

CBA16 key messages

The 16th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA16) took place on October 3rd and 4th, 2022. 150 climate adaptation practitioners from over 30 countries joined 16 virtual, interactive sessions to discuss how to put the principles for locally led adaptation (LLA) into practice. The emerging messages represent the latest thinking by practitioners on LLA.

Getting locally led adaptation to scale

- Finance is still not flowing for locally led action at scale, nor do local actors participate enough in funding negotiations and decisions. This may be due to poor programme design or complex procedures that are a barrier to accessing funds.
- Failure to co-design approaches with communities can lead to local governments or local elites prioritising public services and infrastructure that does not match up to real local priorities. To address this, funds must include joint risk assessments, participatory planning and co-design of proposals with communities and their representatives.
- Microfinance institutions are particularly impacted by climate change, as many microfinance clients have climate-vulnerable livelihoods. Climate-smart practices require training and capacity building to put microfinance to use.

See session 9: [Delivering locally-led adaptation at scale](#) and session 15: [Bridging the barriers to upscaling of community-based adaptation](#)

The Government of Nepal has endorsed the LLA principles. It uses Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) across the whole country, developed by sub-national governments, community groups and civil society to shape local adaptation. It aims to deliver 80% of international climate finance to local implementation. Success is shaped by local ownerships of LAPAs, decentralised finance and a focus on the most vulnerable.

Climate justice

- Climate justice cannot be attained without addressing inequality, inequity and poverty. The climate crisis disproportionately impacts women, youth, indigenous groups and other marginalised people — undermining their right to live in a healthy and secure environment. A climate justice lens recognises structural inequalities and seeks to address them together.
- There is a huge gap in women-led local initiatives that needs to be funded. This is because women face a complex spectrum of mutually reinforcing systemic oppressions based on intersectional factors that limit their self-determination, ownership and control over natural resources and land.
- Women are often drivers of adaptation in their communities. Policy and legal frameworks must be supported by strong political and regulatory support for women to engage in adaptation and the renewable energy transition.

- Communities can and should be at the centre of generating data about vulnerability and resilience. Shifting power to the local level should ensure long-term, flexible funding and data based on locally generated information is used. This knowledge is useful to communities and should be shared with them.
- Funding for loss and damage as a result of climate change hazards is a climate justice issue. Funding should be new, so additional to existing climate finance and overseas development assistance.

See sessions 2: [Amplifying the voices of local adaptors at COP27 through the Resilience Hub](#); session 5: [What does women's climate leadership mean in the context of locally led adaptation](#); and session 6: [Taking a climate justice approach to locally led adaptation](#)

In Malawi, the Malawi SDI Alliance have introduced tools for community-led data collection on climate risks. The data is used in newly established regular meetings between urban communities, government institutions and service providers, which contribute to co-produced local plans.

Incorporate local knowledge and local action

- Adaptation that works with local knowledge helps avoid maladaptation and has a shorter learning curve for communities. Local knowledge can be a foundation for LLA. Yet we must explore how to blend new methods with tradition, in order to address the scale of climate risks.
- Communicating local knowledge in traditional and artistic ways can create greater recognition and acceptance. Poetry, literature and music opens hearts and minds to break down barriers.
- Urban poor social networks, as well as groups of rural women, have demonstrated their critical role to governments and development partners as reliable actors at the forefront of the provision of information and services to the most vulnerable.
- Local governments can play important roles as connectors across communities, working in local planning, climate information and climate finance. Building their institutional capacity is important for sustainable climate action.

See session 4: [Hidden possibilities: how local knowledge rooted in cultural heritage enhances LLA and NBS](#); session 13: [How should local governments change to put locally led adaptation into practice?](#) and session 14: [Locally led adaptations solutions to tackle loss and damage](#)

In Bangladesh, [Friendship NGO](#) used participatory tools to identify flooding as the major climate hazard. Indigenous flood defence methods, raising villages on plinth barriers of earth or sand, were enhanced with harder soils to reduce erosion and increase longevity. They have also applied the concept to cattle sheds, to protect livelihoods.

The role of intermediaries in adaptation

- LLA is not a one-off intervention. It must be continuously revisited and renegotiated, incorporating new learning and ongoing change. This is particularly the case in conflict areas.
- INGOs and facilitators of LLA have a role to play in bridging the gap between donors, investors and communities. As intermediaries, they can act as mediators and 'go-betweens' between communities and donors. They can play a service, pooling funds to disseminate to local actors, or seek to aggregate community groups to facilitate joint finance access.

See session 3: [How can we mobilise and channel climate finance to support local adaptation efforts?](#) and session 12: [Local climate solutions in cities](#)