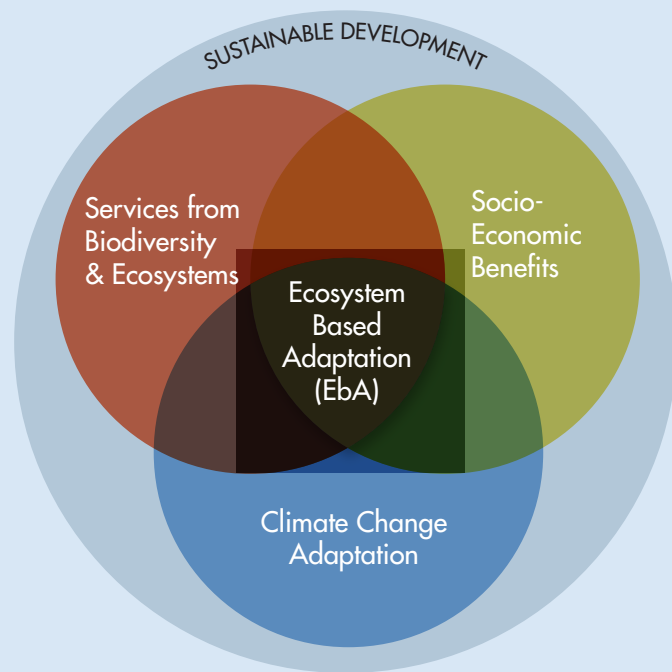


# MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EbA) FOR ENHANCED RESILIENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

EbA is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. EbA involves governing and managing ecosystems to enhance their resilience to climatic stresses – maintaining, and where possible, improving the quality and quantity of ecosystem services they provide to society – and in so doing support communities adapt to current and future climate risks. This will contribute to achieving more sustainable forms of development, strengthening livelihoods to reduce poverty and reducing environmental degradation.



Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) is often referred to as the 'natural solution to climate change'.

Despite their enormous value, the degradation of coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea grasses, coastal dunes and wetlands continues unabated. Moreover, these marine and coastal ecosystems are still largely absent in climate change response measures and need to be more fully integrated into national and sectoral policies, particularly in small island states and developing countries. The advancement of national climate adaptation strategies and the revision of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020 is an important opportunity to include marine and coastal ecosystems in official climate change response policies.

There is significant potential to expand EbA in Africa. However, successful marine and coastal EbA requires several barriers to be addressed:

- policy development and alignment;
- regional cooperation;
- access to finance;
- capacity building;
- improved partnerships with coastal communities and marginalised groupings.

EbA is recognized as an important approach for responding to climate impacts and enhancing resilience.

## RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), in partnership with the Southern Africa Trust and DFID, has implemented a project that examines EbA in Southern Africa. The objective of the research is to enhance the climate resilience of the Southern African region by strengthening the role of marine and coastal EbA in national climate responses.



This project focuses on research, dialogue, policy alignment and capacity building activities. It seeks to support peer learning among four focus countries.

The project also supports the broader uptake of project lessons by working closely with the SADC Secretariat and other regional organisations:



For more information please visit [www.saiia.org.za](http://www.saiia.org.za)  
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