

Locally Led Adaptation: IPCC WGII Climate Change 2022 Report

The IPCC report demonstrated that adaptation is essential to reduce the risks and impacts from climate change and is more likely to be effective when it integrates Indigenous and local communities' knowledge and prioritises equity and justice. Locally led adaptation can support equity and justice by ensuring agency and equitable access to resources for local communities, especially those who face disproportionate climate risk.

With adaptation in the title of this [IPCC report](#), the topic of adaptation has been given significant prominence. The importance of foregrounding local communities for successful climate adaptation is referenced across chapters throughout the report as an enabling factor in climate resilience.

1. Protect vulnerable groups

Groups that have been marginalized, including Indigenous people, ethnic minority groups, and low-income households are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Locally led adaptation positions local and Indigenous communities at the heart of adaptation decision-making and is essential to boost climate resilience for vulnerable groups.

4. Prioritise integrated and inclusive governance

The effectiveness of governance for climate resilient development is enhanced by decision-making that is integrated across levels, including through the meaningful involvement and agency of local stakeholders. Research has demonstrated that adaptation actions are more effective if implemented in partnership with local communities and that initiatives based on Indigenous knowledge and practices are more sustainable and legitimate among local communities.

2. Include locally led adaptation in climate policy

At least 170 countries and many cities have included adaptation in climate policies and planning processes, including climate tools, services, and pilot projects across multiple sectors. These countries must now ensure that their policies support locally led adaptation and address social inequities with funding and resources.

5. Identify locally relevant climate stressors and solutions

Local communities are often best placed to identify the climate solutions that they need and prioritize different dimensions of climate-related risks. They should have the power to influence decision-making and resource allocation to reflect their priorities. Adaptation initiatives that identify locally relevant climate stressors and risks through knowledge co-production have the potential to be more acceptable and effective.

3. Recognize and value Indigenous and local knowledge systems

Indigenous and local knowledge systems can shape how climate change risk is understood and experienced and offers the possibility of developing successful climate adaptation solutions grounded in place-based experiences. This knowledge should be valued alongside scientific research as complimentary and essential to climate adaptation efforts.

6. Invest in engaging local stakeholders

Equitable partnerships between local and municipal governments, Indigenous peoples, communities and local small businesses, and civil society can advance development for a climate resilient and equitable future across sectors. Sufficient time and resources should be allocated for meaningful engagement between these stakeholder groups.

7. Raise political ambition

Adaptation is unequally distributed both within and between countries, with lower income population groups the most affected. Locally led climate adaptation can be integrated with social protection programs and considered alongside basic services and infrastructure to build climate resilience that reflects the priorities of local communities on the frontlines of climate change, and integrates their knowledge and expertise.

Adaptation Action Coalition

The Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC) is a state-led coalition of 40 (and counting) member countries driving adaptation action to achieve a climate-resilient world by 2030. By accelerating global action on adaptation, the AAC will help people, economies and the planet become more resilient and equitable.



To find out more visit the AAC website.

To learn more about joining, contact AAC@wri.org

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