



The Placencia Ambition Forum

Rapporteur Template

Session Title/Theme	Enhancing Action in Adaptation and Resilience
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Wilton Park



5 Key Points/Takeaways

1. Raising (fostering) adaptation and resilience ambitions will require a combination of vision and local knowledge with a clear narrative of what key stakeholder groups hope to achieve and how to get there. The narrative should include:

2. Establishment of a set of carefully crafted, locally informed guidelines that countries can apply in their national planning processes from design to implementation; and the importance of building capacities to address, for example, data gaps, vulnerability assessments, and future risk scenarios.

3. Developing robust stakeholder engagement strategies targeting under-represented groups in both national and international decision-making processes.

4. Identification of a range of options available to support adaptation and resilience building and how to access these resources more readily from a variety of sources. This should include lessons learned from innovative approaches including examples of debt swaps and blue bonds or resilience funds and mechanisms for incentivizing adaptation investments for instance through a marketplace for adaptation and resilience.

5. Development of collaborations and peer review to foster monitoring and evaluation, and the identification of new approaches for evaluation that go beyond a project monitoring and evaluation framework which should take into account the need for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and accountability.

Please send the initial 5 Key Points to the following contacts within **1 hour** of the end of your session, making sure to cc in your Chair Support: tyrone.hall@aosis.org; katie.craske@wtvglobal.com; josh.tuveri@wtvglobal.com; patrick.allen@wiltonpark.org.uk.

Session Overview

The session was chaired by Emily Wilkinson and heard presentations from four countries - Mauritius, Maldives, Angola, and Seychelles. Additional contributions were received from several discussants including a representative of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Nature Conservancy, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) Secretariat, adaptation/resilience practitioners from different regions, and international organisation representatives. A total of 55 persons participated.

The stated objectives of the session were to:

- Identify adaptation approaches and the challenges and opportunities to support and implement projects.
- Consider successes and failures in adaptation planning and implementation, and how these can inform ongoing adaptation strategies.
- Highlight connections between sectors and strategies to enable holistic action.
- Strengthen partnerships and ambition across AOSIS and beyond.

The exchange touched upon all the stated objectives with emphasis on implementation and evaluation. Like the Caribbean/Americas/Pacific Session, stakeholder engagement remained a prominent theme.

The Facilitator observed the need for a clear narrative on adaptation ambition as a step forward in promoting robust implementable verifiable commitments and strategies for addressing near term adaptation priorities and long-term resilience. With this framing the discussion then focused on:

National processes and commitments

Mauritius expressed its intention to bring forward its **updated NDC** no later than the start of 2021. The adaptation pillar will address multiple sectors within which adaptation and development priorities are aligned including tourism, water, agriculture, fisheries amongst others. Mauritius is currently revising its National Adaptation Framework (2012) which has adopted a sectoral approach and features gender and health as cross cutting issues, and nature based solutions from ridge to reef. Mauritius is also developing a Resilience Strategy which has undergone an extensive consultation process. It has taken steps to complete a mapping of all environmentally sensitive areas, and the translation of risk analysis into development. The Strategy aims to mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction in development planning through a set of strategic activities.

Angola like Mauritius has also developed a **Resilience Strategy** which includes adaptation as one of its pillars. The adaptation pillar includes multiple priority sectors identified through vulnerability assessments. The programmes developed under this pillar were informed by a national consultation process and the lessons learned from the implementation of adaptation projects. Capacity building is also a critical pillar of the Strategy with an emphasis on the provincial/community level and improving capacity to access finance, in order to support implementation.

Maldives presented the **Climate Smart Resilient Island** initiative which is a **multi-country multi-partner commitment to building self-reliant small island developing states through holistic approaches to adaptation**. The CSRI was presented as part of the SIDS Ambition Package to the 2019 Climate Action Summit. The initiative aims to connect adaptation commitments such as for expanding marine protected areas, promoting food security and green tourism, to key global frameworks namely the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. In this way it is a multilateral island initiative for aligning existing adaptation commitments across several global policy documents. CSRI includes a governance structure comprised of a technical arm and an implementation arm.

Seychelles addressed its **innovative approach** to linking **blended finance** to advancing adaptation commitments. In 2008, the Government of Seychelles initiated a debt restructuring and debt swap programme. The Nature Conservancy provided a loan to Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust. The loan was to serve as a debt swap for climate adaptation. SeyCAT in turn loaned the Government of Seychelles to pay down its debt under a debt restructuring programme negotiated with its creditors of the Paris Club. SeyCAT takes on the role of creditor and the Government in turn takes on the role of debtor. The funds thus leveraged by SeyCAT is held in Trust for locally derived and

implemented adaptation projects in line with the Marine Spatial Plan. **The debt swap is an example of the type of approach that can be taken in the context of COVID-19 to recover better.** SeyCAT has expanded its financial instruments with the offering of **Sovereign Blue Bond** which included capital investors, risk guarantees from the World Bank, and a concessionary loan from the Global Environment Facility. Seychelles announced its commitment to **submit a new NDC** which will include a **chapter on Oceans** and that will address blue carbon potential of Seychelles marine resources.

Hindou Oumar Ibrahim, President, **Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad** and UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate, underscored the importance of stakeholders in the **decision making processes** for adaptation planning, and implementation. She emphasized the contributions of **traditional knowledge**, experience of local communities and indigenous peoples with **nature based solutions** - a signature of their way of living - which these stakeholders can bring to the design of adaptation strategies and their implementation. She emphasized the need for **a clear framework for stakeholder engagement** at the national and international levels and referenced the Nairobi Work Programme and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and its Facilitative Working Group.

Helena Simms of **The Nature Conservancy** addressed the bottom up approach to adaptation in Seychelles, the importance of applying the best available data, and developing a set of climate smart indicators.

Alexander Felson of the **Connecticut Institute of Climate Resilience and Adaptation** reflected on the importance of coordination, integrating local and traditional knowledge, ensuring the peer review of science, and the rules of multi-stakeholder partnerships including for addressing data gaps. He addressed the value of holistic approaches while recognizing the complexity of working at the intersection of multiple goals and the trade offs that will have to be carefully balanced.

Achaempong Atta-Boateng of **AgroFides, Inc** addressed emerging practices in the developing field agro-ecology and agro-forestry as measures for building resiliency and fostering local engagement and collaboration. He also addressed the need to change the investment landscape, to create incentives that can link altruistic investors with local farmers.

Saskia Goldman representing the Secretariat of **Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)** addressed the capacity building efforts at the national and local levels and the establishment of a marketplace for adaptation using the “who what where” model and connecting the humanitarian, development and climate communities, which can have an impact on both the demand and supply side of adaptation / resilience.

Thematic Gaps and Opportunities

The case of Mauritius exemplifies the challenges that many small island developing states and other capacity constrained developing countries face: **limited resources** (human and technical), no technical expertise to conduct vulnerability assessments, **lack of data**, and the inability to access **climate finance** in a timely manner as well as **absorptive capacity** constraints.

Long-term adaptation planning was highlighted as another particularly challenging issue for SIDS. Singapore shared in this regard its experience with longer-term adaptation planning in the context of coastal protection. In order to better improve its whole-of-nation strategy, Singapore has dedicated its water agency, as the national Coastal Protection Agency. This Agency is tasked with studying both coastal and inland flooding holistically and developing models to guide Singapore's flood protection response. PUB will refine its modelling, carry out site-specific engineering studies to ascertain the type, feasibility and extent (and hence costs) of measures required. This will allow the Singapore Government to better assess the funding required and financing options. Singapore also noted the costly upfront investments needed for supporting adaptation activities and noted that it had established a Coastal and Flood Protection Fund.

Stakeholder engagement is recognized as a critical feature of the adaptation planning process and means of establishing clear implementable adaptation priorities, targets and strategies. A clear **framework for stakeholder engagement especially of underrepresented groups as local communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth**, is needed.

Evaluation approaches need to be revisited to focus more on impact evaluation and not just project monitoring and evaluation. **Emerging evaluation practices** such as impact evaluation, the application of traditional knowledge should be promoted and integrated into projects.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships can help address **data gaps** but challenges persist for quality data and effective data analysis including understanding weaknesses, and managing uncertainties.

The **Green Climate Fund** is a major source of funding for LDCs and SIDS. Each represents 25 percent and 16 percent of GCF Funding respectively.

The representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross raised concern for the weak linkages between how we deal with current disasters and how we deal with **longer-term adaptation and resilience**.

Takeaways and Island Priorities for COP 26 Priorities

- Enhancing adaptation/resilience finance and capacity building and technology transfer taking in to account national, sub-national and local actors, are priorities
- Adaptation / resilience finance should be a part of the COVID-19 recovery
- Sharing lessons learned from emerging practices in monitoring and evaluation including impact evaluations
- Developing a clear framework for stakeholder engagement in national and international decision-making processes, drawing on lessons learned of the Nairobi Work Programme and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
- Featuring loss and damage and carbon neutrality at COP26
- Establishing adaptation guidelines to create a clear narrative for driving more robust priorities and targets which are backed by finance, implementation strategies and effective evaluation approaches
- Promoting opportunities for data sharing platforms and technical support for data analysis and interpretation