

Conserving nature for climate resilience

Scaling-up Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in rural Latin America

Context

Latin American countries are severely affected by climate change and experience frequent and intense extreme weather events including droughts and floods.

Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) is recognized as a cost-effective adaptation strategy which aims to increase people's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change through the protection and use of biodiversity. Despite the urgent need to accelerate and scale up EbA actions, implementation is not progressing fast enough, which is why strengthening governance mechanisms, measuring effectiveness, capacity building awareness raising across all sectors as well as improving access to finance for EbA are needed.

Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Guatemala are countries with great biodiversity and are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In Costa Rica, the project aims to scale-up EbA through sustainable agricultural landscapes/biological corridors to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. In Ecuador, the program builds on previous experience and supports adaptation efforts in the province of Manabí at the landscape level. In Guatemala, EbA is integrated into climate-resilient water management, particularly to reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to droughts caused by climate change. In Guatemala, efforts are underway to enhance institutional capacities and climate finance readiness with the objective of accelerating climate action through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme (RPSP), thereby contributing to the advancement of the country's climate adaptation strategy.

Objective

The project aims to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in rural areas of Costa Rica Ecuador and Guatemala. Ecosystem services are maintained and restored at landscape level in the water, agriculture and tourism sectors.

Program	Scaling-up Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures in rural Latin America
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Political Partner Institutions	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ecuador Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala.
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Approach

The project supports Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala in:

- Strengthening governance mechanisms at the local, subnational, national, and regional levels for scaling up EbA.
- Implementing and scaling-up innovative, effective, and sustainable EbA approaches in rural areas.
- Strengthening individual, organizational, and institutional capacities of key actors for the implementation and scaling up of EbA through knowledge management at the national and regional levels.
- Increasing financial resources for EbA measures and facilitating access to financing for the implementation of EbA.
- Capacity building for Climate Finance Readiness under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the private sector, civil society, and public institutions in Guatemala

Scaling up EbA to different sectors promotes the introduction of incentive instruments and financing mechanisms, which leverage public and private investments to foster resilience and biodiversity conservation.

Regional knowledge exchange among the three countries promotes South-South exchanges to scale up adaptation actions and improves regional cooperation.

Impacts

The project contributes to improving the policy and regulatory environment for EbA, through integrating EbA approaches into adaptation plans and national biodiversity strategies. It supports the Ministries of Environment in the partner countries in a climate-resilient and nature positive pathway. Scaling up EbA contributes to the achievements of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.



The project has implemented adaptation measures across more than 15,790 hectares, aimed at enhancing climate resilience. These efforts have directly benefited over 16,150 people and more than 13 Mio. USD of public and private capital catalyzed for in climate protection and biodiversity conservation measures. A Country Program, including its project pipeline for the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has been developed and validated in Guatemala.



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Guatemala: agroforestry for more climate resilience, Quiche



Costa Rica: planning EbA measures to improve water security

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Scaling-up Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) Measures in rural Latin America
program

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