



## Is it EBA, CBA, both or neither?

developed by Shaun Martin

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**Objective:** Through this exercise participants will learn to identify key characteristics of community-based adaption and ecosystem-based adaptation, explore shared or conflicting values, and learn that CBA and EBA are complementary – not competing – approaches to helping people adapt to climate change.

**Background:** In the exercise, participants are divided into small groups of 3-5 people. Each group receives a deck of 12 cards, each with a different activity. Participants work together to sort the cards into four categories – EBA only, CBA only, both EBA and CBA, and neither EBA or CBA. A facilitator explains the exercise and leads a discussion with participants once correct answers are revealed. A prize may be given to groups that correctly identify all 12 cards. It is assumed that the audience has a basic understanding of climate change adaptation and has been introduced to the concepts of ecosystem-based and community-based adaptation.

**Time required:** Minimum of 30 minutes; 45 minutes suggested. Larger groups comprising individuals from both development and conservation backgrounds may require a longer discussion period.

### What you need:

- PowerPoint presentation for the exercise and projector
- One deck of activity cards for each small group
- One sheet of flip chart paper and a marker for each group

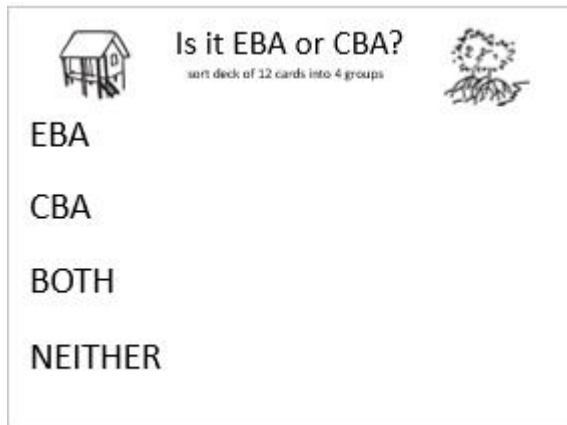
### Preparation:

- Divide your audience into small groups of 3-5 people. To promote richer discussion, mix participants so that groups comprise members from different organizations, fields of practice (development, conservation, etc.), level of experience (particularly with climate change), nationality and gender.
- Give each group a deck of 12 activity cards, a sheet of flip chart paper, and a marker.
- Instruct each group should mark their flip chart paper as shown to the right.



Exercise:

Once small groups have been formed, each group has a deck of cards and has labeled their flipchart paper as shown above, you are ready to begin the exercise. Proceed to the first slide in the PowerPoint presentation (if you choose to use it). Explain the exercise to the audience using the following script (in italics):



*This exercise will help you identify different approaches to climate change adaptation. Each group has a deck of 12 cards. Each card has a different activity on it.*

*Working in your groups, sort these cards into 4 categories answering the question, "is the activity an example of..."*

*[CLICK] Ecosystem-based adaptation*

*[CLICK] Community-based adaptation*

*[CLICK] both EBA and CBA or*


*[CLICK] neither EBA or CBA*

*As you sort the cards, place them next to the appropriate category on your sheet of flip chart paper. You have about 15 minutes for this activity.*


DO NOT ADVANCE THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AT THIS TIME AS THE NEXT SLIDE REVEALS THE CORRECT ANSWERS FOR THE DISCUSSION.

Observe groups to confirm that discussions are proceeding. Some groups may want to spend to a long time deliberating the placement of each card. If this occurs, ask the group to set problematic cards aside and quickly place those where they can quickly come to agreement and then return to debating the problematic ones. After about 10 minutes, check in with groups to see if they are close to completing the task. You may find that all groups have finished within 10 minutes.

When all groups have completed the assignment or you have reached the 15 minutes time allotment, proceed to the next slide in the PowerPoint presentation using the following script.



Is it EBA or CBA?  
Did you get it right?



EBA		
CBA		
BOTH		
NEITHER		

Now that you have completed sorting the cards, let's see how many groups identified the activities correctly.

If your group is correct, your flip chart should look like this.

[CLICK] 2 cards next to EBA


[CLICK] 3 cards next to CBA

[CLICK] 3 cards next to BOTH and


[CLICK] 4 cards next to neither.

Raise your hands if your group was correct.

Take note of which groups raise their hands. Advance to the next slide. Use the following script.



Is it EBA or CBA?  
Flip your cards



EBA	w	e
CBA	c	a
BOTH	f	i
NEITHER	t	h

But were you really correct?

Now, flip over each of your cards...

Your flipchart paper should now look like this if you were REALLY correct. [CLICK]

Rearrange your cards to spell the words in each category correctly if necessary, but don't move cards between categories!

Now, raise your hands if your group is still correct.

Now flip over all cards that you incorrectly categorized. We will discuss these together.

Take note of which groups raise their hands. At this point ask one group to identify a card that they incorrectly categorized. Write this down to refer to later. Move to the next group and ask them to identify another card they miscategorized that is different from the one mentioned by the first group, and so on, until all miscategorized cards have been noted. When finished, advance to the next slide, using the following script.



*Before we begin to discuss the cards, let's take a look at some definitions of community-based and ecosystem-based adaptation.*

*There are many definitions of community-based adaptation. The one on the screen is the definition developed by the International Institute for Environment and Development.*

*One common element among many definitions of CBA is the empowerment of the community to*

*determine which adaptation path is best to meet its own needs.*

Advance to next slide.



*Ecosystem-based adaptation has a single definition agreed upon the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2009. This is the first line of that very long definition.*

*The important thing to understand about EBA is that it is designed to help people adapt to climate change, not ecosystems or individual species themselves.*

*Therefore, people's adaptation needs must be clearly identified before designing an EBA strategy.*

*EBA is not meant to meet biodiversity conservation objectives as a primary outcome.*

*However, it must be noted that ecosystems themselves must also be resilient to changes in climate if they are to be relied upon to provide adaptation services to people.*

Pause to take questions for the audience. Then proceed to the next slide, using the following script.



*So, now let's discuss the activities on the cards that you had trouble categorizing correctly.*

*[CLICK]*

*First of all, for any activity to be considered "climate change adaptation" it must explicitly address vulnerabilities to observed or projected changes in climate or climate-variability.*

*If the cards did not talk about changes in climate, then the activity cannot be considered climate*

*change adaptation, whether or not the solution was ecosystem-based or community based.*

*[CLICK]*

*For an activity to be considered EBA, it must use nature or ecosystem services to help people adapt.*

*[CLICK]*

*And finally, for an activity to qualify as an example of CBA, it must show that the community is leading the adaptation process and making its own decisions.*

*Now, let's turn to the cards that you miscategorized to discuss these.*

Begin this discussion by asking a group to read a card that they had incorrectly categorize, how they had categorized it (EBA, CBA, both or neither) and explain why. Then ask a group that had correctly categorized the activity to explain why their rationale. Allow questions, facilitate a discussion and then move to the next group with another miscategorized activity until all have been discussed.

An explanation for each card is given below. Note that there may significant discussion around the beekeeping and seed bank activities (see below).

A community decides to build new houses on stilts to protect their property from sea level rise and increased coastal flooding.



Correct response  
This is an example of CBA only.

Explanation  
This is CBA because the community has decided how to adapt to sea level rise and increased coastal flooding, both of which are projected under climate change.

This is not EBA because the community is not using an ecosystem to provide adaptation services.

A community decides to restore mangroves to protect homes from increased coastal flooding and sea-level rise.



Correct response  
This is an example BOTH EBA and CBA.

Explanation  
This is CBA because the community has decided how to adapt to sea level rise and increased coastal flooding, both of which are projected under climate change.

It is EBA because the community uses a natural ecosystem (mangroves) to provide adaptation services.

A conservation NGO restores native mangroves to provide spawning areas for an endangered fish. Local communities will benefit from increased fishery production.



Correct response  
This activity is NEITHER EBA nor CBA.

Explanation  
This activity does not explicitly address the vulnerabilities of communities to changes in climate. While increased fishery production can improve livelihoods, we do not know if this strategy is robust under projected changes in climate.

The provincial government mandates that a sea wall be built protect a community from increased coastal flooding and sea-level rise.



Correct response

This activity is NEITHER EBA nor CBA.

Explanation

While this activity addresses the vulnerability of a community to sea level rise and increased coastal flooding, the decision to build the seawall was mandated by the government, not the community itself, so it cannot be considered an example of CBA. And since it uses manmade infrastructure rather than a natural ecosystem to decrease vulnerability, it cannot be considered an example of EBA.

A local women's collective decides to invest in beekeeping as an alternative source of income.



Correct response

This activity is NEITHER EBA nor CBA.



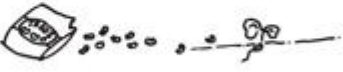
Explanation

This activity, as described here, does not explicitly address the vulnerabilities of communities to climate change. While beekeeping may improve livelihoods by providing an alternative source of income, we do not know if this strategy is robust under projected changes in climate.

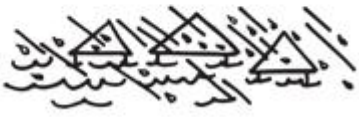

Note for facilitator

This activity in particular may require additional discussion since beekeeping is often promoted as an alternative livelihood and many practitioners may believe that any new alternative source of income can be considered climate change adaptation. And since it uses bees, a species found in nature, some may believe this is an example of EBA. In fact, because climate changing is increasingly causing changes in the timing of when plants produce flowers, beekeeping can be a risky and unreliable adaptation option.



<p>An international NGO restores a wetland to help local communities avoid flood damage as heavy precipitation events become more frequent.</p> 	<p>Correct response This is an example of EBA only.</p> <p>Explanation This is EBA because the activity uses a natural ecosystem, wetlands, to protect the community from flooding due to the increased number of heavy rainfall events, which is often projected under climate change.</p> <p>This is not CBA because an international NGO, not the community, designed and implemented the project.</p>
<p>A local water management association works with local farmers to plant trees on steep slopes to help prevent soil erosion as heavy precipitation events become more frequent.</p> 	<p>Correct response This is an example BOTH EBA and CBA.</p> <p>Explanation This is CBA because the community (farmers and the water management association) has decided how to adapt the increasing number of heavy rainfall events, which is often projected under climate change, and resulting soil erosion.</p> <p>It is EBA because the community uses a natural ecosystem (forests) to provide adaptation services.</p>
<p>Farmers contribute seeds from many varieties of crops to a new community-run seed bank so they have more options for planting in both exceptionally wet and dry years.</p> 	<p>Correct response This activity is an example of CBA.</p> <p>Explanation This is CBA because community members (farmers) are implementing a community-run project (the seed bank).</p> <p>Most conservationists would not consider this an example of EBA because agricultural systems are created by people and not found in nature. Development professionals may disagree since genetic biodiversity of seed stock is a service provided by nature.</p>



	<p>Note for facilitator</p> <p>This activity in particular may require additional discussion, particularly if your audience has a mix of both conservation and development professionals. Take the opportunity to discuss this with the audience to ensure that all perspectives are heard and understood. Conservationists may be persuaded to label this as an EBA activity if community members were including seeds harvested directly from the natural environment rather than those that have been cultivated and may not be native to the local area.</p>
<p>The national government installs early warning systems that will enable rural communities to better prepare for weather-related disasters.</p> 	<p>Correct response</p> <p>This activity is NEITHER EBA nor CBA.</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>While this activity addresses the vulnerability of communities to weather-related disasters, it is the government and not the community that is leading it. Therefore it cannot be considered an example of CBA. And since it not use an ecosystem to decrease vulnerability, it cannot be considered an example of EBA either.</p>
<p>Learning of projections for increased drought, a community restores its forests so families can rely on non-timber forest products as a source of income when food crops fail.</p> 	<p>Correct response</p> <p>This is an example BOTH EBA and CBA.</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>This is CBA because the community has decided how to reduce its vulnerability to droughts, which are projected to increase under climate change.</p> <p>It is EBA because the community uses a natural ecosystem (forests) to provide adaptation services.</p>

To prepare for both increased heavy precipitation events and times of drought, residents of a village decide to pool their resources to build a community-run rainwater collection system.



Correct response

This activity is an example of CBA.

Explanation

This is CBA because community members are deciding how to reduce their vulnerability to heavy rainfall and drought, both of which are projected under climate change.

This is not an example of EBA because the community is not using an ecosystem to provide adaptation services.

Note for facilitator

Participants may wonder why this is not EBA since the community is benefitting from rainfall, which occurs in nature. Point out that ecosystem-based adaptation is dependent on living natural systems. Weather, while natural, is not a living system.

As temperatures grow hotter, an international aid agency launches an initiative to plant trees along rivers to reduce water temperatures of fish spawning grounds so that rural communities can continue to rely on fish as a source of protein in the future.



Correct response

This is an example of EBA only.

Explanation

This is EBA because the activity uses a natural ecosystem, riparian forests, to protect community food security, from increased water temperatures, which is often projected under climate change and can negatively impact fish stocks.

This is not CBA because an international aid agency, not the communities themselves, designed and implemented the project.