

Call for submission on indicators of adaptation and resilience at the national and/or local level or for specific sectors¹

We thank you in advance for filling out this template with concise, evidence-based information and for referencing all relevant sources. As you will see on the last page of the document, more detailed information on case studies, tools/methods and other knowledge resources for dissemination through the [Adaptation Knowledge Portal](#) is welcome, but optional.

Name of the organization or entity:

Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities (AGOCA)

Type of organization/entity:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/ municipal authority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional center/network/initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization (IGO) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National/public entity | <input type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (NGO) | <input type="checkbox"/> University/education/training organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector | |

Scale of operation:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local | <input type="checkbox"/> National |
|---|-----------------------------------|

Specific sectors addressed:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptation finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy industry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community-based adaptation | <input type="checkbox"/> Human settlements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disaster risk reduction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous and traditional knowledge |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem-based adaptation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems | <input type="checkbox"/> Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food security | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban resilience |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify below) |

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 18.

City(ies)/Country(ies)/Region(s) of operation (if appropriate):

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan

Description of relevant activities/processes or research:

Please describe the activities/processes that your entity has implemented in relation to indicators of adaptation and resilience. In case your organization carried out research, please describe it.

Worldwide, the mountains are considered as early indicators of changing climate as the changes occur at higher altitudes with greater extent and speed. The Central Asian region is not an exception with many of the glaciers melting and threatening the availability of water sustaining livelihood for 60 million population of the region. Both of the most mountainous of the Central Asian countries, Tajikistan (97%) and Kyrgyzstan (93%) have the largest proportion of rural population (60-80%) living in mountain villages and their very existence depends directly on smart governance of climate risks. Central Asian Mountain ranges extend over several countries, the mountains service as water tower for the whole region and provide ecosystems and goods for both up and downstream countries. Glaciers hosted by Tianshan, Pamir and Alay mountain ranges store most of Central Asian water resources and they are retreated rapidly in past 2 decades. Over those last 20 years more than 1000 glaciers 1081 to be precise have disappeared due to the warming in the Pamir Alay mountain range alone. Due to mountain specificities (remoteness; fragile ecosystems and lack of access to markets), the villages remain in isolation, with the central level decisions and programs often not reaching them while changes are rapidly impacting mountain villages. As we have seen the from the initial survey, mountain villages suffer from 1) less water due to melting out of glaciers; 2) soil erosion on mountain slopes limiting animal raring and agriculture activities and in some cases increasing disaster risks for down the hill population; and 3) loss of biodiversity when the mountain villagers increasingly mention about loss of medicinal plants and local species of plants. As upstream changes will profoundly affect the downstream, the mountain villages and their capacity for coping with the changes require urgent work and support to AGOCA affiliated mountain villages for improving local-level resilience and coping capacity to address the negative impacts of changing climate.

In order to understand the situation at the village level and to get some initial understanding current state of adaptive capacity a rapid assessment survey was undertaken jointly with CAMH/Mountain Partnership (Central Asian Mountain Hub) in 32 of 57 AGOCA member mountain villages in 3 Central Asian countries. Following this assessment and based on documentation of local needs a new regional network initiative for climate resilient mountain villages in Central Asia has been picked off. The role of this initiative is to contribute to improve resilience of mountain communities by supporting adaptive capacities at the village level. Both, the initiative and the AGOCA are backed by CAMH/MP. Under the pilot activity, to date 8 villages in 3 countries have been selected undergoing vulnerability assessments and participatory planning for local community responses.

The second phase of the project was based on the results of the assessment carried out within the framework of pilot project. The first phase of the project was focused on trainings and seminars; however in the second phase of the project the impact approach was main focus. *The aim* of the second phase of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the

network of the Central Asian climate resilient mountain villages and promote the adaptation practices

The third phase of the project is designed to ensure greater sustainability of the mountain communities to climate change. In this phase we already had undertaken measures to establishing a system for ongoing exchange of knowledge and experiences between the villages around various aspects of climate change adaptation.

Description of relevant tools/methods:

Please describe the tools and/or methods that have been developed and/or used.

Each of these 8 villages was assisted with 1) Disaster mapping; 2) Developing seasonal calendars; 3) Livelihood Vulnerability and alternatives assessments; 4) Institutional mappings. Local adaptation practices were supported as demo. The project has 4 components that as expected to continue through to 2017 with goal of eventual scaling up to include all 57 villages:

1) Baseline assessment 2) Capacity building 3) Climate champions 4) Mini grants

Key outcomes of the activities/processes undertaken:

Please provide information regarding the outcomes of the activities/processes described above, and do not hesitate to add qualitative assessment and/or quantitative data to substantiate the information.

- As a result of the pilot project, participatory risk and vulnerability assessments were conducted for 8 select villages in 3 countries, 120 local authorities and community focus groups were trained in participatory and integrated assessment and planning techniques and methodologies for vulnerability assessment and identification of community based responses for increased local resilience. For leading the community level work a group of 21 people, with 9 women, 5 young people were elected as the Climate-Champions. The total population in these villages made 21, 241 people. As a result of 16 community and village level consultations, community concerns and priorities were jointly identified for integration and formulation of local adaptation and disaster reduction activities.
- Under the second phase of the project, for leading the community level work a group of 21 people, with 9 women, 5 young people were elected as the Climate-Champions. In the framework of the project contest was announced among climate champions on traditional adaptation practices (TAP). This experience would allow them to accumulate and to structure in one place all the information, knowledge and experience. Each village was tasked to send up to 5 TAP. The results of the contest were declared on IMD 11th of December in Bishkek. Booklet of TAP of AGOCA villages will be released in October 2017 and will be disseminated among AGOCA villages in order to stimulate village to village learning.
- Under the mini-grant component of the project 5 activities in the three countries were supported as demo to encourage other villages to adopt local adaptation practices. Mini-grants are small amount of seed funding and are not intended to fully fund entire projects.
- In the course of the 3rd phase a coping plans are being developed for mountain villages that are experiencing adverse impacts of climate change, a multipurpose adaptation techniques to climate change are being introduced to mountain communities, meeting at local level are being conducted in order to ensure awareness rising and capacity building.

Description of lessons learned and good practices identified:

Please consider the following points when describing lessons learned and good practices: (a) effectiveness/impacts of the activities/processes (including measurability of the impacts), (b) efficiency

in the use of resources, (c) replicability (e.g. in different locations, at different scales), (d) sustainability (i.e. meeting the current economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability to address future needs).

The lessons learned so far include: Much of the adaptation work to date remain at the central level and not reaching out communities and villages, since adaptation is local insight specific endeavor the planning should be done accordingly using the bottom-up approach; There is a need to combine and apply both of the adaptation planning approaches starting with the capacity assessment approach has provided us with strength of stakeholder driven process.

Description of key challenges identified:

Please describe the key challenges associated with those activities/processes or the use of those tools/methods, those policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant stakeholders should know about.

There is still a very weak research linkages with policy and practices. Adaptation policies and papers remain on shelves, their enforcement is lagging behind and because it is still with central governments in capital cities, budgeting and implementation mechanisms at local levels are not adequately developed. Impact assessments are not there and all the models do not act as convincing factors for policy makers.

Planned next steps (as appropriate):

Based on this experience or research, have next steps been planned to address/study some of the identified challenges, scale up or scale out such activities/processes?

For designing adaptation responses and concrete follow-up measures for the next steps it is obvious that the planning needs to be combined with the impact assessment approach by applying more scientifically backed models and data.

Relevant hyperlinks:

Please provide hyperlinks to sources of information.

www.agoca.kg

<http://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/en/>

Further information:

Please do not hesitate to submit more detailed information on case study(ies), tool(s)/method(s) and/or other relevant knowledge resource(s) that are relevant to economic diversification. The latter will be shared through the [Adaptation Knowledge Portal](#):

- [Case study\(ies\)](#)
- [Tool\(s\)/method\(s\)](#)
- [Other knowledge resource\(s\)](#) (online portals, policy briefs, training material, multimedia material, technical reports and scientific publications)