

# Ecosystembased Adaptation for Resilient Incomes

Membership Charter 2023

# CONTENTS

Preamble		1
The Concept of Ecosystems and Ecosystem-based Adaptation Resilient Incomes The rationale for An EbA Approach		1
		2
		3
The	rationale for a Collaborative on Ecosystem-based Adaptation	3
Ch	apter 1	4
1.1	What is ECOBARI? What is its Purpose?	4
1.2	Our theory of change	4
1.3	Geography of Outreach	5
Ch	apter 2: Structure and Governance	6
2.1	Convener responsibilities	6
2.2	Secretariat responsibilities	7
2.3	Steering Committee	7
	Steering Committee responsibilities	8
2.4	Action cells	8
2.5	Other ad hoc working groups	9
2.6	Mailing list	9
Chapter 3: Membership Criteria		10
Invitation to Membership		10
Member's contribution to ECOBARI		10
Benefits to the Members		10
Membership Criteria (Selection and Termination)		10
Membership levels		11
Hov	v and when membership ends	12
Ch	apter 4: Branding of ECOBARI events and publications	13
References		14

# **Preamble**

# The Concept of Ecosystems and Ecosystem-based Adaptation

An ecosystem (as in nature) is a geographic area in which a community of living organisms, such as plants, animals, and other organisms and humans, live in conjunction with each other as well as with the non-living components e.g., air, water, minerals, soil. These different entities interact and work together as a system with the weather and landscapes, to form a bubble of life (Ecosystem | National Geographic Society, n.d.).

Ecosystem services are defined as the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being and have an impact on our survival and quality of life. There are four types of ecosystem services, provisioning, regulating, supporting, and cultural services (Alcamo, 2003; Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (Program), 2005)1.

- 1.1 Provisioning services are characterised by the ability of humans to obtain products from ecosystems, such as food, water, and resources, including wood, oil and genetic resources, and medicines (Alcamo, 2003).
- 1.2 Regulating services are categorised as any benefit obtained from the natural processes and functioning of ecosystems that control adverse effects or enhance the ecosystem's health (Alcamo, 2003). These include climate regulation, flood and other natural hazard regulation, pollination, and water purification. Further, pollination by wind and insects is a service that would not be possible without nature, particularly bees.
- 1.3 Supporting services relate to the very functioning of the habitat, and therefore influence survival (Alcamo, 2003). For example, photosynthesis, the water cycle, and nutrient cycles are the basis of ecosystems, which in turn allow us to support ourselves. This ecosystem service also goes down to the genetic level, such as maintaining viable species gene pools.
- 1.4 Cultural services include non-material benefits that people can obtain from ecosystems. These include spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation, and aesthetic values (Alcamo, 2003). These services can be hard to monitor and value as compared to regulating and provisioning services, but research in this area is growing. For example, studies show that the ability to see or interact with nature, through hospital windows or hospital gardens, increases the speed of patient recovery (Deborah et al., 2012)

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is a nature-friendly approach at a landscape level. It involves nature-based and nature-positive solutions in the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems. It harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve the ecosystem's primary productivity (IUCN, 2017). It is "the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to the adverse effects of climate change" (CBD, 2009), while deriving sustainable livelihoods from healthy ecosystem services. The EbA approach emphasises inclusive governance by the local communities with all their diversities and ensures that it benefits marginalised communities and women.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>By its very definition, 'ecosystem services' taken on an anthropocentric view. However, from a systems perspective, we at ECOBARI acknowledge the importance of maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem for all life forms.

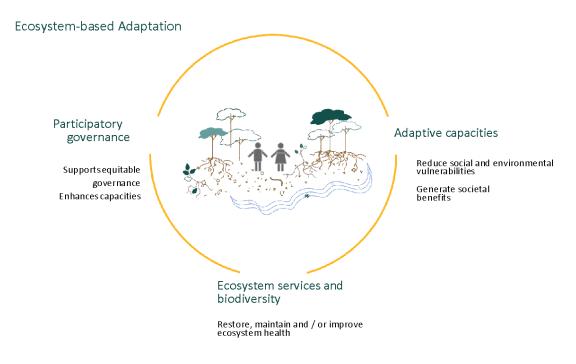


Figure 1: Elements of Ecosystem-based Adaptation. © P. Korneeva/TMG Research gGmbH 2020

#### Resilient Incomes

The perspective of resilience represents "the capacity of a system (e.g., a community, society or natural ecosystem) to cope with disturbances (e.g., financial crises, floods, droughts or fire) without shifting into a qualitatively different state" (Gunderson & Holling, 2002). To boost resilience among rural communities, it is essential to focus on diversifying livelihoods and income sources, while also working towards sustainable natural resource management. Typical agricultural interventions, such as improving crop and livestock productivity, creating market linkages for crops produced, and strengthening the supply chains, need to be approached from a sustainability and resource-use efficiency perspective. Non-farm livelihoods reduce the dependency on natural resources and the exposure to climate-related risks. Incentives for conserving and maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem could also be provided through the promotion of livelihoods such as eco-tourism and payments for ecosystem services (e.g., forest conservation).

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) has the potential to generate resilient income and provide multiple benefits, such as improved health, food security, sustainable agricultural systems, enhanced natural resource management, biodiversity protection, and alternative livelihood opportunities, all of which can build ecological, social, and economic resilience (USAID, 2017). Equity and participatory governance are also at the centre of EbA; they ensure the participation of women, marginalised groups of society, and small and marginalised agriculturalists (IUCN, 2021). Resilient incomes help communities to cope and bounce back from various shocks and also protect their natural resources. Increasing resilient incomes through EbA relates to many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 15 in achieving poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth, health, nutrition, gender equality, nature protection, etc.

### The rationale for An EbA Approach

The challenges posed by the climate crisis have multiple impacts on humanity and nature. The climate events experienced require that all, particularly the vulnerable, have the adaptive capacities to build resilience, including economic resilience. At the same time, the health of the ecosystem they live in has to be maintained. Because each ecosystem's context is unique, support needs to be tailored to consider the interaction of the ecosystem's components (land, forest, water, agriculture, and biodiversity) while strengthening ecosystem services. These can only be managed meaningfully by empowered local governance. With a focus on sustainability, strengthening local governance, and inclusiveness, one needs to go beyond stand-alone, short-term projects to integrated support for the longer term. There is a need to capacitate stakeholders across the spectrum to promote Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), as this concretely contributes to the country achieving the goals and targets of the international agenda.

# The rationale for a Collaborative on Ecosystem-based Adaptation

The year 2030 is a milestone year that beckons us with urgency to meet the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the targets set for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement Commitments, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets. With this decade (2021-2030) named the UNCCD's 'Decade for Ecosystem Restoration' and the UN's 'Decade for Action', India is urged to meet its Nationally Determined Commitments, the LDN and GBF targets and its Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving these targets requires the collaboration of stakeholders across the spectrum, from grassroots to decision-makers, from donors to knowledge and skill generators, and from practitioners to businesses and disseminators, each contributing from their area of strength and expertise.

The need for a collaborative emerged from a series of workshops organised by WOTR/W-CReS, and TMG Research gGmbH held in Maharashtra between 2019 and 2021. The workshops led to the development of an Ecosystem-based Adaptation Roadmap for Maharashtra and several other insights related to the challenges and opportunities for upscaling EbA (WOTR & TMG, 2021). The workshops showed the extensive work being done by various ministries and departments of the government, the corporate and donor sectors, research institutions, and practitioners to help communities build resilience to climate change. However, most agencies work in isolation. The corporate donors may have sufficient funds to meet responsible business sourcing targets and may seek to sustainably address short-to-medium-term risks in supply chains through various channels. However, they need to know the most urgent, impactful, and sustainable investment cases as well as the backward and forward linkages of the action. It is observed that the beneficial impact in one sector may have negative impact on other resources and social equity (D'Souza et al., 2020). This situation provoked the participants in the EbA workshops to suggest the setting up of a multi-stakeholder network that pool resources from different cross-sections of industry, academia, government, and civil society organisations to work together towards helping India achieve its sustainability goals through green and inclusive growth and to bridge the gap between sciences, practice and policy.

# **Chapter 1**

### 1.1 What is ECOBARI? What is its Purpose?

The Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Resilient Incomes (ECOBARI) collaborative is a multi-stakeholder platform. It facilitates the engagement of parties interested in natural ecosystems and people (individuals and institutions, representatives of government, civil society organisations, businesses, brands<sup>2</sup>, academia, NGOs, and media). The collaborative intends to encourage members to pool resources - human, material, and financial, and to empower communities to enhance their income. At the same time, they conserve the local biodiversity and restore and sustainably manage their natural resources aligned with their ecosystem.

ECOBARI aims to enhance knowledge by integrating scientific information and traditional knowledge into the decision-making, implementation, and management of the different ecosystems and their respective ecosystem services, to help build society's resilience. In doing so, it also seeks to improve livelihoods by - creating better job opportunities and income while enabling businesses to source responsibly. It can thus help the country to achieve its National Determined Commitments under the Paris Agreement, its SDGs, Land Degradation Neutrality (UNCCD), and the post-2020 biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The collaboration aims to catalyse and scale models for different ecosystems (such as the terrestrial ecosystem, freshwater ecosystem, forest ecosystem, grassland ecosystem, marine ecosystem and others), where communities sustainably manage their ecosystems and create sustainable livelihoods with businesses that contribute to the country's commitments.

# 1.2 Our theory of change

ECOBARI's theory of change stems from its Vision and Mission:

Vision: Empowered communities sustainably regenerate and manage their ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, derive resilient incomes and improve their food and nutrition security and quality of life through nature-based and nature-positive solutions and investable business models, as they adapt to climate change.

Mission: To be a leading platform that grounds Ecosystem-based Adaptation at scale through 'science-practice-business' partnerships, policy enablement and resource provisioning to contribute to the SDGs, the Paris Agreement Commitments, Land Degradation Neutrality and the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

ECOBARI's theory of change, as shown in Figure 2, can be summarised as follows: ECOBARI effectively empowers communities by supporting and advocating for projects and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>These are big corporate houses or "brands" who need to invest in ecosystem restoration while driving sustainable business models which attract significant financing and supply chain infrastructure to these ecosystems. These go beyond the capacity of regular "businesses" or small and medium enterprises that contribute much less, contrary to brands contributing towards scalable impact at an ecosystem level.

chains and value webs. This entails providing access to the necessary understanding of what EbA is, the knowledge and experience on how to implement it, as well as linking and networking organisations and initiatives into effective platforms that instil confidence and garner necessary resources to learn effectively and innovate - all this in order to scale EbA insights and successes rapidly.

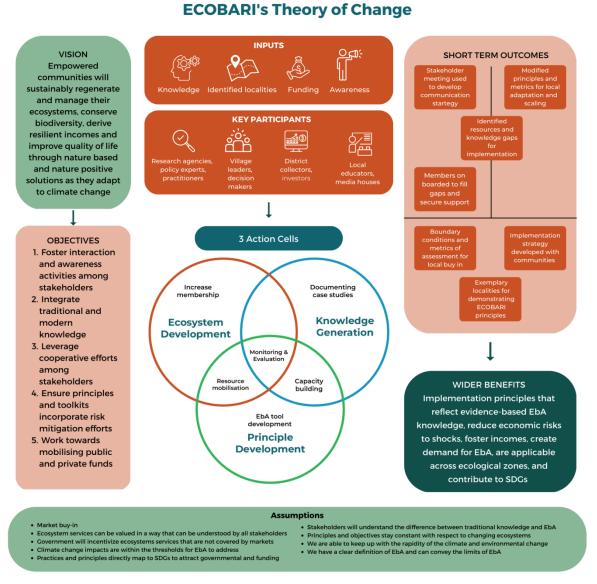


Fig 2: ECOBARI's Theory of Change

# 1.3 Geography of Outreach

The outreach of ECOBARI is pan-India to begin with, and can expand to South Asia and other countries. To pilot or initiate planned efforts, its central point of convening and originating

jurisdiction is Pune, Maharashtra. As the collaboration expands and the demand increases, there will be regional offices.

# **Chapter 2: Structure and Governance**

This chapter will discuss the various members of the ECOBARI community and their responsibilities.

The community of ECOBARI consists of the following:

- 1. The Convener
- 2. ECOBARI Secretariat
- 3. The Steering Committee
- 4. Action cell members
- 5. General members
- 6. Mailing list

The Secretariat of ECOBARI is hosted at Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) in its applied research unit the WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS), the Founder Promoter and Convener.

# 2.1 Convener responsibilities

The following are the responsibilities of the Convener:

- Develop a roadmap for ECOBARI based on its goal and objectives, and the targets it sets for 2030.
- 2. Invite Founding Partners, Steering Committee, Advisory Committee and Expert Thematic Group members.
- 3. Grow the membership of ECOBARI to include all stakeholders, with particular attention to private-sector businesses.
- 4. Support communication and outreach for the events (workshops, conferences and others) that ECOBARI organises.
- 5. To provide the Secretariat with the facilitation and logistical support it needs to run the collaborative.
- 6. Attract participation from the private-sector.
- 7. Support the agenda, positioning and outreach of the collaborative.
- 8. Guide the development of the business model for EbA initiatives.
- 9. Raise funds for the collaborative.

- 10. Represent the collaborative in relevant bodies/fora/events called for at the state, national and international levels and invite other Steering committee/Secretariat/Thematic Experts/Action Cells to represent the Collaborative in these events/bodies.
- 11. Assess the progress of ECOBARI, along with the Secretariat, its response to the needs, and its functioning. It will also take into account suggestions made by the Steering Committee and the original founding partners.

# 2.2 Secretariat responsibilities

- Ensure the smooth functioning of the collaborative and its interaction with the various stakeholders as it works to achieve the goal and objectives.
- 2. Motivate, mobilise, and expand the membership to promote the concepts and practices of EbA.
- 3. Build linkages with other networks and knowledge sources to generate EbA-related knowledge and information.
- 4. Prepare an action plan and budget for a 2-3 year period and raise funds, based on the roadmap for the collaborative for the period of 2021 to 2030.
- 5. Develop an implementation strategy for the various activities of the roadmap.
- 6. Generate knowledge products, and facilitate capacity-building events, focusing on the "science-practice-policy" interface. As applicable, the Thematic Experts, members of the Action Cells, and other members will partner with the secretariat to realise the Action Plan.
- 7. Organise policy-focused workshops, conferences, webinars, and other events to disseminate the concept and practice of EbA.
- 8. Participate in policy fora and other workshops and conferences, at the state, national and international levels.
- 9. Organise meetings with the Conveners, Steering Committee, Thematic experts and Action cells as and when required.
- 10. Monitor the ongoing projects/activities/tasks under the collaborative.
- 11. Provide a status report to the Conveners and Steering Committee twice a year.
- 12. Raise funds and seek support from the Founding partners for the same; the budget created will be utilised according to the sanctioned plan as approved by the donor, with the secretariat supervising and overseeing the fund utilisation.
- 13. Organise and Facilitate meetings with:
  - a) Founding Partners (once a year)
  - b) Steering Committee (twice a year)
  - c) Action cells (as and when required).

# 2.3 Steering Committee

Members with expertise in complementary disciplines, including practice and policy, who are aligned with EbA's vision, mission and principles of ECOBARI. It will include members who know the national and international agenda and connect the work of ECOBARI to the state and national policy levels. An effort will be made to have at least one member each from civil society organisations, government (including ex-govt.), finance, businesses, academia, and media, with a total of 5 to 6 members in the committee.

#### Steering Committee responsibilities

- 1. Provide strategic governance, advice and guidance for ECOBARI
- 2. Suggest experts related to the different thematic areas and geographies
- 3. Point to government policies, programs, and international agenda that ECOBARI can contribute to
- 4. Support the expansion of the collaborative
- 5. Support in building partnerships and links with respective government, donors, and related agencies
- 6. Point/support to connect with other global organisations that the collaborative can benefit from
- 7. Any other role that can promote the relevance of ECOBARI

The first steering committee will consist of the initial group of founding members. The tenure of the steering committee shall be for two years, with provision for an extension of the term, based on interest and acceptance by other members of the steering committee and convener. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year. Existing members of the steering committee, outgoing members, and the original founding partners of ECOBARI can propose new members.

#### 2.4 Action cells

Based on the theory of change highlighted in Section 1.2, the primary mode of engagement of ECOBARI will be through its action cells. The action cells help operationalise ECOBARI's vision and mission into action plans and guide collaborative activities. The three action cells within ECOBARI, and their responsibilities are as follows:

#### 1. Knowledge generation

- a) Collating and documenting case studies.
- b) Producing material to help in capacity building.
- c) Gathering evidence for upscaling EbA through monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

#### 2. Principle development

- a) Developing tools and pedagogies for implementing EbA.
- b) Running training and capacity-building sessions for different stakeholder groups.
- c) Demonstrating EbA on the ground through pilot programmes.

#### 3. Ecosystem/ platform development

- a) Increasing membership of EbA.
- b) Guiding strategic outreach to specific stakeholder groups through targeted messaging.
- c) Identifying events, platforms, and geographies where ECOBARI can engage.

d) Helping the convener and secretariat with resource mobilisation.

Inclusion in the action cells is voluntary and subject to approval by the steering committee.

# 2.5 Other ad hoc working groups

In addition to the above action cells, ad hoc working groups may be formed occasionally. These ad hoc working groups would cover technical subjects such as Biodiversity, Land and forests, Water management, Agriculture, Climate Science, Livelihoods, Blended Finance and others. They may also cover more functional work areas such as Communication & outreach, Policy Advocacy, Fundraising, etc. Each working group would be composed of 3-5 experts with complementary expertise in their respective fields. Inclusion in such ad hoc working groups is again voluntary, need-based and subject to the approval of the steering committee.

# **Mailing list**

There are no specific obligations to be a part of the ECOBARI mailing list. Any individual or institution interested in ECOBARI may sign up for the mailing list on ECOBARI's website.

# **Chapter 3: Membership Criteria**

This chapter will discuss the membership criteria of the collaborative. Members may be practitioners, representatives of NGOs, academic and research institutions, students, government officials, and their department representatives, public and private sector companies, CSR donors and other funders, independent experts, community leaders, members of the media, and anyone interested in promoting EbA.

# **Invitation to Membership**

Membership is free.

Members will be invited to join the ECOBARI, or may participate by completing the application form provided on the ECOBARI website. The Secretariat will review the submitted application form, and the enrolment of members will be confirmed by email with a membership ID/number. Founding Members, and Steering committee members may also screen and invite partners from their network to join ECOBARI.

#### Member's contribution to ECOBARI

Members are encouraged to contribute to the collaborative in a variety of ways, which includes, such as - sharing case studies that have been implemented, offering training tools that have been developed, participating as resources persons in training and capacity-building events, developing project proposals, participating in research programs, implementing EbA-driven projects, providing funds, disseminating the concept and practice of EbA for the various ecosystems, preparing knowledge products, fundraising, and so on.

#### Benefits to the Members

Members of the collaborative may seek knowledge, experiences, advice, training and access to the available literature to proceed with complete confidence that they have the best, most comprehensive range of solutions on the EbA and related problems in the field. Members may initiate collaborative work for implementation or knowledge product preparation and dissemination of their work to a larger audience.

# Membership Criteria (Selection and Termination)

Membership is sought from institutions and individuals who are keen to promote the cause of Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Resilient Incomes as an approach to achieving India's International (UN) Commitments sustainably. Membership is based on demonstrating intent towards up scaling EbA in India. Such intent could be demonstrated by:

- 1. Offering Resources Members may contribute to the ECOBARI database and knowledge platform through case studies, publications, training toolkits, and guides from various sources that span regional, national and international levels. These resources will be included in the database with due acknowledgement of the source of information.
- 2. Network/Collaboration- Members may contribute to up scaling EbA through their own networks. For instance, this could apply to various NGOs or CSRs with a good network, are known locally and can help us reach the grassroots. They would also be able to share their complementary strengths and knowledge with the collaborative.
- 3. Implement EbA Any individual or institution looking to implement EbA using our toolkits or other resources would also help achieve our objective of mainstreaming EbA. Institutions may also help fund and support the EbA projects that the collaborative may undertake.
- 4. Looking for Assistance Organisations/ individuals looking to implement EbA-based projects will be able to tap into our expertise, a database of resources, and robust network. This will help us achieve our objective of aligning EbA implementation with international and national biodiversity targets.
- 5. Knowledge and conduct research- Anyone looking to learn or conduct research through our resource database will contribute to fostering knowledge exchange.
- 6. Build linkages/ offer partnerships with the Business Sector to promote resilient incomes.
- 7. Offer funding support to promote EbA through projects for research, implementation, and outreach.

# Membership levels

Based on the above criteria, we accept members at the following levels:

- Mailing list: This is the most basic level of engagement, where the applicant still needs to meet the membership criteria, but is still interested in our activities. They will be put on our mailing list and will receive general information that is in the public domain.
- 2. ECOBARI member: This is when the applicant strongly meets one or more of the membership criteria. They will be a part of the public mailing list, and a separate mailing list meant for the "ECOBARI members". The name/logo of Institutional members will be listed on ECOBARI's website.
- 3. Action Cell member: From amongst the official "ECOBARI members", the Steering Committee would invite experts to join one of the Action Cells listed below. Other ad hoc working groups would be formed on a need basis.
- 4. Steering Committee: Steering Committee members are nominated by the original founding members and outgoing steering committee members and would remain active for a period of two years.

# How and when membership ends

Membership to ECOBARI is based on the completion of the membership application form, and a vetting process by the ECOBARI Steering Committee. Membership can be revoked at any stage on grounds such as the following:

- 1. Incorrect information provided during the membership application process.
- 2. Engagement in activities that go against the principles, vision, and objectives of ECOBARI.
- 3. Engagement in any activities that violate the laws of the country and considerations of ethics and justice.
- 4. Any other issue as deemed relevant by the Steering Committee.

In such situations, the steering committee's decision will be final and binding.

# **Chapter 4: Branding of ECOBARI events** and publications

All ECOBARI initiatives, such as events and publications, coordinated by the ECOBARI secretariat that are deemed to meet the common understanding of EbA, as outlined in the preamble to this charter may carry the logo of ECOBARI. In addition, when specific institutions within or outside the ECOBARI network are actively involved in organising or supporting a particular initiative, their logos may be used in addition to the ECOBARI logo.

Using the ECOBARI logo only implies adherence to the general principles of EbA and does not necessarily mean all member institutions endorse the initiative. Only the logos of institutions explicitly listed, in addition to the ECOBARI logo, are understood to be supporting the concerned initiative. As a collaborative, ECOBARI actively encourages the open and unrestricted sharing of information, case studies, and other resources in India (with due acknowledgment to the source of information). ECOBARI does not claim any intellectual property rights over the initiatives it supports, as these rest with the members (individuals or institutions) of ECOBARI involved in the initiative.

# References

Alcamo, J. (2003, November 24).

Ecosystems and human well-being: A framework for assessment. CIFOR. https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/1866/

CBD. (2009).

The Convention on Biological Diversity Year in Review 2009 [PDF]. CBD. https://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/cbd-report-2009-en.pdf

Deborah, F. O., Olusayo, O. E., & Alade, F. O. (2012).

Development of a feature extraction technique for online character recognition system. Innovative Systems Design and Engineering, 3(3), 10-23.

D'Souza, M., Srinidhi, A., Banerjee, S., Indurkar, A., Kale, E., Stiem-Bhatia, L., & Gupta, N. (2020). Scaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Maharashtra, India. TMG Research gGmbH. https://doi.org/10.35435/1.2020.1

Ecosystem | National Geographic Society. (n.d.).

Retrieved January 20, 2023, from https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/ecosystem

Gunderson, L. H., & Holling, C. S. (Eds.). (2002).

Panarchy: Understanding transformations in human and natural systems. Island Press.

IUCN. (2017).

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Issue Brief (p. 2) [Issue Brief]. IUCN. https://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/ecosystem based\_adaptation\_issues\_brief\_final.pdf

IUCN. (2021).

Governance for ecosystem-based adaptation. IUCN. https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2019.EPLP.89.en

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (Program) (Ed.). (2005).

Ecosystems and human well-being: Synthesis. Island Press.

USAID. (2017).

Ecosystem based Adaptation and Food Security Evidence Summary. U.S. Agency for International Development. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\_docs/PA00MWXJ.pdf

WOTR, & TMG. (2021).

Towards a Roadmap for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Maharashtra.

Watershed Organisation Trust and TMG Research gGmbH.

https://wotr-website-publications.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/Roadmap%20for%20EbA\_Maharashtra.pdf



# Other Founding Partners



















