



Principles for Locally Led Adaptation Action

Statement for Endorsement

Empowering local stakeholders to lead in adaptation gives communities on the frontlines of climate change a voice in decisions that directly affect their lives and livelihoods. Shifting power to local stakeholders, without expecting them to shoulder the burden of adaptation, can catalyze adaptation that is effective, equitable, and transparent. While not all adaptation needs to be locally owned or led, countries and local stakeholders are demanding greater initiative on this and committing to putting more resources into local hands for local adaptation priorities, such as the LDC group in their LDC Group Vision 2050.

As the world moves toward COP26 and beyond, the Global Commission on Adaptation calls on organizations to consider the roles each one can play in ensuring a more equitable approach to adaptation. The Commission has supported the development of a set of principles, based on over a year's worth of consultations, on how to strengthen locally led adaptation. The Commission now invites any organization to endorse these principles and join a community of practice on a journey of learning-by-doing on locally led adaptation. Endorsing organizations are requested to voluntarily share what changes will be made or current practices strengthened to better incentivize or support adaptation that is driven by local stakeholders, to deliver on these principles (see Annexure for more information).

By committing to playing a role in this effort, organizations are shifting from adaptation business-as-usual to business-unusual. Business-unusual will look different for each organization – it could be through increasing financing to the local level, changing the processes and capacities required to access funds by local stakeholders, or shifting internal institutional arrangements to better integrate local priorities. Join the international adaptation community in raising global ambition and action on locally led adaptation by prioritizing:

1. **Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level:** Giving local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored; and how success is evaluated.
2. **Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, disabled, displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalised ethnic groups:** Integrating gender-based, economic, and political inequalities that are root causes of vulnerability into the core of adaptation action and encouraging vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.
3. **Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily:** Supporting long-term development of local governance processes, capacity, and institutions through simpler access modalities and longer term and more predictable funding horizons, to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions.
4. **Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy:** Improving the capabilities of local institutions to ensure they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, generate solutions, and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project based donor funding.

5. **Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty:** Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, traditional, Indigenous, generational and scientific knowledge that can enable resilience under a range of future climate scenarios.
6. **Flexible programming and learning:** Enabling adaptive management to address the inherent uncertainty in adaptation, especially through robust monitoring and learning systems, flexible finance, and flexible programming.
7. **Ensuring transparency and accountability:** Making processes of financing, designing, and delivering programs more transparent and accountable downward to local stakeholders.
8. **Collaborative action and investment:** Collaboration across sectors, initiatives and levels to ensure that different initiatives and different sources of funding (humanitarian assistance, development, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds, etc.) support each other, and their activities avoid duplication, to enhance efficiencies and good practice.

The following organizations have endorsed these principles:

