8th AFRICA ADAPTATION ACCELERATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP FORUM

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT ECONOMIES IN AFRICA
DATE: WEDNESDAY, 13th AUGUST 2025
TIME: 14:00 - 16:00
LOCATION: NAP EXPO, LUSAKA.

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

The eighth Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) Partnership Forum convened alongside the NAP Expo 2025 in Lusaka, on August 13, 2025, brought together government ministers, financial institutions, youth leaders and AAAP beneficiaries. Organized by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in partnership with the Republic of Zambia, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the NAP EXPO, the Forum focused on showcasing the AAAP's progress in climate-proofing adaptation investments across key sectors in the southern Africa region with particular emphasis on infrastructure resilience, agricultural sustainability, urban and water resilience, Youth Adaptation jobs and mobilizing climate finance.





Key Messages

By investing in Develoment projects, the AAAP provides alternative pathways to unlock adaptation financing and demostrates that adaption is investable, thereby supporting national adaptation plans

- The AfDB in partnership with GCA through the AAAP, have demonstrated this in action. The
 AAAP has supported over 80 adaptation investments, climate-proofed billions in
 adaptation investments across over 40 countries, strengthening the resilience of 79 million
 people, and created 700,000 jobs. The program has also backed 41 youth-led enterprises
 in 20 countries, turning climate challenges into opportunities for innovation, livelihoods,
 and growth.
- The Adaptation Financing gap remains significant and the AAAP can play a key role in filling a portion of that gap. Having shown that this is possible, the next phase should aim for higher targets, drawing on lessons learned from the 1st phase.

National Planning can benefit from the AAAP's lessons across sectors from agriculture to urban solutions and enhanced Food Security to unlock climate finance

- Zambia's national policies and legal frameworks, including the National Policy on Climate Change (2016), National Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions, and the Green Economy and Climate Change Act (2024) seek to drive coordinated climate action, attract international cooperation, and unlock climate finance.
- Its National Crop Diversification Strategy (2024–2028) has expanded seed distribution from 2-8 varieties in support programs, increasing resilience by ensuring that some crops can thrive under variable conditions while improving nutrition and diversifying incomes.
- The AAAP's lessons in embedding digital climate smart agriculture into agricultural investments, can enhance these national plans. Examples can be seen from the AAAP's support to the Zambia Growth Opportunities project (ZAMGRO), a \$300 Million project financed by the World bank where the it assessed climate risks threatening key value chains including maize, sorghum, groundnuts, rice and identified appropriate digital adaptation solutions to mitigate these climate impacts. Meaures such as this can attract additional financinig to address specific adaptation solutions. Through the AAAP, 950,000 farmers from both Zambia and Mozambique have benefited from digital climate smart agricultural meaures on the program.
- The African Development Bank's investment on the Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (PIDAC) that spans Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe focuses on integrating disaster risk reduction, flood mitigation and early warning systems, thereby strengthening water resource management across trans boundary basins. Its impact will reach over 17.6 million households and strengthening water resource management across trans boundary basins.

There is an opportunity to unlock adaptation finance through collaborations with regional financial institutions

• Regional and national banks play a key role in unlocking adaptation investment opportunities as they finance several climate-vulnerable sectors and are in close proximity to households, SMEs, farms, and municipalities. They can play a role in capital mobilisation, drive tailored trainings on Adaptation and resilience for other commercial banks, and lead the advocacy on adaptation and relieince action for the private sector. ZANACO's examples in partnering with several DFIs to enhance access to finance were showcased. Their being accredited to the Green Climate Fund allows onward lending of upto USD50million dollars per projects that show evidence of driving the green economy.

Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure is economically beneficial, delivering significant returns in avoided damages and enhanced system reliability.

With extreme heat events projected to increase sharply from 1 in 25years to once in 3-5 years posing heightened risks for women, children and the vulnerable in communities, the government of Zambia in partnership with the World Bank and Global Center on Adaptation is implementing the Transport Corridors for Economic Resilience (TRACER) project aimed



at boosting regional trade connectivity, safeguarding vulnerable communities, and delivering climate-resilient infrastructure. These interventions aim to prevent an estimated \$10.1 million in losses by 2050. Similarly, the African Development Bank is implementing the Songo – Matambo transmission line in Mozambique, to improve renewable energy integration while creating jobs.

Adaptation knowledge is key infrastructure for capacity-building to inform National Adaptation Plans:

• The AAAP is advancing collaborations with universities and research institutions as they are central to building the human capital that will drive adaptation innovation and support the formulation of evidence-based NAPs. The University of Zambia's actions such as in developing post graduate courses in climate responsive engineering and environmental design, change, leading research on climate proofing infrastructure, climate farming systems, drought resistant crop varieties, need to be supported so as to inform and enhance national adaptation plans. The AAAP's existing masterclasses in differenct sectors can inform these efforts.

Fast tracking tools that can support Adaptation Measurement and accountability is key:

The Resilient Economies Index, to be launched by the GCA, is an example of a tool that will
provide a valuable stocktake of the climate adaptation landscape on the African continent,
assessing economic impacts, policy readiness, and financial flows to inform future
adaptation efforts.

Adaptation will only succeed if it is youth-led and intergenerational in design;

The AAAP ensures the youth are at the forefront of all action. In Southern Africa, the AAAP
collaborates with the Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development (IESD) who have
made key calls at the NAP Expo, for youth involvement in formulation of adaptation policies
and financing. Their communique is found here.

Specific Recommendations for AAAP 2.0

As the AAAP transitions into its next phase, AAAP 2.0, several recommendations emerged from the forum participants:

- Mobilize and accelerate diverse and scalable climate adaptation finance by intensifying
 collaboration between governments, multilateral banks, local financial institutions, and the
 private sector to rapidly close the adaptation finance gap, ensuring speed, scale and
 impact.
- 2. Strengthen capacity building and knowledge sharing with academia partnering with universities, research institutions and technical agencies to develop specialized climate adaptation training, building regional hubs for climate innovation ensuring evidence based solutions that inform national and regional adaptation plans.
- **3.** Empower youth and marginalized communities in Adaptation action through embedding youth participation and representation in adaptation policies, expanding funding and access to youth-led green businesses, promoting mentorship and coaching to youths
- **4. Strengthen MSMES capacity for bankable climate projects** beyond financing, the regional banks call for technical support from GCA to MSME's to support in developing viable, scalable and impactful adaptation solutions aligning with global financing mechanisms.
- **5.** Foster collaborations with governments, financial institutions and development partners to drive financing commitments for scaling climate adaptation solutions and bridging the gap between innovation and implementation.

Crosscutting Recommendations

1. **Emphasize Locally Led and Nature-Based Solutions:** Encourage integrated and anticipatory adaptation actions that leverage local knowledge, nature-based approaches, and community leadership to build lasting resilience.



Speakers by order of appearance:

The forum was anchored by Ms. Amanda Archibong-Doukoure, Senior Partnerships Manager for Africa, and AAAP Partnerships Fora Lead.

Contact us

The AAAP Partnership for a team can be contacted at: partnershipfora@gca.org

