

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

CoP-11, Hyderabad (October 8-19, 2012)

Tuesday, October 9, 15:00– 18:00

Rio Pavilion, Novotel Ballroom, HICC
Hosted by UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, Government of Germany, Government
of South Africa

Ecosystem-based Adaptation: Sharpening our Approach to Assessment and Monitoring

Session 1: Advancing the practice of vulnerability assessment for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change

15:00 **Opening Remarks**

- » *Neville Ash, Chief of Biodiversity Unit, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP*

15:05 **Using EBA approaches and vulnerability assessments in India's
Climate Change Action Plans**

- » *Preeti Soni, Advisor: Climate Change, Environment and Energy, UNDP*

15:20 **Vulnerability assessment and response measures to climate
change in South Africa**

- » *Vhalinavho Khavhagali, Deputy Director: Biodiversity and Climate Change, DEA, South Africa*

15:35 **Incorporating ecosystem resilience into vulnerability assessment:
the EBA Mountain Ecosystems Programme**

- » *Caroline Petersen, Technical Specialist: Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNDP*

15:50 **Questions and Discussion**

16:15 **Tea**

Session 2: Are we developing a growing body of convincing evidence on the effectiveness of EBA?

16:30 **Panel discussion facilitated by Caroline Petersen**

- » *Neville Ash, Chief of Biodiversity Unit, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP*
- » *Dr Moscow Marumo, Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Management, DEA, South Africa*
- » *Trevor Sandwith, Director of Global Protected Areas Programme, IUCN*
- » *Marc Spiekermann, Biodiversity Officer, International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany*
- » *Nik Sekhran, Head/Principal Technical Advisor for Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNDP*



This side event forms part of a Day at the Rio Conventions Pavilion entitled “Towards Science, Assessments and Monitoring for the Rio Conventions” and looks at ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) work by partners UNDP, UNEP, IUCN and the Governments of Germany and South Africa through this lens. The first of the two sessions focuses on “Advancing the practice of vulnerability assessment for ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change” and aims to explore how EBA approaches are being used in developing countries as part of governments’ strategies to plan for adaptation to climate change. Speakers will share experiences in conducting assessments to determine the vulnerability of societies, communities and ecosystems to anticipated climate impacts; the audience will be invited to contribute to the debate about how to improve vulnerability assessment methodologies to inform effective design of EBA interventions.

The second session, “Are we developing a growing body of convincing evidence on the effectiveness of EBA?”, aims to assess: how well we are doing in making the case for EBA as part of broader adaptation strategies; to what extent there is a growing acceptance of the importance of ecosystem-based approaches; and what role evidence of effectiveness plays in this regard. Panelists will reflect on past and current experience in ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, and the extent to which monitoring and evaluation systems have enabled us to measure the impacts of our work, as opposed to just outputs and outcomes. Discussions will explore advances and challenges in establishing methodologies for measuring changes in communities’ adaptive capacity and changes in ecosystem resilience and functioning over time, including the development of indicators and proxies. Panelists may also explore the potential use of experimental learning techniques involving academic partners who establish control sites for comparison with projects sites, to enable monitoring of outcomes and impacts.