

SS013: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) as an approach for supporting communities' livelihoods and the marine environment - Lessons learned from the Blue Action Fund funding window on EbA in the Western Indian Ocean

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There is a growing global desire to advance Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) projects to strengthen marine environments and the communities that depend on them in response to the increasing impacts of climate change. The Blue Action Fund is actively supporting EbA projects with numerous partners across the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. We are proposing a special session at the WIOMSA conference, designed to provide a dedicated platform for projects across the WIO to share lessons learned and best practices in Ecosystem-Based Adaptation. Our primary objective is to make EbA accessible and understandable to individuals new to the concept. We aim to provide clear insights and concrete examples through informative presentations, interactive Q&A sessions, and engaging panel discussions featuring partners from across the WIO who are actively implementing EbA projects. The content of partner presentations will be strategically aligned in chronological order, mirroring the stages of project implementation, to guide the audience through the entire structure and process of an EbA project. By doing so, we hope to enhance the accessibility of the EbA concept for future projects and facilitate valuable knowledge exchange and networking within the WIO region. We extend a warm invitation to other EbA projects within the WIO to contribute presentations. To date, we have secured confirmation from 8 projects spanning 4 countries in the WIO (led by Blue Ventures, Fauna & Flora, Rare, WCS Mozambique, WCS Tanzania, Mwambao, Wildtrust, WWF Madagascar) all receiving funds from the Blue Action Fund.