

Webinar Brief

Why Invest in Locally Led Adaptation in the Lead Up to COP 26?

Date of the event: November 16, 2020, Time: 2:00PM-3:00PM UK Time/ 8:00PM-9:00PM BST

This virtual event was part of over 200+ events that took place at the London Climate Action Week (LCAW) in November 2020. The events that took place at #LCAW2020 brought together world-leading climate experts to pave the way towards a greener future.

Key Messages:

- Locally Led Adaptation reinforces a significant bottom-up process to the usual practices of the top-down adaptation process
- Formation of grassroots organization, engaging them with projects ensures a sense of ownership and promotes local institutions to take initiatives beyond dependence of government
- The principals of LLA gives communities at the forefront of the battle against climate change the agency to take charge of adaptation as opposed to getting benefits from adaptation
- With competing priorities of the government, it's important to ensure trans-localization of adaptation finance to ensure local voices and priorities are heard at the national and global levels

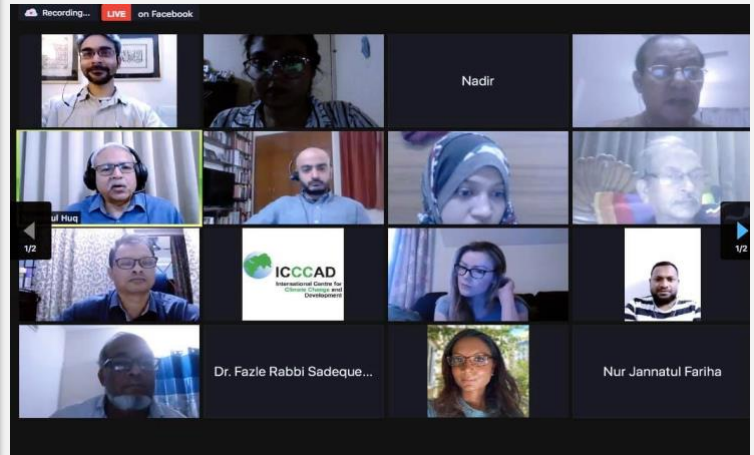


Figure 1 Screenshot of the participants at the webinar was taken during the event

Moderator

Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

Panelist

Tahura Farbin, visiting research fellow, Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies

Aditya Bahadur, Principal researcher, Human Settlements, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Prof. Mizan R Khan, Deputy Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

Remarks from the Panelist

Tahura Farbin: Focused on the importance of locally-led adaptation why it needs to be considered in the southwest region of Bangladesh. The speaker showed Beel Shukunia project as an example to understand how locally led adaptation can be a solution to enhance the capacity of the community with the collaboration of government and local stakeholders. Some key suggestions from her presentation:

- Strengthen bottom-up process beside the usual practices of top-down adaptation process.
- Formation of grassroots organization, engaging them with projects ensures a sense of ownership and promotes local institutions to take initiatives beyond dependence of government
- In locally led adaptation it's important to encourage local voices for addressing their issues at the national and global levels.

Aditya Bahadur: focused on the principals of Locally Led Adaptation, iterated the need for working with different organizations and Civil Societies. Further adding that to make LLA a norm in Climate Change Adaptation allied initiatives

are important. The purpose is to engage the community who are at the front line of the battle against climate change to have the power and tools to make their decisions.

Aditya explained the following eight principles that we need to look forwards too when working with LLA; Decision making needs to be developed from the lowest level.

1. Simpler access, patient and predictable funding
2. Investing in local institutional legacies
3. Address structural inequalities
4. Building robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty
5. Flexible programing.
6. Radical transparency and accountability
7. Coordinated action and investment.

Prof. Mizan R Khan mentioned that as per Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the adaptation supporting expense from the climate finance is very limited. It is about 20 percent of the total climate finance, and the Least Developed Countries (LDC) get only a cent of a dollar a day from it. It is quite a matter of paradox that the increasing share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) goes for climate finance while the ODA goes down. Some of the notable reasons why there is less investment in Locally Led Adaptation are due to the scarcity of resources, intergovernmental races inhibit voices from the local community and, lastly because private sectors are not in interested investing in adaptation. This further reinforces the need in shift of focus on investment in LLA going forward.

Notable queries made to the Panelists during the event

- Can tide or river management be seen as a LLA solution?
- In India is the social audit is led by the supreme audit institution or govt institution?
- How can we make local adaptation inclusive of youth and gender?
- Is there any way to institutionalize fund on local canal excavation projects?

Concluding Remarks from Panelist

Tahura Farbin: The widespread aim of practicing LLA is building capacity of the most vulnerable. It is important to strengthen local institutions with the collaboration of national and local authorities. Beside the community people should be empowered in order to carry out own initiatives against natural calamities. They need to provide scope in order to take charge in decision making.

Aditya Bahadur: The eight principles puts a cross-cutting emphasis on, enabling local communities to take charge of adaptation processes as opposed to developing process where the community can be benefited from the adaptation actions.

Prof. Mizan R Khan: The governments have to come forward for investment in adaptation and tuck the community agency to hear the local voices. With competing priorities of the government, it's important to ensure trans-localization of adaptation finance to ensure local voices and priorities are heard at the national and global levels.

Prof. Saleemul Huq: Adaptation is very location specific and does not have a simple metric as that of mitigation goals of zero-emissions, so it is challenging to aggregate it to the global level. But still people are thinking of it. As a part of future ambition the 7th Gobeshona conference is going to focus on locally led adaptation where it is going to discuss about building solidarity and share responsibilities for addressing LLA in the global platform so that it helps the researchers to track down updates and bring progress over time.