



International conference “Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia“
April 9, 2015, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

09 April 2015

**Preliminary Dushanbe Statement
on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to Climate Change in Central Asia**

We, the participants from Central Asia and representatives of international development organizations at the international conference “Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia“, acknowledge the high vulnerability of Central Asian countries to near and long-time climate change impacts and the urgent need for action. Climate change will especially affect key resources and sectors such as water, land and agriculture and therefore the basis of sustainable development. A promising, yet in Central Asia so far less prevalent, concept is Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). According to the CBD (2009), EbA is defined as sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change (CBD, 2009). Thus, EbA constitutes a holistic and anthropocentric approach that seeks to maintain ecosystem functions in order to improve the adaptive capacity of societies.

As an outcome of the conference we recognize the need to explore the potential and opportunities of the EbA approach for climate change adaptation, promotion of sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation in Central Asian countries.

Based on the international state of discussions and Central Asian countries' experiences we recognize following **strengths of the concept**:

1. EbA promotes climate-informed management of ecosystems in order to maintain and increase resilience of ecosystems and, thus, reduce their vulnerability.
2. By using a participatory approach that also integrates the knowledge of local communities, EbA helps to increase human security, including food security and disaster risk management.
3. EbA strengthens capacities to better adapt to climate change and combines the efforts in different sectors to develop and implement cost-efficient and innovative strategies and measures.
4. Due to the holistic and integrated approach, EbA combines the goals of climate change adaptation, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, and land degradation and thus contributes to fulfill targets of all three international environmental conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCBD). It therefore also enables access to significant and innovative funding mechanisms for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.

With regard to the specific situation in the Central Asian region we recommend:



1. To explore and operationalize the general EbA concept for the specific characteristics of the Central Asian region and to develop practical multi-level examples.
2. To work together and to exchange experiences among Central Asian countries in order to identify EbA best practices.
3. To integrate lessons learnt and best practices into national and regional strategies and policy programs.
4. To strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and to increase awareness and relevant skills at all levels.
5. To use and further develop existing mechanisms for regional cooperation for EbA as this is essential to ensure that adaptation efforts in one country does not increase vulnerability of another.

To enhance the capacities and capabilities of national governments to mobilize, coordinate and channel ongoing and future donor support, including funding from the international climate financing architecture

