



Call for Expression of Interest

in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Small Grants to Implement Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) projects*

Collaborations for Urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Deadline for submitting Expression of Interest: September 27th, 2024 (5:00 pm EST)

Date and time of pre-submission **Q&A Webinar: September 9th, 2024 11.00 am EST**. Register [here](#):

Available Seed Grants: Up to USD \$ 37,500

Contact information: andrea@epicn.org

ABOUT

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) (<https://iai.int/>) and [EPIC-N](https://www.epicn.org/) (<https://www.epicn.org/>) are pleased to introduce the project “Catalyzing Unconventional Partnerships in the Global South for Urban Ecosystem-based Adaptation.” The aim of the project is to award seed grants and host hands-on workshops to support four (4) EbA projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Specifically this project seeks teams eager to learn how to use a transdisciplinary (TD) approach and the EPIC Model (university/community partnerships) to mitigate the three main barriers to EbA adoption (finance, governance, and knowledge gaps).. Phase 1 is an open call for “expressions of interest.” Selected applicants will attend online training sessions during the months of October and November 2024. Successful trainees will be eligible to submit full proposals to host an on-site training with experts and win seed-grants (up to USD \$ 37,500) to support the implementation of EbA projects in 2025.

This project is funded through the support of the Global EbA Fund. The Fund is financed by International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and co-managed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and partners

<https://globalebafund.org/catalyzing-unconventional-partnerships-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-for-urban-ecosystem-based-adaptation/> <https://globalebafund.org/>.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is EbA?

Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) is “the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. It aims to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change” (Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD] 2009).

* These are the eligible countries to apply (Global EbA Fund follows ODA-criteria): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Venezuela

What is the EPIC model?

[EPIC-N](#) is a US-headquartered international network of 100 university- or community-based programs using the distinctive EPIC Model (EM) of university-community engagement. This model, working within the UN SDG framework, matches declared community needs potentially met by universities to the content of courses of instruction at those universities, with students assigned course credits for working on them. EPIC-N has expanded into the [Latin American and the Caribbean](#) (LAC) region and is looking to add more partners through these projects.

Why a Transdisciplinary Science Approach?

The transdisciplinary approach is a reflective research process that brings together diverse perspectives from different academic disciplines and non-academic collaborators (e.g. practitioners, indigenous and local communities, resource managers, etc.) to co-create research goals for a holistic understanding of the issues and develop novel solutions. EbA involves community-based and fully participatory approaches at the local level. We believe in the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships of universities, communities, and cities using innovative transdisciplinary approaches by contextualizing global environmental challenges through translating diverse knowledge systems into ground praxis to generate solutions and become hubs for sustainability, adaptation, and resiliency. These collaborations strengthen the power of regional and local partnerships, constructing meaning in the context of real-world problems or themes to support more inclusive and sustainable solutions to climate change and adaptation and mitigation challenges. The Transdisciplinary Academy will support capacity building in the transdisciplinary approach with the awarded projects.

What are we looking for?

We seek university-community teams eager to demonstrate how:

- 1) communities and university collaboration can generate innovative solutions to implement effective EbA practices.
- (2) bringing communities into urban planning processes can lead to a more coordinated and streamlined administrative structure, and
- (3) using the transdisciplinary approach to co-create participatory approaches to impart knowledge and evidence on EbA will lead to more sustainable finance opportunities, improved governance and more informed decision making.

As this is a regional program, there will be a wide variety of ecosystems ultimately targeted, but pairings of urban ecosystems (EPIC's focal ecosystem) with other [Decade on Restoration Flagship Ecosystems](#) will be favored, particularly those contributing to **food and livelihood security, disaster-risk reduction, water provisioning, and cultural identity**. **University-city partnerships decide which ecosystems to work in.**

How to participate

1. This inclusive application process is organized in two phases I (Expression of Interest) and II (Submission of full proposal in November 2024). This announcement focuses only on phase I.
Phase I: Expressions of Interest
 - a. Interested applicants/teams can submit an Expression of Interest until September 27th, 2024. Link [here](#).

b. To help teams prepare their full proposals, selected parties will commit to participate in a series of asynchronous and synchronous online training sessions on the project’s major themes: the EPIC Model and the Transdisciplinary Science Approach. Teams must complete the training to submit a full proposal during phase II.

c. The immediate intended target groups for phase I are prospective project representatives like university faculty, community engagement staff, local governments, community organizations, and private sector actors either in the conceptual/planning phase or implementation phase of an EbA project. Projects must be in an urban environment in a Latin American or Caribbean country.

August 28th, 2024	Launch of Call for Expression of Interest
September 9th, 2024	Pre-submission informational Q&A workshop
September, 27th 2024	Deadline to submit Expression of Interest
October 4th, 2024	Announcement of the first round of selection process
October 15th, 2024	First Online Workshop and Training
October 15th, 2024	Announcement of the final EbA project proposal
Between October 15th and November 15th, 2024	4 Synchronous and 4 Asynchronous Workshop and Trainings
November 29th, 2024	Submission Deadline for final EbA project concept
Mid-December 2024	Announcement of final EbA Subgrantees
January 2025 and beyond	Start of EbA project implementation and in-person workshops

EPIC-N Training Module:

- ✓ EPIC Unit 1. Welcome to EPIC
- ✓ EPIC Unit 2: EPIC Model 101
- ✓ EPIC Unit 3: Let’s go EPIC. Working with academic professors and community and local government members.
- ✓ EPIC Unit 4. Financial collaboration mechanisms

Concepts of Transdisciplinarity (TD) Module

- ✓ TD Unit 1: Introducing TD Research for Global Environmental Change (GEC) & Differentiating TD from other types of collaborative work
- ✓ TD Unit 2: Connecting TD & GEC in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)
- ✓ TD Unit 3: Diverse Knowledge and Value Systems
- ✓ TD Unit 4. Politics and Ethics of TD

Expression of Interest Application Process

1. Sign up for the pre-submission informational Q&A session (not a requirement). Register [here](#). [English flyer](#)
2. Submit the complete expression of interest form by 27 September 2024 here: [EbA Expressions of Interest form](#)

*accepted in English, Spanish or Portuguese