



Wilton Park



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**DELIVERING THE
GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT**

Report

**COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Assembly at the
UN Regional Climate Week for Asia-Pacific**

Adaptation Action

Friday 9 July 2021 | WP1963V

In association with:



**NAP
Global
Network**



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Summary

This interactive session, held during the UN Regional Climate Week for Asia and Pacific, provided a platform to share positive country experiences on developing an Adaptation Communication (ADCOM) and the capacity building needs to support that and adaptation planning more generally. The dialogue provided an opportunity to understand how countries in the region can develop ADCOMs and the challenges they face, whilst learning lessons directly from key stakeholders. It also established some of the important first steps for a country when thinking about developing an ADCOM, if required.

Introduction

Capacity building has an important role to play in successful adaptation planning. This Catalyst for Climate Action workshop on Adaptation Communications (ADCOMs) provides a platform for sharing experiences and ideas, with a view to raising collective capacity to produce them. This report summarises key points made by those who participated from the Asia-Pacific region.

ADCOMs: what are they and why are they important?

ADCOMs are voluntary, flexible and country driven. They are not meant to create an additional burden for countries.

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).

At the time of this discussion 16 ADCOMs had been submitted.

ADCOMs are proving important to countries for a range of reasons, including:

- as a mechanism for countries to report “priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating any additional burden for developing country Parties”

- enhance visibility and profile of adaptation
- balance with mitigation
- provide input to the global stocktake (GST) due in 2023
- strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries; and enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions
- provide an opportunity to showcase national adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions
- assist with raising awareness among donors. It was noted that this might currently be impeded by the lack of awareness about its submission
- inform the world about the progress that is being made in terms of implementation of a country's actions and plans, including at the local level.

Some **early trends** in countries developing their ADCOM in the Asia-Pacific region were noted, including:

- country partners are keen to avoid creating a parallel process and draw on adaptation planning efforts already underway
- countries are leveraging their NAP processes strategically to develop their ADCOMs –regardless of where they are in the NAP process
- some countries are linking their ADCOM to their NAP progress reporting, emphasising learning on adaptation.

The benefits of **preparing a standalone document** for one Asian country were that it:

- provides a comprehensive view of adaptation;
- shares information available on adaptation;
- identifies challenges and gaps;
- generates better analysis for effective mobilisation of resources.

Gaps and challenges in delivering ADCOMs and the capacities that might be needed

Based on the discussions, countries from the region highlighted the following key challenges they face while developing an ADCOM. Identifying these challenges also demonstrates the opportunities for capacity building.

A mentimeter survey was used during this session, and also captured some key words that participants wanted to focus on in terms of capacity building, including 'knowledge', 'governance', 'ownership' and 'stakeholders' engagement'.

Building methodologies

During the dialogue participants from Asia-Pacific countries raised a number of areas where they faced challenges or gaps and where support would be helpful. These included:

- how to engage different levels of government and the different sectors
- limited human and financial resources
- identification of relevant methodologies
- identification and prioritisation of adaptation actions
- creating linkages between other existing processes and documents

“Young people and local communities bear the brunt of the climate crises; therefore they have to be part of the adaptation planning process.”

“A human rights approach needs to be incorporated in the country process”

- building ‘sectoral situation statements’ but there is a need for awareness raising within sectors about what adaptation is in order to develop these statements
- information about local level actions in adaptation dialogue at the national level. There are many large projects on adaptation, but the learnings from field level are not always shared with those responsible for drafting the national adaptation plans
- the need for a more programmatic approach to addressing adaptation needs and reflecting the progress being made.

Improving inclusivity and meaningful engagement with stakeholders

There were calls for policy makers to engage with local people – creating more community conversations; and a wider engagement including indigenous peoples and the youth voice. The process should be led by the locals it was suggested, and a bottom-up approach would improve the participation of indigenous people.

It was noted that most of the information on adaptation and the various decision-making channels is not available to young people and indigenous communities.

Ways to improve engagement were suggested including:

- putting an emphasis on including **indigenous and traditional knowledge**;
- seeking out the **youth voice**. Young people don’t want to be mere beneficiaries, but to be involved in all phases, from planning, implementation and through to monitoring and evaluation
- information sharing and **diversity of language** when drafting adaptation plans. ADCOMs are usually in English, leaving out local communities. It is important to translate to local languages for meaningful participation. The RMI created a Marshallese glossary on climate change, but as many of the concepts are new they can be hard to translate
- communities and young people can be invited to translate messages
- creating more awareness and a platform where young people can reach those in-charge of the process to enhance inclusivity
- the process has to be given considerable time to allow the sharing of perspectives.

“Local people should have the right to be stakeholders not mere beneficiaries.”

The intersection of Human Rights and climate change

The rights of local people in adaptation planning should be recognised and prioritised. There is a need to prioritise objectives that include climate justice. This was noted as ‘lagging behind’ in the Asia Pacific region, especially at project development level.

It is important to highlight gender issues in developing an ADCOM and engage in meaningful community engagement through addressing the segmented stakeholders (women, youth, fishermen etc), to ensure that needs across the board are represented.

“Adaptation planning can be made inclusive and participatory through a rights based and intersectional approach”

Human resources, technical and financial issues

Many capacity needs for adaptation planning relate to human resources, technical and financial issues. A priority for capacity building needs is related to building the right **policy and institutional framework**. Climate change is happening very fast, and the domestic framework is not yet strong enough to address all the changes.

- **Capacity building support is needed for:**

- **officials** at central government and local government level – the latter can contribute to real adaptation and resilience building. Many departments face acute shortages of skilled human resources
- at the **regional level**, such as in the Pacific, to improve adaptation planning coordination
- of **climate information providers** to support more informed decision making on adaptation
- **Climate finance and technical assistance** are needed to advance adaptation. Since implementation of adaptation priorities is often lacking, it is important to mobilise finance to support this. However, access to funding can be challenging and capacity building is essential to the process.

Country examples

Vietnam

An ADCOM will be the first standalone document assessing adaptation in Vietnam. The plan is to submit the ADCOM in 2024. The document will require approval by Cabinet, so all the consultations must be completed by 2023.

As Vietnam starts to develop its ADCOM, it wants to take into account:

- the legal framework on climate change adaptation;
- efforts and achievements of Vietnam in the adaptation journey;
- challenges and opportunities;
- monitoring and evaluation;
- vulnerable groups.

Royal Marshall Islands

Self-determination is an important value driving the process. People are at liberty to share their desired adaptation priorities.

As an essential element for meaningful adaptation planning, community awareness was raised throughout the process of developing RMI's ADCOM. A cross sectional engagement and rights-based processes were adopted.

Though extensive community engagement was not achieved in the timescale, the adaptation planning process is still dominated by the indigenous voice over the government voice.

Capacity needs include:

- engineering and extreme adaptation solutions, for example the building of islands and embarkments, relocation, and raising islands
- information dissemination to build expertise among different departments and sectors to improve the development of sectoral statements
- training of government officials on adaptation and the UNFCCC process reporting process
- lack of financial and human resources – Pacific islands are small countries who can only assemble a small team to work on adaptation planning or an ADCOM. There is a need to recognise that Pacific Islands are highly capacity constrained. Mobilization of support for SIDS organisations working to support countries is critical.

Further guidance

The following two websites have further technical assistance which was shared.

- the NAP Global Network Country Support Hub – <https://napglobalnetwork.org/country-support-hub>
- the GIZ Adaptation Communication Drafting Tool - <https://adcomm-dat.org/>

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Annex

[Adaptation Action event programme](#)