

Capacity-building for Enhancing Resilience at the Local Level

Online Event Summary Report

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List of Acronyms

In Alphabetical Order

COP	Conference of the Parties
GCA	Global Centre on Adaptation
ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
LCIPP-FWG	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLA	Locally-led Adaptation
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NIEs	National Implementing Entities
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SDI	Slum/Shack Dwellers International
TAP	Transformative Action Program

Event Information

Hosted by the PCCB and UNFCCC
Organized by ICCCAD and Adaptation Fund

Date



04 November

Time



14:00-15:30 CET

Venue



Virtual - ZOOM

Attended by



94 representatives

Located in



27 countries

Featured



Presentations and
roundtable discussions

Digital Engagement



470 livestream viewers
1.5k reach

Joined by



11 collaborating
organizations

Background

A majority of developing countries have placed capacity-building as a condition for the implementation of their NDCs. As adaptation is inherently region and locale-specific, even within a country, there is a strong need to build capacities at the local level, which in turn will enhance resilience and adaptive capacities both at the local community and national levels. Disadvantaged local communities are hit hardest from climate change impacts and the new and lasting scourge of COVID-19. Therefore, a bottom-up approach to capacity-building to enhance resilience at this level should be regarded as the key to address the risks posed by climate change to local actors. Local communities also have a groundswell of traditional/indigenous knowledge-based coping mechanisms and capacities. When disasters occur, it is important to understand how to more-effectively tap these resources and how to support locally-led adaptation capacity development and enhancement.

Objectives

This virtual roundtable discussion was organized as part of the Capacity-building Momentum to Recover Better event series under the PCCB Network. It aimed to shine a light on the enormous surge of support for activities underway across the globe that are moving the world toward a highly resilient, low-carbon future. The event included discussions on:

1. Providing an overview of the needs and gaps related to locally-led capacity-building initiatives, based on ICCCAD and Adaptation Fund experiences.
2. Facilitating and building a discourse on potential approaches and actions needed to support locally-led capacity-building initiatives.
3. Sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned.
4. Identifying opportunities including financial support and partnership development to strengthen capacities of vulnerable actors to develop and implement local level adaptation and resilience strategies and the role of various stakeholders at local level.

Agenda

14.00 – 15.30 CET

Moderator: Prof. Saleemul Huq | ICCCAD

- **Opening Remarks**
- **Ice-breaking Session with Participants**

Keynote

Capacity-building approaches, experiences, and needs at the local level

- **Sheela Patel** | Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

Presentations

Sharing experiences, good practices, and lessons learned by lead partners for identifying needs and gaps related to locally-led capacity-building initiatives

- **Prof. Mizan Khan** | ICCCAD
- **Farayi Onias Madziwa** | Adaptation Fund

Panel Discussion

Identifying and facilitating potential solutions, approaches, opportunities (including financial support), and actions needed

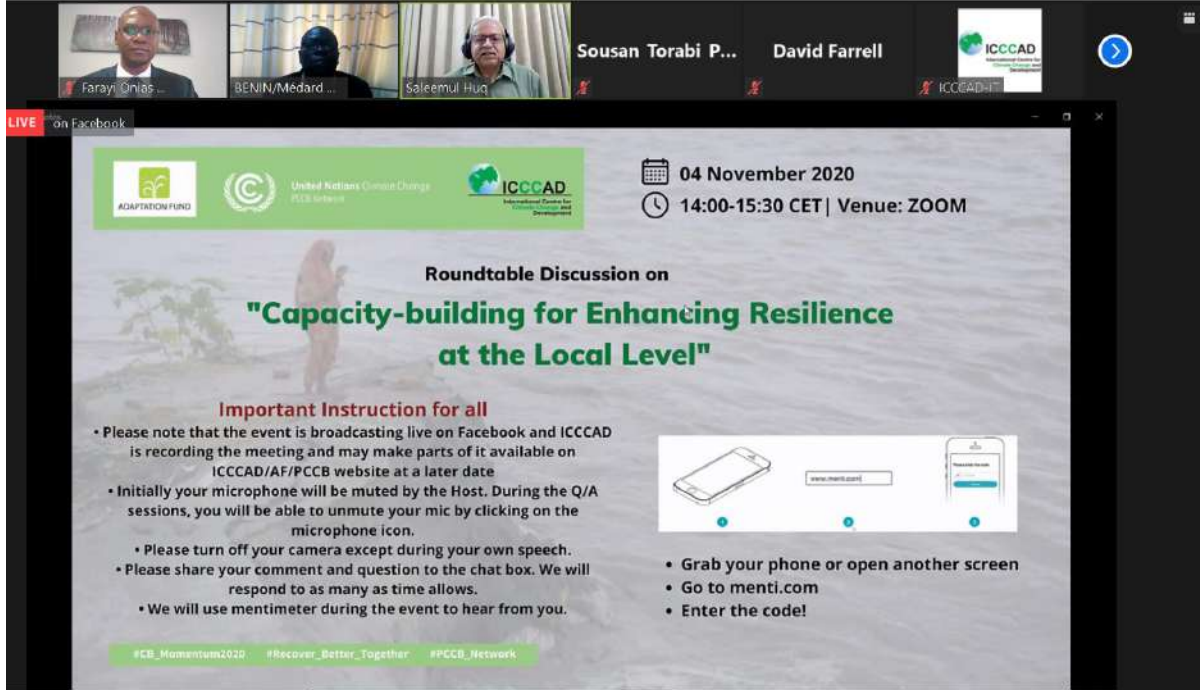
- **Jaehyang So**, Programme Director, Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA)
- **Comlan Médard Ouinakonhan**, member, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group (LCIPP-FWG)
- **Andrea Carmen**, Co-Chair, (LCIPP-FWG)
- **Mariam Devidze**, Green Alternative, Georgia
- **Sarshen Scorgie**, Director of Policy and Fiscal instruments, Conservation South Africa
- **Emani Kumar**, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI | Executive Director, ICLEI – South Asia

Q/A Session with panelists

Moderator: Farayi Onias Madziwa | Adaptation Fund

Closing Session

- **Marzena Chodor** | PCCB Co-Chair



Picture of this virtual event

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) organize a capacity-building hub at the Conference of Parties (COP) every year where my centre ICCCAD has had the privilege to collaborate with the PCCB at the hub. Because of the pandemic the COP is postponed for a year; but nevertheless, we are using this time and opportunity to do a series of virtual events and today's event is going to be capacity-building for enhancing resilience at the local level.

Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director at ICCCAD

Summary of Discussions

- **Keynote Speech: Sheela Patel | SDI**

Reinterpreting the concept of resilience within climate change has tremendous transformational potential. Locally-led adaptation is highly important as it gives an opportunity to create a demand and expectations and a challenge to localize the concept of adaptation to work with communities. The local communities' experience and knowledge of many generations can be used, and we can build on collectively new ways of anticipating and learning about change that we must take on beforehand, so the onslaught of disaster episode doesn't destroy the very basis on our life.

“For me an important message that comes from below is that you must learn to work with communities. You have to support and celebrate communities that are mobilized for long periods of time because of challenges we face have to be sustained locally over the next 30-40 years.”

- **Presentation: ICCCAD in Capacity-building to Strengthen LLA | Prof. Mizan Khan, ICCCAD**

- Elements of capacity-building ranges from awareness, education and research to development; and the levels of capacity-building starts from individual, institution down to systemic country level
- Although being a vulnerable country, Bangladesh has made significant responses where the country has turned its natural resources into building resilience and strength.
- ICCCAD has focused on building capacity at six levels; namely - in-house capacity-building, local level capacity-building as well as national, regional, LDCs and global.
- Focus is given on the instruments used to understand capacity-building like learning workshops, expert training, interactive dialogue of youth and women communities among many more, and the initiative ICCCAD has taken in providing climate sensitive information to farmers, fishers and other people whose livelihood depend on it
- An overview is given of the learning ICCCAD has accumulated over the last decade through communities and local governments, including having locally context-driven data, solutions that are indigenous and mobilization of resources and finances.

“Capacity-building is inherently local and regional. National governments responsibility is to be an enabler of appropriate policies framework. Our national government through the multilateral or bilateral agencies have to be grounded and serve the locally led adaptation which is the key to resilience building.”

- **Presentation: Adaptation Fund Capacity-building Efforts for Locally-led Action | Farayi Madziwa, Adaptation Fund**

- Adaptation Fund's pioneering Direct Access modality allowed National Implementing Entities to directly access adaptation finance. 32 accredited NIEs that accessing funds from the Adaptation Fund using this mechanism, including from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and/or Least Developed countries (LDCs)
- It set the the milestone of reaching 8.7 million beneficiaries directly through the mechanism and 17 million indirect beneficiaries.
- Ensured financing 105 concrete projects and committed US\$ 745 million to 102 countries, with 18 projects located in SIDS and 28 in LDCs
- Just about 40% of the Fund's portfolio projects are under the agricultural and food security sector
- The main delivery vehicle of the fund in supporting capacity-building is the readiness programme in climate finance. A detailed outline is discussed of the planned events under the readiness programme and the individual grants available under the readiness program to support capacity-building along with their eligibility criteria and funding cap.

“We know that in some parts of the globe the Adaptation Fund is not very well known so through our readiness activities and workshops we are holding globally and face to face, we create a visibility and branding of the fund.”

Summary of Discussions

Moderator: Farayi Madziwa

• Panel Discussion

Panelists were asked to briefly introduce their organizations and the works they have been doing in terms of locally-led adaptation and capacity-building. The following summarizes their responses.

- The business plan (2020-2025) of the GCA identifies five key programme areas –
 - Food security
 - Water Security in the context of Urban Resilience
 - Using nature-based solutions for infrastructure
 - Climate finance
 - Building youth leadership
- Incorporating locally-led action in each of these five program areas is treated as highest value.
- GCA is also establishing a global hub on locally-led action where the purpose is to support all the institutions and organizations that are working on locally-led action, to disseminate the best practices in locally-led action and to provide the support capacities including finance, capacity-building as well as advocacy and increased awareness of locally-led action.

Jaehyang So

Programme Director, Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA)

- The Local Communities Indigenous People's Platform is an inclusive and trusted space which brings together both people and the knowledge system.
- LCIPP is currently implementing a number of activities including – organizing training workshop webinar and annual thematic training workshop, developing recommendations on the participation of indigenous people and local communities across the UNFCCC process.

Comlan Médard Ouinakonhan

Member, LCIPP-FWG

- Green Alternative is the core member of Adaptation Fund NGO Network and is responsible for observing the projects that are financed by the Adaptation Fund.
- Representing the Network, Green Alternative mobilizes comments and feedbacks on Adaptation Fund project proposals, conducts independent assessments of adaptation fund projects and the implementation, strengthens the knowledge on the front to the civil society organizations.
- In each project or policy campaign, Green Alternative combines the campaign work with the capacity-building of local groups and facilitate their direct involvement in the campaigns depending on the communities and their needs.

Mariam Devidze

Green Alternative, Georgia

- Conservation South Africa works in three landscapes across South Africa focused on range-land restoration with small-scale farmers and communal areas.
- The work modality of Conservation South Africa is focused on nature-based solutions to climate change including sustainable range land management, enterprise development that supports resilience for both communities and nature towards building a restoration economy.
- It has also been the facilitating agency in the macro land R1 landscape for the Adaptation Funds small grants facility where support is given to seven small grant recipients to develop their climate responses, ranging from agriculture climate resilient breeding, water wise robust tea farming to climate proofing settlements, building livestock and herd shelters to small-scale fisheries and safety at sea as well as savings groups.

Sarshen Scorgie

Director of Policy and Fiscal instruments, Conservation South Africa

- ICLEI is a city association that has more than 1700 city governments as members as well as 20 offices all over the world
- It is helping the city governments to achieve sustainability through five pathways –
 - Low emission development pathway
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Circular development
 - Resilience development
 - Equitable and people-centred development
- Transformative Action Program (TAP) to observe the activities of city governments and take those activities as action plans for various donor and funding agencies.
- Also does a lot of stakeholder engagement; stakeholder groups formed within the city governments so if the city wants to work on the ground, ICLEI brings those stakeholders so that both can come and work together.

Emani Kumar

Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI

Global and Executive Director, ICLEI – South Asia

Summary of Discussions

• Q/A Session with Panelists

Panelists were invited to respond to questions posed by the moderator. The following summarizes the panelists' inputs.

“What mechanisms of finance flows have been successful to advance locally-led adaptation from the GCA perspective?”

- Three mechanism components that GCA sees as being particularly successful –
 - A financial mechanism actually exists
 - Among the ones that exist, those that incorporate local government especially in budgetary system rather than in a project capacity, is important for the sustainability of the financial mechanism
 - Financial mechanisms are run in a programmatic rather than on a project-based system

Jaehyang So

Programme Director, Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA)

“What modalities do you employ under ICLEI to encourage city to city learning when it comes to building greater climate capacities?”

- ICLEI works very closely with the city officials, city engineers and planners and inculcate the knowledge to them in a language they understand. This helps when these city officials take actions from then onwards, they can utilize that particular knowledge.
- This modality further helps in peer-to-peer learning where city governments learn from each other to implement and take forward a certain action on the ground.

Emani Kumar

Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI

Global and Executive Director, ICLEI – South Asia

“What have been the greatest gaps and needs that Conservation International has experienced that hamper locally-led adaptation?”

- While participating in the Enhanced Direct Access Program of Work, a huge gap was found in terms of project management and financial management for a lot of the smaller community-based organizations that hampered their ability to implement initially until that capacity-building could be significantly enhanced.
- One benefit from the program was that it helped to learn from one another's projects; it had a lot of inter-district as well as intra-district sharing and learning exchanges, reflections and learning programs.

Sarshen Scorgie

Director of Policy and Fiscal instruments, Conservation South Africa

“What have been the greatest gaps and needs that Green Alternative has experienced that hamper locally-led adaptation?”

- While making comments on project proposals it is often visible that in many of those stakeholders are not consulted properly and therefore the proposals are not responsive to local community needs. Bottom-up planning, not only consulting communities but instead to involve them in the decision-making process is challenging for many projects.
- Lack of institutional capacity-building in local governments is also a major gap.

Mariam Devidze
Green Alternative, Georgia

“What are the specific challenges visible in the Facilitating Working Group (FWG) that are faced by the local communities and indigenous people with regards to raising awareness and capacity-building efforts?”

- It is important to recognize that indigenous people are a distinct rights holder which includes the right to participate in decision making and the right to free, prior and informed consent regarding all programs and projects.
- The unique methods and practices of the indigenous people are not respected enough as well as their rights to participate in the planning process, not just as recipients but as contributors to the programs.

Andrea Carmen
Co-Chair, LCIPP-FWG

“Considering the multi-dimensional effects that the COVID19 pandemic has had on cities, local communities and indigenous people, how has ICLEI continued or adapted its capacity-building works?”

- The situation has made possible for the development plans to start working on the ground; it helped some of the cities to address all those issues that could not have been addressed previously.

Emani Kumar
Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI
Global and Executive Director, ICLEI – South Asia

“What is needed to make locally-led adaptation and related capacity-building support and mainstream investment strategy across the donor community?”

- GCA has identified two issues in terms of making stronger investment strategy across communities
 1. **Scale:** Need to be able to reach scale in terms of larger financial flows and more financing flows.
 2. **Agency:** Need to ensure that in the instruments that are designed, local communities and people have agency rather than addressed as benefiting or receiving aid from donors.

Jaehyang So
Programme Director, GCA

“What effects COVID19 has had on the way capacity-building has traditionally been delivered to communities?”

- COVID 19 has affected whole scales of the project planning and implementation and the danger of top-down planning of the projects increased.
- Delays of implementation on ground activities of the projects has been observed, which poses additional budgetary requirements.

Mariam Devidze
Green Alternative, Georgia

“What have been the key concerns for indigenous people during the pandemic in regards to capacity-building needs?”

- Indigenous in the United States have been among the hardest hit by COVID 19. The reason for such vulnerability is manifold – lack of access to healthcare, erosion of access to traditional food systems are among them. The situation has also impacted the call to strengthen traditional knowledge and practices of the indigenous people.

Andrea Carmen
Co-Chair, LCIPP-FWG

“Beyond the pandemic, what do you think would be a game changer for locally-led adaptation initiatives?”

- Youth’s inspiration and creativity through communication platforms – photography, videos that are coming from the youth about the stories and their relation with the environment and climate change. These work as inspiration and also generate new ideas for locally-led initiatives. So, focusing on the youth and their empowerment is something to take us forward.

Sarshen Scorgie
Director of Policy and Fiscal instruments, Conservation South Africa

Marzena Chodor
PCCB Co-chair

Greater coherence and coordination in capacity-building by different actors at different levels will lead to better and more inclusive outcomes and lasting impacts. That’s why it is important for PCCB and PCCB Network to encourage such stakeholder dialogues and knowledge exchanges.

Looking Ahead

- Investments in locally-led action are bankable investments; and working together is key to make that a reality.
- Partnership based on mutual recognition and mutual respect is the main drive to respond to climate change as climate change is a global crisis that affects everyone.

Useful Links

Event webpage:

<https://unfccc.int/event/capacity-building-for-enhancing-resilience-at-the-local-level>

The event recording and presentation files can be found in this page.

Capacity-building Momentum for Recovering Better

<https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/CBMomentum2020>

ICCCAD webpage:

<http://www.icccad.net/>

Adaptation Fund webpage:

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/>