Online Seminar

Seminar on Monitoring and Evaluating Ecosystem-based Adaptation Interventions:

Spotlight on Indicator Development

Dates and venue:
Session 1 on Friday, 04 June 2021
Session 2 on Friday, 11 June 2021

MS Teams link will be shared beforehand

Please send the application to: eba@giz.de
Please send the form by Monday, 24 May 2021

Background

As the global climate is rapidly changing, people worldwide increasingly need to adapt to the negative effects of such changes. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) has emerged as a promising approach for reducing negative climate change impacts on people through working with and enhancing nature. While on-the-ground EbA interventions have been multiplying across the globe in line with increasing political momentum for EbA, there are still many uncertainties associated with their design and implementation. In light of this, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is vital.

M&E is the means for understanding whether or not – and why – an intervention is achieving its objectives. A well-designed M&E system should be able to provide information on whether the objectives of an intervention are achieved, as well as which of the detected changes have occurred due to the intervention itself. M&E is therefore key to informing adaptive management, addressing uncertainties and improving the effectiveness of interventions on the ground, while at the same time building the scientific evidence base on 'what works' in EbA across different contexts. The latter will help improve future practice and maximise adaptation impacts. More solid evidence on EbA effectiveness will also support efforts to integrate and scale up EbA across different sectors, and allow the formulation of more robust, science-based adaptation policies and legislation.

M&E of EbA can be particularly challenging, however, largely because working with changes in ecosystems is inherently complex, long-term and influenced by multiple drivers. This can make it difficult to develop clearly defined causal pathways linking EbA interventions to intended social and ecological outcomes and impacts, especially over the long time horizons needed to observe social and environmental adaptation benefits. One of the key steps in navigating these challenges is identifying indicators that can be used to analyse impacts and causal linkages within the context of social-ecological interactions, and putting in place processes that enable the long-term M&E of these indicators.

Implemented by

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UN environment programme **WCMC**

On behalf of:

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for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany

About the Seminar

To help practitioners involved in designing M&E systems for EbA interventions, this Seminar will explore the development of indicators for results-based M&E. The programme will include a mix of presentations and interactive elements and allow participants to feed in examples from their own work. Drawing on the *Guidebook for Monitoring and Evaluating Ecosystem-based Adaptation Interventions*, published in 2020, the Seminar will first cover the role of a Theory of Change (ToC) in the context of developing indicators, as well as best practice for developing a ToC. It will then delve into considerations for identifying and selecting suitable indicators for EbA interventions that can provide information on the outcomes and impacts of implemented measures. Only by monitoring and evaluating the outcomes (and over longer time periods, the impacts) of EbA interventions, can their effectiveness in delivering adaptation benefits and avoiding maladaptation on the ground be determined.

The Seminar will introduce in-depth considerations and recommendations related to defining outcome-oriented indicators; but importantly, it will also provide an opportunity for participants to share their own challenges in identifying, selecting and monitoring indicators. The Seminar organizers will work together with the participants to identify solutions to these challenges, as well as provide support and guidance in relation to other questions and issues raised by participants based on their past and current experience of developing indicators for EbA interventions. Participants will also have the opportunity to work together in small groups on developing indicators relevant to the context of their EbA interventions.

In order to cover the above in sufficient depth, as well as allow for tailoring of the content to the needs of participants, the Seminar will be delivered in two separate sessions. The first session will focus on introducing the best-practice principles for developing a ToC and indicators, take stock of the challenges participants have faced – or are currently dealing with – in relation to designing outcome-oriented M&E in their own EbA interventions, as well as build a better understanding of the context of those interventions. The second session will be more 'hands on', with organizers and participants jointly exploring solutions to identified challenges and working on developing indicators in the context of selected EbA interventions drawn from the examples contributed by the seminar participants.

Participants are requested to make sure that they are able to attend both sessions of the seminar:

- ✓ **Session 1 on Friday, 04 June 2021**
- ✓ **Session 2 on Friday, 11 June 2021**

The duration of each session will be 2.5 hours. The exact time of the session on the above dates will be determined once participants have registered for the Seminar in order to best accommodate different time zones. In the meantime, applicants are asked to tentatively mark their calendars with the Seminar dates. Timing is likely to be in the afternoon for participants in Asia, and in the morning for participants in the Americas.

Application form

Before completing this application form, please ensure that, to the best of your knowledge, you will be available to **attend both seminar sessions** on the dates specified above. Please complete this registration form in full – this will help the organizers tailor the Seminar as best possible to participants' needs and experience. Please return the form by **24th of May 2021** to eba@giz.de. Selected participants will receive a confirmation of their slot and the exact time of the sessions by 28th of May 2021.