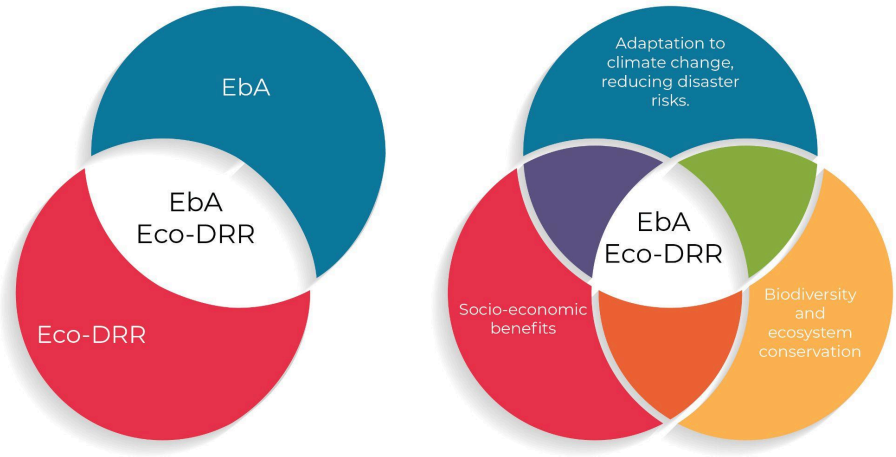
ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change negatively affects biodiversity and thus the stability of ecosystems, which also impacts human health and well-being. Strengthening the resilience of biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems is important for the preservation of essential natural resources — not only for survival, but also for the healthy and quality life of all of us. Only healthy ecosystems can contribute to adapting to climate change, its mitigation and the reduction of natural disaster risk.

Nature-based solutions draw inspiration from nature. These solutions are cost-effective, while at the same time delivering environmental, societal and economic benefits. They encompass activities for the protection, sustainable management and restoration of natural and modified ecosystems in ways that enhance biodiversity, while efficiently and flexibly addressing societal challenges and enabling the welfare of people. A special subset of these solutions is ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). Within the framework of a comprehensive adaptation strategy, this includes the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide ecosystem services that help people adapt to the impacts of climate change. Adaptation measures are also important for disaster risk reduction. Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) is defined as the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to manage risks, enhance resilience and ensure sustainable development. It can be applied in the case of various natural hazards, including hazards not related to climate change (for example earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires, floods).

If we focus solely on climate change consequences, by combining adaptation measures and disaster risk reduction we form a more integrated approach, which means that by restoring ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity we ensure adaptation and also the reduction of disaster risks that may result from climate change. These integrated measures yield numerous benefits for nature and people.