

Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean



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Challenges

The Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles are extremely vulnerable to climate change.

People, agricultural land and infrastructure are concentrated in coastal areas, which are exposed to rising sea levels and increased frequency and severity of cyclones.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) promotes the conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide the essential services people need to adapt to climate change and variability.

Apart from a few pilot projects, EbA funding is currently insufficient and civil society organizations are not sufficiently engaged.

Goal To reduce the vulnerability of island populations by securing the critical ecosystem services they need to be resilient to climate change. To this end, the program has three components:

1. Developing strategic plans for EbA that are well aligned with national climate change strategies in the small islands of the biodiversity hotspot.
2. Supporting EbA activities through grants to CSOs.
3. Ensuring long-term sustainability and replicating success through knowledge products and tools for EbA.

Response

In response to the challenges of climate change in the Indian Ocean island countries, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has prepared a new program entitled *Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean (EBAIO)*, financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), through l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as the Accredited Entity.

The new program will provide targeted funding to mobilize civil society organizations (CSOs) in implementing EbA, to promote the conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide the essential services people need to adapt to climate change and variability.



Priorities for ecosystem-based adaptation:

- Decreased provision of freshwater due to degraded watersheds.
- Increased flooding due to conversion of ecosystems providing flood regulation.
- Loss of coastal protection due to damage to mangroves and coral reefs.
- Declines in fisheries productivity due to loss of nursery habitats.
- Decreased agricultural production due to heat stress and drought.



Expected results

1.23 million hectares (ha) of intact coastal ecosystems with strengthened management.



0.6 million ha of intact watershed forest ecosystems with strengthened management.

4,000 ha of degraded coastal ecosystems restored.

2,000 ha of degraded watershed forest ecosystems restored.

2,000 ha of climate-resilient agroforestry established.

2,000 ha of small island ecosystems with alien invasive species removed.

33,000 females and **33,000 males** with increased income as a result of ecosystem-based livelihood activities.

305,000 females and **305,000 males** receiving non-cash benefits as a result of enhanced delivery of ecosystem services.

25 CSOs with an institutional capacity score of 80% or more on CEPF's Civil Society Tracking Tool.

US\$5 million of capital invested in long-term financing mechanisms (endowment funds, revolving funds, etc.) to support EbA activities beyond the end of the program.

Workplan

- 2021-2022** Update of ecosystem profile to identify and prioritize EbA actions.
- 2022** Selection and contracting of Regional Implementation Team.
- 2022-2026** Grantmaking to CSOs for EbA activities.
- 2026** Update of ecosystem profile to identify and prioritize successful EbA approaches.
- 2027-2031** Amplification of successful approaches through grants to CSOs.
- 2027-2031** Establishment of long-term financing mechanisms and integration of EbA into government.



CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank. A fundamental objective is to ensure that civil society is engaged in the conservation of biodiversity.

More information :

<https://www.cepf.net/madagascar-and-indian-ocean-islands/ecosystem-based-adaption>

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp135>