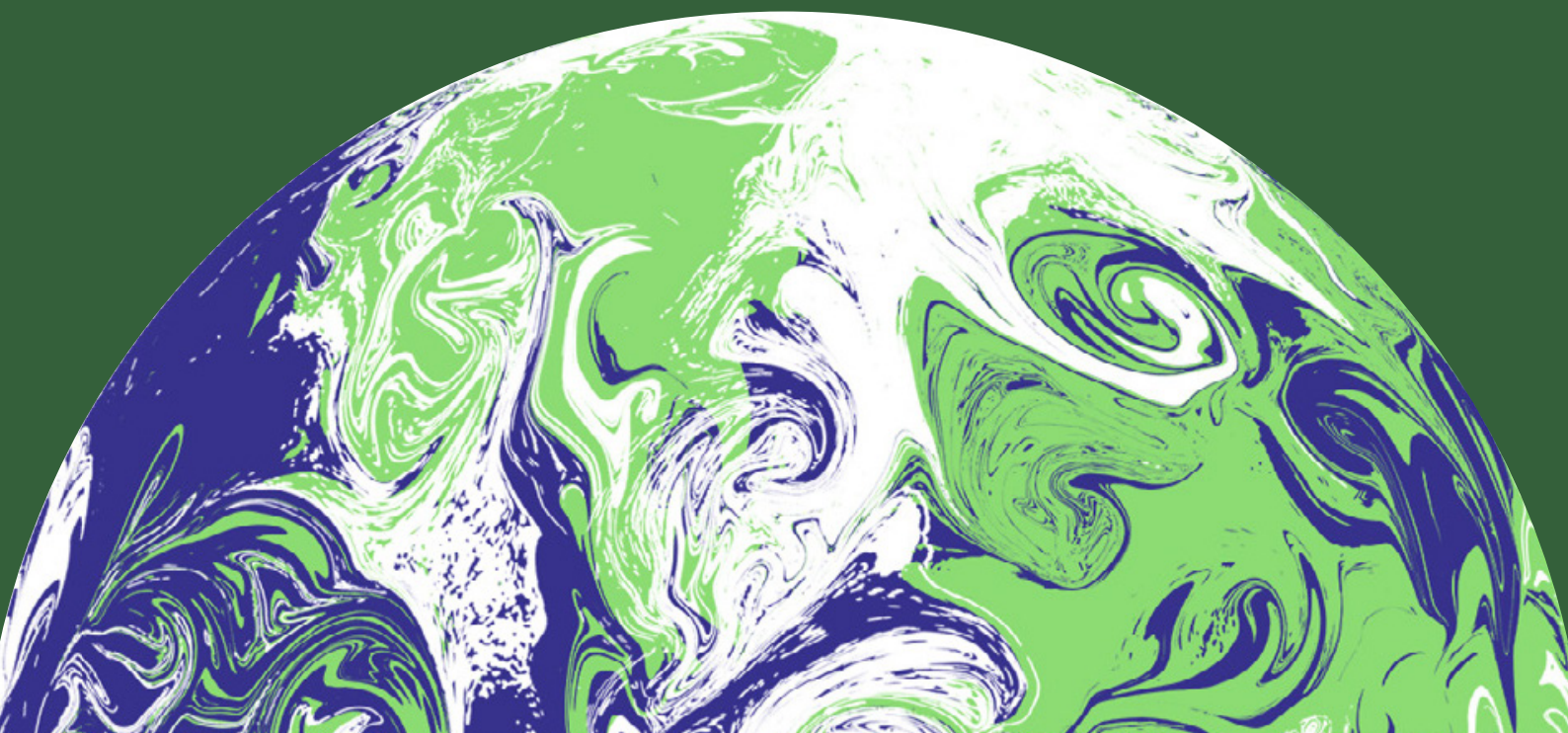


**COP26 CATALYST  
FOR CLIMATE  
ACTION**

Final Recommendations on  
Capacity Building for  
**Adaptation  
Communications**



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



**Wilton Park**

These recommendations were developed by the COP26 Catalyst Action Group on Capacity Building for Adaptation Communications, which includes representatives from the countries and organisations shown below.



Government of  
Angola

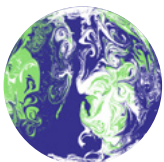


Government of  
Costa Rica



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**Final recommendations on  
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## Introduction

**Adaptation Communications (ADCOMs) were established by the Paris Agreement, article 7. An ADCOM is voluntary, flexible and country driven. It is a mechanism for countries to showcase country adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions. The COP26 Catalyst Action Group for Climate Action on Adaptation Communications (ADCOMs) gathered insights about the capacity challenges countries face when preparing their ADCOM.**

Discussions during the COP26 Catalyst regional meetings identified several key issues relating to capacity building gaps, challenges and needs for developing ADCOMs. Areas broadly covered include: governance and how to work across ministries; how to improve inclusivity and meaningful engagement, recognising the deep knowledge that exists within communities; lack of methodologies; how to identify the right level of detail; and the interaction of human rights and climate change.

It is a challenge to ensure that ADCOM documents are consistent between national and sub-national actors (on the ground), and that planned adaptation actions reported on in ADCOMs are implemented. There is often a thin line between development and adaptation and it can be hard for stakeholders to distinguish between the two, particularly at the sub-national level, and also in relation to financing. It is important that processes to develop ADCOMS capture the opinions and voices of a wide range of stakeholders, particularly engaging with local communities and civil society, and ensuring the voices of youth, women and elderly are heard. Capacities in stakeholder engagement need to be strengthened to enable this, including through stakeholder mapping, to guarantee that consultations are informed by relevant national experts.

Capacity building should therefore include all levels and sectors, and particularly the most vulnerable sectors of society. Capacity building support is needed at local, national, and regional level on adaptation planning, coordination, knowledge management, communicating, and the UNFCCC reporting process. This is needed for officials, at central government and local level with the latter contributing to real adaptation and resilience building, and for climate information providers to support more informed decision-making on adaptation. Integration across key national sectors and ensuring efficient synergies between national and global adaptation processes must be built into capacity-building efforts.

The COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Group on Adaptation Communications collaborated over a series of weeks to produce the set of specific recommendations below.



The extent to which the Adaptation Communications (ADCOMs) are useful to national adaptation efforts and to global stocktaking processes (such as the Global Stocktake or GST, and the Global Goal on Adaptation or GGA) will depend on the quality of the information they contain. To generate quality information, capacity building of governments, sectors, stakeholders (national and sub-national, most vulnerable), and institutions is essential. Given the cyclic nature of commitments under the Paris Agreement, and the sustained capacity needs of countries, it is important that this capacity is not delivered in a sporadic and fragmented manner. Instead, for countries that choose to submit ADCOMs, **long-term, coordinated, sustained, iterative, and institutionalised capacity building is essential, designed and delivered in a manner that allows capacity retention**, to inform not only ADCOMs and other communications to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement (National Communications, NAPs, NDCs, and BTRs), but also to guide inclusive national adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring processes, and to track progress on the GGA. Adequate time should be built into the process of developing ADCOMs, to ensure that the necessary capacities exist at the different levels for meaningful engagement by all actors in the process; and to build additional capacities where needed.

Capacity building for ADCOMs should focus, not only on making the ADCOMs useful for the GST or GGA, but **especially for national processes**. (For examples of how ADCOMs can be useful at the national and global levels see Annex 1). Considerations of national relevance can inform decisions on the choice of vehicle, design, content, periodicity, and sequencing of the ADCOMs – and hence specific capacity building needs. If ADCOMs are not useful within countries, chances are “they will be forgotten” as they are not mandatory.

The overall goals of capacity building for the ADCOMs should include:

- **Capacity building for inclusion**, of sub-national actors, and of the most vulnerable sections and members of society, to ensure that their knowledge, views and experiences are well represented in the ADCOMs. This would include thematic capacity building on e.g. gender, institutional arrangements
- **Capacity building for integration across key national sectors**, in particular those sectors that relate to poverty and vulnerability, to ensure that the impacts, and contributions to adaptation, of these sectors are captured
- **Capacity building to ensure synergies** between national and global adaptation processes, documents, and reports.



## Detailed recommendations

### FUNDERS

1. In addition to capacity building, the provision of adequate and predictable finance for producing the ADCOMs is critical, so countries can invest in strengthening and institutionalising capacity over time. Recipient countries should be allowed flexibility in the use of this finance, so they can define synergies between different adaptation reports and maximise their national and global usefulness without long and cumbersome negotiations with multilateral and bilateral funders.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ADAPTATION COMMITTEE/ UNFCCC

2. Guidelines and toolkits for ADCOMs should be made **more accessible for national actors** who do not engage directly in the UNFCCC process and are not familiar with its terminology and processes.
3. In the short term, **platforms that allow and encourage peer-to-peer learning and support** between relevant government staff of countries with similar circumstances/ language can be used, to promote South-South learning and support. This can include training workshops, hotlines, and buddy systems.
4. Assigning a **National Focal Point specifically for adaptation** could strengthen the process of producing ADCOMs, as the NFPs could ensure that the information received from the global level is communicated, disseminated, and translated for the national and sub-national levels; and coordinate horizontal and vertical integration and inputs to produce inclusive ADCOMs, while ensuring the benefits of producing ADCOMs are maximised at the national level.

### CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS/ NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

5. The specific capacity building needs of national governments/ NFPs/ departments in the context of ADCOMs relate, among other things, to:
  - The capacity to fundraise for the process of producing the ADCOMs.
  - The (institutional, individual, and technical) capacity to design, implement, and sustain an inclusive process to produce ADCOMs and other adaptation documents, plans and strategies, and reports.
  - The capacity and resources to engage all relevant sectors and stakeholders in the preparation of the ADCOMs and other adaptation-related processes, including by generating and disseminating disaggregated information and knowledge needed to engage and inform different sectors and stakeholders.
  - The capacity to embed and integrate the process of producing the ADCOMs into other national adaptation processes, including processes to produce NDCs, NAPs, NCs and BTRs, to ensure consistency and the efficient use of limited resources across adaptation planning and reporting processes.
  - The capacity to map global, regional, national and subnational institutions and processes that can contribute to adaptation processes and reports including ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to source, analyse and appropriately integrate adaptation information that can be included in ADCOMs, which includes:
    - National circumstances, institutions, legal frameworks for adaptation

## Detailed recommendations

- › Climate impacts, risks and vulnerabilities
  - › Adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions
  - › Adaptation implementation and support needs
  - › Provision of support for implementation
  - › Information on implementation, including progress and results
  - › Adaptation efforts for recognition
  - › Cooperation
  - › Barriers, challenges and gaps
  - › Good practices, lessons and information sharing on adaptation
  - › Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation action
  - › Adaptation and economic diversification plans with mitigation co-benefits
  - › Contribution of adaptation to other frameworks and conventions
  - › Gender responsiveness and the inclusion of traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge
- 6.** The capacity to aggregate (sub-national and national) adaptation needs, priorities, plans, progress, challenges, and gaps into an ADCOM in a manner that keeps it useful for national adaptation processes, and for the global stocktake – while remaining relevant to sub-national processes as well.
- 7.** Once the ADCOM has been prepared, national governments/ NFPs will also need the capacity to communicate and socialise the information contained in the ADCOM other sectors and stakeholders, including vulnerable communities/ sections of society and indigenous communities at the sub-national level.

### CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL SECTORAL MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

- 8.** Key sectoral government ministries and departments related to adaptation, both at the national and sub-national levels, will need to following capacities to contribute to the ADCOMs:
- The capacity to understand the national/ sub-national impacts of climate change on the specific sector; to integrate adaptation into sectoral planning, implementation, and reporting; and to aggregate and report information for the ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to build awareness of sectoral impacts among their stakeholders to convince them of the need and benefit to engage; engage the stakeholders on a sustained basis to generate relevant information for the ADCOMs; and to include their inputs while providing information for ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to identify the most vulnerable communities and groups with the sector, and reflect their needs and experiences in ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to track and report adaptation finance/ sectoral spending on adaptation from national budgets.
  - The capacity to track progress on adaptation within the sector.



## CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

9. To contribute effectively for ADCOMs, local governments will need the following capacities:
  - The capacity to understand the local impacts of climate change, and how they will impact different sectors and stakeholders/ impact local development efforts.
  - The capacity to raise the awareness of key stakeholders on a sustained basis on local impacts; engage with them on a sustained basis; and aggregate and report this information in a manner that is needed for the ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to identify the most vulnerable communities and groups, prioritise their needs, and ensure their needs and experiences are reflected in ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to track progress, needs and gaps on adaptation at the local level, and to present this information in a way that can be reflected in the ADCOMs.
  - The capacity to assess financial needs, and to report on funding received for adaptation.

## CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF STAKEHOLDERS, IN PARTICULAR THE MOST VULNERABLE

*(In particular, the most vulnerable members and sections of society. Also community leaders and representatives, CSOs and NGOs, youth, academics, professionals, media, and the private sector.)*

10. Non-government stakeholders will first need to be convinced on why they should engage with the process of compiling ADCOMs. They will need capacity building to:
  - Understand the current and future impacts of climate change on their lives, livelihoods, and businesses.
  - Engage with other stakeholders.
  - Participate in, and influence, national and sub-national efforts to identify key vulnerabilities and vulnerable groups, and priority needs and gaps.
  - Contribute to planning, implementation, and monitoring of progress.
  - Hold office bearers and stakeholder representatives to account.

## Annex 1: national and global uses of ADCOMs

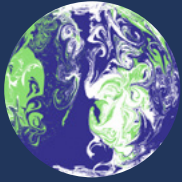
### At the national level, ADCOMs can potentially be tools to:

- Enhance visibility of climate impacts and adaptation politically, and among stakeholders.
- Assess progress on adaptation (along with the BTRs) – both in detail at different sub-national levels, and in aggregate at national level.
- Inform and raise awareness of national stakeholders on progress on adaptation, national needs and challenges, priorities, key vulnerabilities etc.
- Inform discussions on future national roadmaps on adaptation, by presenting what has been achieved, and what needs to be prioritised in future.
- Assess whether progress on adaptation is uniform at all levels (national to local).
- Assess whether the needs of the most vulnerable are being prioritised.
- Inform the national adaptation planning process, either for a NAP or for any other planning process selected by countries
- Assess overall national capacity needs for all stages of adaptation (fund-raising, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting), based on more detailed capacity needs assessments likely to be carried out under the PCCB, BTRs etc.
- Assess financial needs for adaptation, including based on vulnerability assessments carried out for national adaptation planning, National Communications, and for the BTRs.

### At the global level, the ADCOMS can potentially be tools to:

- Inform the global stocktake, and provide information to assess progress towards a global goal for adaptation
- Recognise the adaptation contributions of developing countries
- Provide a snapshot of adaptation finance received, and needed
- Fund raising with bilateral and multilateral donors





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# **COP26 CATALYST FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

**COP26 Catalyst would like to thank the following members of the Action Group on Adaptation Communications, who worked throughout 2021 to consult stakeholders around the world in the development of these recommendations:**

**Ximena Apestequi**, Government of Costa Rica

**Morgane Chiocchia**, UK Government

**Hilary Corden**, UK Government

**Binyam Gebreyes**, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

**Mairi Dupar**, ODI

**Robin Hart**, Wilton Park

**Kristina Henly**, Wilton Park

**Claire Holzer Fleming**, UK Government

**Mizan Khan**, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

**Obed Koringo**, Southern Voices on Adaptation

**Christian Ledwell**, NAP Global Network, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

**Shehnaaz Moosa**, Southsouthnorth

**Daniel Morchain**, NAP Global Network, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

**Karl McAlinden**, UK Government

**Anju Sharma**, Oxford Climate Policy

**Cecilia Silva**, Government of Angola

**Maik Wings**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action is supported by the UK's International Climate Fund.



**UK Government**



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