



Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action

7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum
8-12 March 2021

SUMMARY REPORT

© United Nations Environment Programme 2022

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or non-profit services without special permission from the copyright holder, provided acknowledgement of the source is made. The United Nations Environment Programme would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source. No use of this publication may be made for resale or any other commercial purpose whatsoever without prior permission in writing from the United Nations Environment Programme. Applications for such permission, with a statement of the purpose and extent of the reproduction, should be addressed to the Director, Communication Division, United Nations Environment Programme, P. O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, Kenya.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country territory or city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. For general guidance on matters relating to the use of maps in publications please go to <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>.

Mention of a commercial company or product in this document does not imply endorsement by the United Nations

Environment Programme or the authors. The use of information from this document for publicity or advertising is not permitted.

Trademark names and symbols are used in an editorial fashion with no intention on infringement of trademark or copyright laws. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Environment Programme.

We regret any errors or omissions that may have been unwittingly made.

Cover photo: The Dragonfly. In ancient mythology, Japan was known as Akitsushima, which literally translates as “Land of the Dragonflies”. Japan, along with many other countries and cultures around the world, have long recognised the dragonfly as a symbol of change, agility and persistence. More recently, biologists have discovered dragonflies amazingly have full 360-degree vision, a trait we believe the 7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum’s work can embody. © UNEP/APAN

Published by: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi

Citation: United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action: 7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum Summary Report. [e-book]. Bangkok, Thailand: Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, United Nations Environment Programme. www.asiapacificadapt.net.

Author: Asia Pacific Adaptation Network

Acknowledgement

The summary report is an output of the 7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, held virtually from 8 to 12 March 2021.

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) is the flagship event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Secretariat. It is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learning and experiences, and work together towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change. With varying themes of focus, the APAN Forum has been hosted and sponsored by different governments and agencies since 2010. It is a space for scientists, financing institutions, youth, civil society, international organisations, the private sector, and government representatives from various line ministries to meet, discuss and work together for greater partnerships for adaptation action.

This report was made possible through generous support from the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ).

We would like to acknowledge the support of Imae Ann Mojado for the cover design and Strategic Agenda for the report layout.

A special thank you to Mozaharul Alam, Helene Marre, Haruethai Wongpimonporn, Panvirush Vittayaphakul and Vanessa Carriedo for facilitating and coordinating the development of this report.

About APAN

APAN serves as a knowledge platform to equip adaptation practitioners in the region with the information, knowledge, and tools to design, implement and monitor climate change adaptation measures, foster access to technologies and finance, and build capacity for integrating climate change adaptation into national development policies, strategies and plans.

With support from the Ministry of Environment Japan, APAN was developed and launched by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 2009 under the Global Adaptation Network (GAN). APAN has established close partnerships with key organisations and has become an important adaptation knowledge mobiliser in Asia and the Pacific Region.



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Acknowledgement | III |
| List of Acronyms | VI |
| 1. Forum Executive Summary | 1 |
| 2. Forum Key Facts | 3 |
| 2.1 Resilience Streams | 4 |
| 2.2 Resilience Enablers | 5 |
| 3. Forum Key Messages, Step Changes and Recommended Actions by Resilience Enabler | 6 |
| 3.1 Policy and Climate Governance | 6 |
| 3.1.1 Key Messages | 6 |
| 3.1.2 Step Changes | 7 |
| 3.1.3 Recommended Actions | 7 |
| Institutional Capacity Building | 7 |
| Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange | 8 |
| 3.2 Planning and Processes | 9 |
| 3.2.1 Key Messages | 9 |
| 3.2.2 Step Changes | 10 |
| 3.2.3 Recommended Actions | 10 |
| Institutional Capacity Building | 10 |
| Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange | 11 |
| 3.3 Science and Assessment | 12 |
| 3.3.1 Key Messages | 12 |
| 3.3.2 Step Changes | 13 |
| 3.3.3 Recommended Actions | 13 |
| Institutional Capacity Building | 13 |
| Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange | 14 |
| 3.4 Technologies and Practices | 15 |
| 3.4.1 Key Messages | 15 |
| 3.4.2 Step Changes | 16 |
| 3.4.3 Recommended Actions | 16 |
| Institutional Capacity Building | 16 |
| Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange | 17 |
| 3.5 Finance and Investment | 18 |
| 3.5.1 Key Messages | 18 |
| 3.5.2 Step Changes | 19 |
| 3.5.3 Recommended Actions | 19 |
| Institutional Capacity Building | 19 |
| Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange | 20 |

4. About the Forum

4.1 Organiser and Partners

4.2. Forum Host

4.3 Forum Background

4.4 APAN Forums Timeline

5. Reference

22

22

24

25

25

26

List of Figures

Figure 1. Visual Summary of the Forum Inauguration

1

Figure 2. Visual Summary of the Policy and Climate Governance Session

6

Figure 3. Visual Summary of the Planning and Processes Session

9

Figure 4. Visual Summary of the Science and Assessment Session

12

Figure 5. Visual Summary of the Technologies and Practices Session

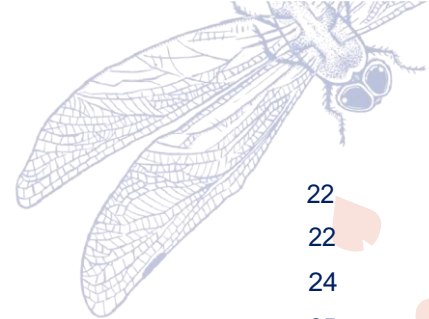
15

Figure 6. Visual Summary of the Finance and Investment Session

18

Figure 7. Visual Summary of the Forum Closing Plenary

21





List of Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| APAN | Asia Pacific Adaptation Network |
| AP-PLAT | Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| EbA | Ecosystem-based Adaptation |
| EPIC-N | Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities – Network |
| GAN | Global Adaptation Network |
| LAKI | Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative |
| LUCCC | Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change |
| MoEJ | Ministry of Environment Japan |
| NAP | National Adaptation Plan |
| NbS | Nature-based Solutions |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| NGO | Non-Government Organisation |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |

1. Forum Executive Summary

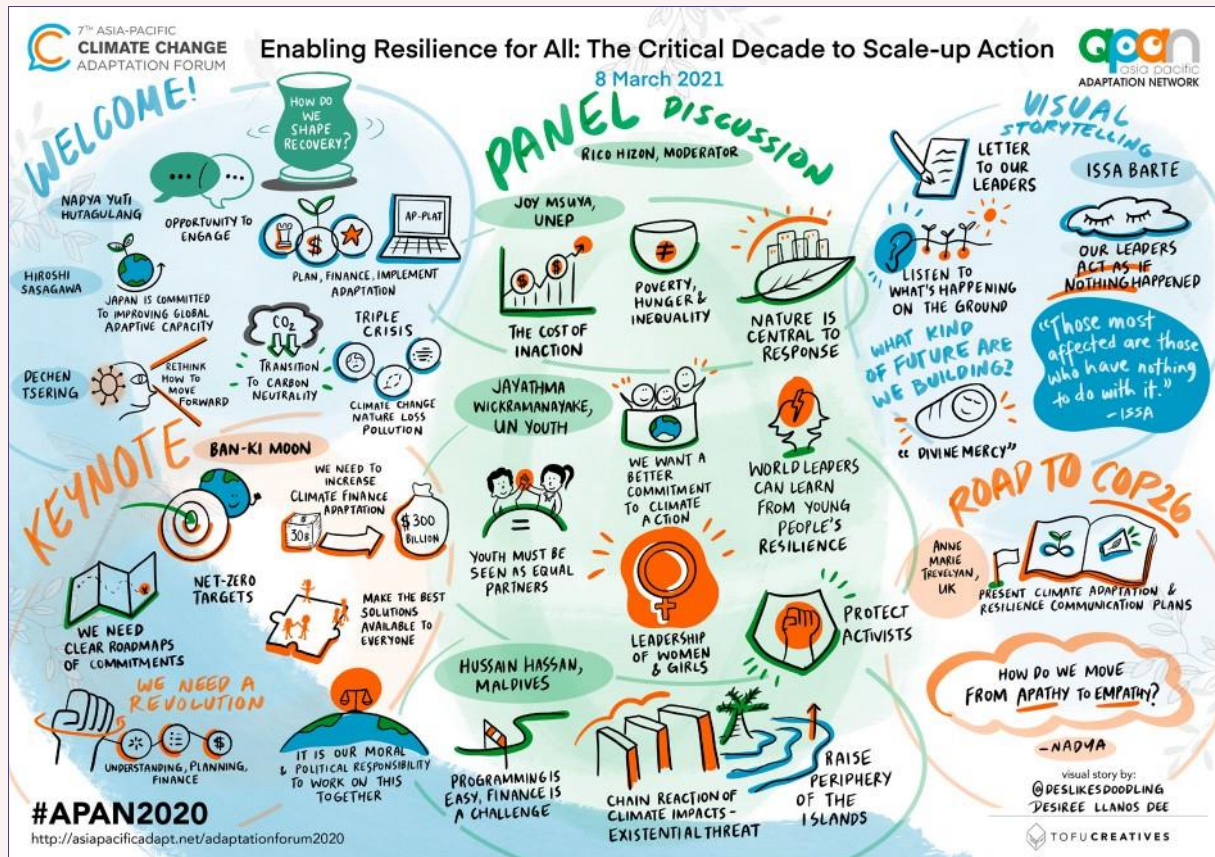


Figure 1. Visual Summary of the Forum Inauguration © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives


Recognition of Urgency and Call for Action

Step Changes are Needed. The world is currently in a climate emergency. Humanity needs to act now and step up its climate ambition with clear roadmaps for commitments. Resilience is a journey that starts from people's experiences. It is necessary to open the political space to hear people's stories and to engage them within existing structures.

Mobilise Investment. Shifts are needed to deal with the climate crisis and COVID-19 recovery. These could be attained through changes in delivery systems and targeted interventions. The engagement of the private sector needs to go beyond funding and encompass a broader range of interventions to mobilise investments and incentivise climate mainstreaming.

Leverage on Partnerships. Partnerships, transboundary cooperation, and knowledge exchange can support adaptation efforts and build resilience through collective action and make the best solutions and opportunities available for all.

Act with Nature. Nature is important in addressing climate change and building resilient societies. Nature is the answer as it also brings all stakeholders together. Conservation and restoration of nature is critical to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will be key in meeting global biodiversity, climate, food security, and COVID-19 recovery challenges.



Leverage on Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge. As adaptation measures are context-specific, traditional knowledge can support technical findings and inform policies and interventions. It offers insights on how to enhance local resilience.

Leverage on Women's Knowledge, Leadership and Engagement. Adaptation action should follow a gender-responsive approach as men and women have different vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms in the face of climate change.

Engage the Youth. 2021 is a make-or-break year for collective action and youth engagement to overcome the climate crisis. For the youth, break is not an option. Young people are supporting climate actions at different levels and world leaders can learn from their resilience. Young people need to be regarded as equal partners.

Embrace Innovation. With its young population, the Asia-Pacific region has the ability to come up with innovative and disruptive approaches to adaptation and resilience. Young people are among the innovators in their communities. Additionally, there is a need to promote and increase visibility of the many Youth Heroes in the region.

Combine Adaptation and Mitigation. Adaptation and mitigation strategies need to be interlinked and contextualised. Education, building technical capacity and ensuring community participation are all equally important to scale up local resilience.

Nexus Thinking. Make the Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus and the Climate and Biodiversity Nexus integral parts of development plans. The global ecological system crisis requires an integrated response. Ecosystem services can contribute to enhancing the cross-scale and cross-sectoral coherence between land use policies and climate, biodiversity and food objectives.





2. Forum Key Facts

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learning and experiences, and work together towards the relevant outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change adaptation.

Originally scheduled to take place in October 2020, the 7th APAN Forum was postponed in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and growing public health concerns. In preparation to the main event, a Virtual Dialogue Series for Enabling Resilience and Scaling-up Action on Climate Change Adaptation was organised over four weeks in October and November 2020 to introduce the Forum's theme.

The 7th APAN Forum took place from 8 to 12 March 2021 in a virtual format, hosted by the Ministry of Environment – Japan (MoEJ) together with the APAN Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The 2020 Forum theme was *Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action*, with a focus on building resilience of human, social, natural and built environments including shaping recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Forum featured plenaries and parallel technical interactive sessions, special and side events, networking opportunities and a virtual exhibition of adaptation technologies. It brought together over 900 practitioners from academic and research institutions, government, civil society, private sector as well as development sector. Representing 62 countries, delegates gathered virtually to forge partnerships and share learning from cutting-edge science and practical solutions to strengthen resilience.

The Forum had four main objectives:

1

Address the capacity building needs and priority issues in the Asia-Pacific region that would enable the scaling up of tools and mechanisms to build resilience and to equip human systems, particularly vulnerable communities, with the capacity to withstand and moderate adverse impacts arising from climate change.

2

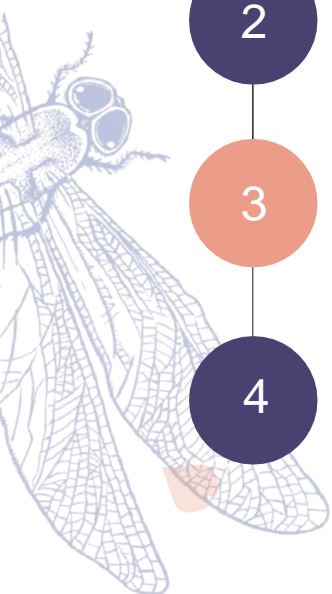
Act as a platform for discussions to accelerate action and facilitate the “how” part of adaptation knowledge and programmes with actionable and scalable “next steps” guidelines for communities, stakeholders and governments.

3

Report on specific actions taken and the progress made since the last APAN Forum on addressing the identified priority knowledge, policy and funding gaps.

4

Formulate a set of recommendations on how to expand current efforts on adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region and provide the basis for the region's contributions to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, United Kingdom and the 2021 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Kunming, China.



2.1 Resilience Streams

Resilience provided the unifying theme for the Forum, which was structured around four thematic streams on:



Inclusive Resilience

Inclusive resilience is one that benefits all of society, leaving no one behind. To be truly inclusive, resilience-building needs to not only avoid excluding anyone, but specifically engage those who are marginalised, listen to them, and respond to their needs and perspectives. Discussions under this stream focused broadly on how specific actions and strategies can deliver resilience benefits, emphasising the linkages between governance, institutions, policy, technology, and finance and how resilience of human and social systems can be enhanced and built on demonstrated resilience in these areas. Important sub-themes included nexus among climate change and food security, health, education, migration, and conflict resolution at scales from household to region. Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment were among key discussions under this stream.



Nature-based Resilience

Nature-based Resilience functions as protection and restoration of all ecosystem services to increase resilience of people and ecosystems. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can be divided into several specific approaches or strategies, including Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). It uses biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. This stream explored the effectiveness of EbA and NbS resilience strategies based on learning exchanges that have taken place in the region in recent years.



Communities and Local Resilience

Across the Asia-Pacific region, local communities are recognised as the most vulnerable and there is an emerging consensus that they are critical change agents. This is demonstrated by the increasing number of community-based adaptation initiatives. A major shift is needed in the vision, approach, enabling conditions and support for community-level resilience building – a new paradigm in which local communities are in the driver's seat with access to finance, information, technologies, new practices, capacity building; overall support is made easier and traditional knowledge is valued. This requires conscious efforts in creating a much larger civic space in which to allow information exchange, nurture innovation and address different levels of vulnerability and adaptive capacity. This stream investigated approaches that enable community-led adaptation at a much broader scale and to realise the untapped potential of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).



Economic Sector Resilience

Climate risk undermines efforts to achieve socio-economic development in Asia and the Pacific. It is important to act now on scaling up actions for climate resilience that would limit the economy's exposure to climate hazards; ensure an adequate level of protection is in place; and where appropriate, explore opportunities due to changing climate. Such actions are not limited to national boundaries but also undertaken at regional and global levels, and in close synergy with actions in climate mitigation and wider environmental management. Recognising the scale of the challenge, this stream looked at what needs to be done differently to bring transformational change, especially in the economic sector that provides key services, such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, and infrastructure.

Each stream covered the key aspects of resilience, analysing them against how these systems may be enabled. The key enabling conditions through which resilience may be built, maintained, and strengthened were identified as: policy and climate governance; planning and processes; science and assessment; technologies and practices; and finance and investment.



2.2 Resilience Enablers

Resilience: The ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2012, p. 563).

Forum Sessions were organised under the following enablers:



Policy and Climate Governance

Notwithstanding the progress made in the development of policies, institutional coordination mechanisms and processes to build climate resilience, gaps remain within how to integrate science into policy and practice. Resilience is interpreted in multiple ways, bringing together otherwise disparate groups, institutions, disciplines and scales. Improving transparency of information on climate change adaptation measures provides a driving force for integrating policy measures and implementation, and for committing to greater ambitions and shared actions with encouraging narratives.



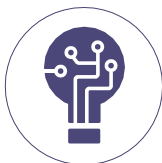
Planning and Processes

In planning and processes, science and knowledge have a role to play in tackling the impacts of extreme events and the slow onset of climate phenomena. Adapting successfully also requires a collaborative effort in targeting capacity constraints in planning, policy and processes, along with a more humane and just approach in formulating and implementing policies.



Science and Assessment

The element of uncertainty is always present in adaptation planning and decision-making. The intrinsic variability in climate, human, social, economic and environmental systems impose this uncertainty to a certain degree, as does the fact that knowledge may be imperfect.



Technologies and Practices

New and innovative climate-smart technologies, big data applications, and social and integrated media for awareness and outreach can create effective cross-learning and knowledge-sharing opportunities as well as practical opportunities for cooperation.



Finance and Investment

There are means to connect finance and investments to projects that build national, local, and community climate resilience and support socio-economic national development but implementation gaps exist. Actions to improve adaptive capacities can generate other sustainable development co-benefits such as improved health, reduced hunger and better food security, women's empowerment, and access to clean water and air, among others.



3. Forum Key Messages, Step Changes and Recommended Actions by Resilience Enabler

This Summary Report was compiled by the APAN Secretariat and brings together Forum highlights, lessons learned in key aspects and takeaways from the 7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum.



3.1 Policy and Climate Governance

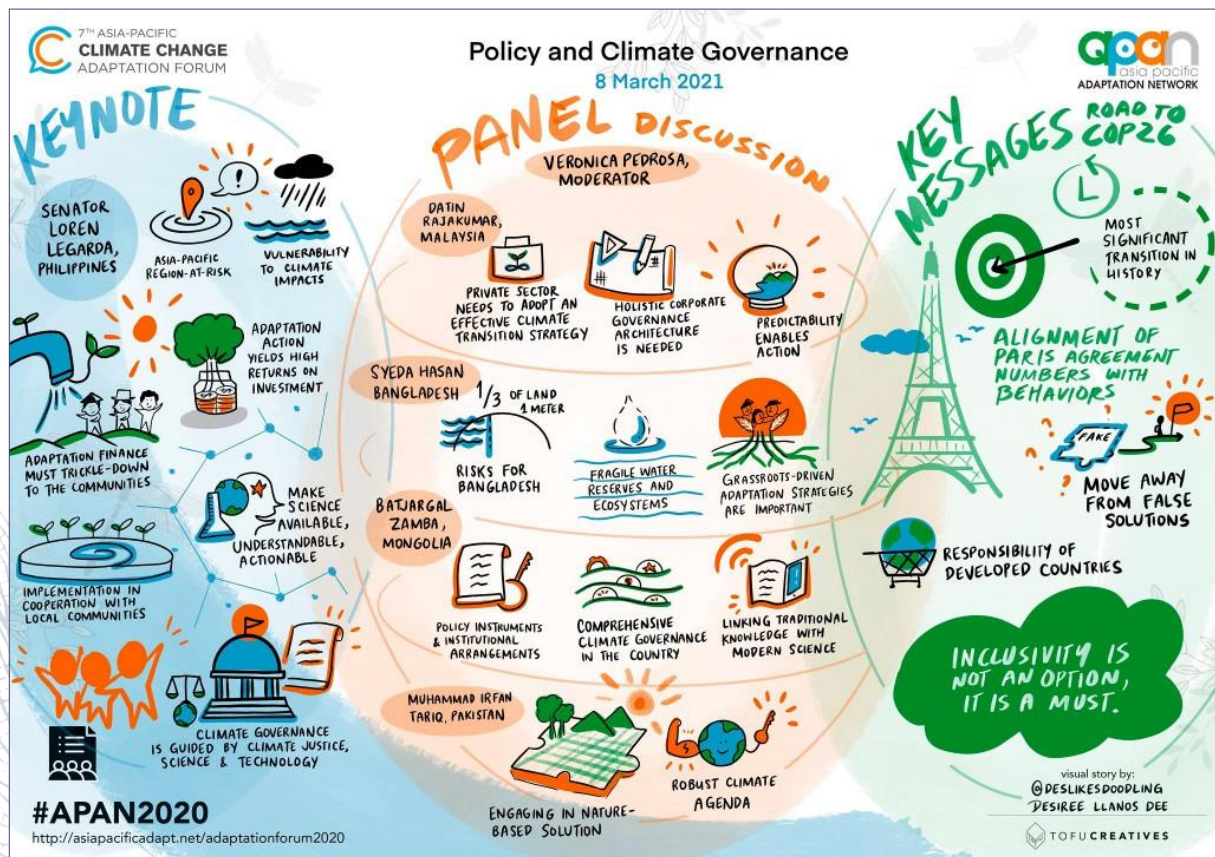
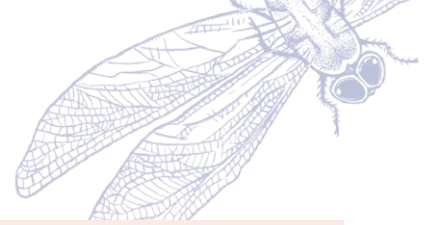


Figure 2. Visual Summary of the Policy and Climate Governance Session © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives

3.1.1 Key Messages

A **whole-of-society approach** to policy and climate governance is critical to pursue a shared decision-making environment for building resilience across all sectors and levels. **Systematic inclusion** and **enhanced political capabilities** of all stakeholders, including marginalised communities and vulnerable groups such as women and girls need to be at the core of climate governance. Political capabilities happen when marginalised people gain full and equal access to decision making and are recognised as partners in climate governance.

There is an increasing need to open up and reshape political and governance spaces based on the needs of the affected communities and to make use of their unique knowledge, experience and actions.



There is no longer any question as to why inclusiveness is key to climate change adaptation efforts, but how it can be achieved. Policies and practices need to be built on **social equity**, recognise and account for differences in power, opportunities and constraints, and ensure that adaptation and resilience planning account for diverse needs, strengths and challenges. Policymakers and practitioners must ensure that the **resilience of one person, community or country is not built at the expense of others' resilience** and is supported by climate justice, science and technologies.

The successful implementation of the Paris Agreement requires a **stronger** and **uncompromised commitment** from all actors and greater **coordination** and **coherence** among different levels of governance, along with cross-sectoral planning and increased availability of finance. Many countries have mentioned NbS in their NDCs, recognising the **power of nature** to address societal challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a unique chance to drive a green recovery, with nature as a pillar of development. Nature provides an opportunity to bring all stakeholders together. To do so, there is a need to ensure cross-sectoral implementation, policy coherence, the design of rights-based approaches and multi-level engagements.

3.1.2 Step Changes

Promote Systems Thinking. Inclusive resilience requires transformation at all levels and within all thematic areas of resilience building - inclusive risk assessment and identification of solutions; strengthening delivery systems that support business unusual approaches through improved policies, legal frameworks, institutional set-up, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, engagement of non-traditional sectors through, by incentives and resource allocation.

Encourage Systematic Inclusion. There is no option, but to systematically include and learn from marginalised groups and communities and empower individuals and communities to act. Vulnerable groups are not passive recipients of policy and other forms of assistance, but they actively shape how they cope with climate risks and build resilience. It is important that their strengths and efforts are formally recognised and included in broader resilience-building efforts. To harness the power of nature and to let communities take their own initiatives, technical and financial support should be provided.

Undertake Targeted Interventions. Promote resilience across sectors and society by providing climate information that meets the needs of concerned stakeholders, especially local ones and marginalised groups including women and girls. To foster coherence among programs and initiatives and deploy fit-for-purpose financial products, support for inclusive planning is imperative.

Engage the Private Sector. Attract micro and small enterprises upfront in resilience policy formulation, planning and programming to strengthen their buy-in and ensure actions can be scaled-up by the private sector.

3.1.3 Recommended Actions

Institutional Capacity Building

It is important to strengthen institutional governance to scale-up adaptation to climate change.

- Support countries and sectors mainstreaming resilience in their plans and policies through systems thinking and translating these into actionable and transformative efforts and investments. Promote ways to measure and verify these initiatives through multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Support countries in revising policy and planning frameworks to ensure policy coherence and enabling environment for NbS. Ensure rights-based approach to NbS considering the rights, knowledge and needs of local communities and indigenous people. Consider traditional and local knowledge on NbS.
- Work with the government, academia, private sector and non-government organisations at regional, national, local and community levels to understand current and future risks and their long-term systemic impacts on the economic sectors. Identify options and shift to new ways of doing things as the situation requires.



- Provide venues for governments, academia, private sector and non-government organisations (NGO) to engage; understand their vulnerabilities and abilities to co-create solutions for resilience building; and identify opportunities to work together on tangible actions, for example in agriculture and tourism sectors.
- Focus on strengthening delivery system for resilience outcomes by improving procedures, processes, and systems, and bringing about a cultural change within organisations.
- Support grassroot organisations, which are closest to the people, especially empowering women-led and gender equality organisations to drive the resilience agenda on the ground.
- Foster transformation across frameworks. Support countries in harmonising their climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and biodiversity frameworks, using NbS as a crosscutting tenet.
- Design and implement capacity building and training for non-traditional actors.
- Seize the opportunity of building a green post-pandemic recovery. Current governance approaches of designing and implementing NbS at scale must be significantly revised.
- Build the capacity of local governments and communities. Use bottom-up and multi-stakeholder approaches in assessing and building community resilience. Institutional capacity development of municipal and provincial local government units is paramount to enhancing climate resilience.

Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- Foster a whole-of-society approach, by supporting platforms for multi-stakeholder cooperation in Asia-Pacific that include international organisations, research institutions, private companies, citizens and non-governmental organisations.
- Leverage on local scale EbA solutions to analyse how ecosystem services impact human well-being interlinkages.
- Provide evidence such as local, traditional knowledge, scientific and technical findings to inform policy making and support a system-wide approach to development plans.
- Share evidence-based results of NbS interventions to demonstrate the competitive advantage over grey infrastructure and make it an economic case for economists and developers.
- Use standards to ensure NbS interventions benefit nature and people.
- Adopt local-scale EbA for climate resilience and embed traditional, local, and both women's and men's specific knowledge.
- Identify local needs and gaps, provide guidance and support communicating community-level results to higher levels.
- Shift to a rights-based approach on NbS by documenting the value of nature for local communities and indigenous people.



3.2 Planning and Processes

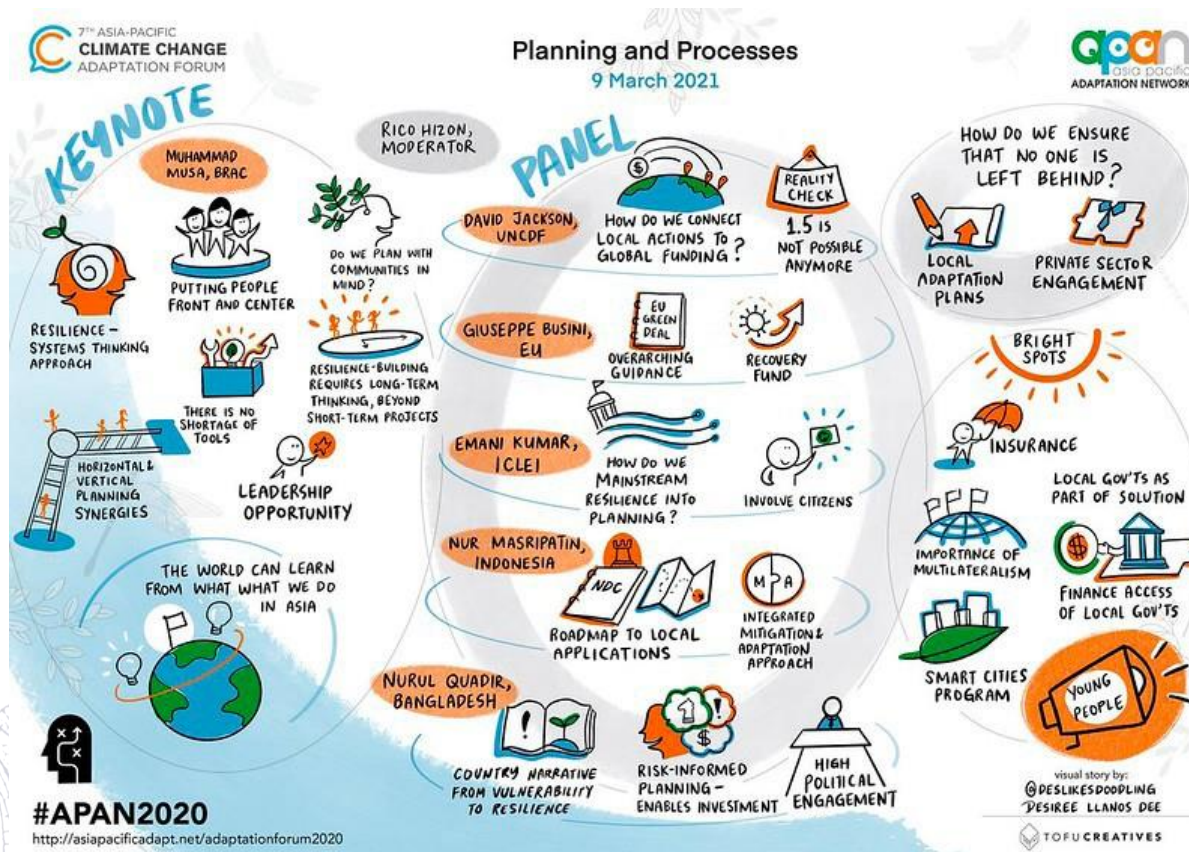


Figure 3. Visual Summary of the Planning and Processes Session © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives

3.2.1 Key Messages

Resilience is a journey that requires systems thinking and a rights-based approach. Resilience must put people, especially the most vulnerable, as primary beneficiaries and recognise their powerful role as change agents. Communities on the front line are leading adaptation measures with their local knowledge but should not be expected to take on the burden of climate change on their own.

Planning and processes provide the opportunity to work together and bring all stakeholders to the table. Local communities, along with a broader range of stakeholders, including insurance companies, and more generally the private sector, local governments, and youth are not to be considered as recipients of top-down approaches, but rather agents of resilience building that should be consulted, involved and empowered. Strong political will and leadership are key to creating a coordinated resilience-building process.

As countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important not to lose sight of the climate crisis, but rather take the chance to break down persistent sectoral siloes in decision-making and promote a healthier, greener and fair recovery, with social protection and decent jobs at the centre of adaptation planning.



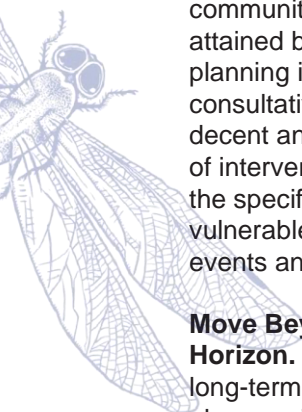
3.2.2 Step Changes

Break the Silos. Planning and processes require vertical and horizontal integration across sectors, which demand strong leadership and willingness to coordinate among different levels. A combination of both bottom-up and top-down approaches is required. Greater resilience will not only stem from national governments, but also from other actors such as civil society organisations (CSO), young people and local authorities. Multi-stakeholder engagement is needed at all stages, including through the participation of local and national champions.

Promote Coordinated Adaptation Planning Processes and Mainstream Climate Change. Adaptation planning needs to strengthen the linkage between planning, budgeting, and programming. However, such coordinated approaches require resources and capacity. Adopt more integrated, coordinated and cross-sectoral action for building resilience to climate change and biodiversity loss, leveraging on NbS.

Adopt a People-centric and Context-specific Approach. Put people at the centre, particularly, vulnerable groups, and give specific attention to the needs and perspectives of men, women, indigenous communities and youth. This could be attained by ensuring that adaptation planning is by design, participatory and consultative, and that a just transition with decent and green jobs are the corner stone of interventions and investments. Consider the specific context and needs of the most vulnerable groups affected by extreme events and disasters.

Move Beyond a Short-term Planning Horizon. Shift towards scenario-based and long-term planning. Planning is not a stand-alone project, but about getting climate change adaptation and locally-based adaptation mainstreamed through processes that encourage long-term thinking. Move from a project-based approach to a programmatic one. Planetary crises such as climate change have no boundaries, thus multilateralism, regional and transboundary cooperation are essential.



3.2.3 Recommended Actions

Institutional Capacity Building

- Promote participation of all stakeholders by integrating channels of participation at all stages of planning, programming, and implementation. Collect disaggregated data to help build the resilience of the most vulnerable people and ensure a gender-equitable and inclusive response. Strengthen access to information. Prioritise the interests of the most marginalised and the most socially excluded.
- Support systemic change at country level to carry out risk assessments and adopt risk-informed planning.
- Support countries in generating evidenced-based information and undertaking vulnerability assessments towards developing national adaptation and sectoral plans at national and local levels; mainstreaming adaptation planning in budgeting and investment programming; and monitoring and evaluation interventions.
- Support local governments in replicating successful local and traditional adaptation measures and integrating these measures into NAP and NDC processes.
- Encourage governments to develop a more streamlined environment for engaging the private sector in adaptation planning and investment programming.
- Institutionalise intersectional human rights-based approaches to policies. Enable decision-makers to be held accountable and rights-bearers to be included in the decision-making process. It is also crucial to tackle all forms of discrimination by shifting mindsets.
- Provide capacity-building opportunities for women and other marginalised groups to ensure they have a place in decision-making, thereby challenging the norm and advocating for transformative change.



- Monitor impacts of climate change on biodiversity with local communities and devise locally appropriate indicators and metrics.
- Develop appropriate guidelines to avoid maladaptation practices.

Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- Make use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and resource management to assess and capture current experiences.
- Foster learning exchanges between local, state and national governments to discuss the challenges, communities are encountering in adapting to climate change and to refine current policies with new scientific and local knowledge.
- Support the co-creation of a network of self-innovative cities to serve as a marketplace and knowledge-sharing space for multi-stakeholder exchanges and demand-based resource mobilisation. It will enhance synergies to avoid duplication of efforts while scaling up and accelerating climate action at the local level.

- Engage the academia to ensure that science-based resilience building reaches the most vulnerable. Current experiences of educational partnerships in the region should be scaled-up.
- Combine traditional and local knowledge on NbS with scientific evidence to create best custom-tailored approaches.
- Collaborate in city-based resilience-building initiatives at local, vertical and regional levels.
- Explore synergies among development frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and New Urban Agenda.





3.3 Science and Assessment

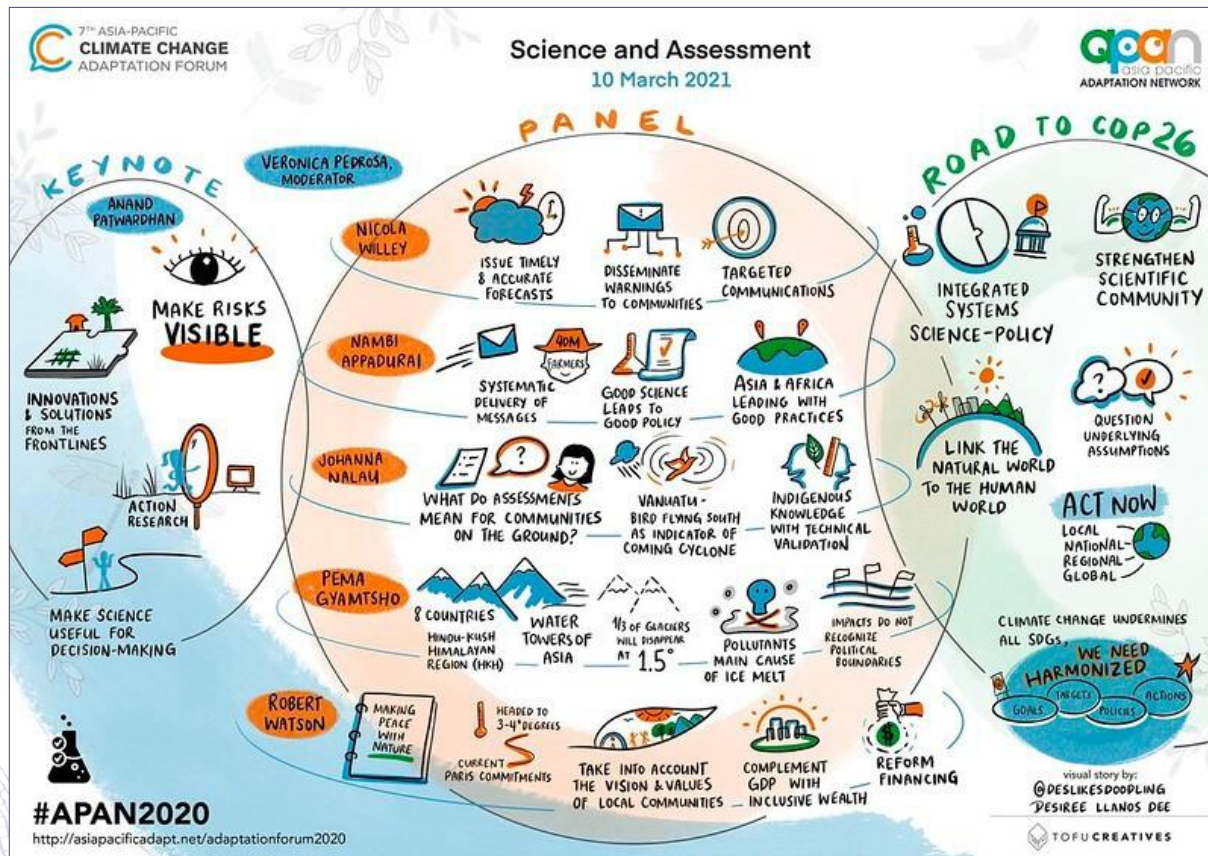


Figure 4. Visual Summary of the Science and Assessment Session © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives

3.3.1 Key Messages

The best available science can help decision-makers. It is through science that climate change risks have become visible. It also provided an explanation of why and where there are risks. This in-depth understanding of climate hazards has also shed light on people's exposure to risk. Yet, better understanding and management of transboundary risks is also necessary. It is also important to understand what role science and risk assessments do play in policy- and decision-making processes and whether waiting for more precise and accurate data might also be used to defer decisions on adaptation.

Natural and human worlds are linked through adaptation. Social capital and social wealth are often neglected within environmental science, but there is a need for a wider integration to fight the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss while meeting the SDGs and ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights.



Innovation and solutions for climate change adaptation come from the bottom-up, from those at the front line, as well as from scientific laboratories. Science has helped to develop methodologies and validate some of the available technologies. However, technologies do not necessarily meet the needs of those at the front line. There is a need to enhance understanding of how climate science is implemented by communities on the ground by looking at indigenous and local traditional knowledge to suit local circumstances.

The integration of science and assessments provides a collective opportunity to work across disciplines and boundaries. The engagement of communities is of utter importance in science. Local values and knowledge need to be considered to enhance adaptation strategies that are location-bound. Greater collaborative and meaningful partnerships along with strengthened regional and transboundary cooperation are key to advancing adaptation actions and approaches.

3.3.2 Step Changes

Adopt a User-centric Approach. Demystify science and translate it into a language that can be useful for all. Scientific knowledge should also encompass social and behavioural science to enable people to adopt different practices. Engage with Local Communities.

Engage with Local Communities. Communication activities should target audiences' needs across sectors and include cross-country learnings. In order to bridge the adaptation knowledge gap, supply and demand require alignment through curating context-specific knowledge for targeted users and better coordination among actors. Scientific information needs to be presented in a way that is understandable and usable and by everyone including vulnerable communities.

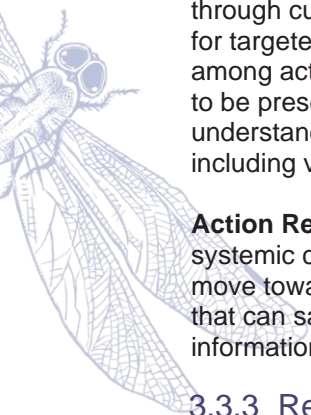
Action Research. There is an urge for systemic changes in adaptation science to move toward action-oriented research methods that can satisfy a dual need for policy-relevant information and scientific knowledge.

3.3.3 Recommended Actions

Institutional Capacity Building

- Raise awareness on transboundary climate risks and support countries addressing them. All countries, regional bodies and international organisations should strengthen cooperation in adaptation planning to recognise and identify transboundary climate risks, assess their impacts on the most vulnerable, and implement just and inclusive adaptation actions that can manage them in ways that enhance regional and global resilience.

- Support countries' understanding and accounting for transboundary climate risks in their NAPs and NDCs. Each country should recognise that transboundary climate risks could compromise their NAPs and NDCs and commit to actions to address them. The risk assessments upon which NAPs are based need to account for remote climate impacts and account for their own transboundary effects.
- Promote regional cooperation to address transboundary climate risks and deliver climate action at scale and with speed. Regional organisations should improve understanding of transboundary climate risks at the regional level and support their members to cooperate and work together to address and manage these risks in inclusive ways.
- Support the development of a mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that can regularly inform Parties on transboundary risks to address them through their NAPs. Stimulate regional cooperation and encourage Parties to commit to actions that strengthen inclusive resilience.
- Promote the development and use of science-based data and narratives to assess the effects and benefits of NbS. Translate climate model outputs into inputs for building complex risk scenarios that support evidence-based decision-making in multiple sectors to strengthen climate resilience.

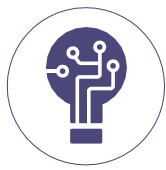




Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- Enhance accessibility to scientific knowledge for the integration of climate change adaptation, DRR and biodiversity conservation through approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and utilisation of local knowledge.
- Develop and disseminate tools that can assist with context-specific climate and disaster risk vulnerability and impact assessments. Web applications can support the dissemination of scientific knowledge to a variety of users in different contexts such as the development of high-quality disaster prevention infrastructure, promotion of NbS, review of land use planning including relocation to areas with lower disaster risk, and development of early warning and evacuation systems.
- Use tailored approaches to meet the needs of each region since climate impacts and measures are location specific.
- Promote international cooperation that is critical for ensuring that science reaches the user community. This requires collaboration between scientific and user communities, like the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Program, the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities – Network (EPIC-N).
- Encourage strategic networking activities such as the ones conducted by AP-PLAT to share scientific knowledge and capacity-building experiences. These initiatives could also be instrumental in addressing emerging priorities, such as integration between climate change adaptation and DRR, adaptive recovery and green recovery from COVID-19.
- Endorse a culture of change among researchers and stakeholders to work across the inherent divide between academia, policy-makers and communities.
- Promote traditional knowledge to inform policies and interventions as it offers insights into indigenous peoples' spiritual beliefs, dignity and practices that can enhance local resilience.
- Promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
- Exalt the role of universities and researchers in supporting communities and local resilience. Longer time frames are needed for researchers to engage meaningfully with communities toward climate resilience. Existing efforts such as the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) and EPIC-N can be scaled up to bridge the divide between universities and communities.





3.4 Technologies and Practices

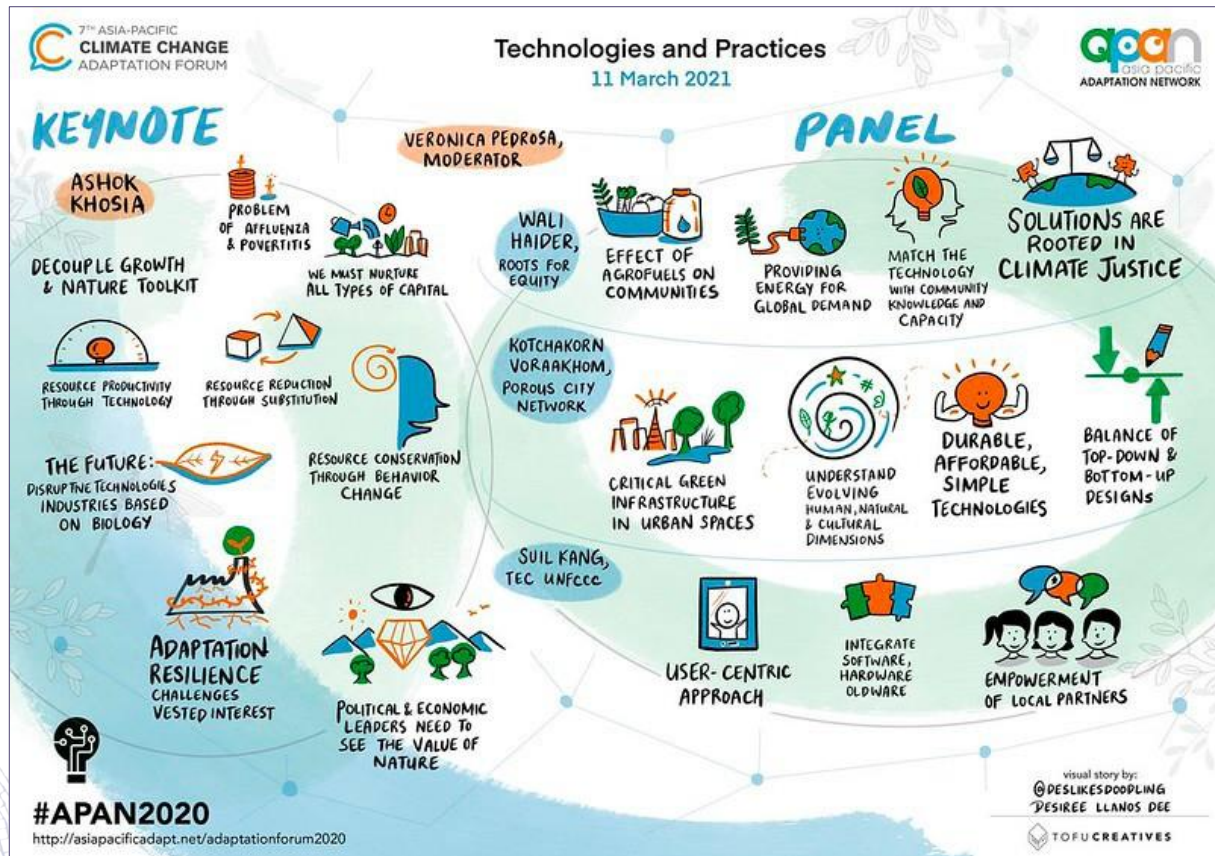


Figure 5. Visual summary of the Technologies and Practices Session © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives

3.4.1 Key Messages

Technologies and practices for adoption need to nurture and value physical, financial, natural and human capitals and harness the power of nature. Nature can teach us how to think differently by mimicking ecosystems. NbS can provide multiple cross-sectoral benefits, contributing to the necessary paradigm shift in resilience from grey to green infrastructure.

Technologies and innovations need to be based on nature and integrate a social dimension to create a more fulfilling future for all. Development must be for everyone, especially for future generations and the most vulnerable. One size does not fit all. The deployment of technologies requires an integrated and participatory approach that involves local communities, technical experts and other key stakeholders for co-management and shared governance. Interventions should address root causes and be built on a sound understanding of the specific local conditions.

To meet the needs of end users, high-tech and local technologies that are grounded in local realities are required. People, landscape and culture are to be considered when adopting a new technology. The human function needs to be embedded into the design and it is of utter importance to protect the users' rights.



Technologies and practices must ensure that local communities have and will retain the rights and access to ecosystem resources and take part in decision-making about how these resources are used.

Technology must be durable, affordable and simple. To this end, it is necessary to harness industrial ecology, optimise systems such as information technology and management methods and adopt disruptive technologies that can support the shift from efficiency to sufficiency and decoupled growth. Mitigation and adaptation synergies go together and it is pivotal to promote technologies that can enhance both.

Power dynamics, including gendered power dynamics, play a key role in how technology is adopted and deployed. It also affects the abilities of communities to adapt and build resilience. With climate change already affecting the most vulnerable, a good balance between bottom-up and top-down approaches is required to ensure that technologies benefit local communities.

Technology and innovation, scalability and adaptability, local co-production and sharing of knowledge, strengthening governance, and using low-cost technology for community-based and community-owned disaster preparedness are all elements of building lasting resilience.

3.4.2 Step Changes

Combine Bottom-up and Top-down

Approaches. Technologies generally tend to be embraced in a silo approach, with limited feedback from the community on how the technology could be implemented on the ground. It is crucial to ensure that technologies benefit the most vulnerable and that applied solutions are rooted in climate justice, human rights and indigenous knowledge.

Apply User-centric and Context-specific

Technologies. Consider all aspects of technologies, such as hardware, software and old ware, among others. It is also urgent to involve local stakeholders in the process and empower them to adopt technologies. Cross-sectoral trainings also play a role in the deployment of technologies.

Strengthen Innovation and Cooperation.

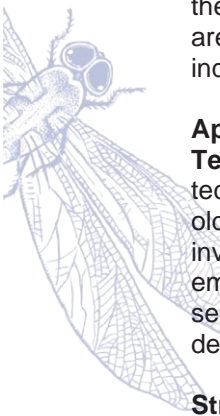
Strengthen partnerships among governments, private sector, research institutes, financial institutions and local communities that can facilitate co-development of solutions. Leverage on South-South and triangular cooperation.

- Power dynamics are affecting their abilities to adapt and build resilience leveraging on the power of nature. Nature has a higher value than industries. The urgency of this message needs to be translated into a language accessible by all.
- Pressure institutions to provide women and other marginalised groups with access to technology, infrastructure, information and training in climate-related technology sectors. Keeping a gender perspective will be key in building resilience to climate change and addressing the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increase the capacity among women on renewable energy technology, especially among indigenous communities, as access to climate-smart technologies and renewable energy can not only support women in saving time, improving health but also in securing climate-resilient livelihoods. There are untapped opportunities in supporting women leading the way forward in climate action.
- Reach out to non-traditional sectors to present evidence-based approaches on the competitive advantages of NbS over grey infrastructure. The pandemic brings along the unique opportunity to mobilise stakeholders to adopt and scale up nature-based climate technologies and practices to build back better.

3.4.3 Recommended Actions

Institutional Capacity Building

- Strengthen and build capacities of communities. Often, communities lack power and do not have the opportunity to act.





- Strengthen data collection, especially at disaggregated levels. Develop simple yet telling indicators that capture women's and other marginalised groups' multiple roles as users of energy services, managers of community resources, entrepreneurs, employees and community leaders.
- Transform data into understandable information products. Provide guidance through customised trainings for better data collection and analysis to meet users' needs.

Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- Make use of nuanced storytelling to generate empathy and place women at the front and centre of human experiences and demonstrate their leadership in ensuring resilient communities through technology. This will also help change the narrative about women and highlight their potential as changemakers.
- Build a database of good practices on women-led initiatives for climate action to increase knowledge of their role in adaptation. While it is clear that women play a central role in building climate resilience, they need to be supported by an enabling environment that adequately addresses their needs and provides them with access to information, technology and capacity building.



Their ability to cultivate collaboration and create change on the ground places them in the best position to address the gaps in inclusive resilience.

- Enhance engagement and innovative partnerships with key actors from the private sector, non-government actors, researchers and funding institutions.
- Conduct research to build the case for investing in women. More investments in women-centred initiatives for climate action and renewable energy are needed. It is important to promote the value-added they bring to challenge the usual climate change discourse.
- Leverage existing work and platforms to gather and share evidence of NbS effectiveness on climate change adaptation and other aspects of environmental resilience such as biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and food security.





3.5 Finance and Investment

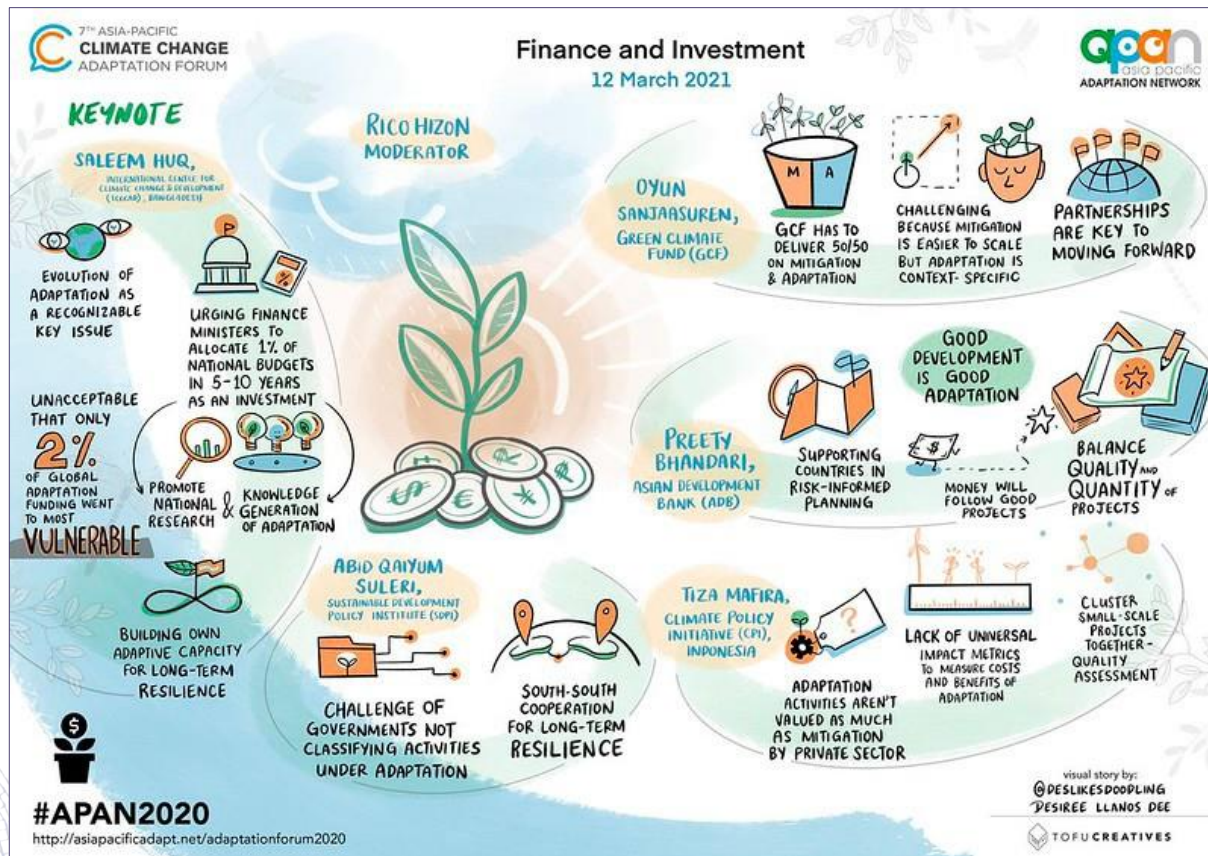


Figure 6. Visual summary of the Finance and Investment Session © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives

3.5.1 Key Messages

While the importance of investing in resilience is broadly recognised, the financing pace is inadequate. Climate change is happening much faster than the flow of funds, especially for developing countries. The funding proportion that reaches vulnerable communities remains extremely low, undermining resilience-building at local and community levels.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the lack of resilience of global systems. A green recovery must not only focus on mitigation. Adaptation is equally needed and building resilience is a great investment. Climate finance needs to be mainstreamed in public and private investments and adaptation needs to be part of the bigger investment picture. Climate funds tend to prioritise mitigation over adaptation as mitigation interventions are easier to scale up and adaptation ones very context-specific. Financing and investments for adaptation also receive less traction, especially from the private sector, due to a lack of universal impact metrics to measure adaptation costs and benefits.



The COVID-19 pandemic allows for a reset of climate finance plans and objectives. It has also re-emphasised the need for private investments to complement scarcer public resources for effective NbS uptake. Stimulus and recovery packages must include NbS, as nature provides opportunities for a green recovery and the creation of green jobs.

Flexibility is crucial to ensure access to resources for the most vulnerable. Investment and finance to enable inclusive resilience must be as diverse as the needs and groups that they are aiming to reach.

3.5.2 Step Changes

Reset Current Financial Systems. To support and incentivise mainstreaming of climate considerations into planning, budgeting and programming, current financial systems need to change. These need to unlock the deployment of innovative financial products that are accessible by vulnerable countries and communities for resilient investments. Such reset becomes critical in the context of COVID-19 recovery.

Explore Innovative Financing Business Models. To deal with the dual crisis of climate change and COVID-19 recovery, increasing the scale and quality of climate finance is critical. There is a need to identify novel areas for resilience building, modify financial systems to integrate climate financing and deploy innovative financial systems for adaptation and resilience targeting the most vulnerable.

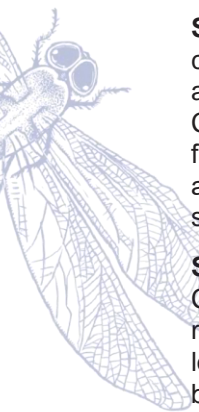
Support Locally Led Adaptation. Local communities must be treated as leaders and partners rather than beneficiaries. Climate finance must be long-term and flexible to meet communities' and local actors' needs with greater efforts to finance small-scale projects.

Strengthen Community Engagement. Communities, Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, local civil society organisations, local businesses and institutions, etc. must be actively involved as partners in adaptation finance from project planning to implementation. Young people are also asking for better commitment in public climate financing, especially to build resilience in local communities. In addition to access to adaptation finance, communities and local actors need to have the capacity to absorb finance and meet fiduciary requirements, indicating a role for training and capacity building to improve readiness.

3.5.3 Recommended Actions

Institutional Capacity Building

- Provide technical assistance to enhance upfront capacity to identify adaptation investments and to mainstream sustainable finance in national budgeting processes addressing climate resilience.
- Provide capacity building and technical assistance at the local level. These activities should engage local stakeholders to build their capacities in addressing gender equity, adopting holistic policies, exploring and diversifying finance, and expanding the contribution of various funders including the private sector.
- Improve data and information for both public and private investors. This will help develop and adopt comparable metrics for the full accounting of climate finance including capturing resilience value.
- Provide technical assistance in data collection necessary for baseline assessment in funding proposals. This assistance is particularly needed at community and local level, due to a lack of capacity and technical knowledge, when it comes to application and reporting procedures.
- Provide the private sector with the metrics to measure success in adaptation finance, to increase investment certainty and the overall amount of finance allocated to adaptation projects.
- Promote national research and knowledge generation for adaptation by local experts to build long-term resilience.



- Strengthen national adaptive capacity by investing in local capacity building, research and education.

Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange

- Promote collaborative efforts and cooperation among institutions for recovery through: providing debt relief, mainstreaming climate risks in investments, improving climate risk data for both public and private investors, and developing and adopting comparable metrics for the full accounting of adaptation finance.
- Facilitate learning, capacity building and dialogue among stakeholders – governments, financial institutions and the private sector - to share experiences, identify collaborative solutions and mobilise joint resources.
- Build stronger partnerships with local NGOs and CSOs to build ownership around project development from the planning phase to the reporting phase. This is particularly fundamental in building clear ownership and oversight for Indigenous People's groups.

- Higher education institutions are becoming active actors in adaptation research and knowledge generation. It is important to involve academic institutions in reaching out to communities with the aim to conduct action research.
- Foster collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders including marginalised voices, the private sector, academia and others to ensure that initiatives take justice seriously. The costs and time requirements for inclusive participation need to be acknowledged while noting that non-inclusiveness trumps or limits resilience outcomes.
- Promote cross-sectoral collaboration to mobilise public sector finance and external finance from through innovative approaches at the city level.
- Engage with all actors in the value chain, especially with the private sector, and focus on future generations. Bring in banking institutions and insurance companies to mobilise finance and investment.



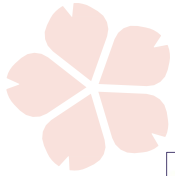
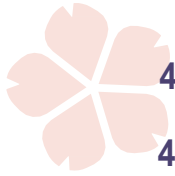


Figure 7. Visual Summary of the Forum Closing Plenary © UNEP-APAN/Tofu Creatives



4.0 About the Forum

4.1 Organiser and Partners

ORGANISER



HOST and MAIN SPONSOR



APAN SECRETARIAT



STREAM LEADS



SESSION PARTNERS





4.2. Forum Host

The Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ), as the lead environmental policymaking body of the Government of Japan, has the mandate to create a sustainable society that is healthy, pollution-free, rich in biodiversity and resilient. The MoEJ has the mission to “redesign” the socio-economic system in collaboration with international society in order to overcome the current dual crises the world is facing: the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan has a dedicated law on adaptation, the Climate Change Adaptation Act. This Act requires a whole-of-government approach to incorporate the adaptation perspective in every relevant policy. Additionally, one of Japan’s key strategies is to enhance the synergy between climate action and disaster risk reduction with the concept of “Adaptive Recovery”. It is a resilience measure that takes into account adaptation needs including the control of land use for communities to better adapt to climate change.

To further enhance the most vulnerable countries coping and adaptive capacity in the region, Japan has established a science-based knowledge platform on adaptation called Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT). With the aim to support the private sector, MoEJ also initiated collecting and sharing best practices of adaptation to assist them both in avoiding supply chain risks and in creating new business opportunities, supply chain risks and in creating new business opportunities.

A Japanese proverb about the importance of unity, based on a story told by the 16th century warlord Mouri Motonari to his three sons in his later years. Motonari first took an arrow and easily broke it. He then tried to break three arrows in a bundle, but was unable to do so. He told them, “One arrow is easy to break, but three arrows together are not so easy to break. I hope you will unite to protect the Mori Family.” Three sons vowed to follow his teachings. This is a message from Japan, the host country of the 7th APAN Forum to convey the message to unite the wisdom of the various actors in the Asia-Pacific region to promote adaptation in this era of Climate Crisis.



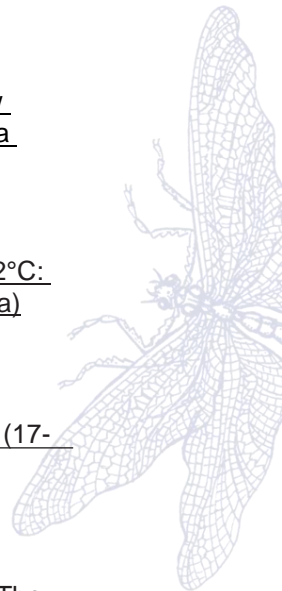
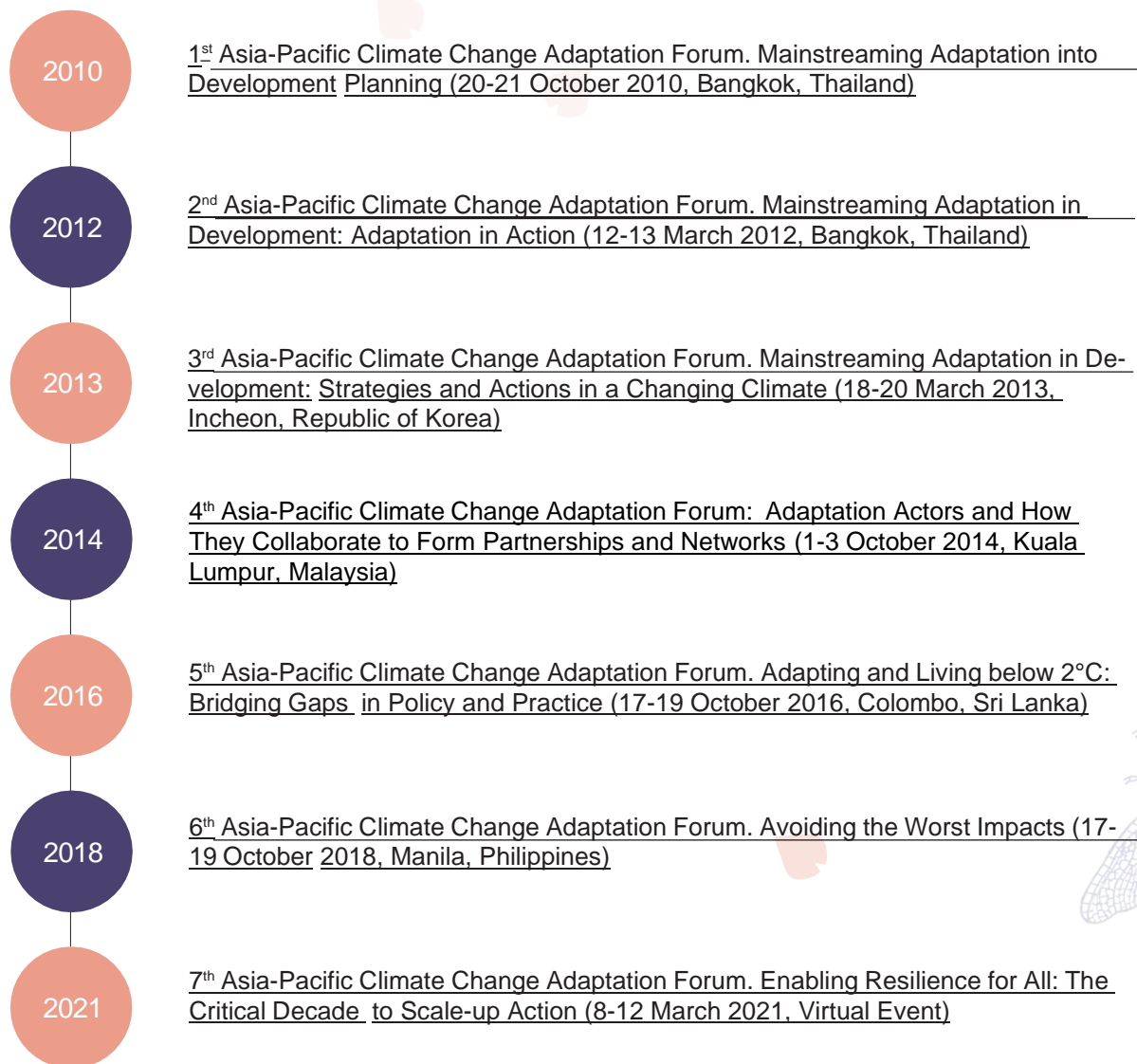


4.3 Forum Background

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) is the flagship event of the APAN Secretariat. It is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learnings and experiences, and work together towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change.

The APAN Forum has been active since 2010, hosted and sponsored by different governments and agencies and with varying themes of focus. Since 2010, the APAN Forum has grown and become a space for scientists, financing institutions, youth, civil society, international organisations, the private sector and governmental representatives from various line ministries from over 50 countries to meet, discuss and work together for greater partnerships for adaptation action.

4.4 APAN forums timeline





5.0 Reference

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2012). Glossary of terms. In *Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*. Field, C.B., V. Barros, T.F. Stocker, D. Qin, D.J. Dokken, K.L. Ebi, M.D. Mastrandrea, K.J. Mach, G.-K. Plattner, S.K. Allen, M. Tignor, and P.M. Midgley (eds.). Cambridge, UK and New York, USA: Cambridge University Press.
https://archive.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX-Annex_Gloss





www.asiapacificdapt.net