

Summary of scaling-up LLA dialogues

In September and October 2021 six regional dialogues were held across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean to support the Scaling-up of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). The dialogues built upon the growing momentum on LLA, including 8 Principles for LLA endorsed by 57 organisations as of October 2021.

The six regional dialogues brought together government representatives with civil society and the private sector, to help identify new opportunities, learnings and challenges for replicating and scaling up LLA. They also identified key asks on LLA for COP26 and beyond.

Dialogues 1

The first three dialogues shared 11 case studies (Box 1) of LLA delivering mechanisms covering state and non-state examples across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. They showcased inspiring ways to deliver LLA in line with some of the LLA Principles. Following distinguished keynotes, LLA case studies and follow-up questions, the following headlines emerged:

- **US\$1 billion LLA fund call** from Dianne Black Layne (Antigua and Barbuda), which could be directed from US\$680bn funding for fossil fuel subsidies.
- **Devolved decision making** should be entrenched in all governance models, as voices from the ground need to be consistently included to keep responses agile and responsive.
- **LLA funding time horizons need to be longer** as it can take several years to establish innovative local governance models and get funding to local levels. Building community resilience to rising and changing shocks also takes time.
- **Local partners' time must be acknowledged**, it should not be presumed can participate for free. Leading adaptation efforts require time and resources that cannot be taken for granted.

Box 1. 11 case studies of LLA delivery mechanisms

1. Community on-granting via the [Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility](#), South Africa – South African National Biodiversity Institute and South South North
2. [County Climate Change Funds](#) using devolution, Kenya – Treasury and ADA Consortium
3. [Urban Poor Funds](#) with Slum Dwellers International, revolving local savings, with the example of the [Gungano Urban Poor Fund](#), Zimbabwe
4. Local on-granting and on-lending in Namibia via the [Environment Investment Fund](#)
5. Supporting displaced people in Bangladesh via the [Climate Bridge Fund](#), BRAC Bangladesh
6. Local on-granting, in Micronesia via the [Micronesia Conservation Trust](#)
7. Community resilience funds and making decentralisation work led by grassroots, [YAKKUM Emergency Unit](#), Indonesia
8. Adaptive social protection via the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme](#), India - Government of Odisha
9. Grants to Indigenous Peoples' organisations, a Regional Latin America and Global - example of the [Pawanka Fund](#)
10. Civil society on-granting via the [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund](#), Regional Caribbean - the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
11. Microfinance for resilience, via [Fundecooperación](#), Costa Rica

- **The informal sector remains underfunded** despite possessing robust approaches and offering opportunities for scale-up of LLA centred around addressing the root causes of inequality.
- **Communities and local organisations should not bear the financial risk of partnerships with funders, but** are having to jump through onerous hoops designed for international organisations.
- **Local, traditional, and Indigenous groups provide essential expertise, trust and networks** needed to deliver effective LLA based on understanding the local political economy, possessing established networks and understanding the surrounding natural environment.
- **The role of people who have been excluded from decision making needs to be more clearly demonstrated**, especially the roles of women, youth, people with disabilities, displaced people, Indigenous People, and racial and ethnic minority groups.

Dialogues 2

The second round of dialogues focussed on discussing and advancing understanding of: (1) the pathways to scaling up, replicating and collaborating across different LLA delivery mechanisms, and (2) how international climate finance can better support these pathways. Discussion also evolved around what key asks for COP26 should be.

Common enabling factors for LLA that were identified from across the 11 case studies presented in Dialogue 1 included: strong local presence, local networks, supporting policy and regulation, focus on building local capabilities, creating bespoke financing mechanisms, domestic financing committed to LLA, and support from risk taking donors. Delving deeper during dialogues 2, the following challenges, changes and enablers were identified across international, national and local levels:

- **Strengthen quantity and quality of funds** from the international level. In addition to rebalancing adaptation and mitigation finance within the US\$100 billion commitment, more to the local level is needed. This funding must be flexible, patient and predictable, and focussed on programmatic approaches to support nature of adaptation as a long-term process requiring trust and stable local institutions.
- **Prioritise and simplify direct access** to climate finance, as it is almost impossible for local partners to access international climate funds. This includes developing a shared application process across all funds and meaningful, outcome-oriented metrics for LLA, and rethinking international accounting standards to reflect risk of not investing in LLA.
- **Formalise roles for local actors, LDCs and SIDSs** within climate finance and adaptation planning, including introducing roles within oversight and steering committees as standard practice, and requirements for local actors to have agency over programme design, not just be consulted.
- **Finance locally led preparatory design work**, recognising the time and effort it takes before funding is normally acquired, as well as the data that often needs generating and capturing – especially for developing “climate rationales”.
- **Specific funds for groups that have been excluded** should be established, especially for social movements and grassroots organisations, including those representing women, youth, children, people with disabilities, displaced people, Indigenous People and racial and ethnic minority groups.
- **Mainstream LLA into national policy and set LLA commitments**, as national governments are the first step in country ownership. This includes strong LLA focus and inclusion within national adaptation planning processes, supporting their time and opportunity costs for this involvement, and developing fiscal targets for LLA.
- **Communicate relevant policies in local (sub-national) languages** so barriers for local community engagement with nationally led planning processes are reduced. This also may require technical support and dedicated support to grassroots organisations as community mobilisers for more inclusive adaptation planning and investment.
- **Promote co-creation of adaptation information and knowledge** such as citizen science, that supports recognition and inclusion of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and solutions.
- **Develop policy that actively includes those previously excluded from decision making** especially women, youth, children, people with disabilities, displaced people, Indigenous People and racial and ethnic minority groups.

- **Put in place ambitious and LLA-aligned private sector policy**, such as within emerging environmental, social and governance metrics and legislation, or environmental and social safeguard policy, to influence the practices of local banks, insurance companies and pension funds, and other financial actors.

Next steps

Join us COP26 to learn more about scaling up LLA and asking for LLA to be at the heart of responses to the climate crisis. COP26 will feature many events that are directly and indirectly supporting LLA. Many of these events are hybrid, meaning they can also be attended virtually. The partners of this project have developed a set of asks for COP26. Those who are interested to support the growing momentum behind LLA are invited to share and amplify these asks, which can be found in Annex 1.

A selection of LLA events are summarised in the table, below. A list of LLA related events mapped across some of the COP26 venues and virtually is available from IIED and WRI.

Venue	Name	Date and time
COP26 Presidency Adaptation & Loss & Damage Day events	Voices from the Frontlines	8 th November, 09:00 – 10:00
	A global tour of local government authorities' experience in implementing LLA	1 st November, 15:45 – 17:15
	Local action to global policies, gateways and gaps	3 rd November, 17:15 – 18:45
Resilience Hub	Pathways to finance – challenges and opportunities for accessing finance for LLA	3 rd November, 09:15 – 10:45
	Getting money where it matters – new initiatives for scaling-up LLA	8 th November, 16:00 – 17:30
LLA Hub	Interviews with LLA endorsers	Times TBC

Endorse the Principles for LLA. New endorsements are coming in thick and fast. If you are interested to endorse you can find the LLA principles on [IIED](#) or [WRI's](#) websites, along with a [link to the endorsement form](#). Endorsers are asked to complete a short form explaining how their organisation intends to put the LLA Principles into practice in 100 words or less. Endorsers are also asked to share what this means to them, briefly describing what changes will be made or current practices strengthened to support LLA. The single requirement of all endorsers is to join the LLA learning journey, and share your progress and learning with the LLA Community of Practice and at relevant milestones such as Gobeshona, the annual Community-Based Adaptation conference, and Development and Climate Days.

Become a champion of LLA. This project's long-term goal is to facilitate more champion institutions and countries on LLA. This may include scaling and replicating some of the LLA delivery mechanisms showcased in these dialogues, putting in place some of the enabling conditions for LLA, or sharing your own exciting innovations and experiences. If you, your organisations or your government is interested to be an LLA champion, please get in touch. We are here to support you as much as we can.

Continue to share examples of LLA delivery mechanisms. We invite you to share stories and case studies of LLA delivery mechanisms. If you have examples, we have a case study template you can use to tell your story of alignment with the LLA Principles and the pathway the approach has been on. Over time we hope to include many more LLA stories on our map.



HUAIROU COMMISSION
Women, Homes & Community