

Adaptation Committee: Boosting region-wide coherence on adaptation – Asia-Pacific Region

Korea Global Adaptation Week (KGAW) 28 and 29 August 2023 Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Summary report

I. Background

The [Adaptation Committee \(AC\)](#) is the leading body under the United Nations providing coherence and guidance on adaptation, promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. At COP 27, the COP and CMA encouraged the AC to organize regional events and knowledge dialogues.

In 2023, the AC, consistent with its flexible three-year work plan and mandates is working towards launching longer-term work aimed at enhancing coherence across the intergovernmental architecture with the goal of supporting more ambitious worldwide adaptation action and collaboration. A number of specific activities are planned by the AC to this end, culminating in the 2023 Adaptation Forum. As part of this global endeavour, and responding the above mandate, the AC aims to foster synergies among multi-country and transboundary initiatives in line with global efforts by advancing modalities for regional cooperation.

The [AC meeting at the Korea Global Adaptation Week](#) was the first in the series of regional engagement events, which aim to foster an exchange with the key regional actors on region-wide and transboundary solutions, good practices, initiatives, priorities and needs, as well as to establish a long-term channel of information between the AC and relevant organizations and programme partners.

The meeting was complemented with a survey¹ on existing region-wide and multi-country adaptation initiatives and support opportunities, which was disseminated through relevant networks and the event participants.

During the week, the AC also provided contributions to region-wide conferences and meetings, such as the various tracks of the Korea Global Adaptation Week.

The findings from this regional workshop, including those from the survey, will feed into the 2023 Adaptation Forum, and key organizations that contributed to the workshops will be essential partners in the longer-term work that will be discussed at the Forum.

¹ The AC launched a survey supported by the secretariat for each region, inviting organizations to share their region-wide, transboundary and multi-country activities and suggestions for enhanced collaboration. The surveys were widely disseminated before and during the workshops and made available on the web pages of the respective workshops. Interim findings were introduced during the workshops and the surveys are open for further inputs until the end of 2023.

II. Objectives

The objective of the meeting was to foster coherence and a collaborative approach towards region-wide and transboundary adaptation action and support, by bringing together and facilitating an exchange among regional organizations, development banks, and other key stakeholders for working together to step up adaptation in the region. The meeting was attended by around 50 participants representing various multilateral and regional agencies, as well as national governments.

The meeting served as a platform to deepen participants' understanding of the challenges and opportunities in advancing the coherent implementation of adaptation action towards a resilient future.

III. Agenda

DAY 1: 28 AUGUST, 14:00 – 17:30

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| 14:00-14:30 | Welcome, opening remarks and expected outcomes of the meeting
Youssef Nassef, Director, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC
Mariam Allam, Co-Chair, Adaptation Committee
Carlos Ruiz Garvia, Team Lead, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC |
| 14:30-15:10 | What are the adaptation priorities in the area, and which multi-country and region-wide adaptation solutions and projects exist?
Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ermira Fida, Deputy Executive Secretary, IPCC Secretariat• Christopher Richter, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, International Organization for Migration• Rieko Tamura, Senior Programme Officer, Asia Pacific Network for Global Change research• Jessica Troni, Chief, Climate Change Adaptation Unit / Adaptation Portfolio Manager, United Nations Environment Programme |
| 15:10-15:40 | Coffee break |
| 15:40-16:20 | What are the existing windows of support for regional action on adaptation?
Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bapon Fakhrudin, Water Resources Management Senior Specialist, Green Climate Fund• Nicholas Simon Taylor, Lead, Adaptation and AFOLU, Global Green Growth Institute |

- Rafael Moser, Programme Specialist, United Nations Capital Development Fund

16:20-17:20 **Exploring the landscape of adaptation action and support: understanding and leveraging available resources and success stories. Discussion:**

Are there any regional or transboundary adaptation projects and support opportunities that were not mentioned?

What are examples of successful inter-agency or multistakeholder regional projects? What were the keys to success and how can these strategies be replicated?

What are the existing resources for collaboration, and how can they be leveraged to scale up adaptation regionally?

17:20-17:30 **Closing of day 1**

DAY 2: 29 AUGUST, 14:00 – 17:30

14:00-14:10 **Opening of day 2**

Recapitulation of key points from day 1

Presentation of a preliminary mapping of regional adaptation efforts

14:10-14:50 **Identifying the remaining gaps and needs**

What are the region-wide and/or transboundary adaptation gaps and needs that are not met by existing efforts?

What can be done to fill those gaps, and by whom?

14:10-15:30 **Recognizing opportunities for strengthening coherent implementation and support**

Are there any areas that could benefit from further cooperation to increase efficiency?

How can synergies be enhanced in these areas?

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-16:40 **Co-designing solutions aligned with global efforts**

What [additional] modalities for collaboration can be suggested?

What are good examples of joint adaptation projects in other regions or scales that could be replicated in Africa?

What are good examples of collaboration in other areas that could be replicated in the adaptation space?

What other solutions can be implemented?

How do regional adaptation efforts align with global processes and directives (e.g. UNFCCC process [GGA, GST, etc.], funds and development

banks global strategies, other multilateral processes [e.g. CBD, UNCCD, etc.]).

How can these links be strengthened for increased coherence and efficiency?

16:40-17:20

Next steps

What are the next steps that participating organizations and stakeholders can take to strengthen coherent implementation and collaboration?

What are the next steps for the Adaptation Committee to support this?

17:20-17:30

Closing

IV. Highlights from the discussion

Setting the scene

The event was moderated by Mariam Allam, Co-Chair, Adaptation Committee, and included “ice-breaker” presentations by Akio Takemoto, Head of Programme and Administration, United Nations University, and Janek Toepper, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Financing Specialist – Asia Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The event started with an overview of the work of the Adaptation Committee and the objectives of the meeting. This was followed by a scene-setting presentation by the IPCC on the main impacts of climate change in Asia and the Pacific from the Sixth Assessment Report, which include an increase of hot extremes and increase of heavy precipitation in some subregions. It was mentioned that Asia is the region with the largest population exposed to coastal flooding. Key risks from climate change in the region emphasized by the presentations included increased frequency of extreme sea level events, flooding due to precipitation, sea level rise and coastal erosion, among others.

Featured region-wide and transboundary initiatives

Throughout the discussions, various examples of existing multi-country adaptation projects and support opportunities in Asia-Pacific were highlighted. Some of the activities mentioned were:

- UN Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4All);
- Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) programme by the IOM, which aims to strengthen adaptive capacity to avert, minimize and address displacement;
- Enhancing Integrated Water Management and Climate Resilience in Vulnerable Urban Areas of the Mekong River Basin and Governance for Resilient Development in the Pacific (Gov4Res) projects by UNDP;
- Building Resilience in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region project by UNDP and ICIMOD, to develop and share knowledge, promote capacity development, develop policies and practices, and enhance collaboration;
- EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies programme by UN Women and UNEP, which aims to support alternative climate-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable communities, and gender-responsive climate change adaptation.

On the support side, some of the available windows that were spotlighted included:

- Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which aims to scale up investments in climate adaptation, particularly at the community level;
- ADB Climate Change Fund (CCF), with adaptation as a priority area;
- GCF Readiness Programme and Project Preparation Facility;
- Asia-Pacific Climate Finance Fund.

The data collected from the survey revealed that the region-wide, transboundary and multi-country adaptation efforts in Asia and the Pacific are currently concentrated on sharing information, knowledge and guidance; strengthening technical and institutional capacities; and implementation of adaptation measures. On the other hand, the gathered information showed few activities focused on raising awareness and ambition; as well as monitoring and evaluation for adaptation.

Adaptation priorities, gaps and needs

The discussions, as well as the results from the survey, allowed the identification of key adaptation priorities in the region. Participants underscored the following areas:

- Early warning systems;
- Resilient infrastructure;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Disaster risk reduction;
- Increased funding;
- Resilient agriculture and water management.

On the other hand, gaps and needs highlighted by participants for the Asia-Pacific region included:

- Financial, capacity, technology and data gaps;
- Lack of collaboration and coordination;
- Need for further engagement of the private sector;
- Siloed approaches;
- Lack of sufficient understanding of maladaptation risks.

Opportunities for collaboration and enhanced synergies

The meeting shed light on key enablers, success factors and opportunities for enhanced synergies on adaptation, such as:

- Addressing emerging and cascading risks through a climate adaptation lens;
- Fostering training and education at all levels;
- Including and learning from communities and the most vulnerable;
- Building on, replicating and scaling up success cases;
- Engaging the private sector and integrating technology assessments;
- Identifying effective financial instruments and simplifying access through a systematic approach;

Participants suggested areas for transboundary and regional adaptation activities, including:

- Green bonds;
- Food security initiatives;
- Sustainable forest management;
- Resilient infrastructure;

- Early warning systems and weather services;
- Health.

Furthermore, participants shared proposals to enhance collaboration, for example:

- Developing agile regional strategies for quick adaptation;
- Setting up coordinated networks and continual updates to align with climate agendas;
- Creating a common space to facilitate seamless collaboration;
- Harmonizing access to funding.

V. Outcomes and suggestions for future work by the Adaptation Committee

The meeting supported participants to better understand the landscape of region-wide adaptation in Asia and the Pacific, identify opportunities to enhance collaboration as well as implementing adaptation actions in a coherent manner.

The ideas shared in the meeting will feed into the longer-term work stemming from the Adaptation Forum. Participants were encouraged to engage directly in this global effort.

As a last step, participants were consulted on how the AC could further support the building of regional synergies on adaptation. Besides continuing to provide spaces for different stakeholders to discuss ways of working together on adaptation, the AC was encouraged to:

- Strengthen the inclusion of information from the ground in its products, for example, by holding interviews with regional experts;
- Look into submissions on just transition related to adaptation;
- Continue its work on enhancing the private sector involvement in adaptation;
- Set up an on-going dialogue to co-designing adaptation solutions and knowledge-sharing mechanisms;
- Provide capacity building for policy development, project management, and other skill-based training.

These suggestions will be duly considered by AC members going forward.

