



Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities

Helping nature help us



To help protect communities from disasters and tackle the adverse effects of climate change, the Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC) project will investigate the role that healthy ecosystems play in reducing disaster risks and supporting community-based adaptation to climate change.

EPIC is a five year initiative funded by the Germany Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety's International Climate Initiative (BMU-ICI). The project is co-ordinated by IUCN and ProAct Network, working closely with the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), l'Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (France), the Mangrove Action Project (Thailand) and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research.



Climate Change and Disasters: Working together to find a nature-based solution

During the past few decades the number of disasters and their impacts on communities worldwide has steadily increased. This trend is set to continue as a result of extreme weather events associated with climate change.

Healthy ecosystems contribute to reducing risk and increasing resilience of people and the environment. Ecosystems such as wetlands, forests and coral reefs reduce human vulnerability by supporting livelihoods, while also acting as physical protection to reduce the impact of hazard events.

Ecosystem restoration and sustainable management of natural resources can therefore play an essential role in people's ability to prevent, manage and recover from disasters. These nature-based solutions also provide cost-effective and environmentally friendly infrastructure that can help address climate change impacts in the long-term.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



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The EPIC Project

Documenting evidence, building capacities and policy engagement on nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

EPIC aims to catalyse and promote good management of ecosystems – and harness multiple ecosystem services – to protect vulnerable communities against risks associated with climate change and natural hazards.



Specific objectives of the project are to:

- demonstrate the effectiveness and economic value of environmental management for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, while bringing wider livelihood benefits to communities;
- raise awareness of the potential of environmental management for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, both at policy and local levels;
- gather empirical evidence on the value of ecosystem-based approaches to risk and hazards in different situations;
- disseminate lessons learned and share eco-engineering knowledge to enable replication in other areas;
- strengthen eco-engineering networks;
- build national and sub-national capacity to promote implementation of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction.

For further information, please contact:

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