



Wilton Park



# **COP26 PRESIDENCY UK 2022**

**DELIVERING THE  
GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT**

Report

**COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Assembly at the  
UN Regional Climate Week for Africa**

**Adaptation Action**

Tuesday 21 September 2021 | WP1980V

In association with:

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**NAP  
Global  
Network**



## Report

# COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Assembly at the UN Regional Climate Week for Africa

## Adaptation Action

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In association with NAP-GN

The aim of this virtual session at the UN Regional Climate Week for the Africa was to explore capacity building in relation to countries developing an Adaptation Communication (ADCOM). The dialogue provided a platform to exchange lessons learned so far in developing an ADCOM, through practical country examples, and to understand in detail the capacity building challenges countries face at all levels: national, sub-national and across a multitude of stakeholders.

This virtual session brought together experts and those interested from across Africa, and also included some from the MENA region. (The MENA Climate week is postponed to 2022).

### What is an ADCOM? Why are they important?

ADCOMs are voluntary, flexible and country driven. They are not meant to create an additional burden for countries. They are a mechanism for countries to report their priorities, plans and implementation actions for adaptation.

They can be used by countries as a tool to showcase efforts on adaptation, to communicate needs, and gather and mobilise international support for their implementation of adaptation actions.

ADCOMs are not meant to create additional burden for developing countries but to;

- enhance visibility and profile of adaptation,
- balance with mitigation;
- provide input to the global stocktake (GST);
- strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries;
- and enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions.

The Paris Agreement sets out three different options for submitting and updating an ADCOM:

- As a standalone document
- As a component of “vehicle document” (e.g., NAP, NDC, NatCom, BTR),
- In conjunction with a vehicle document (ADCOM + vehicle document submitted together).

“A lot of adaptation has been done over the years, ADCOMs gives us an opportunity to showcase what is being done towards adaptation by communities”

The content of an ADCOM: they are not highly prescriptive and could take any form that a country chooses. Most importantly they should include information such as the national context:

- including climate impacts and risks,
- relevant institutions,
- and legal and policy frameworks,
- national adaptation priorities and plans,
- implementation and support needs

Under the Paris Agreement the ADCOM should enhance adaptation action and this will be used to recognise the adaptation efforts of countries which contribute to achieving the global goal on adaptation.

Participants shared the reasons and benefits behind preparing an ADCOM:

- as a tool to provide visibility for adaptation work at the national level;
- an opportunity to showcase adaptation actions at the local and national level as well as the private sector;
- national experts need to think about an ADCOM as a tool to receive further support for adaptation;
- for supporting organisations, they need to think about how they can go beyond just delivering a document to how these activities can be implemented;
- NAPS and ADCOMs are an ideal opportunity for vertical integration, to get the local voices into these mechanisms so that they are heard in the global arena, and this can possibly unlock the funding;
- an opportunity to open doors for funding and to deliver support where a country has developed an ADCOM.

### **Developing an ADCOM: challenges and lessons**

Participants shared some of their experiences in developing their ADCOM. These insights highlight where there are opportunities for building capacity.

Some of the key challenges in developing ADCOMs raised include:

- Time and resources: People do not have time and there are usually few experts in charge of the ADCOM. How to ensure that experts are not overburdened?
- Structures: How to use and maximise the existing structures?
- Engagement: recognising the deep knowledge on climate change adaptation that exists within communities how to ensure the process of adaptation planning and developing an ADCOM captures the voices of local communities? How to emphasise building respectful relationships that will evolve during the process?

Discussion covered a number of core issues:

#### **Structures and institutional arrangements**

Countries identify at the national level what they want to achieve with their ADCOM. This can help determine how to use the government structures to integrate local priorities and change lives of local communities.

“ADCOMs should be an asset not part of a checklist.”

Countries are keen to use existing institutions and institutional arrangements and avoid creating a parallel process. They can draw on adaptation planning efforts already underway to avoid creating new structures and institutional fatigue.

Collaborations between government ministries at the national level, and through them to the local councils is seen as key, and can help break silos.

### **Adaptation planning to implementation**

How will adaptation actions change the local communities' situations?

Key points made to improve adaptation planning to implementation:

- Building country ownership of adaptation planning is critical to adaptation action.
- Evidence based adaptation planning is essential.
- The adaptation process should be developed for the medium to long term
- The view of adaptation should be broadened, for example focusing on urban health, or urban agriculture which is one of the locally led adaptation actions that are sometimes missed in reporting.
- Identifying vulnerable communities to ensure they are engaged with extensively and specifically so that their needs and priorities can be captured. How to address sub national vulnerabilities, and the capacity to identify these and develop 'bankable' projects?
- ADCOM documents tend to become inconsistent with work on the ground. Creating a streamlined process from planning to implementation and ensuring an ADCOM, once submitted, continues to implementation is important

### **Engagement and inclusion**

Engagement and partnerships were noted as critically important to the process of building adaptation plans in general and preparing an ADCOM in particular.

It is important to engage the communities that are being directly impacted by climate change, and proposed adaptation efforts, and 'hear their voices'. Clear processes are therefore recommended on how the different players are going to be engaged at different stages. Civil society can support a process like the NAP or ADCOM in ensuring that it is inclusive and helps identify the differentiated vulnerabilities, needs and priorities of those most vulnerable to climate change.

Ensuring that civil society stakeholders are aware of processes such as the ADCOM, and are involved in consultations with the communities, is strongly recommended. Civil society organisations can represent local communities that have formed their own networks.

Engagement should be a two-way process, with information from the consultation processes shared by civil service organisations and community representatives with people within their constituencies.

Building the capacity of civil society provides an opportunity to reach other people and partners that the civil society is representing.

Mainstreaming gender into adaptation plans and bringing youth voices into the conversations were both highlighted as priorities for engagement and inclusion. Positive examples were shared where a decision was taken to bring in women's networks into the consultation committees as well as the national youth network on climate change.

### **Building capacities**

Building strong institutional capacity could include:

“Local people have been adapting. How does the ADCOM make their lives better?”

“Bringing those that are vulnerable to the decision-making table provides a better chance to delivering adaptation actions”

“There is a thin line between development and the additionality of adaptation.”

“Strengthening capacity to mainstream adaptation work in country will be closer to solving most adaptation challenges.”

- assessing the existing vulnerabilities and complement this with identification of the non-climate stressors that compound challenges in country.
- technical capacity on monitoring and reporting. Building a Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system to capture where the finance is coming from and being spent, and with what impact.
- data management and archiving: Eg. Gender disaggregated data to show the true impacts of climate change on different groups.
- bringing stakeholders onboard. The challenge is communicating why they need to be part of this process and what exactly is required from them.
- understanding how to distinguish and separate finance for development and climate adaptation.
- reporting on adaptation efforts. Packaging information on adaptation can assist in attracting funding, technical support and partners.
- significant capacity already exists within partners, communities and institutions. The focus should shift to better utilising the existing capacity, and work on breaking down the barriers that prevent the full potential of these existing capacities to be brought to the fore.

## Country Examples

### Eswatini

In developing their ADCOM Eswatini has focused on what they wanted to achieve both with the ADCOM and the NAP process. They developed the ADCOM alongside the revision of the country's NDC, which provided an opportunity to reflect on how far the country has come on adaptation, the challenges, opportunities and gaps.

- The main objective was to build support at the national level, and ensure adaptation gets the attention it deserves.
- They established what will be new with the ADCOM, that is not included already in other processes.
- It has proved a useful exercise to go to the local level to understand what communities are doing and what lessons can be learnt.
- Drawing policy briefs for the ADCOM to amplify adaptation issues at the national level. This will catalyse the process and support at the national level.
- On the international level they can showcase progress and medium/long-term plans on adaptation.

Eswatini's [ADCOM](#) was submitted to the UNFCCC on 1 November 2021

### Ghana

Ghana has set up structures to drive adaptation planning, with a steering committee and technical committee. These structures are also used to drive the ADCOM so as not to create parallel structures. The process needs to bring out vertical integration clearly, including after an ADCOM is developed.

#### Mainstreaming gender

Ghana received assistance from the NDC support programme to improve capacities on mainstreaming gender into climate action. A gender analysis was undertaken that led to the formation of a Gender Technical Working Group as well as a Gender Mainstreaming Tool. Youth issues have also been incorporated within the NAP process, and representation is prioritised across all the working groups.

## Egypt

Egypt is developing their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and developing the adaptation component of the NDC as the ADCOM. To avoid additional burdens, Egypt is using existing capacities and resources. A National Council on climate change has been established, meeting regularly and chaired at the Prime Minister level with representation of all ministries. The council is deliberating on the process to formulate the NAPs and updating the NDC.

## Namibia

Engaging youth

Youth training programmes have been set up to engage with millennials, taking young people to the desert to look at climate change adaptation related issues.

## Conclusion – suggestions from countries for countries when developing an ADCOM

The ADCOM is a vehicle:

- First look at why one is being developed (in whatever format), and what one process can do versus the others.
  - Build on existing work to avoid additional burden.
  - Recognise the different stages from developing the document and the communication of it. Consider the link between planning and implementation.
  - There should not be competition between ADCOMs and other documents because a lot of money and time is invested in these processes.
  - Leverage the NAP processes strategically to develop an ADCOMs, regardless of where a country is in the NAP process. Some countries are linking to NAP progress reporting, emphasizing learning on adaptation.
  - ADCOMs are valuable to showcase what is being done around climate change not only at the national and local level, but also for overall global efforts in addressing climate change. The communication and visibility of the ADCOM are therefore important.
- Build engagement and inclusion of the various stakeholders in developing an ADCOM, and also recognising their own capacities.
  - Look at where knowledge is - 'it is at different levels'.
  - Involve the right experts. There are usually only a small number of people who understand the adaptation process and the language used.
  - There is a need to understand what communities are doing and how those will be useful to the overall adaptation efforts.
  - Mainstream gender in the process.
- Synchronise efforts in countries to build stronger institutions.
  - Important links need to be created between data, monitoring, management and finance.
  - Create a system where sustained effort is developed; adaptation has seen a lot of piloting without continuous efforts.
- Regional and international partnerships are important. There is a need for opportunities for countries to share knowledge.

Significant capacity already exists within many partners, communities and institutions. 'We should shift focus from looking for gaps to better utilising the existing capacity, and work on breaking down the barriers that prevent the full potential of these existing capacities to be brought to the fore.'

### **Further guidance**

The **Adaptation Committee**, a body under UNFCCCC, supports and provides guidance on adaptation, to ensure adaptation is addressed coherently under UNFCCC processes. Since Katowice the Adaptation Committee has been working on supplementary guidance to adaptation communication, including how the communication relates to other UNFCCC products. The current [draft methodology](#) is available online.

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### **Annex**

[Adaptation Action event programme](#)