

Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Coastal Resilience: In-depth Workshop on Community Engagement and Strengthening Partnerships for Coastal EbA

Location: Online MS-Teams

Dates: 22–23 April 2026

This two-day online workshop will bring together practitioners, researchers, policy actors, and partner organisations to exchange experiences and practical lessons on how to strengthen community engagement and partnerships for coastal ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). Through keynote inputs, case-based reflections, and interactive discussion formats, the workshop will explore how locally grounded approaches, inclusive partnerships, and cross-level collaboration can support more effective and lasting coastal resilience efforts.

Programme, 22 nd April 2026	
Building a Common Baseline: Communities, Partnerships and Coastal EbA	
14:00 – 14:25	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the workshop objectives and format (<i>Grit Martinez, Ecologic Institute</i>) • Opening remarks from the funding institutions (<i>Anke Wolff, BMUKN & Simone Wulf, BfN</i>) • Opening reflections from an international partner perspective (<i>Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN</i>)
14:25 – 14:45	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Diverse understandings of adaptation to climate change: the cases for and against.</p> <p>(<i>Lisa Schipper, University of Bonn</i>)</p> <p><i>Followed by Q&A</i></p>
14:45 – 15:00	<p>Interactive Warm-Up exercise</p> <p><i>A short live polling session will invite participants to reflect on the role of community engagement and stakeholder collaboration in coastal EbA, helping to establish a shared starting point for the discussions ahead.</i></p>
Practitioner Perspectives: Community Ownership and Local Capacity	
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Topic 1: Community ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-Led EbA in the Moheli Seascape, Comoros (<i>Loubna Hamidi, Moheli Seascape/ IUCN, tbc</i>) • Community support and ownership of the Pemba-Channel EbA project in Tanzania (<i>Ben Taylor, WCS Tanzania & Tanguy Nicolas, Fauna & Flora</i>) <p><i>Followed by Q&A</i></p> <p>Topic 2: Capacity building in local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and Capacity Building for Community-Based Social-Ecological Restoration: Lessons from Seagrass Restoration in the Colombian Caribbean (<i>Jose Ernesto Mancera Pineda, Universidad Nacional de Colombia</i>) <p><i>Followed by Q&A</i></p>

16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15 – 16:30	<p>Topic 3: Working across governance levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights from the 'Wilipihera' project in Mozambique (Frederik Stapke, Rare Europe) <p><i>Followed by Q&A</i></p>
16:30 – 16:45	<p>Facilitated Reflection with Speakers</p> <p>A short moderated exchange with speakers will draw out cross-cutting lessons from the case studies as a bridge to the interactive session.</p>
Interactive Session: Identifying Key Challenges and Success Factors	
16:45 – 17:45	<p>Building on the case studies presented earlier in the day, participants will engage in a facilitated discussion and collaborative exercise to reflect on common barriers, enabling factors, and promising approaches for strengthening community engagement and partnerships in coastal EbA.</p> <p><u>A shared digital whiteboard will support the exchange and help capture key insights.</u></p> <p>Focus of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying recurring challenges in community engagement and partnership-building • Reflecting on success factors and practical lessons from what has worked well in practice and from experience • Exploring underlying drivers and implications for policy and implementation <p>Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly selecting three priority challenges/topics to inform the development of impactful recommendations on Day 2
17:45 – 18:00	Wrap-up of Day 1: Summary of key messages and outlook for the second day

Programme, 23rd April 2026	
14:00 – 14:10	
14:10 – 14:30	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Gender and Climate; on Gender in Coastal EbA, experiences from the RISE grants (Georgia Hartman, IUCN)</p> <p><i>Followed by Q&A</i></p>
Breakout Session: Developing Pathways to Overcome Key Challenges	
14:30 – 15:45	<p>Participants will work in smaller groups on a selection of priority challenges identified on Day 1. The aim will be to move from diagnosis to action by discussing practical ways to strengthen community engagement and partnerships in coastal EbA.</p> <p>Focus of the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possible pathways for addressing key barriers • roles and responsibilities of different actors • opportunities for improving practice, support structures, and policy uptake

15:45 – 16:00	Coffee Break
Plenary Session: From Ideas to Action	
16:00 – 16:30	Reporting back from the breakout groups and consolidation of key messages, recommendations, and shared priorities.
Strategic Reflection: From Workshop Insights to Recommendations	
16:30 -17:30	<p>This discussion will bring together the workshop’s main insights and translate them into actionable recommendations, with a focus on their relevance for policy and practice.</p> <p>Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distilling key recommendations from the workshop • identifying their relevance and implications for policy and practice • identifying implications for future EbA practice and partnerships • shaping core messages to feed into the policy brief <p>Output: practical inputs and draft recommendations for further consolidation in the policy brief</p>
17:30 - 18:00	<p>Closing Session and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop summary (<i>Grit Martinez, Ecologic Institute</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reflecting on the relevance of the workshop insights for the wider EbA community ○ Exploring how these insights may inform future exchange, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing ○ Outlook on follow-up activities and workshops ○ Next steps towards the policy brief and continued collaboration • Closing remarks from the funding institutions (<i>Anke Wolff, BMUKN & Simone Wulf, BfN</i>)