
Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation: Barriers and success factors within a German context

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Project context and scope

- ▶ **Aim:** improve understanding of the role of EbA German speaking countries by taking stock of current examples; identify barriers and solutions for improved policy integration and uptake
- ▶ **Project databases** (91 projects) - parameters on project identification, scope and operation
- ▶ **In-depth case studies** (5) - detailed assessment of project initiation and implementation, costs/benefits, and barriers to/success factors for implementation
- ▶ **Expert workshop** (November 2013 in Vilm)

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**Ökosystembasierte Ansätze zur Anpassung
an den Klimawandel und zum Klimaschutz
im deutschsprachigen Raum**



Challenges facing integrated EbA projects

- ▶ High **organizational, institutional and administrative complexity** due to diversity and number of partners engaged in projects
- ▶ **Weak communication** between partners
- ▶ Necessary integration and ongoing **involvement of diverse authorities**
- ▶ **Low public and/or political acceptance**, arising from:
 - ▶ Conflicting interests, priorities and opinions
 - ▶ Varied levels of knowledge and awareness about ecosystem-based adaptation
- ▶ Limited **technical expertise and quantitative data** on (long-term) benefits, costs and cost-effectiveness

Challenges facing integrated EbA projects

- ▶ **Lack of available land** and competing uses for existing plots
- ▶ **Inadequate funding** and lack of financing predictability for implementation, monitoring and maintenance
- ▶ **Sectoral silos**; outdated regulatory or legislative decisions inhibiting landscape-scale decision-making and provisioning of funds, materials, and expertise
- ▶ Lack of durable strategies for **ensuring project sustainability** (no sense of ownership, limited financial support, no maintenance activities planned)

Success factors for overcoming barriers

- ▶ Clearly defined **roles and responsibilities** for all involved parties at project begin, including for maintenance/monitoring
- ▶ Build public/political **awareness** and early **involvement/support**, e.g.
 - ▶ Extensive public relations work → identification and recognition of diverse priorities and perceptions
 - ▶ Targeted integration of youth and volunteers, where appropriate
 - ▶ Early identification and communication of long and short-term benefits
 - ▶ Use of clear, accessible terminology – both sector specific, and for general public
- ▶ Ensure **sufficient and flexible funding**, also beyond project end

Case study: Lebendige Rheinauen bei Karlsruhe

- ▶ **Goal:** maintain and restore important habitat and sites of importance for European species; improve network of the Rhine and its floodplains
- ▶ **Measures:** create new, dynamic floodplain sites; widening, deepening and restoring trenches; connecting continuous flow tributary of the Rhine
- ▶ **Participatory approach:** Water and Maritime Administration, District Office (Landratsamt), nature protection associations, fishing associations, researchers, regional press, general



Recommendations

- ▶ Increased **support of monitoring and quantitative data generation** on costs and benefits
- ▶ **Government as a enabler and motivator**, highlighting value of integrated EbA approaches, expanding funding opportunities and simplifying application processes
- ▶ Development and **dissemination** of EbA-related knowledge and tools
- ▶ Enhance utilization of **private and innovative financing** (e.g. PPP, carbon markets, CSR, off-setting and compensation)
- ▶ Foster **cooperative planning** and decision-making processes to increase political and citizen support and awareness of (socio-economic) benefits

Thank you!

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