

Adaptation Committee: Boosting region-wide coherence on adaptation – Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW)

26 and 27 October 2023

Marriot Panama Hotel, Albrook Mall, Panama City, Panama

I. Background

The [Adaptation Committee \(AC\)](#) – is the leading body under the United Nations providing guidance on adaptation, promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. At COP27, the AC was encouraged to organize regional events and knowledge dialogues by the COP and CMA.

The AC is working towards supporting more ambitious worldwide adaptation action and collaboration. A number of specific activities are planned by the AC to this end, culminating in the upcoming 2024 Adaptation Forum. As part of this global endeavour, and responding to 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 Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week was the last event of the 2024 series of the regional engagement events, which aimed 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 survey on existing region-wide and multi-country adaptation initiatives and support opportunities, which was disseminated with relevant networks and the event participants.

The meeting was carried out in a hybrid format on the first day, and full virtual format on the second day.

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 close to 30 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: 26 OCTOBER, 14:00 – 18:00

- 15:00-15:30 **Welcome, opening remarks and expected outcomes of the meeting**
- Harry Vreuls, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), UNFCCC
 - Karina Barrera, AC member
 - Carlos Ruiz Garvia, Team Lead, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC
- 15:30-16:30 **What are the adaptation priorities in the area, and which multi-country and region-wide adaptation solutions and projects exist?**
- Presentations:
- Montserrat Xilotl, Regional Technical Advisor in Climate Change Adaptation, UNDP
 - Ana Becerra, Climate Adaptation Specialist, UNEP
 - Ana Ramírez, Director for Disaster Risk Reduction, Environment and the Caribbean Sea, ACS-AEC
- 16:30-17:00 **Coffee break**
- 16:00-17:00 **What are the existing windows of support for regional action on adaptation?**
- Presentations:
- Hayden Billingsy, Technical Officer, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
 - Amanda Brasil, Senior Program Associate, Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, Climate Policy Initiative
 - Yves Robert Personna, Senior Programme Manager, CARE Programme, Caribbean Development Bank
- 17:00-17:50 **Exploring the landscape of adaptation action and support: understanding and leveraging available resources and success stories**
- Alejandro Gonzalez, Director, ICLEI Colombia
- 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?*
- 17:50-18:00 **Closing of day 1**

DAY 2: 27 OCTOBER, 9:00 – 13:00

9:00-9:15

Opening of day 2

Recapitulation of key points from day 1 and 0resentation of a preliminary mapping of regional adaptation efforts

- Paloma Noriega, Associate Programme Officer, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC

9:15-9:30

Regional Collaboration Centers: accelerating implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean

- Andrea Camponogara, RCC Team Lead, UNFCCC

9:30-10:00

Impacts and risks in the Latin America and the Caribbean region based on the best available science

- Ermira Fida, Deputy Executive Secretary, IPCC

10:00-10:30

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?

10:30-11:00

Recognizing opportunities for strengthening coherent implementation and support

- Ana Carolina Martínez, Climate and Resilience Officer, WFP

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

How can synergies be enhanced in these areas?

11:00-11:15

Coffee break

11:00-12:00

Co-designing solutions aligned with global efforts

- Virginia Vilariño, Technical Coordinator, LEDS-LAC

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 Latin America and the Caribbean?

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?

12:00-12:50	Next steps
	<i>What are the next steps that participating organizations and stakeholders can take to strengthen coherent implementation and collaboration?</i>
	<i>What are the next steps for the Adaptation Committee to support this?</i>
12:50-13:00	Closing

IV. Highlights from the discussion

Setting the scene

The event was moderated by Pía Zevallos, General Manager, Libélula, and Virginia Vilariño, Technical Coordinator, LEDS-LAC. The event started with an overview of the work of the Adaptation Committee and the objectives of the meeting by AC member Karina Barrera.

The event also included a scene-setting presentation by the IPCC on the main impacts of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean from the Sixth Assessment Report. According to the Report, in Central and South America mean temperatures are expected to increase at a faster rate than the global average; mean precipitation is projected to change; relative sea-level rise is extremely likely to continue contributing to increased coastal flooding and shoreline retreat; and marine heatwaves are projected to increase around the region. For North America and the Caribbean, the assessment indicates that mean and extreme temperatures will also continue to increase at rates greater than the global average; relative sea level rise is increased and is projected to increase along most coasts, resulting in increased coastal flooding and erosion; ocean acidification and marine heatwaves are projected to increase; tropical cyclones, severe storms, and dust storms are expected to become more extreme. The increased frequency of extreme sea level events by 2040 is also projected to affect the American continent, particularly the Pacific coast.

Participants also received a short introduction of the work of the [UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres](#), and how they can support national climate action.

Featured projects

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

- UNEP's CityAdapt project in Latin America and the Caribbean, which aims to increase the climate resilience of cities through urban planning using nature-based solutions (NbS) for adaptation;
- The Greater Caribbean Climate Mobility Initiative, which aims to address climate mobility by strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of affected communities in the region;
- The Use of Nature-based Solutions to Increase Resilience to Extreme Climate Events in the Atlantic Region of Central America project in Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, implemented by WRI;

- The Andes Resilientes project in Bolivia, Ecuador and Perú, aiming to support the resilience to climate change of vulnerable mountain communities;
- The Resilient Islands project in the Caribbean, aiming to develop an adaptation toolkit to promote better decision-making and resilience through disaster management that integrates NbS;
- The Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) and Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA) projects by FAO;
- WFP's Food security and adaptation capacity building in indigenous and afro-descendant communities in the Ecuador-Colombia border project.
- The NaBa: *Ciudades Resilientes Basadas en la Naturaleza* project to map ecosystem services, as well as risk and vulnerability assessments to foster NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) actions in Latin American cities.

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

- The Conservation Finance; Climate Change (EbA) and Nature Based Economies windows from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund;
- The Caribbean Action for Resilience Enhancement (CARE) Programme from the Caribbean Development Bank;
- The upcoming Latin America and the Caribbean focused programme from the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, which aims to develop innovative financial instruments to fund adaptation and mitigation projects in the region;
- UNDP's Climate Promise, which supports countries with their NAPs processes, including projects in Cuba, Argentina, and Antigua and Barbuda;
- IOM provides support to countries to integrate human mobility in their NAPs, and has already worked with some countries in the LAC region.

The data collected from the survey revealed that the region-wide, transboundary and multi-country adaptation efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean are currently concentrated on capacity building; knowledge and information, including technical guidance; implementation of adaptation actions; impact, vulnerability and risk assessments; support for adaptation planning, including NAP development; and funding for adaptation projects. Developing, sharing and implementing technologies for adaptation seems to be lagging behind.

[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:

- Food security and resilient agriculture;
- NbS and EbA;
- Coastal resilience;
- Livelihoods;
- Vulnerability assessments;
- Migration and human displacement;
- Tropical forest management and conservation;
- Sustainable water management;
- Risks assessments and early-warning systems.

On the other hand, gaps and needs highlighted by participants for the Latin America and the Caribbean region included:

- Financial, capacity and technology gaps;
- Data gaps particularly in SIDS in the region, gaps on capability to produce climate information;
- Science-policy gap;
- Difficulty in guiding private sector organizations in integrating adaptation into their operations;
- Awareness and knowledge dissemination gap;
- Lack of coordination among stakeholders;
- Fragmentation of adaptation efforts.

Opportunities for collaboration and enhanced synergies

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

- Leveraging cross-community and cross-border dynamics to step up collaboration;
- Incorporating different partners and stakeholders, not only those in the environment sector;
- Building capacities to enhance technical expertise;
Peer-to-peer learning mechanisms;
- Aligning different agendas, including adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and development;
- Institutional strengthening.

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

- Developing a regional community of practice on adaptation, with contributions from different stakeholders, including the private sector;
- Setting up a knowledge hub for regional engagement and knowledge sharing;
- Long-term funding for regional projects;
- Capacity building related to common challenges and opportunities.

On the last point, participants appreciated the meeting as a platform for discussing ways to enhance and plan joint activities on adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

V. Outcomes and suggestions for future AC work

The event helped participants to better understand the landscape of region-wide adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration and the coherent implementation of adaptation policies.

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 compile, systematize and map knowledge and good practices in the region. The suggestions will be duly considered by AC members going forward.

