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FEBA
Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA)

Member Meeting Summary

Hosted by IUCN

11 December 2024, Virtual



FEBA Members during the 2024 Annual Meeting

Overview

The 2024 Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) Annual Members Meeting was held virtually on December 11 to review progress, share updates, and strategize for 2025. The meeting highlighted FEBA's growing influence in advancing ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation (EbA) globally and featured contributions from its Secretariat, working groups, and partners. Attendees engaged in dynamic breakout discussions on priorities for the upcoming year, emphasizing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and policy influence.

The meeting was moderated by Gregory Davies-Jones (Programme Officer, IUCN), with key remarks from Ali Raza Rizvi (Head of the FEBA Secretariat, IUCN), Nina Alsen (Senior Policy Advisor, BMUV-IKI), and updates from FEBA working groups and members. Slides from the presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Opening Remarks

Ali Raza Rizvi (Head of the FEBA Secretariat, IUCN)

Ali emphasized FEBA's transformation from a small network into a strong community comprising over 100 organizations actively integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) into global environmental policies. He highlighted FEBA's commitment to promoting biodiversity, enhancing climate resilience, and mitigating pollution through collaboration and knowledge sharing. Additionally, Ali announced the launch of a new working group and suggested the possibility of creating another working group focused on themes related to the bioeconomy.

Nina Alsen (Senior Policy Officer, BMUV-IKI)

Nina, representing Germany's Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV), emphasized the importance of EbA as a cost-effective, scalable, and sustainable solution for climate change. Further, she highlighted the long-standing and successful partnership with FEBA, which offers a multifaceted, cost-effective, and sustainable approach to climate change adaptation, now supported by concrete evidence and measurement methodologies. On behalf of the Ministry, she acknowledged the unwavering dedication of FEBA members in promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and building global resilience. Finally, Nina announced that the BMUV-IKI has allocated over €400 million for EbA projects and encouraged members to consider funding opportunities available through the Global EbA Fund and IKI's thematic calls.

FEBA Secretariat Updates

Key Milestones

Gregory shared significant achievements from 2024:

- **10th EbA Knowledge Day:** A significant event hosted by IUCN and UNEP on June 6, 2024, in Bonn (Germany), fostering collaboration on Rio Conventions goals. For more information, refer to the [summary report](#).
- **Quarterly Newsletter Launch:** Transitioning from an annual 80-page document to concise, quarterly updates. The first newsletter in this new format will be published in January 2025.
- **Website Revamp:** Improved resource accessibility, including the EbA eLearning course with 10,000+ participants. Visit our new website [here](#).
- **Membership Growth:** In 2024, FEBA welcomed 21 representatives from 10 new member organizations: NET Africa, CDKN, RET International, BirdLife, IUCN ORMACC, Fauna & Flora, WWF Nepal, ZSL, ADRA, and SOCODEVI. To further strengthen its capacity, FEBA also welcomed two new team members: Adriana Vidal (Senior Policy Advisor, IUCN) and Rose Washington (Programme Officer, IUCN), who will now support the FEBA Secretariat.

Knowledge Products and Events

Over nine years, FEBA has:

- **Produced 45 knowledge** products (e.g., policy briefs, monitoring guidelines).
- **Hosted 120+ events globally**, including high-level engagements at COPs and webinars.

Updates from Working Groups and Collaborations

GBF Targets 8 and 11 Working Group

Co-chaired by Tristan Tyrrell from the CBD Secretariat and Nadia Sitas from CDKN, SouthSouthNorth, this group is dedicated to integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Their publication "[Harnessing Ecosystem-based Adaptation to drive progress on implementing the KMGBF](#)" highlighted the connection between EbA and several policy frameworks, including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Sendai Framework.

Biodiversity, Climate, One Health, and NbS Working Group

Under the leadership of Christina Romanelli from WHO, this group improved the understanding of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in relation to health, nature and climate adaptation. Their report titled "[Nature-based Solutions for Health: Leveraging Biodiversity to Create Health-Promoting Environments](#)" was published in collaboration with WHO and IUCN and included ten key recommendations and case studies. The report encourages the practical application of NbS to benefit both people and ecosystems.

NbS in Humanitarian Contexts Working Group

Verónica Ruiz García from IUCN provided updates on the group, including a successful proposal for the [Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week 2025](#), scheduled for March 17-28, 2025. This cross-network working group aims to bring together stakeholders from FEBA, the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network (EHAN), and the Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR). The focus is to promote nature-based solutions and environmental safeguarding as essential components and strategies within humanitarian aid and development.

New Working Groups

1. **Nature for Peace:** Rose Washington from IUCN introduced this working group, focusing on the intersection of climate, nature, and peace and how EbA can effectively contribute to peace. The next steps involve continuing the scoping phase and developing the Terms of Reference and Concept. More information will be shared in due course.

2. **EbA and Psychological Resilience:** Gary Belkin from the Billion Minds Institute launched a new working group on integrating psychological resilience into Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), emphasizing its role in enhancing social trust and collective efficacy. The Terms of References and Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for this Working Group will be disseminated to FEBA members in January.

Breakout Group Highlights

After a brief pause, Adriana Vidal from IUCN outlined the breakout discussion and provided an overview of FEBA's role, key functions, and tools by means of the scheme (see Annex I). Participants were instructed to provide brief updates within their groups and discuss FEBA's priorities for 2025. This discussion was structured around FEBA's three main functions: knowledge sharing, policy influence, and collaboration. Key takeaways included:

Group 1 emphasized several actionable priorities for advancing EbA:

- **COP30 Event with Grantees:** The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) proposed organizing a COP30 event to showcase lessons learned from grantees, which would reinforce the practice-to-policy connection. FEBA's role would be to influence policy and share knowledge during such events.
- **Technical Submission for the GGA:** Conservation International (CI) highlighted the importance of contributing to the technical submission for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), with a focus on integrating Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). FEBA can facilitate this through policy influence and collaboration, with support from partners like SwedBio and Billion Minds.
- **Wider FEBA Engagement at COP30:** CI also proposed hosting broader FEBA-led events at COP30 to ensure inclusivity and highlight diverse member contributions.
- **Exchange Sessions on Human Rights and Resilience:** SwedBio suggested unpacking the intersections of human rights and resilience through workshops or exchange sessions. This aligns with Billion Minds' focus on collaborative learning.
- **Feedback on the Issue Brief:** Billion Minds Institute sought input from members on their issue brief to refine strategies for integrating psychological resilience into EbA, leveraging knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

Group 2 identified opportunities to enhance EbA implementation and funding:

- **Cross-Expert Collaboration:** Flora and Fauna proposed providing support to members of UNFCCC-nominated working groups, particularly for biodiversity and ecosystems. This could include hosting technical working group meetings with organizations like IISD.

- **Public Funding Standards:** SOCO DEVI emphasized the need to strengthen the understanding of how to channel public funding for EbA effectively. This includes producing standards and guidance to access EbA finance while avoiding double-counting risks. Potential collaborators include public servants, Oxfam, CARE, ACT Alliance, and WWF-US.
- **Psychological Resilience and NbS/EbA:** A representative from the University of Leeds expressed interest in joining the psychological resilience and NbS/EbA Working Group and contributing to integrating knowledge sharing, policy influence, and collaboration. Key collaborators include Stockholm Environment Institute, White Rose Forest, and academics from the Universities of Leeds, Manchester, and Lancaster.

Group 3 discussions focused on enhancing monitoring and reporting synergies across conventions:

- **Synergies in Monitoring and Reporting:** GIZ highlighted the need to continue working under the Targets 8 and 11 Working Group to explore synergies between monitoring and reporting across the CBD and UNFCCC. This includes addressing EbA effectiveness and responding to country requests for capacity building in applying monitoring tools. UNEP-WCMC and FAO were identified as key collaborators.
- **Compilation and Analysis of EbA Monitoring Frameworks:** GIZ and Instituto de Montaña (IdM) proposed compiling data and reports on existing EbA monitoring frameworks to analyse best practices. The [Mountain EbA Project](#)'s monitoring framework, developed by IdM, was suggested as a valuable contribution to this process. UNEP-WCMC and FAO were identified as potential partners.

The FEBA Secretariat will integrate the insights and priorities shared during the breakout group discussions into its 2025 work planning. These inputs will shape strategic initiatives, inform the focus of working groups, and guide upcoming events, including UNFCCC COP30 activities.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Closing Remarks by Ali Raza Rizvi

Ali expressed heartfelt gratitude to members and partners for their active participation and unwavering commitment to advancing Ecosystem-based Adaptation. He acknowledged the rich discussions and collaborative spirit demonstrated during the meeting as a testament to the strength of the FEBA network. Ali emphasized the importance of leveraging the insights and ideas shared during the meeting to guide future efforts.

Next Steps

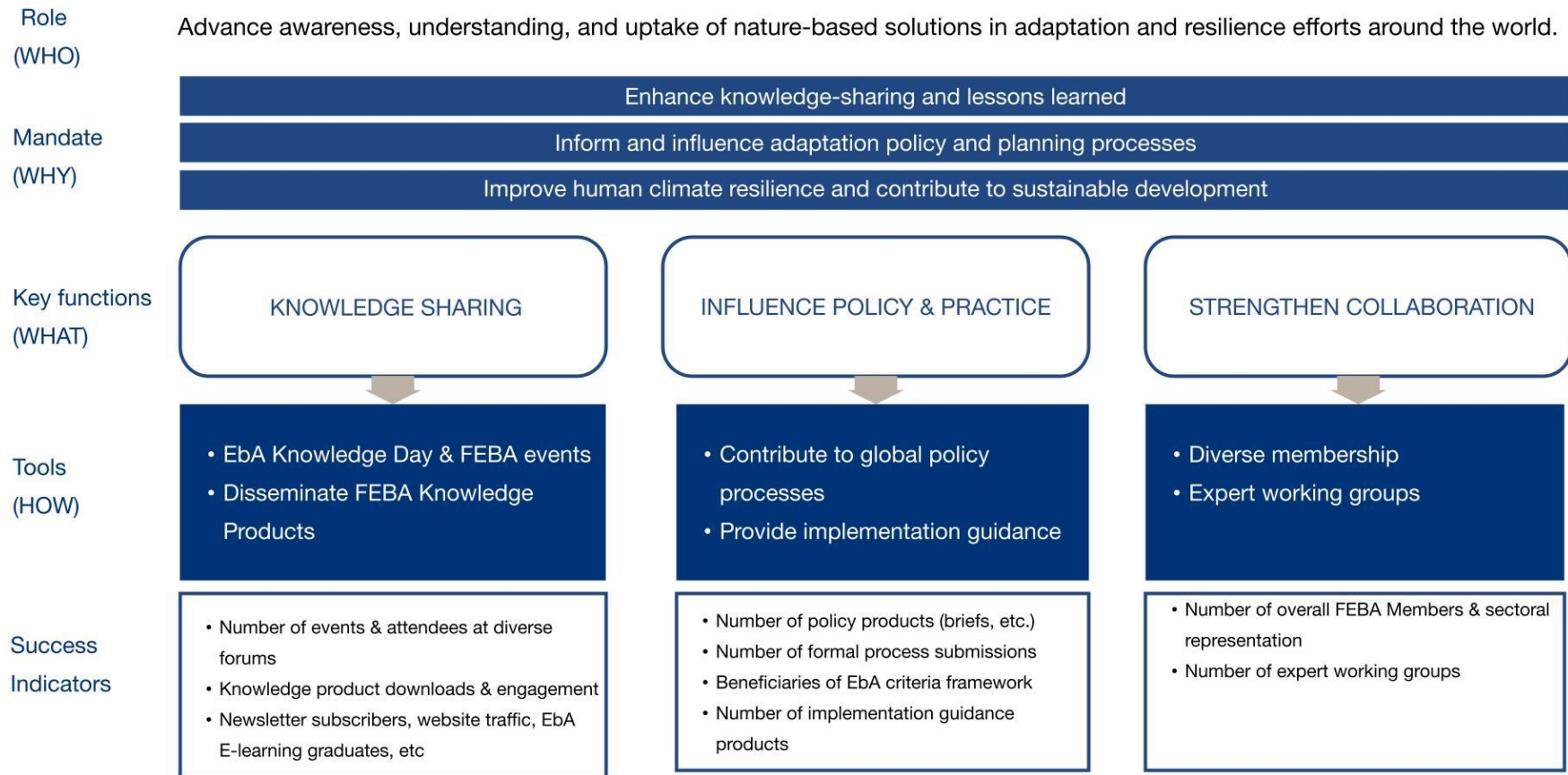
1. **Annual Member Survey:** FEBA will distribute an annual survey next week to capture members' feedback, priorities, and ideas for 2025. This survey will help refine FEBA's strategic focus and identify opportunities for collective action.
2. **Launch of New Working Groups:** Terms of References for the Nature for Peace and EbA /NbS and Psychological Resilience working groups will be finalized and shared by early 2025. Members will be invited to join and shape the initial activities of these groups, ensuring broad engagement and alignment with FEBA's goals. Further, based on ideas suggested during the annual meeting and responses to the annual survey, Members will be contacted in due course regarding additional new working groups.
3. **COP30 Planning:** Preparations for UNFCCC COP30 will begin in due time. Key activities will include organizing practice-to-policy events with grantees, developing technical submissions for the Global Goal on Adaptation, and hosting inclusive sessions that highlight member contributions.
4. **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** FEBA will prioritize the development of capacity-building initiatives, including tools and guidance to support member organizations in accessing and utilizing EbA financing. Additionally, knowledge-sharing platforms, such as quarterly newsletters and workshops, will be expanded.
5. **Enhanced Collaboration:** FEBA aims to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, including public servants, NGOs, and academic institutions, to address challenges such as funding accessibility and the integration of psychological resilience into EbA initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a collective vision of scaling up ecosystem-based adaptation to meet the dual challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Members were encouraged to stay engaged, continue collaborating, and work together to create a resilient and sustainable future. FEBA remains committed to providing the tools, platforms, and partnerships needed to amplify the impact of EbA globally.

Annexes

Annex I: FEBA Scheme

FEBA Role, Key Functions & Tools



Annex II: Breakout Group Findings

Group	Representative/Member Organisation	Priority for EbA	FEBA Support Mechanism	Potential Collaborators
1	CBF	COP30 event with grantees and highlighting lessons learned	Influencing policy and practice	-
	Conservation International	Contributing to the technical submission of the GGA, including IPLCs	Knowledge sharing, policy influence, and collaboration	SwedBio, Billion Minds
	Conservation International	Hosting a broader FEBA event (or multiple) at COP30	Collaboration	-
	SwedBio	Unpacking human rights and resilience approaches (exchange session/workshop)	Knowledge sharing and collaboration	Billion Minds
	Billion Minds Institute	Providing feedback on the issue brief	Knowledge sharing	-
2	Flora and Fauna	Cross-expert group collaboration	Support members of the UNFCCC nominated Working Groups, particularly for the biodiversity & ecosystems group. E.g., hosting some of these WG	Hosting organisations for Technical Working Group meetings (e.g., IISD)
	SOCO DEVI	Strengthening understanding of how to channel public funding for EbA	Produce standards and guidance on accessing finance on EbA and avoid issues around double counting	Public servants, Oxfam, CARE, ACT Alliance, WWF-US
	University of Leeds	EbA & Psychological Resilience Programme	Knowledge sharing, influencing policy and practice, and collaboration through the Working Group	Stockholm Environment Institute, White Rose Forrest, Academics at the University of Leeds, Manchester and Lancaster

3	GIZ	WG on T 8&11: synergies between monitoring and reporting across CBD and UNFCCC	<p>Continue working under the WG and expand of this specific topic. Potentially EbA effectiveness would be addressed. FAO relates the requests of countries to build capacities. The how to apply these tools</p> <p>Compilation of data and reports on existing EbA monitoring frameworks and analyse what works</p>	UNEP WCMC and FAO
	IdM	WB on T 8&11: synergies between monitoring and reporting across CBD and UNFCCC	Existing monitoring framework based on the Mountain EbA project which can contribute to this process	UNEP WCMC and FAO

Annex III: List of Participants

Last Name	First Name	Organisation
Alsen	Nina	Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
Angioni	Catarina	FAO
Atieno	Wendy	IUCN
Belkin	Gary	Billion Minds Institute
Benicchio	Romain	Sphere
Chabaneix	Nicole	World Wildlife Fund
Côte-St-Laurent	Andrée-Anne	SOCODEVI
Fedele	Giacomo	Conservation International
Gallardo	Mirella	Instituto de Montaña (IdM)
García Ruiz	Verónica	IUCN
Goodwin	Emily	Rare
Goodwin	Kathryn	IUCN
Goossens-Ishii	Alexandra	Soka Gakkai International (SGI)
Hertz	Ashanapuri	Stockholm University
Horstmann	Johannes	OroVerde - together for tropical forests
Jafflin	Zoe	IUCN
Kallio	Enni	IUCN
Konstantinidis	Thea	Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft
Krauss	Ulrike	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
Lehoczky	Annamaria	Fauna and Flora
Lyss-Loren	Shira	Conservation International
Nisbet	Rachel	University of Leeds
Nuutinen	Maria	FAO
Pandeya	Bhopal	UNEP-WCMC
Perez	Anastasia	Billion Minds Institute
Raza Rizvi	Ali	IUCN

Roy	Christopher	IUCN
Tyrrell	Tristan	UN CBD Secretariat
Vidal	Adriana	IUCN
Washington	Rose	IUCN
Wicander	Sylvia	GIZ
Wolff	Anke	Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft