR. Participants highlighted the importance of documenting traditional knowledge, because much information is not passed on to younger generations. There is a need to take advantage of other platforms, while recognizing the limitations that web based platforms impose. Examples from UNESCO in Latin America (e.g. traditional knowledge on water sanitation being used for EbA and eco-DRR) were cited.

28. The second group highlighted the need for discussions on differences between local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as discussions on science vs. traditional knowledge, and how to take both into consideration. It was described that under a changing climate we should all work on solutions together. There was also a discussion on some difficulties that have occurred if local and indigenous peoples have not established an agreed representative.

29. The participants also discussed the opportunity to examine current legislation on relevant indigenous issues, with a view to including EbA components.

DAY 3 AM – SESSION 5 - PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP SESSIONS

30. The agenda was revised to include an activity on sectoral outreach that was presented by Ms. Janishevski. This activity was conducted in groups tasked to develop a “three-minute sales pitch” on selling the importance and value of EbA and Eco-DRR to representatives such as Ministers within sectors. The sectors considered were: planning and finance, infrastructure, spatial planning, agriculture, forestry, humanitarian, water and sanitation, fisheries, and health.

31. Participants were organized into four breakout groups to discuss the above sectors and the below guiding questions, and each group prepared presentations on two sectors each. Notes on the discussions are presented in Annex III.

Guiding questions:

- 1) What can EbA and Eco-DRR offer to the sector?
- 2) What does the sector have to do?
- 3) What are interesting points to get investment, policy, and practice?
- 4) What are the current ongoing solutions?

32. It was discussed that proposals targeted at sectors should concentrate on the main benefit to the sector, and mention co-benefits later in the pitch (noting that the co-benefits could also be just as important for the planning and finance sectors). Proposals should include just the key arguments with as much clarity as possible. Finally, they must emphasize the fact that there are many adaptation options and ecosystem-based approaches are suggested to be considered along with other measures.

DAY 3 PM – SESSION 6 - TRADE OFFS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

33. Presentation by Mr. Nao Furuta of Japan, introducing the subject of trade-offs, with the following guiding questions: what kind of trade-offs and limitations do we need to bear in mind in designing and implementing EbA/Eco-DRR? What are some of the tools and processes that can help identify trade-offs, evaluate trade-offs, support creating consensus, and making decisions among different stakeholders with different views?

34. Participant feedback included a discussion about what specific trade-offs we need to inform sectors about. The question of how to prepare for a discussion on trade-offs was raised; solutions of implementing joint assessments, targeted scenario analysis, or a cost-benefit analysis were suggested as options. Further discussion included the fact the people should not lose economically in the trade offs, and that there should be a consideration of the ethical dimensions of trade-offs.

35. Mr. Tristan Tyrell of SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, introduced the topic of monitoring and evaluation.

36. The participants discussed key conclusions that they wish to see in the final document and provided guidance on how to move forward. Participants were organized into three breakout groups to discuss financing, research, and monitoring and evaluation.

DAY 3 PM – SESSION 7 - CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

37. The workshop was closed on Wednesday, 22 November 2017, at 5:00 pm with closing remarks from Mathias Bertrand and Arno Sckeyde of GIZ and Lisa Janishevski of the SCBD who presented their gratitude to the participants and to the donor governments and agencies.

38. The revised draft of the voluntary guidelines will be sent for peer review in January and February 2018, and thereafter made available for the consideration of SBSTTA 22 in July 2018, and COP 14 in November 2018.

Annex I

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Annex II
PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

DAY 1	Monday, 20 November 2017
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening remarks (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Almuth Ostermeyer-Schlöder, BMUB ○ Dr. Claudia Meyer, GIZ ○ Ms. Lisa Janishevski, SCBD • Workshop description: background, objectives and expected outcomes (Ms. Lisa Janishevski, SCBD, 5 min) • Self-introductions (30 min)
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
10:15 – 11:00	<p>State of play in EbA and Eco-DRR – past, present, future (Shaun Martin, WWF) (15 min)</p> <p>Overview of the draft guidelines (Veronica Lo, 10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions and discussion (15 min)
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Principles and safeguards (Facilitator: Shaun Martin / Susanna Tol)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion (5 groups of 6 – 8 people, 40 min) <p>Group Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would the principles and safeguards work in your country or for your project? How and why? - Do you have suggestions for improvements, additions, consolidation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back and discussion in plenary
12:30 – 1.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
1.30 - 3:15	<p>Addressing ecosystem-based approaches to EbA & Eco-DRR on different scales (Facilitator: Shaun Martin / Susanna Tol)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion (5 groups of 6 – 8 people, 40 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the document based on experiences, best practices and making suggestions • Report back and discussion in plenary
3:15 – 3:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
3:45 – 5:00	<p>Mainstreaming ecosystem-based approaches (Facilitator: Zita Sebesvari)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion in plenary (45 min)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the document based on experiences, best practices and making suggestions on mainstreaming EbA & Eco-DRR • Summary on implications for the guidelines (15 min)
6:00 pm	Reception dinner hosted by the government of Germany

Day 2	Tuesday, 21 November 2017
09:00 – 09:15	Brief recap (15 min)
09:15 – 10:45	<p>Addressing indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and traditional knowledge in EbA and Eco-DRR (Facilitators: Onel Masardule and Edna Chepkorir Kaptoyo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion in plenary (40 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the document based on experiences, best practices and making suggestions on involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in EbA and Eco-DRR • Summary on implications for the guidelines
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Monitoring & Evaluation (Facilitators: Mathias Bertram and Tristan Tyrrell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion (30 min) (5 groups of 6 – 8 people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the document based on experiences, best practices and making suggestions on effective monitoring and evaluation of EbA and Eco-DRR • Report back and discussion in plenary
12:30 – 1.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
1:30 - 3:15	<p>Trade-offs (Naoya Furata)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion (30 min) (5 groups of 6 – 8 people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the document based on experiences, best practices and making suggestions on trade-offs and implications for the guidelines
3:15 – 3:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
3:45 – 4:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back and discussion in plenary on trade offs – referencing back to the safeguards and principles
4:30 – 5:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the day’s discussions and explanation of the excursion (Mathias Bertram)

Starting ~ 8 pm	Voluntary excursion: “Night Watchman’s Tour of Bonn”
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Day 3	Wednesday, 22 November 2017
09:00 – 09:15	Brief recap (15 min)
09:15 – 10:30	<p>Research and Funding (Facilitators: Zita Sebesvari)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion (30 min) (5 groups of 6 – 8 people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research needs and opportunities - Funding needs and opportunities - Suggestions for the guidelines • Report back (15 min) • Report back and discussion in plenary (15 min)
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee/Tea break</i>
	<p>Making it Happen (Facilitators: Sylvia Wicander)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief intro (10 min) • Group discussion in plenary (30 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing the document based on experiences, best practices and making suggestions on enhancing capacity to promote advocacy on EbA and Eco-DRR • Summary on implications for the guidelines
12:30 – 1:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
1:30 - 2:30	<p>Revisiting the Principles and Safeguards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief recap of workshop discussions and how they feed back into the guidelines (10 min) • Group discussion (40 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would make the principles and safeguards more effective? - How can we ensure they are followed?
2:30– 3:00	Addressing outstanding issues
3:00 – 3:15	Next steps in the process (15 min) (SCBD)
3:15 – 3:30	Closing of the workshop (SCBD, GIZ, BMUB)
3:30 – 5.00	<i>Participants may stay to discuss with each other</i>

Annex III. Notes on the discussions and exercises on creating “pitches” on advocacy of implementing EbA and Eco-DRR in sectors.

1. Planning and Finance. The main selling point used to address the planning and finance sector is that EbA is cost-effective. The maintenance of green infrastructure is especially cost effective. Additionally, multiple benefits can be achieved with one measure, and in times when money is tight, these measures should be favoured since they create synergies and multiple benefits in several sectors. Given that EbA/Eco-DRR implementation is labour-based, large potential for employment on the local level, revitalizing the local economy.

For grey infrastructure, capital or labour based approaches can be used. For ecosystem based measures it is mainly labour based. It can address unemployment on the local scale and it can be based on locally available or local produced material. It provides an investment opportunity for the private sector, as well as an opportunity to create new markets. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for better collaboration among sectors and thus an opportunity to deliver on multiple international obligations including the SDGs, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for DRR, Aichi targets etc.

2. Agriculture. The main selling point to the forestry sector would be that fact that ecosystem based approaches would increase agricultural production and revenue generation/maintenance. The pitch highlighted how these activities would reduce disaster risks for production, increase access to funds as well as markets, and increase local ownership and independence by using traditional practices and diversification to increase resilience. A pitch to this sector would also highlight how the sector contributes to development/the SDG's and national climate change targets. The pitch outlined benefits at different time scales. Short term benefits included subsidies for nature based solutions, medium-term benefits included improved production, and long-term benefits included water and food security.

3. Humanitarian. The focus of this pitch was on what the humanitarian sector is trained to do, which is to provide access to food and clean/potable water. For the pitch to the humanitarian sector, the group highlighted how EbA can be used to improve livelihoods by enhancing food security, access to clean water, and improving resilience to environmental disasters. The identified benefits of EbA and Eco-DRR actions were to: reduce root drivers; alleviate pressure on humanitarian sector job creation; and improving water and food security. Stressing the fact that when natural resources are not protected, the incidences for disasters increase, and that healthy and resilient ecosystems can better support healthy and resilient people. Major points highlighted by this group included: using ecosystem based approaches can help people adapt to climate change and deal with disasters resulting from climate change, and can help reduce conflicts over natural resources that lead to wider issues like forced migration, and they can also help reduce the costs and pressures on delivering aid to people in need.

The group advised the sector to improve inter-ministerial coordination, design appropriate programs, integrate EbA at an early stage, anticipate the need for funds and allocate them to the right programs. Hooks to get funding included the cost-effectiveness, highlighting short term benefits, the sustainability of the solutions in the long term, as well as the potential for job creation. Identified short term benefit was improving health, and the main long-term benefit was improving resilience.

4. Fisheries. In the context of uncertainty regarding climate change, resilience will be essential and ecosystem based approaches such as ecosystem conservation and restoration can foster that resilience by improving species diversity. Protecting fish habitats is one way of ensuring the sustainability of fisheries, increasing biodiversity, helping ecosystems to be more resilient. Enabling cross-sectoral exchanges is also a key to success. There is a need to work together to meet the SDGs which are integrated, and work across sectors. The pitch focused on the fact that the multi-benefits argument is the key point to consider when establishing conversations with governments. Highlight the co-benefits including: carbon sequestration, economic activities (eco-tourism), and effects of improving biodiversity. The implementation of ecosystem-based approaches can lead to cross-sectoral benefits such as: coastal protection accruing benefits to small-scale fisheries thereby promoting job creation; and improving outcomes of various impacts (e.g. ocean acidification, fish migrations, coastal erosion, land salinization, storm surges, mitigation of sea level rise, invasive alien species).

5. Infrastructure and Spatial Planning. There are many entry points to the discussion/pitch with this sector. One of the key points raised was that EbA can protect existing infrastructure and inform new infrastructure development projects. It was strongly emphasized that before undertaking infrastructure

development, at least one ecosystem-based solution should be considered as a first option. Additionally, governments would benefit from incorporating EbA into national policies. A suggestion was made to make it a legal requirement to consider or even prioritize a green option among possible solutions.

EbA also provides guidance on risk and feasibility assessments. The cost-benefit analysis of planned actions should go beyond monetary valuation to be accurate. Actions to focus on include: improving awareness amongst infrastructure workers on the risks that climate change poses to infrastructure; improving cross-fertilization among ministries of infrastructure and engineers; fostering exchanges amongst countries of their best practices and lessons learned; employment creation on the local scale.

6. Forestry. A pitch to the forestry sector would include a suggestion to change the sector's business model and encourage a move towards multifunctional landscapes. EbA benefits that would be highlighted include forest fire prevention, erosion control, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, and forests as a heat buffer. Mitigation and adaptation could be combined into one ecosystem. Further, EbA would allow for supporting local and indigenous knowledge and traditions, many of which are linked to forests. Finally, the pitch highlighted how this would address various frameworks (international and national commitments) including SDG 15 "Life on Land", UNFCCC (NDCs, NAPs, REDD+), Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), Sendai Framework, and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

7. Water (Drinking water and sanitation). The pitch focused on the core concerns of water ministers in relation to climate change adaptation and disasters. They highlighted the fact that water-related ecosystems are key to the provisioning of multiple ecosystem services. Water is critical for agriculture, people, and other sectors. Participants underscored the importance of water as a base for adaptation, mitigation and DRR efforts.

In relation to water, ministers need to be in close cooperation with other ministers in planning and coordination, create budget lines for catchment conservation, and include scientific components in inter-ministerial planning in early phases. Further, they should highlight the need for inter-ministerial discussions as well as trans-boundary/cross-border discussions, because the management of water resources cannot happen in one ministry and only in-country.

8. Health. Climate change affects human health through, for example: heat waves, negative impacts on water quality and provisioning, extreme weather events, landslides, and erosion. Climate change also affects food security and air pollution and creates related mental stresses. Making use of EbA and eco DRR can improve resilience to these events and provide filtration and bolster reserves to improve water sanitation and supply. These approaches can improve mental health of citizens as they will be better able to cope with disaster impacts. In addition, they will be able to build-back-better using green strategies that provide them with other co-benefits. Other positive effects of "greening cities" include: reducing air pollution; reduced risk of diseases through healthier ecosystems; and improved food security through urban agriculture opportunities.
