



Integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation options into responses to Climate Change in Cities in Asia

Panel discussion

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Where it started..

- EbA in Vulnerable Urban Areas in Asia
- Partnership UNEP, PEI & UN Habitat
- Start up phase Jan –Oct '13
- 5 Countries – 6 cities
- City assessments & stakeholder engagement
- Donor engagement



What is EbA ?

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy. EBA uses sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, taking into account anticipated climate change impact trends, to reduce the vulnerability and improve the resilience of ecosystems and people to climate change impacts.

Why EbA in Cities?

Challenges in cities

- Unsustainable urban planning/landscape
- Lack of ecosystems services
- Livelihood dependence on ecosystems services
- High level of settlement living in high risk areas
- Concentration of key infrastructure and services
- Urban communities vulnerable to climate change impacts



Climate Change impacts in Cities

- Rising water levels & flooding
- Reduced drainage capacities
- Increased temperatures
- Increase in extreme weather events



These will have effects on:

- health of population
- Infrastructure & housing
- Quality of drinking water
- Migration to city

Benefits of EbA for cities

- **Reducing climate change risks**
- **Cost-effective approach**
- **Urban population depends on Ecosystems & Ecosystem Services:**
 - ✓ Rivers and canals - natural water drainage and water supply
 - ✓ Forests – food, timber, carbon sink, air quality & tourism
 - ✓ Mangroves – fish and shrimp growth and coastal protection
 - ✓ Wetlands – waste water treatment



Panel Discussion Outcomes

- Increased knowledge of how integrating EbA options into urban climate change responses can increase resilience of urban population
- Gained understanding on ecosystems & ecosystem services
- Learned about cost benefits of holistic adaptation approaches, including EBA

Discussants

- Keith Alverson, Head Climate Change Adaptation and Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch, UNEP
- Liam Fee, Technical Adviser, UN Habitat
- Batu Uprety, Expert Member, Climate Change Council, Deputy coordinator of LDC coordination group