

Advancing coherence and synergy in leveraging traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge systems for adaptation

Organized by: Adaptation Committee (AC)

Date and time: 17 November 2025, 15:00–16:00

Venue: COP 30, Belém, Brazil (Meeting Room 18, Area E)

Format: Panel discussion and interactive dialogue (60 minutes)

Language: English and Portuguese

Summary

1. The Adaptation Committee (AC) convened a side event at COP 30 to explore ways to enhance coherence and synergy in the application of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems for adaptation.
2. The event was opened by the Co-Chair of the AC. The Co-Chair reaffirmed the AC's commitment to promoting ethical and equitable engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in line with its mandate under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The AC Co-Chair also presented key insights from the AC's policy brief on the Progress, good practices and lessons learned, challenges and opportunities in the application of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems in adaptation.
3. COP 30 Presidency representatives Ms. Ciça Pitaguary and Ms. Edel Moraes delivered keynote statements and underscored the importance of ancestral cosmologies, community-led governance, and the protection of territories as essential foundations for resilience in Brazil and globally.
4. A panel discussion followed, moderated by Attosa Soltani (Director of Global Strategies, ASHI). The discussion brought together diverse perspectives from across sociocultural regions and institutions, including Rafik Aini, Representative of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP); Johnson Cerda, Indigenous knowledge holder from the Latin America and Caribbean sociocultural region; Robert Karoro, Representative from the Pacific sociocultural region; and Joaquim Belo, Special Envoy for Amazon Civil Society.
5. Panelists reflected on the enduring contributions of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems to adaptation strategies. These included early warning systems, water and biodiversity management, resilient agricultural practices, and ecosystem restoration led by local communities. Panelists emphasized that such knowledge systems are rooted in place, culture and experience, and provide context-specific responses to climate risks that have evolved over centuries. They called for greater recognition of such knowledge systems as integral to effective and inclusive adaptation, and for their meaningful integration into national and global policy processes.
6. The event closed with reflections on the need to create space for such knowledge systems in national and global processes, as a core component of meaningful and inclusive climate action. As thunder rolled and rain fell outside, nature offered its own rhythm to end the session which offered an unplanned but timely reminder of nature's presence in climate dialogue.