COP27
Resilience Hub
Synthesis Report
Key messages and future directions
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hub Partners
The Hub is led by a diverse set of Partners from different regions and sectors who guide decisions and programming to ensure they reflect the priorities and knowledge of communities most susceptible to climate change and address barriers to scaling up action on resilience.

The Race to Resilience
The Resilience Hub acts as the home to the Race to Resilience, the UN-backed campaign to mobilise greater ambition and action from state and non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from climate-vulnerable communities by 2030.

The Resilience Hub Partners and Steering Committee collaborate with the Race to Resilience campaign on the implementation of the Resilience Hub at COP27, and create an active connection to the incoming and present COP Presidencies.

Managing Partners
The Managing Partners are coordinating with external partners who provide strategic oversight of the Hub to ensure it is meeting its overall purpose and objectives in coordination with other processes around COP and the overall aim to elevate action and finance for adaptation and resilience on par with mitigation measures.

Hub Sponsors
A big thank you for all of our sponsors, without whom the Resilience Hub would not have been possible: Deutsche Bank · JP Morgan Chase · CIFAR Alliance · KPMG · FCDO (UK Government) · PWC · Smithsonian Institution · Marsh McLennan · Walton Family Foundation · Deloitte.

Hub Supporters
We would like thank ARUP and Meta for their support and engagement at the Hub.
We would also like to thank the Government of Peru for their ongoing support on helping the Hub’s partners share their action on climate adaptation and resilience.

Theme Leads
Finance and Investment: InsuResilience Global Partnership · Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment CCRI · IIED · Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC) · World Resources Institute
Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Action: Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) · Near East Foundation (NEF) · The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) · Howden Group · UNDRR
Food and Agriculture: World Resources Institute · Scale for Resilience · Efficiency for Access Coalition · Stockholm Security Hub (SIPRI; SEI; SRC; SIWI)
Water and Natural Ecosystems: Resilience Knowledge Coalition · Water Resilience Coalition · CEO Mandate · Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) · United Nations International Federation of Youth for Water and Climate (UN1FY)
Cities and Urbanisation: Slum Dwellers International (SDI) · CCFLA (Cities Finance Leadership Alliance) · Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) · Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
Infrastructure, Energy, and Mobility: International Coalition of Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI) · Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) · Build Change · WSP
Ocean and Coasts: Ocean Risk and Resilience Alliance (ORRAA) · Lloyd’s Register Foundation · RARE
Health and Wellbeing: Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance · Mott MacDonald · World Health Organisation (WHO)
Regional Hub Leads
Africa: Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), hosted by SouthSouthNorth (SSN)
South Asia: International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
Asia Pacific: Global EverGreening Alliance
Latin America and Caribbean: Fundación Avina

Hub Design and Event Production
Thank you to CambridgeSeven for creating an inspiring design of the Hub in Sharm- el-Sheikh and to Giggabox for a seamless hybrid event production to make this Hub an inclusive experience for all.

ABOUT THIS REPORT
The report was authored by Corina Angheloiu and Anastasia Brainich with input from the Managing Partners, Regional Hub and Theme Leads.

Cover image: Ropes with young seaweed plants are tethered to underwater stakes on the shallow sea bed by one of Wagina Island’s (Solomon Islands) seaweed farming families. he region has become a sea level rise hotspot, with the Pacific Ocean there rising three times the global average: 7-10mm per year. The farmers’ fast-growing Kappaphycus red algae crop absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide in the 3 months it takes to mature. But increasingly intense storm systems can rip whole lines of seaweed from their underwater tethered stakes. Warming and acidifying oceans further decrease the quality, weight and maturation rate of the seaweed. The islanders’ produce is sold to France, Vietnam, and China for everything from pharmaceuticals to food stabilisers: an important source of foreign exchange for the Solomons. Photo credit: Adam Sébire / Climate Visuals

Suggested citation

Managing Partners
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resilience Hub is an inclusively built virtual and physical space that aims to mobilise greater levels of ambition and action on building resilience to climate change. The Resilience Hub was conceived and created by three organisations, The Global Resilience Partnership, the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, and Resilience Rising. These organisations saw the need to create a home for resilience at COP to act as a central gathering place to help drive greater awareness, inclusive action, and investment. It was born in close collaboration with the High Level Climate Champions Team and is home to the Race to Resilience campaign at COP, representing over 1,500 non-state actors taking action on resilience around the world.

“As the gap between knowledge and action continues to grow, the Resilience Hub is playing an essential role to accelerate the ambition, action and investment that is urgently needed on adaptation and resilience. I hope everyone joins the Resilience Hub either in-person or virtually to see locally-led resilience solutions which can be implemented at scale, helping protect people and nature from climate hazards.”

— Dr Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt, COP27

Now in its second edition, this report synthesises the main messages from the COP27 Resilience Hub and aims to help set the direction for future action towards COP28 and beyond. The report first provides an overview of the key adaptation and resilience decisions and announcements that took place during COP27; it then presents the key messages resulting from the events of the Resilience Hub and offers concluding remarks on next steps towards COP28 and beyond.

Five cross-cutting messages emerged:

1. Scaling action on adaptation and resilience is inextricably linked to, and a prerequisite for, containing the magnitude of Loss and Damage.

2. While significant finance gaps remain, a wider diversity of financial actors are taking action to embed resilience as part of strategies, operations, and reporting.

3. The spectrum of mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and Loss and Damage requires a concerted approach to the governance of implementation.

4. Arts, heritage, and culture must be at the heart of adaptation and resilience action – protecting them is key to thriving livelihoods and human development.

5. Locally-led adaptation (LLA) and resilience implementation requires radical collaboration across actors and scales.

Besides summarising the key overarching messages, the synthesis report presents findings and insights from four Regional Hubs and from the nine themes explored in the Resilience Hub during COP27. The Regional Resilience Hubs took place in the lead up to COP27 to ensure that best practices on resilience and perspectives of those most susceptible to and affected by climate change are amplified and increasingly drive the agenda at COP.
A member of staff sprays water onto plants with the help of an irrigation pack with an integrated solar panel, in the remote islands of Gaibandha, Bangladesh, where agriculture has been started with the help of solar panels called “Solar Irrigation”.

Photo credit: Abir Abdullah / Climate Visuals
## CONTENTS

Executive Summary ................................................................................................................................. 3  
The Road to COP27: Regional Resilience Hubs ..................................................................................... 6  
Adaptation and Resilience at COP27 ........................................................................................................ 8  
The Resilience Hub at COP27 ............................................................................................................... 10  
Key Messages ............................................................................................................................................ 12  
Art and Performances at the Hub .......................................................................................................... 14  
Thematic summaries

*Finance and Investment* ......................................................................................................................... 16  
*Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Action* ........................................................................ 20  
*Food and Agriculture* ............................................................................................................................ 22  
*Water and Natural Ecosystems* ............................................................................................................ 26  
*Cities and Urbanisation* .......................................................................................................................... 29  
*Infrastructure, Energy, and Mobility* .................................................................................................... 33  
*Ocean and Coasts* .................................................................................................................................. 35  
*Arts, Culture, Antiquities, and Heritage* ............................................................................................... 37  
*Health and Wellbeing* ........................................................................................................................... 41  
Highlights from the COP26 and COP27 post-event surveys ............................................................... 44  
Next steps towards COP28 and beyond ................................................................................................. 46
Ahead of COP27, we hosted a series of Regional Resilience Hubs to ensure that diverse perspectives and best practices on resilience are amplified and help drive the agenda at COP. Each Regional hub was spearheaded by an anchor regional institution who invested significant efforts to build meaningful partnerships with local stakeholders and bring them into this process of co-creation. The Hubs also served as a way to increase inclusion and equity into COP spaces and decrease some of the barriers to traditional on-site conferencing.

The Regional Resilience Hubs play a crucial role of ensuring the voices and perspectives of traditionally under-represented communities are amplified and heard. The series of events has sought to illuminate and connect regional priorities, actions, solutions, and challenges on the global stage at COP27. As a part of this process, we commissioned graphic harvesters to capture key findings, discussions and challenge areas that resonated the most within each region. The thematic sections spotlight key messages from the Regional Hubs, while a selection of infographics and cartoons is embedded throughout the report. Recordings of the Regional Hub sessions can found on the Hub’s YouTube channel. For a full interactive experience, visit the online hub here.

Regional Resilience Hub engagement was envisaged as part of a longer and broader process that spans beyond a single COP. The emphasis being on the process and with events being the vehicle for coordination and consolidation of local priorities. Engaging local communities and building trusting partnerships requires time, flexibility and commitment to ensuring meaningful outcomes for all parties engaged. We recognise that getting this process right means dedication to long-term timeframes and evolution over time. As a first step, the Resilience Hub has established a dedicated virtual platform that will remain open in 2023 and allow all to continue sharing, learning, and networking on it. Below is a screenshot of the Regional Resilience Hubs booths on the virtual platform. Each Hub is hyperlinked to its respective space. For first-time users, the linked image will take you to the registration page, after which you will be able to access and engage with the rich regional resources.

Regional Hubs were held in:

- **Africa**: led by the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), hosted by SouthSouthNorth (SSN)
- **South Asia**: led by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
- **Asia Pacific**: led by the Global EverGreening Alliance
- **Latin-America and the Caribbean**: led by Fundación Avina
4 REGIONAL HUBS TOOK PLACE IN THE RUN UP TO COP27

79 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND GRASSROOTS FEDERATIONS

4 HYBRID EVENTS AT COP27

INCREASING INCLUSION AND EQUITY INTO COP SPACES

TOWARDS COP28 AND BEYOND TO 2030

"Working on the Africa Resilience Hub was a humbling and inspirational experience. I was continuously reminded of the expertise, spirit, strength and knowledge that exists on this great and complex continent of ours. I saw how African resilience leaders, experts and practitioners get their hands dirty and work iteratively to find solutions, reflecting and being honest about what works and what doesn't in building resilience. We were able to bring these rich and varied experiences to the COP through the Resilience Hub and we'd like to thank the team for providing an open, warm and collaborative space for us to do so in."

— Michelle du Toit, CDKN Director Africa and Regional Engagement

"The Regional Hub provided a fabulous and unexpected opportunity to connect with more organisations in the Asia Pacific area. They'll be long lasting relationships that will enable greater collaboration in our own backyard."

— Sally Armitage, Head of Media and Communications, Global EverGreening Alliance
Since COP26, adaptation and resilience have become a visible and prominent theme in a way not seen before. While COP27 saw the breakthrough decision for a dedicated Loss and Damage fund (ask which had been 30 years in the making), little progress was made on the key issue that rose to the agenda at COP26 – adaptation finance. Ahead of the summit, new analysis from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) warned that the amount of adaptation finance flowing to developing countries is currently five to 10 times lower than what is needed.

The gap between need and existing commitments is stark. As COP27’s Sharm El Sheikh Implementation Plan acknowledges that US$ 4-6 trillion dollars per year will be needed to support transformations towards low-carbon, climate resilient pathways. The US$ 100 billion per year in climate finance for low- and middle-income countries, which was pledged by 2020, has not yet been met. This poses challenges to the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact, which included a target of doubling climate finance (based on a 2019 baseline) by 2025 including a balance between adaptation and mitigation, and more fit-for-purpose financial instruments. At COP27, the Pact was subject to a shift in language regarding how progress will be reported, as the final text requests a report rather than a roadmap on doubling adaptation funds. The continuation of insufficiently available adaptation finance will lead to increases in avoidable losses and damages. Closing the funding gaps on bears key implications for justice, as minimising the need for Loss and Damage results in less suffering, loss of lives and livelihoods and is key to equitable development outcomes.

Another key issue that rose to the agenda at COP26 was the need to diversify and tailor the types of financial instruments available. A year later, the conversation evolved into the need to address underlying barriers, with the COP27 text urging the reform of multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other international financial institutions (IFIs). A proposal put forward by Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, entitled the Bridgetown Initiative, is gaining international traction. The Initiative urges the IMF to channel unused Special Drawing Rights and use other ‘fiscal headroom’ to provide low-cost, long-term capital to borrowers and especially those low- and middle-income countries that need to reconstruct in climate resilient ways post-disasters. In a sign of increased multilateral action, President Macron of France has agreed to co-present the proposals with Prime Minister Mottley to the World Bank and IMF ahead of their Spring 2023 meetings.
The adaptation and resilience agenda was further elevated through the COP27 Presidency’s launch of the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda in partnership with the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership. This is the first global plan to rally both States and non-State actors behind a shared set of 30 Adaptation Outcomes by 2030. The Breakthrough Agenda has seen the launch of a package of 25 new collaborative actions to be delivered by COP28. Taken together, the signatories represent more than 70% of global GDP, with five key sectors in focus: power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture. On the Global Goal on Adaptation, governments agreed that the framework will be considered and adopted at the COP28 in 2023. This will inform the first Global Stocktake, the process of assessing progress on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Notable bright spots outside of the negotiation halls included the continued and growing mobilisation of youth voices. Building on previous year’s momentum, COP27 saw the first ever official youth-led climate dialogue, as well as the new Children and Youth Pavilion. The COP27 decision text urges governments to consider intergenerational equity and highlights ways to make this happen, such as including young people in national delegations.

Nature restoration, conservation, and the role of Nature based Solutions (NbS) featured prominently with progress including the mobilisation of approximately US$ 11 billion in NbS. This includes new initiatives and commitments such as the Forests Climate Leadership Partnership, AFR 100, the newly established blended finance instrument African Cities Water Adaptation Fund (ACWA Fund), the launch of the Enhancing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Transformation (ENACT), a new pact between Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to halt tropical deforestation and preserve biodiversity through participating in UN’s REDD+ programme, as well as the launch of the Mangrove Breakthrough, which sets out to secure 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030. Linking COP27 progress on NbS to the UN Biodiversity Conference that followed shortly after, highlights the need to mobilise trillions, rather than billions of dollars, which must be shifted away from financing nature-depleting towards nature-positive activities and climate solutions.

Taken together, the narrative emerging from COP27 depicts a patchwork of progress on addressing the adaptation gap and strengthening resilience, mixed with a disappointing lack of progress on critical issues such as mitigation action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. The climate crisis cannot be solved unless both are addressed in tandem. COP27 demonstrated the unequivocal power of radical, long-term collaboration across civil society, state, and non-state actors that led to the breakthrough decision on Loss and Damage. Building on this momentum, the road to COP28 must continue to match the highest ambition with enabling frameworks and ground rules to ensure implementation moves beyond voluntary action towards regulation that centres justice and equity.
THE RESILIENCE HUB AT COP27

The Hub was launched at COP26 in Glasgow, and for the first time climate resilience had a physical home at a COP, with over 17,000 virtual and physical participants. Following the success at placing resilience on the global climate agenda in Glasgow, the Resilience Hub returned for COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh with Regional Resilience Hubs running throughout the year to inform the final programme.

Guiding Principles for the Resilience Hub

- Inclusive and Representative: The Hub lifts up diverse voices that have been traditionally under-represented.
- Connecting Local to Global: Through Regional Resilience Hubs and increased regional partnerships, the Resilience Hub is ensuring regional priorities and stakeholders are adequately represented at COP27.
- Radical Collaboration: The Hub facilitates cross-partnership networking and encourages new collaboration between private, public and civil society actors, with a particular focus on amplifying community voices and local solutions that are frequently less heard in international climate dialogue spaces.
- Focus on Action, Progress and Accountability: The Hub is dedicated to advancing action on resilience and adaptation, showing what works and why; how to scale successful solutions; and raising further ambition.
- Working Across the COP Landscape: The Hub works in tandem with other COP27 pavilions to ensure convergence around adaptation and resilience are highlighted across programming.

The messages presented in this report were developed through a qualitative analysis of 50 Resilience Hub event reports produced by event leads, and with input from Resilience Hub Managing Partners, Regional Hub leads, and Theme leads.

"The Resilience Hub was a perfect home-away-from-home at COP27 and provided a space to breathe, to meet, and to collaborate. Our event at the Hub was a success, and it’s thanks to the fantastic work of the Resilience Hub that we were able to make it possible."
— Karen Sack, Executive Director, Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)

"The COPs are no longer just governments negotiating. We are part of the COP. We need to feel and understand that and be more ambitious going forward. Last year the Resilience Hub was a great success and this year we have improved on it. We have succeeded in moving it forward and linking the local with the global."
— Prof Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

Themes for COP27

The Resilience Hub themes for COP27 are designed and agreed upon by a Steering Committee of regionally and sectorally diverse non-state actors with input from Resilience Hub Managing Partners.

- Finance and Investment
- Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Action
- Food and Agriculture
- Water and Natural Ecosystems
- Infrastructure, Energy and Transport
- Cities and Urbanisation
- Oceans and Coastal Communities
- Arts, Antiquities, Culture and Heritage
- Health and Well-being
“The Resilience Hub was a safe haven through all the hustle and bustle at the COP. When you got there you were sure to grab a coffee and strike a conversation that resonated with the work that we are doing as SDI, including locally-led adaptation, understanding the dynamics of urban informality, bottom-up strategies and many more rich discussions. A place for building connections and networks that make a difference.”

— Melanie Chirwa, People’s Process on Housing & Poverty in Zambia (SDI)
Scaling action on adaptation and resilience is inextricably linked to, and a prerequisite for, containing the magnitude of Loss and Damage.

As the gap in adaptation funding for developing countries is currently five to ten times lower than the need. There is a pressing need to bridge this gap and scale adaptation and resilience action to avert maladaptation, as well as overshooting adaptation limits. Investing in adaptation and resilience is required to prevent the need for relief capital to address the damages and minimise the losses that result from climate change. Closing the funding gap on adaptation and resilience bears key implications for justice as minimising the need for Loss and Damage results in less suffering, loss of lives and livelihoods, and is key to equitable development outcomes.

In a positive development since COP26, the private sector, financial institutions, insurers, and asset managers are demonstrating progress on integrating climate risk and resilience action as core to their strategies, operations, and reporting. The diversification of private sector actors (such as big tech, or multinationals with global value chains), as well as the implementation of novel insurance products presents the potential to mobilise innovative adaptation and resilience solutions in ways that the public sector cannot.

While significant finance gaps remain, a wider diversity of financial actors are taking action to embed resilience as part of strategies, operations, and reporting.

The systemic and compounding nature of the challenges we face requires integrated, holistic responses that amplify synergies and co-benefits. For this to be successful, there is a need for inclusive decision-making processes, facilitated collaboration, and the aggregation of funding for systemic rather than piecemeal approaches. Implementation requires developing localised understandings of risk and vulnerabilities as well as solutions, however they need to be supported through integrated, rather than issue-based funding. The governance of implementation needs to support the negotiation of trade-offs and synergies regarding what is of value, what we protect and what we restore, while putting those most affected and historically marginalised at the heart of these processes.
Arts, heritage, and culture must be at the heart of adaptation and resilience action – protecting them is key to thriving livelihoods and human development.

Culture has the power to connect, bring meaning, and foster values of empathy and care that can be a foundation for the solutions we need. Accounting for the impact of climate on culture and values, and not just assets is key to equitable implementation. As non-economic losses (including intangible heritage such as skills, practices, rituals, expressions, knowledge) are starting to be better recognised in policy processes, the voices of custodians of culture need to be amplified as they hold irreplaceable knowledge, ways of connecting, listening, and meaning-making. Responses must evolve from seeing arts and culture as 'decoration', to recognising them as the very essence of what shapes our beliefs and values as human societies.

As momentum for LLA is increasing, local actors require the support of local, regional, and national governments as well as of the private sector to succeed. Better collaboration, risk pooling, and trusted relationships are needed both vertically and horizontally to improve community access and deliver more LLA. Implementation needs to recognise that local communities are in themselves heterogeneous and considerations of equity and justice are key to the design of LLA initiatives. This requires a rethink of how communities access flexible finance and the simplification of application and reporting requirements. Beyond access to finance, there is a need to consider the longer term process of capacity building and community development through building the organisational resilience of local stakeholders (such as community-led and grassroots organisations, as well as frontline organisations), as well as building the capacities of non-local actors to meaningfully engage at the local level.

Locally-led adaptation (LLA) and resilience implementation requires radical collaboration across actors and scales.
ART AND PERFORMANCES AT THE HUB
Aerial view of waves crashing at high tide on a black sand beach in Iceland.

Photo credits: Adam Sébire / Climate Visuals
Financing resilience effectively requires not just an increase in the absolute quantity of finance being pledged, but also a fundamental shift in perspectives around the quality, accountability and access to adaptation finance, with local communities and organisations being at the heart of discussions and investments.

Financing resilience requires pairing a localised understanding of climate risks with a systemic, multilevel approach to climate adaptation. This requires accelerating innovation and scaling up the use of blended finance, while recalibrating the perception and assessment of risk to include the cost of inaction, as well as noneconomic co-benefits of adaptation and resilience action. Investing in adaptation and resilience is required to prevent the need for relief capital to address the damages and salvage the losses that result from climate change. Closing the funding gaps on adaptation and resilience bears key implications for justice as minimising the need for Loss and Damage results in less suffering, loss of lives and livelihoods and is key to equitable development outcomes.

Though not a ‘silver bullet’, Debt for Nature swaps can provide fiscal space to address the climate financing gaps for developing countries. At present the majority of climate finance is loaned thereby exacerbating problems for debt laden countries that are suffering from the cost of COVID, rising energy and food imports and recession. Through diminished debt service obligations, swaps would finance nature through Key Performance Indicators including policy commitments from Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). This would expand investment in renewable energy, marine and terrestrial conservation, and land restoration. To be effective, Debt for Nature swaps need to be undertaken at a scale. While small countries have been able to do this in the past through philanthropic
support, swap funds should be managed through debtor government budgets, with MDBs and bilateral partners needing to scale up their support backed by the IMF.

“Debt swaps can constitute a giant step forward both for conservation and the economy. Our $264m Blue Bond, the largest of its kind today, entirely financed by private capital, not only provided cash flow relief, but an immediate reduction of our debt burden by 16% and of our debt to GDP ratio by 25%. We are now on a path of debt sustainability and we have opened up much needed fiscal space for planned priority areas such as health, education, and conservation.”
— Christopher Coye, Minister of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, Government of Belize

There is a need for sustained conversations and institutional reform to support national and local governments with tools for ex-ante finance and risk management in contexts where data is lacking. There is growing consensus on the critical role of insurance in adaptation and resilience and progress over the past year has seen the launch of a number of innovative insurance products. Scaling these pilots requires insurance to become more ‘seamless’ and be more accessible for entrepreneurs and businesses through practical products that protect both lenders and borrowers. Tackling systemic exposure requires adjusting signals such as pricing to enable high-risk borrowers to access credit and investment.

“There is too much focus on negotiations, policies, and strategies, whilst people are suffering from drought, lack of food, and losing livestock. We need to channel resources to the people who need it most.”
— Charles Mwangi, Thematic lead, Resilient people society and Economies/Africa Coordinator for Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

“We must make local finance easily accessible to grassroots women...we need other methods, not writing in English and jargon. Can we apply by video? Can we show what they are able to do?”
— Rosemary Atieno, Co-Founder Women Climate Centers International (WCCI) / Director Community Mobilization for Positive Empowerment-COMPE

Better collaboration, risk pooling, and accountability are needed both vertically and horizontally to improve community access to finance and to scale LLA. Challenges for clear accountability relate to the poor traceability of funds, the complexity of reporting, the high degree of intermediation involved in delivering finance, as well as traditional approaches to accountability that see funders requiring reporting on how finance is accounted rather than enabling recipients to hold funders accountable to their commitments. Tackling these requires concrete targets for adaptation finance that reaches the local level, with funders and intermediaries needing to demonstrate progress on how they are devolving finance and governance. Options could include formally requiring local level, community, or lived experience representation in partnerships, boards, or decision-making panels. The aggregation of funding is critical to scale the implementation of LLA, however reporting should be structured against aggregated measures and outcomes rather than by funder.

“Just 10% of funds get to local level which is close to a tragedy, and as Minister I need to make sure the money gets to local communities.”
— Minister Anne Beathe Tvinnereim Minister of International Development Norway

“At least 25% of all adaptation financing coming in needs to be delivered to the front lines.”
— Dr Ainka Granderson, Senior Technical Officer, Caribbean Resources Institute (CANARI)
Launches and announcements at COP27

- Within the LLA community, the design of a methodology is underway to track how well providers of finance are delivering on their promise. It involves pulling together data from across a range of sources, validation of that analysis with communities, and dialogue to build the capacities of climate finance providers to deliver Locally Led Adaptation, with a call for engagement with this methodology underway.

- A comparative analysis of providers’ reported and pledged adaptation finance suggests that the combined bilateral and multilateral adaptation finance in 2025 will only reach $22.8 billion — a shortfall of $17.2 billion. IIED’s analysis suggests that providers could achieve an extra $14.3 billion by 2025 if each country pays its ‘fair share’ or if pledges are doubled year on year for those countries most off track.

- CANARI is leading a year-long process to develop the framework for a new investment in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), investment which will target 33 sites that target 1.2 million hectares in eight countries, with 91% of their land area is partially or completely protected.

- ICCCAD and IIED are undertaking research in two regions in southern Bangladesh on the gender impacts of loss and damage, for example the arising stigma of marrying daughters to disaster-prone areas, or the ways in which culture and customs are affected by the increasing salinisation of the soil and changes in the availability of flowers used in traditional ceremonies. Documenting the impact on cultural heritage as well as on mental health is key to understanding the ways in which adaptation measures can help, as well as what their limits might be.

- Fundación Avina launched BASE, an initiative that convenes partners to work collaboratively and promote funding of locally-led climate solutions using approaches that ensure climate rationale, simplicity and speed. BASE announced the first track of grants to be implemented in tropical forest which will open at the beginning of 2023. BASE expects that the different grantmaking schemes that will be implemented will generate evidence of climate impact and promote collective advocacy at national, regional, and global levels for changing climate financing practices for local solutions.

Spotlight from the LAC Regional Hub: Financing the resilience of the region from the perspective of Indigenous communities needs to...

- Take into account the reality of Indigenous peoples or local communities when designing solutions.
- Decentralise climate information for the development of projects and access to finance and increase the accessibility of application processes, including considerations of different languages and dialects, as well as the use of professional jargon.
- Position a view of ecological transition to a model based on life. Indigenous people and local communities still demonstrate economic schemes that go beyond industrial frontiers and extractivism.
- Focus climate finance on mitigation and adaptation outcomes. These must be actively sought to protect the lives of Indigenous peoples, their territories, and livelihoods.

Spotlight from the South Asia Regional Hub

Can frontline constituencies have a seat at the table and participate in the National Adaptation Program?

Institutionalising the relationship between frontline constituencies and national and local government is the first step to acknowledging their participation and legitimising their contribution to finding solutions that work for people living in specific geographies.

Can finance be strategically designed to partner and build capacity of different local actors, keeping front-line communities at the centre?

Strategic partnership with different stakeholders e.g. national and local government, universities, climate institutions and frontline constituencies will allow each partner to build their own capacity while learning to work with each other creating the check and balances much needed between different interest groups.

Can providers invest in building organisational resilience of local constituencies in specific geographies?

Consolidating frontline constituencies of similar geographies and building local leadership will improve their organisational resilience and adaption strategies (Mountain community networks, Coastal community networks, Mangrove community networks, Urban poor community networks, Waste picker networks, home based workers networks and others).
Spotlight on #Art4Resilience
Jimena Araya, together with Diwo Ambiental, were inspired by the indigenous women of Boruca who use their knowledge and culture to restore degraded forests. They plant trees, strengthen and rehabilitate existing ecosystems, support biodiversity and food security, promote livelihoods and economic projects, and contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.
Photos by Diwo Ambiental, Costa Rica

Learn more...
- Vanuatu, alongside a global coalition of 18 states (with the endorsement of a further 86 nations), are seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on legal aspects of climate change. The ICJ Climate Resolution will request the ICJ to provide an advisory opinion on the obligations of States under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change.
- The Africa Regional Hub highlighted a series of resources and initiatives such as Devolved County Climate Change Fund Mechanism, the case study of Wajir County on the impact of devolved climate finance, as well as Scaling Impact Through Knowledge Brokering: Case for Climate Finance Mobilisation in Southern Africa.
- The Asia Pacific Regional Hub highlighted the Fiji case study of how climate and disaster risk financing helps vulnerable communities.
- IIED launched The good climate finance guide for investing in locally led adaptation.
- The World Economic Forum launched a new framework for business action on adaptation, developed with a consortium of 35 organisations from across sectors.
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The humanitarian consequences of climate change are already affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people around the world, with the world’s most marginalised and vulnerable communities impacted most severely. Climate- and weather-related disasters, like floods, landslides, storms, droughts, heatwaves and cold spells, are becoming more frequent and intense and lead to cascading social, environmental and economic impacts.

The humanitarian, disaster risk reduction, development, and climate communities are making progress towards integrating processes and approaches, however there is a key need to ensure the aggregation of funding streams. While at COP26 humanitarians were more visible and vocal, concerted efforts have since been launched to establish collaboration and coordination. The Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is establishing a dedicated working group to build on the IASC Principles Statement on the Climate Crisis, alongside the work of coalitions dedicated to addressing specific humanitarian impacts, such as the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP). There is a significant overlap between the areas of averting, minimising and addressing losses and damages and the work of humanitarian, DRR development, and climate actors to manage risks, but too many people are still falling through the gaps.

"In 2022 when we were facing the floods we didn’t have enough agencies on the ground or enough financing to face these issues. Only a few donors had a good streamlined financing mechanism – one of these was Start Network who have a trigger mechanism which helped with funding during this flood and before that during drought."

— Shaikh Maaz Tanveer, Head of Communication and Natural Resource Management Department, HANDS, Pakistan

Comprehensive risk management (CRM) has emerged as a practical approach to build a shared understanding of risk as the common denominator for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management planning. Such an approach considers climate risks alongside other hazards and pre-existing vulnerabilities. Mainstreaming CRM requires the collaboration of humanitarian, development, and climate stakeholders to achieve much greater coherence in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of action. Integrated approaches need to include a spectrum of interventions such as social protection, solidarity funds, and early warning systems as key building blocks of anticipatory action. Integrating disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation plans leads to a ‘one-country one-plan’ approach, where countries can develop integrated plans and identify aggregated funding.

“Risk blind adaptation leads to maladaptation.”

— Animesh Kumar, Head of Office, Bonn, UNDRR

So Many Holes to Repair!

Now That’s a Secure Net!

Mobilising insurance and financial solutions traditionally used by the private sector can be a key tool to build the resilience of households and communities most affected by climate change. The private sector in rich nations has benefitted from the resilience-building benefits of insurance and risk management for centuries while those who need it most – vulnerable communities hardest hit by climate change – have little or no access to insurance and risk expertise. Barriers include a lack of awareness...
and trust in insurance, as well as the affordability of such products for households, communities, and businesses in the Global South. The insurance industry needs to support the co-development of tailored products, as well as the ex-ante financing and related risk management capacity building required by diverse stakeholders to be able to make risk informed decisions.

“When a loss happens, it is assessed, then the pay-out is debated and agreed. But that model doesn’t work for disaster relief. People who have lost everything to fire, flood, or tornado can’t wait months for an adjuster to tell them whether or not their loss is covered. And they can’t wait even longer for a pay-out. Parametric insurance overcomes this by offering guaranteed, immediate funds in response to pre-agreed triggers.”

— David Howden, Founder & CEO, Howden Group

“If a school is destroyed in a flood, the likelihood of those children going back into the system is low; if you are a girl the likelihood is further reduced. The value of insurance is that you get resources and you implement a response in time.”

— Ekhosuehi Iyahen, Secretary General, Insurance Development Forum

Launches and announcements at COP27

- The Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC) launched a Disaster Risk Reduction workstream in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP). The new partnership will allow governments to improve their risk management and disaster mitigation efforts at the speed and scale that the climate crisis demands.

- The Executive Action Plan for the Early Warnings for All initiative was launched at COP27. The initiative calls for initial new targeted investments of $3.1 billion between 2023 and 2027, equivalent to a cost of just 50 cents per person per year.

Learn more...

- The Asia Pacific Regional Hub highlighted a series of resources and case studies such as Warriors, Not Victims: Grassroots women build resilience in Nepal and Assessing the Climate Change Readiness of Pacific Island Water and Sanitation Utilities.

- Different examples of insurance and risk transfer being used to help protect against disasters include the Danish Red Cross volcano catastrophe bond, the Jamaican farmer hurricane parametric protection, and the Danish Red Cross / Philippine Mangrove project.
The pathway to a resilient agri-food system puts people and the environment at its centre and requires inclusive and holistic approaches. It builds on multiple types of knowledge, meets the needs of the most vulnerable and fragile regions, and leads to improved access to finance and digital opportunities, innovation and scaling of nature-based solutions. Thematic events in the COP27 Resilience Hub were developed to complement the COP27 Food Systems Pavilion agenda and activities.

**Tackling the complex nexus of the food-conflict-climate requires new forms of multilateral collaboration.** Finance needs to be redirected towards a nexus rather than a siloed approach, however implementation challenges include the lack of capacity within governments to address these complex issues, as well as challenges related to taking a holistic approach as part of climate negotiations and across the boundaries and mandates of international actors. As local food production and consumption is essential for resilience in fragile regions, reducing disruption risk in the global trade market requires a restructurings of markets that goes beyond changing consumer habits, an increase in the functional redundancy of the food system, diversifying supply chains, increasing transparency and reducing market speculation, as well as and promoting just trade. Tackling these interconnected issues requires organisations such as WTO to prioritise resilient and sustainable trade rather than 'cheap' trade, while the UNFCCC could play a key role in ensuring that food systems resilience is a priority item on the agenda.

> "We need to stop thinking about food security in terms of calories. Yes, starving people need calories, but healthy people, productive people need healthy diets. So we need to think about how to restructure the food system to deliver healthy diets that are sustainably produced, because sustainability and diversity in itself will build resilience."
> — Prof Tim Benton, Chatham House

Integrating local and traditional knowledge requires increased attention and funding to be focused on the processes by which knowledge is produced. For this integration process to be successful, more funding needs to be directed to facilitated spaces for co-production and collaboration – for example to support the use of methods such as Randomised Control Trials in combination with Indigenous knowledge. This highlights the need to focus on stakeholder involvement that is equitable and non-extractive, as diverse knowledge keepers need to be actively involved throughout the lifecycle of research processes. Knowledge production processes need to ensure lived experience is integrated as a type of evidence, and support an overall shift towards a paradigm of care. The focus of funders needs to widen from the challenges the programmes seek to address, to the ways in which engagement and co-creation takes place through explicit requirements or process-based reporting indicators.

As new adaptation and resilience technologies abound, smallholder farmers are being locked out of benefitting from them due to a lack of digital literacy, local applicability, and technical analysis and interpretation capacities. Smallholder farmers require technical support and capacity building to choose the right digital solutions for their context, as well as support in brokering partnerships with providers to customise solutions and increase their reach, scale, and impact. Identifying data insights that are suitable to a specific context and culture remains a key challenge, and there is a need to build the trust of communities in digital solutions. Sharing best practices between countries and organisations is a key step towards addressing this challenge. Scaling solutions needs to acknowledge the need to 'scale up' (increasing the reach) and 'scale deep' (rooting innovation within local and Indigenous knowledge).

> "Meaningful partnerships require that we speak the same language. Can we adapt to communities' needs and not the other way round?"
> — Nicera Wanjiru, Muungano wa Wanavijiji, Kenya

Financing resilience for smallholder farmers at scale requires long-term, catalytic, and blended finance that includes funding for de-risking capital and attracting private investment. This requires a broader approach of disclosing (physical, transitional) climate risks and identifying investible adaptation solutions across developing countries and along the entire financial value chain. Stakeholders involved in scaling adaptation finance must include communities and local voices in the process to ensure the fit between context, needs, and solutions is adequate. For a functioning adaptation solutions market there is a need to focus
on demand-side management through capacity building and collaboration so that communities, businesses, and governments can provide effective leadership. While there is an appetite in the market from public and private investors, investments are not being efficiently channelled. Adaptation finance is not currently inclusive as for many smallholder farmers, the adoption of technologies or best-practices is hindered by their availability and affordability.

“What we need to do is drive interest rates down as much as we can – this opens accessibility and inclusion of finance. My two big solutions are blending finance and de-risking finance to get interest rates terms as accessible as possible.”

— Jason Spensley, Senior Specialist, GEF
Launches and announcements at COP27

- **Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk, and Resilience** released a report highlighting three key ideas that can jumpstart climate adaptation by addressing risk in rural communities most impacted by climate change: securing vulnerable households; improving financial tools to manage risk; and targeting learning subsidies for climate adaptation.

- The Rockefeller Foundation announced 10 grants to scale Indigenous and regenerative agriculture practices globally.

- The Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, an accelerator for financial instruments that address climate adaptation, has opened a call for proposals.

- BNP Paribas launched the JuST Institute to coordinate the actions of transition financiers and provide them with dedicated tools to increase the amount and quality of sustainable financing benefiting the populations most vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity degradation. It intends to bring together public and private financial institutions and major companies, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

- The WOW programme has launched a report titled ‘From Risks to Rewards: Overcoming the impacts of climate change on women in agricultural supply chains’ incorporates the findings from the research with Primark, the Ethical Tea Partnership, and Waitrose. This report also includes recommendations for how we can economically empower women in agricultural supply chains whilst tackling climate change.

Learn more...

- The Africa Regional Hub sessions highlighted a series of relevant resources such as the Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) factsheet, the Climate Resilient Farmer Field Schools Handbook, and the Coalition of Action for Soil Health factsheet.

- The White/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples’ food systems advocates that lessons can be learnt from Indigenous Peoples’ approach to food, which will contribute to the resilience and sustainability of food systems worldwide, as well as supporting the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples.

- The AgriFin Program leverages digital technology to develop inclusive digital products and services that smallholder farmers need to increase their productivity, incomes, and resilience.

- The YAPU platform builds digital resilience finance, channelling funding into adaptation solutions taxonomies and providing access to competitive financing.

- The Startups for Sustainable Development program supports a global ecosystem of impact-focused startups. It builds a community and supports startups with advisors, funding, and platform technology in order to scale them for measurable impact.

- The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) has just launched the Melisa chatbot, an interface that translates technical climate modelling to real time understandable information for smallholder farmers.

- The Shea Business Empowerment Program developed a voice messaging digital solution implemented in Ghana to transfer independent pricing information to understand market trends and technical information.
Spotlight on #Art4Resilience

In Sundarbans, India a group of women plant and maintain a mangrove nursery in the riverine delta, an area highly vulnerable to climate change. The women provide mangrove saplings to countless plantation drives in the erosion-prone areas throughout the year, creating a bio-shield, and protecting the UNESCO world heritage site from ever-increasing climate disasters.

Biodiversity-rich, rehabilitated riverine landscapes of mangroves act as a vital carbon sink, battling climate change at a local level within a global context.

Photos by Sudip Maiti, a grassroot climate journalist documenting the effects of climate change and community-based resilience.
Climate change impacts largely manifest through water. It is the life-giving force on earth, but has far too often been neglected in discussions outside the water sector. Climate change and human activities have profoundly altered water cycles, affecting aquatic biodiversity, needs and demands for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods, food production, cities and industry, and human-nature relationships. Thematic events in the COP27 Resilience Hub were developed to complement the COP27 Water Pavilion agenda and activities.

“When governments plan conservation action in biodiverse areas, they can’t only include the birds and the plants without including Indigenous peoples. We live here.”
— Tarcilar Rivera, Executive Director, CHIRAPAQ

As agents of environmental conservation, water management, and drivers of adaptation, Indigenous peoples’ traditional ecological knowledge has significant potential to be applied at scale. For this to be possible, water management plans need to put traditional owners and communities at the centre, build trust, and navigate arising tensions and potential conflicts. Processes require ongoing community engagement and need to recognise that Indigenous communities have different laws and practices and that partners need to invest the time required to learn the protocols of different communities.

“Aboriginal people have a desire and a right to protect cultural plants and genetic resources and to benefit from any development of those resources.”
— Dr Virginia Marshall, Indigenous Research Fellow, Australian National University

As young people are key actors when it comes to implementing resilience, intergenerational dialogue is essential for breaking barriers and developing innovative solutions. With an estimated 75% of young people globally who deem the future frightening because of climate change, combined with a severe lack of representation of youth in formal decision-making processes, youth need to be considered an essential stakeholder and be more directly involved in the decisions that will impact their futures, lives, and choices. A way to achieve this would be through the adoption of the commitments outlined in the upcoming Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA), as well as the #303030 campaign, which aims for 30% inclusion and participation of young professionals and advocates below 30 years of age by 2030.

Public sector and philanthropic action is not enough to build the resilient water systems we need. Progress towards resilient water systems can be accelerated by learning from climate mitigation approaches and from innovative investment mechanisms developed by the private sector. Corporate investments in water resilience can generate consistent and sustainable returns, unlocking additional financing,

Spotlight on the Locally Led Adaptation Champions Awards

The Locally Led Adaptation Champions awards recognise locally led efforts to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change across four categories: financial governance, inclusive leadership, capacity and knowledge, and local innovation. Each winner will receive €15,000 in funds to further the work they are doing in the spirit of the locally led adaptation principles. Winners include the Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal, for their water management in the Chure region through traditional watershed management techniques, Swayam Shikshan Prayog, India (SSP), who have pioneered a “one-acre” model to empower women, support food security, and secure livelihoods, Rangamati Hill District Council, Bangladesh, who worked through Climate Change Resilience Committees (CRC), with majority female representation to address acute water shortages in the aftermath of 2017 landslides, and the Adaptation Consortium, who have demonstrated how a strong partnership between governments and civil society can help to make finance more effective for pastoralists and vulnerable communities.

“Our winners show that community-centric and locally led solutions to the climate crisis exist, but they require support and recognition to be scaled up, and to achieve the most impact. The GCA is working with international financial institutions and governments to introduce these best practices into bigger funding streams, while maintaining what is at the heart of these impactful solutions and of successful adaptation – local leadership.”
— Prof Patrick Verkooijen, CEO, Global Center on Adaptation.
while making progress on water resilience goals. This presents opportunities for working in cross-sectoral partnerships in agriculture, technology, industry, urbanism, and infrastructure.

"The investment requirements of the water sector are $200 billion a year, yet currently we are only making investments of $14 billion for water resilience."
— Jason Morrison, Head of the CEO Water Mandate and President, Pacific Institute

“If I look at sustainable finance from a banking lens, most of it is on GHG, and transition lens. When we look at water resilience, water access, a lot of that falls under adaptation or risk mitigation. As a market facilitator, the banking industry is behind the curve.”
— Emily Kreps, Managing Director, ESG, Deutsche Bank

Measuring resilience progress needs to engage evidence users (including communities) in the co-production of knowledge. Progress is required to compare risks on a consistent basis across boundaries and to better understand the interplay between different exposures, geographies, and resilience strengthening interventions. There is a critical need to advance monitoring and evaluation and tackle challenges such as the risk overburdening reporting organisations, the need to better harmonise different reporting frameworks, double-counting, the heterogeneity of resilience contexts and goals (and the need to translate beyond them), the need to balance analytical rigour and timeliness, as well as the lack of convergence between biodiversity and climate resilience measurement tools, approaches, and frameworks. To date, compliance and benchmarking have been driving forces for measurement frameworks, while increasing recognition to systems change calls for anticipation of maladaptation, tracking processes and relationships.

“When we are talking about resilience and measurement, we cannot do the same thing over and over again and expect different results.”
— Leah Akoko, ARIN Africa

Cartoon produced by Betjie as part of the South Asia Regional Hub events.
Launched and announcements at COP27

- The Global Resilience Partnership and USAID are co-hosting a hybrid Resilience Evidence Forum in June 2023; a call for participation will be announced in early 2023.
- Global EverGreening Alliance and Mirova have joined forces to launch one of the largest nature-based carbon removal programmes in Asia beginning with a US$15 million investment in the Philippines. The Restore South-East Asia programme aims to restore degraded lands across the region and has the potential to impact over 600,000 households. Designed through a development lens, the programme puts rural communities at the centre of restoration efforts. The partnership intends to scale-up across an additional five countries including Timor Leste, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia – taking the overall investment to US$90 million.
- The Voices for Just Climate Action program launched two stories of locally led climate action from Brazil and Tunisia.
- The Global Resilience Partnership launched a new agriculture innovation challenge for East Africa. GRP is partnering with Shockwave on the Resilient Agriculture Innovations for Nature (RAIN) challenge. Winners will be connected to investors and will receive tailored mentoring and communications support.
- Race To Resilience launched a public consultation to strengthen the resilience metrics framework.
- The Catalytic Grants Programme is a joint initiative by the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF) and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). The awards aim to provide initial seed funding to incentivise partnerships and collaborations, with a new round announced. It will award four teams a USD $5,000 grant each to implement an idea fostered at the Regional Resilience Hubs of the COP27 Resilience Hub.

Learn more...

- The Race to Resilience Metrics is the leading framework to help inform how adaptation solutions translate into enhancing resilience and make decisions based on key conditions needed to increasing resilience. The Framework contains the conceptual approach and metrics to advance towards the MERL of resilience-building efforts, and seeks to be a benchmark for the international effort at monitoring and evaluation of adaptation and resilience building.
- A web of Aboriginal water rights: examining the competing Aboriginal claim for water property rights and interests in Australia.
- The Asia Pacific Regional Hub events highlighted a series of resources such as the 2022 Asia-Pacific Water Policy Report: Listening to National Water Leaders, Water Log – A series of blogs from the Asian Deltas.
- The University of Arizona, the Global Resilience Partnership, and the United States Agency for International Development convened a group of 50 experts and development practitioners with the aim of advancing resilience measurement and setting a common agenda for addressing these challenges and gaps.
- The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is connecting local and international adaptation levels, aiming to address the disconnect between these. For example, through grassroots action-research grants for local organisations in the Global South, practitioners on the ground could input into ARA’s submission to the Global Stocktake with the support of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, the Global Resilience Partnership, International Institute for Sustainable Development and SouthSouthNorth. Learn more about ARA’s Adaptation Research for Impact Principles.

Photo credit: Sudip Maiti / #Art4Resilience
Nearly 1 billion people – one in four urban dwellers – live in urban slums and informal settlements, making them particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, such as droughts and floods. There is a need to deliver climate justice for those most affected and to ensure urban equity by integrating diverse urban resilience indicators while strengthening local capacity, facilitating experience sharing, and securing finance for practical approaches to scale existing solutions – as currently only 9% of urban climate investments flow to climate change adaptation projects.

“I appreciate that my city does not have a credit rating but this crisis does not distinguish between those with credit rating and those without – finance needs to flow; it’s too little and too slow.”
– Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr OBE, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone

The sustainability of urban resilience projects depends on the ability to overcome bureaucratic hurdles and ensure that the governance and finance models are conducive to the implementation of locally-led adaptation. As flexible funding is a key enabler of LLA, there is a need for donor organisations to support intermediary organisations that enhance the capabilities of informal urban communities to decide, design, and implement LLA. Organisations such as the Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO) and Slum Dwellers International (SDI) facilitate and co-design collaborative processes that build the capacities of local communities to lead urban adaptation and resilience projects. In supporting informal urban communities, linkages must be made between land owners, communities, and local governments to ensure that the communities involved in urban resilience projects are protected against displacement. While young people are increasingly involved in the early stages of LLA, without adequate capacity building there is a risk they will be sidelined during implementation. While scaling LLA requires a degree of replication, processes need to address differences in urban contexts, needs, as well as cultures to ensure that the scaling is successful.

**Spotlight from the Africa Regional Hub**

Self-organised informal settlements dwellers possess the knowledge, structures, data and experience to deliver cost-effective, appropriate climate action on the ground. Climate interventions must shift the way informality is understood and create inclusive policy spaces that engage communities as the resilience experts they are.

Decision-making and finance flows should be directed to the lowest appropriate level. This can be done by supporting decentralisation reforms and strengthening local government capacity to facilitate community-led planning and financing, where community-based planners lead the design and implementation of resilience and financing solutions, as well as the structures through which finance can flow (e.g. Ward-level funds).
“In the last 3 years, almost 200,000 USD was invested in housing near Lake Nakuru but flooding and lake swelling led to the houses being completely submerged. People had to move. And if you go to the national government, they will say it’s not their problem, go to the county level, the same thing. National governments need to recognise climate change is a very complex topic that cuts across.”

— Joseph Muturi, chair of the Board, SDI

Declaring a national state of climate emergency can send a strong message to local and regional stakeholders and lead to an increase in urban adaptation and resilience funding. For example, Mayor Abigail Binay from the city of Makati, Philippines noted that since declaring a state of emergency in Makati, her office has been approached by investors and companies willing to take action, while clear national adaptation policies with short- and longer-term plans are ensuring continuity across changes in leadership (e.g. new mayor, president, governor). However, there are significant outstanding challenges to including subnational stakeholders in climate negotiations, NDC and NAP processes, which highlights the need for subnational counterparties to inform their national governments of the key issues and needs for urban adaptation, as well as the need to ensure that cities and regions are widely consulted.

“We don’t have one single answer on adaptation; our response is a combination of a number of different tools and approaches. We increasingly see adaptation not as a cost but rather as an investment that protects economic development and preserves the competitiveness of our clients.”

— Harry Boyd-Carpenter, EBRD Managing Director, Climate Strategy and Delivery

National governments must increase finance for urban climate adaptation and resilience projects. They should provide technical assistance and support during the project preparation process, working closely with local governments and community leaders. Mobilising the resources needed for the green transition in cities will also require engaging the private sector. To that end, national governments and public financial institutions will need to develop strategies and innovative financial mechanisms that de-risk or spread the risk across multiple actors according to their risk appetites, such as public-private partnerships (PPPs), insurance products, and blended finance. Even when funding for LLA is allocated, outstanding barriers to accessing and deploying it, such as lengthy and involved verification processes, need to be addressed to speed up implementation. Urban funding needs to be moving faster and with a lower transaction cost to ensure communities can access funds as efficiently as possible.

“Instrumental to getting the money to flow is data, statistics, and how you monitor. Any private investors or finance minister will not invest unless they can see the data proving the progress on their objectives, which for the private sector is their rate of return, and for finance ministers might be socio-economic elements. We need to invest in statistics and building measurement of what happens when we invest.”

— Niklas Hagelberg, Senior Programme Management Officer and Coordinator of Climate Change, United National Environment Programme

Launches and announcements at COP27

- The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) launched a policy brief on How to Increase Financing for Urban Climate Adaptation and Resilience. This policy brief is directed at national policymakers and lays out how they can work with other key stakeholders (subnational governments, local leaders, public financial institutions) to scale finance for climate adaptation and resilience.
- EBRD launched their Climate Adaptation Action Plan. The Plan brings together a number of elements to strengthen the Bank’s adaptation work through integrating adaptation into project and policy design, building partnerships, developing business and mobilising private finance.
- The Beat the Heat campaign invites cities in developing countries to commit to scaling up nature-based solutions in their urban areas by 2030. Participants will be supported through funding, technical assistance, partnership opportunities and support to communications.
- In a high level Marrakech Partnership event on Resilience Day, Nigel Topping (high level champion of the COP26
Presidency) gave an overview of the Cities Race To Resilience initiative and acknowledged all signatories from across the globe who had joined the campaign prior to COP27, and this letter thanking cities and signed by both UNFCCC high level champions was published.

- The Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda aims to improve the resilience of 4 billion people living in the most climate vulnerable communities by 2030. The Agenda is a global plan to mobilise states and non-state actors to achieve 30 adaptation outcomes, including the Planning Outcome that “10,000 cities have evidence-based, actionable adaptation plans in place by 2030”. Some locally-led adaptation examples undertaken by Cities R2R signatories were included in the report.

- The Summary for Urban Policymakers initiative has released three documents that translate climate science from the latest IPCC report for urban policymakers. It also published an Action Agenda, which includes input from city and business leaders.

Learn more...

- Between 2008 and 2018, insured losses to extreme weather events in EBRD economies totalled US$ 25 billion. The EBRD’s Green Cities Program has 54 cities signed up with the goal of developing action plans that address mitigation and adaptation. EBRD supports cities in developing an integrated plan that identifies adaptation and resilience benefits. The process is built on stakeholder engagement, as during the development of 30 action plans, so far 80 million people have been consulted.

- During the Africa Regional Hub, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) highlighted the following resources on how Youth in Mathare and Lucky Summer, Nairobi, innovate to address climate change, on Realising the Multiple Benefits of Climate Resilience and Inclusive Development in Informal Settlements, as well as their report Know Your City: Slum Dwellers Count, the global campaign for participatory, pro-poor, people-centered urban governance.

- The events part of the Asia Pacific Regional Hub highlighted relevant resources for Building Resilience of the Urban, an Urban WaterGuide, as well as Let the Community Voice Flow: The Resilience Story of Barangay Betag in La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, and the recently launched Resilience Profile of Kalibaru, Jakarta.

- RMI launched a report on the value of urban nature to help local decision-makers and investors increase investment in urban nature. The report concludes that, globally, the value of the benefits of urban nature is nine times higher than the costs.
This year, the Hub featured Rethink Talks, produced in collaboration with the Stockholm Resilience Center, and "No More Fairytales" stories. Listen to the best thinkers and practitioners within resilience to understand how we can move forward global action on adaptation and resilience.

SPOTLIGHT ON MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING

In this 10-minute film produced by the Global Resilience Partnership, several entrepreneurs and activists from Southern Africa share their experiences of resilience-building in the context of climate change. Their perspectives showcase the important and nuanced insights into local climate change impacts, resilience building and community capital.

Listening Lounge

This year, the Hub featured Rethink Talks, produced in collaboration with the Stockholm Resilience Center, and "No More Fairytales" stories. Listen to the best thinkers and practitioners within resilience to understand how we can move forward global action on adaptation and resilience.

BBC Media Action Film Collection

BBC Media Action is the BBC’s international charity, working in more than 20 countries around the world. Last year, their work reached more than 118 million people, by supporting independent media and sharing trusted information.

For the full collection, follow the link to the Resilience Hub website.

WaterBear Film Showcase

For the second year in a row, we partnered with WaterBear, the first video-on-demand platform dedicated to the future of our planet. We have selected a showcase of WaterBear titles with resilience in mind for COP27.

For the full collection, follow the link to the Resilience Hub website.
Developing resilient infrastructure that integrates the changing nature of risk, and the changing needs and demands of communities across the globe calls for looking beyond the physical condition of infrastructure to consider the quality and continuity of services, life-cycle costs including long-term operations and maintenance and loss and damage, as well as end-of-service-life considerations. A future-ready, just energy transition will reflect in infrastructure that is resilient, sustainable, and people-centred; that builds systemic resilience and tackles interconnected risks; considers nature-based solutions along with hardened structures; provides equitable access to essential services and is predominantly based on clean energy sources.

"Infrastructure needs to be climate resilient and well ventilated so workers can work safely."
— Qabeer Jalandhari of the Waste Pickers Network

In many parts of the Global South, the fragmentation of the energy and mobility systems leads to high costs borne by consumers and entrepreneurs alike. Tackling this requires standardising the quality of service, as well as supporting micro-entrepreneurs to offer accessible and affordable solutions. Micro-entrepreneurs are facing challenges such as regulation (as entrepreneurship is highly controlled), infrastructure (as access to core mobility and energy infrastructure such as electric chargers affects the ways in which start-ups can operate), finance (a lack of access to finance for energy and mobility innovation), as well as technology (as access to clean tech is often prohibitively expensive in the Global South). Boosting the resilience of micro-entrepreneurs requires extending the definition of an ‘entrepreneur’ to include nimble innovation, micro solutions (such as TryKe, a solar e-cycle for last and first mile agricultural logistics), as well as the informal economy. Tailored support is required to access finance across entire value chains (for example through building credit ratings), supporting new skills building (such as product design, maintenance), as well as business model innovation to support micro entrepreneurs to reach different customer bases.

“Small holder farmers spend up to 60% of their daily profits on logistics, moving produce from farms to local markets."
— Alex Makaliwa, Director, TryKe

“There is a clear target to make micro-entrepreneurs resilient to different shocks, environmental and economic shocks, to do this there needs to be a plan to bring finance to scale the entire value chain.”
— Mohamed Hegazy, Founder and Director, Transport for Cairo (TfC)

Risk assessment can enhance financing for disaster and climate resilience through demonstrating the economic case for resilience approaches such as Nature based Solutions. Risk metrics need to be accessible and comparable probabilistic multi-hazard and climate conditioned to bridge the resilience assessment gap. These metrics can be used to make the case for the integration of disaster and climate risk management into national infrastructure policies.
and plans and to inform the development of design standards and norms. Financial risk metrics are also critical to calculate the contingent liabilities and the risk adjusted returns on investments in infrastructure projects and to calibrate risk financing schemes and mechanisms.

“I see clear signs from investors demanding more transparency on risks, especially climate risks, and prioritising government resources into adaptation projects. There is a clear correlation of reduced uncertainty leading to greater risk appetite.”
— Ivo Menzinger, Managing Director, Public Sector Business, Swiss Re

Nature-based solutions (NbS) need scaled investment, but similar to broader urban adaptation funding, solutions often do not provide a revenue stream and are difficult for private investors to justify. While the value of NbS is often much higher than grey infrastructural solutions when including social and health co-benefits, currently private investors require more robust data to support investment in NbS. However, in the assessment phase, NbS need to be viewed from an socio-economic viability perspective, instead of purely a financial one, as NbS present significant social and health co-benefits. Implementation needs to recognise the critical role played by local communities in both the installation as well as maintenance. Other types of interventions, such as Solar Climate Intervention (SCI) can play a role in managing near term climate risks and act as a tool to increase resilience, however knowledge gaps need to be addressed with climate justice at the heart.

“Nature based options are up to 50% cheaper than traditional grey option and they are also providing 28% better value for money, based on valuing the co-benefits provided.”
— Rowan Palmer, Programme Officer, Sustainable Infrastructure, UNEP

“In the Rwandan context, quite a lot of the NbS are actually managed, or maintained by communities themselves. Communities are engaged and play a critical part in the establishment, and installation of NbS, as well as their maintenance.”
— Liliane Uwanziga Mupende, NAP Lead Rwanda, Global Green Growth Institute

Learn more...

- The preliminary results of the Global Infrastructure Risk Model and Resilience Index (GIRI) (the first ever fully probabilistic risk and resilience assessment covering global infrastructure sectors) include credible and fully comparable probabilistic risk metrics for the transport, power and energy, telecommunications, and water sectors, as well as for social infrastructure and housing, for every country and territory in the world. The aim is to provide an enhanced understanding of the risks and contingent liabilities internalised in infrastructure systems.

- The Global Infrastructure Resilience Survey (GIRS) collects information from infrastructure experts to understand the management features of infrastructure development, and to complement this expert understanding, the survey secondly asks questions of non-experts with the intention of learning their experiences of infrastructure services as customers. The outputs of the Survey will reveal what areas of institutional and human capacity are most important for the development of successful infrastructure and will create global geographic insights into where and how investments and upgrades in the enabling environment should take place.

- WRI India with support from the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI), has developed a comprehensive guidebook as part of The Better E-Bus Challenge, world’s first accelerator for e-buses.

- ADB has developed a series of NbS resources such as a case study on NbS for Flood Risk Management in Philippine rivers, a series of webinars promoting NbS for Sustainable Infrastructures in Asia and the Pacific.

- A Global Green-Gray Community of Practice seeks to innovate and pilot new green-grey approaches, expand science, engineering, and policy activity, increase awareness of green-grey infrastructure’s applications across geographies and settings, and enable access to finance. The CoP has developed a Practical Guide to Implementing Green-Gray Infrastructure.

- The NbS Pathway highlights key actions that need to be taken at each stage of the infrastructure lifecycle. It also provides links to the most relevant resources and tools as well as case studies to support practitioners in implementing NbS.

- There are numerous tools and methodologies to assess interdependency and cascading risks for infrastructure, such as the RHEAT™, which assesses country level housing resilience for a snapshot in time, the European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection (ERNCIP), which develops recommendations for policymakers and developers, NISMOD, a tool for climate risk analysis of interconnected infrastructure systems.
Lives and livelihoods in coastal communities are dependent on a healthy ocean and thriving marine ecosystems. Coastal communities are on the frontline of climate change worldwide. Extreme weather events, sea level rise, adverse and significant ecosystem changes, pollution, overfishing, rising levels of acidity, increases in the salinity of freshwater and groundwater, all jeopardise the health of the Ocean and the people who depend on it. These systemic changes put at severe risk the social cohesion of coastal communities leading to migration and population displacement.

“The climate-smart agriculture approach has proven to be one of the best ways to manage water, land, livestock, and fisheries resources.”
— Howaida Nagy, CARE Egypt

Achieving shared and sustainable blue prosperity is possible through investments in low-carbon blue food systems, healthy aquatic ecosystems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and integrating blue foods into nutrition, climate, environment, gender and development strategies. However, scaling successful approaches requires significant investment and creative financial instruments such as debt for nature swaps, as well as including small-scale fisher organisations in multi-sectoral dialogues hosted by donor agencies.

“So far a lot of our discussions have been on mitigation targets and adaptation goals – how can we reduce hazards and how can we make fisheries and aquaculture work within those – but if we don’t get the vulnerability dimension down, climate risk will continue to persist into the future.”
— Michelle Tigchelaar, Research Scientist, Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions

Mainstreaming gender-based approaches can improve the efficiency of climate adaptation interventions. Women are disproportionately affected by climate change due to differences in social and cultural roles and responsibilities, however, evidence shows that investing in women leads to better development, gender equality, and climate outcomes. Pathways for strategically addressing gender include inclusive governance, gender-responsive and gender-sensitive climate-smart technologies, gender-transformative approaches for savings and loans, and improving food and nutrition security. Women are more likely to start climate-focused businesses, have gender balanced workforces and leadership, and often have better risk management. This presents an opportunity for pilots that can then be scaled across a whole supply chain (such as the work of the Waitrose Foundation and Farm Africa and the WOW programme). Building the evidence base for investment requires collecting disaggregated data, as well as including transdisciplinary approaches to address knowledge gaps on the role of gender in blue food systems.

“Women are disproportionately affected by climate change but women are disproportionately part of the solution. Climate adaptation and climate mitigation are more effective if you mainstream gender within action.”
— Ellen Brookes, Climate Change Executive, BII

As the world’s biggest employer, we need to ensure that the communities relying on the ocean can keep doing so in ways that do not deplete it. Building skills for a sustainable ocean economy requires new approaches to skills building to support fishing, aquaculture, shipping, and renewable energy activities. As most of the workers in the ocean economy are informal, there is a critical need to embed human rights and worker protection in policies and programmes, as well as to support informal blue economy workers to know their rights and advocate for themselves. Over the last decades there has been a large loss of local knowledge as some coastal communities have adopted unsustainable practices, and now need to be supported to transition away from these. Beyond coastal communities, there is a need for wide ranging ocean literacy and active support and capacity building for land-focused decisions and implementation that considers the impact and potential co-benefits for the ocean.

“The ocean is the world’s biggest employer, it provides food for 3.6bn. We need to ensure the communities relying on the ocean can keep doing so in a sustainable way that does not deplete the ocean.”
— Brandon Levy, Chief Programme Officer, Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Unlocking the collective potential of coastal communities for climate action requires community
Coastal communities have an important role to play in climate action, and fisheries management, including small-scale fisheries, can contribute to enhanced climate adaptation and resilience. As conservation and climate action don’t exist in silos, there is a key need for innovative financing in coastal communities, especially for SIDS and non-LDC SIDS. As small-scale fishers are critical to the sustainable management of marine resources, providing them with financial identities through savings clubs enables them to access credit and insurance products. Such solutions improve the economic resilience of fishing communities and the sustainable use of coastal and oceanic resources.

“If we are able to help communities to understand how to incorporate Ecosystem based Adaptation in their microbusinesses, they have a better path to financial resilience. Something we are learning from Palau is that traditional management is in many cases already Ecosystem based Adaptation.”
— Rocky Sanchez Tirona, Managing Director, Fish Forever, Rare

While the blue economy is central to Africa’s 2063 agenda, there is a need to de-risk sustainable ocean finance solutions at the sovereign and regional level. Building coastal resilience requires linking investment into adaptation, as well as loss and damage solutions. Innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships with the private sector need to be developed to deliver climate and biodiversity positive outcomes, including for marine protected areas (MPAs). MPA’s tend to be primarily funded by the government and are under-resourced, which makes it difficult to build local buy-in, deliver intended benefits, and impedes broader objectives, such as the 30x30 agenda. Organisations such as African Risk Capacity are key to integrating insurance to protect investments at the sovereign level. Developing countries typically have very low insurance penetration, such as in sub-Saharan Africa where the average insurance penetration rate is 2.5%, while 9 out of 10 Africans do not have any insurance of any kind.

Learn more...

- The WorldFish programme supports community-based resource management in the Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia. Initiatives include supporting women as leaders and resource mobilisers in Cambodia; including women in farmer field schools in Bangladesh; creating alternative livelihood strategies during dry season in Bangladesh; working in partnership with Catholic Relief Services to expand access to financial services for women, scaling across 8 countries in Africa; adding fish powder to school meals in Odisha, India.

- The STREAMS project aims to improve the aquaculture sector in Egypt by providing job opportunities for 2,000 women retailers and improve women’s resilience by providing access to cold chain technologies, food safety and hygiene knowledge, and swim safety equipment.

- The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust is a debt for nature swap initiated by the government of the Seychelles. The Nature Conservancy, and creditors like the Paris Club, and is now being replicated in other regions with debt and marine protection ambitions.

- The Fishing for Climate Resilience report outlines the key preliminary findings of the program.

- The Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRRA) is working with WildTrust, with support from the Blue Action Fund, in Isimangaliso and the uThukela Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to identify and implement innovative financing mechanisms. ORRRA will work with WildTrust to build connections with the private sector and in-country stakeholders to implement solutions that are locally driven and relevant to broader efforts to finance MPAs in Africa.

- Lagos State in Nigeria undertook a Climate and Adaptation Resilience Plan to establish the cost of inaction and build out and prioritise solutions to address these risks. The cost of identified adaptation solutions for Lagos State is $8 billion, while the cost of inaction is estimated at ~$30 billion. To finance adaptation measures, Lagos State is now working to de-risk potential investments.

- The Great Blue Wall initiative led by African nations in the Western Indian Ocean is seeking to accelerate ocean finance solutions at scale, as currently only 4% of the region’s marine waters are protected.

- Rare is working with small-scale fishers in Mozambique, the Philippines, and Indonesia to set up micro-enterprises and savings clubs that will help vulnerable communities connect with financial instruments. They are also developing parametric insurance products, which are indexed to unsafe fishing conditions and sustainable fishing outcomes. These projects create an incentive for insurance companies to expand to areas where they previously did not provide cover, while providing benefits to local communities and safeguarding natural capital.

- Coastal 500 is the largest global network of Mayors and local government leaders committed to work towards thriving and prosperous coastal communities.
Culture, from art to heritage, empowers people to imagine and realise a low-carbon, just, climate resilient future. Between technological innovation and individual choice lies the communal realm, a social world of remembering, creating, sharing, and belonging that binds people to places and to each other. Through community-centred approaches, culture-based strategies strengthen resilience by supporting social networks and diverse knowledge systems and practices and linking them to place.  

“Look at nature without wondering what it is worth, biodiversity is deep within us.”  
— Jenifer Lasimbang National Coordinator, JOAS Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia

Implementing the ‘30 by 30’ agenda needs to centre the rights of Indigenous peoples and ensure that colonial practices of Indigenous dispossession are not replicated. States and implementing actors need to ensure Indigenous peoples are not displaced from ancestral territories, and protect biodiversity outside the market-based system, as Indigenous peoples do not agree with the commodification of nature. As Indigenous peoples already steward more than 80% biodiverse areas, they are the keepers of traditional knowledge in the conservation of their lands and territories, water ecosystem, and traditional food systems. For the ‘30 by 30’ agenda to succeed, their knowledge and participation needs to be recognised and integrated in policy and action.

“Indigenous Peoples don’t believe in the commodification of the sacred. We need a shift in paradigm from western conservation to holistic landscape management.”  
— Julia Bernal, Executive Director, Pueblo Action Alliance

Cultural heritage communities do not want to be defined by loss and damage. As cultural heritage communities are on the frontlines of climate change, the development and implementation of climate action must include them through the process in ways that enable agency, dignity, and empowerment. Waves of disaster are leaving communities with long-
Spotlight #Art4Resilience

Takienta Mobile School of Ancestral Skills Transmission: Preserving traditional knowledge

In the Land of the Batammariba in north Benin, climate change has affected the traditional way of life. Traditional houses, Takienta, no longer exist. Flooding, deforestation, and land use change are some of the reasons why these houses have disappeared from the region. Ibrahim Tchan together with his peers, founded the first ecological museum and mobile school of ancestral skills. The museum aims to share and preserve traditional knowledge for future generations.
lasting effects that erode their capabilities to cope and adapt. As loss and damage funds are established, communities must be involved in the format, means, and measures of the distribution, ensuring that non-economic losses and damages are also addressed.

“I want to be clear. We don’t want to be defined by the words loss and damage. Simply call us what we are, cultural heritage communities. And then let’s have a dialogue about what we have done to continue our culture in spite of colonisation, in spite of capitalising upon our culture.”
— Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah Geechee Nation

The ways in which people perceive, understand, and react to the risk of climate impacts are informed and modulated by culture and heritage in complex ways. Intersecting cultural considerations (e.g., attitudes about gender equality) and historical patterns (e.g., colonialism, land use) can amplify vulnerability and reduce the adaptive capacity of people and ecosystems. Identification of climate-related risks, decisions about responses, and means of implementation are all mediated by culture.

“If the environment changes drastically from one generation to another, it makes the previous generation’s cultural beliefs less likely to be useful to the current generation.”
— Dr. Sajal Roy, Research Fellow Centre for Social Impact, UNSW

Culture, from arts to heritage, has a key role to play in helping people imagine and realise low-carbon, just, climate resilient futures. Yet climate action often misses this key connection. Overlooking these cultural dimensions not only fails to realise the potential of culture-based resilience strategies but can lead to maladaptive outcomes if communities, particularly marginalised groups such as urban slum dwellers, smallholder farmers, or residents of coastal areas, are not included in defining the challenges and solutions. Culture in climate action enables a paradigm shift towards inclusion of diverse perspectives, to re-imagine futures and co-create solutions that nurture stewardship to sustain, adapt and evolve.

“This is the power of visual storytelling – that I, from Kenya, am able to connect with the experiences of women from Indonesia, Philippines, Caribbeans and South America.”
— Lydia Wanjiku, CEO, Lensational

Heritage sites in Africa are already affected by climate change impacts, increasing the vulnerability of the social-ecological systems they maintain, including physical cultural and natural assets, the intangible cultural heritage associated with the sites, communities and values. Assessing climate vulnerability begins with understanding how local people value their communities, as even heritage inventories and protected area documents often have limitations. Translating data on climate hazards into assessments of the vulnerability of local knowledge is one of the main challenges in conducting locally-led values-based integrated climate vulnerability assessments. Inter and trans-disciplinarity, in addition to stakeholder mapping and engagement, are key factors for successful and meaningful vulnerability assessments. Integrating different sources of knowledge, including scientific, local and Indigenous, allows the development of vulnerability assessments that account for the cultural values of the communities.

“Cultural and natural heritage sites, including World Heritage properties, can serve as a refuge strengthening resilience for communities during and after climate-related emergencies and can also act as assets for recovery in the wake of inter-communal conflicts linked to climate change.”
— Mercy Mbogelah, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority

Launches and announcements at COP27

- Call for the signature of Climate Heritage Network manifesto by organisations and parties working in, or supporting culture, heritage, and the arts.
- The summary reports of Climate Vulnerability Index Africa, a values-based Climate Change Risk Assessment for Cultural Heritage in Africa are available in French, Arabic, Spanish, and English.

Learn more...

- The Tagai system is a popular practice in community-based resources management in Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia. It has been practised continuously by community members and has been proven to be an effective approach in conserving and regenerating forest and river ecosystems for a long duration.
- The Indigenous Information Network works with the Waata community in Kenya to help manage and conserve biodiversity. Developing Community Protocols has a range of benefits for policy areas including biodiversity, natural resource management, climate change, human rights, planning and community development.
- The Sinai Trail is Egypt’s first long distance hiking trail. It launched in 2015 and today it encompasses 550 km of trail, taking 54 days to complete, and involves eight Bedouin tribes who work on the Sinai Trail: these tribes are the Tarabin, Muzeina, Jebeleya, Awlad Said, Gararsha, Sowalha, Hamada and Alegat.
- Female herbalists of “Platform 1ro de Mayo” are a group of women selling agricultural products integrated as a single group since 1975, supporting each other and claiming their right of freedom to work. These women carry knowledge of medicinal plants and herbs, harvesting without harming the forest. This knowledge is continuously passed down across generations – keeping this sustainable legacy alive.
- Aman Kalbar is a collective organisation working with Indigenous groups, who realised that their forests were being impacted by illegal logging in Indonesia.
Dear Small Islands everywhere,

I think of you often. Many of you swim in oceans of water and have been happy to do so for aeons. Until now. Now the seas of time lap at your shores. And time is ebbing away as you float suspended. Without life buoys or influence over waves that augur drowning. The melting ice. The rising waters.

Where is the lifeboat? How many will it hold? Will it be overwhelmed by the swell as you abandon the ship of your lives in search of safe harbour? Will the drawbridge of safety be drawn up as you float ideas of salvage or rescue? Will hands that are drowning not waving be hoisted from the flood?

I was born on the small islands of St Kitts-Nevis. Now I inhabit a big one – Great Britain. Where the power of the Industrial Revolution gave birth to material consumption. Like a pendulum, global consumption has swung to its zenith. It is way past time for the tide of consumer souls to drain and flow to a spirit level that slakes our thirst without submerging us. Or the Earth will witness such movement of islands small to big as no Ark could accommodate.

The waters of time are storming. To keep Small Islands safe let the big ones learn to live smaller.

Yours sincerely,

Tyrone Huggins, as recited during the COP27 Resilience Hub | Part of the Letters to the Earth project
Building on the conversations at COP26, galvanising action across health, climate, and urban actors, requires space for collaboration using locally applicable tools and approaches. Illuminating the interconnectivity between human health and climate change both in terms of shared challenges but also shared solutions, requires expanding the dialogue to a broader set of actors who may not be considered a part of the traditional health care system but who provide critical contributions to how we address health care in a changing climate.

Building resilience through the food systems, health, and climate nexus from rural to urban, intersectoral programmes are required to address the full range of interconnected factors. As climate extremes are exacerbating the food and health crisis in many developing countries, providing early warning allows for provision of climate information and tailoring it for use by communities. Reforming or introducing national dietary guidelines that take into account health and environmental implications of diets is required, while agricultural subsidies should be coupled with ecosystem services that result in changes across food production and consumption.

There is an urgent need to mobilise investment in cooling solutions and to prioritise heat in early warning systems. In the face of excessive heat waves and the sustained stress of constant heat, growing public health threats, melting infrastructure, inequitable access to cooling, wildfires, and prolonged droughts, access to adaptation finance must be expanded. This requires significant reform in international and national financial systems as well as new, innovative financial solutions that allow cities to tackle climate change. Awareness building to the dangers of heat (for example, through categorising heatwaves) as well as improving data is key to improving life-saving measures. Adaptation action includes expanding opportunities for investing in cool and green roofs, reflective surfaces, urban forests and greening, water infrastructure, and technologies and tools for cooling and protecting people from heat.

“Cities are the hotspots for climate change impacts, specifically extreme heat...Cities are becoming deathtraps as the climate is heating up. So, it makes a lot of sense to listen to cities because we know what the problem is and how to deal with it, but cities are not being listened to.”
— Eleni Myrivili, Chief Heat Officer of Athens, Greece

Multi-generational considerations of planetary health and wellbeing are key to institutional reform and policy making fit for the future. Putting well-
being, youth, and future generations at the centre goes beyond health, to considerations of multi-generational justice, meaningful and dignified work, and social cohesion. For example, as a consequence of the Welsh Act for the Well-being of Future Generations, 55 new road building schemes across Wales were shelved – depicting how decision-making processes that put the needs of current and future generations in balance would lead to different outcomes. The UN is building on this by appointing an Envoy for Future Generations and holding a Summit of the Future in 2024. As youth-led movements have been key to building momentum for climate action, their development needs to be supported by the wisdom of ‘elders’, who should further equip and facilitate the leadership development of young people.

Launches and announcements at COP26

- Mayor Colosio (Monterrey, Mexico) launched The Joint Climate Emergency Declaration for Mexican Cities on behalf of 20 Mayors from Mexico.
- Arsh-Rock has announced the Cool Capital Stack, the first investment fund focused on projects and technologies to protect people, communities and local economies from extreme heat caused by climate change.

Learn more...

- The BBC News Arabic documentary Under Poisoned Skies uncovers the impact of oil giants' toxic air pollution on the planet through gas flaring, and reveals how flares are putting the lives of children and adults at serious risk. Filmed in southern Iraq, home to some of the world's biggest oil fields, the documentary follows Professor Shukri, a professor of environmental pollution, as he tries to find out why people living near gas flares say, for them, "cancer is like the flu".
- The Cool Capital Stack relates and elevates funding for the work of different organisations of initiatives, such as Affordable Housing Mission at Mahila Housing Trust (building climate resilience and energy efficiency through improving access to cool roofs), Freetown the Treetown, Sierra Leone (expanding access to financing to improve existing adaptation, nature based solutions projects, such as urban tree planting), the Clean Cooling Collaborative (improving effective cooling mechanisms through renewable energy innovations), as well as the Monterrey Urban Parks System and Sustainable Corridors (urban compactness through transport-oriented densification systems).
- Through the support of Arsh Rock, the IFRC has paired up with the Hellenic Red Cross of Athens to create systems and volunteers that check in on people, as well as support hotlines for people to receive faster medical attention during heat waves.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COP26 AND COP27 POST-EVENT SURVEYS

After both COP26 and COP27, the Resilience Hub sent a post-event survey to all its registered participants.

Insights so far reveal an improvement in the overall rating of the Hub’s programming, from 37% to 49% participants rating the programming as excellent.

The survey results highlight two dominant narratives regarding adaptation and resilience, pointing to the key role of local and Indigenous knowledge in the devolution of decision-making and finance, as well as the key link between adaptation, resilience, and climate justice.

Between COP26 and 27, there has been a perceived decrease in resonance of the three other adaptation and resilience narratives presented as options.

NGOs and civil society are consistently perceived as being most active in scaling up adaptation and resilience actions (62.3% at COP26; 61.4% COP27), followed by local communities and developing country governments.

What overall rating would you give to the Resilience Hub event programming?

Which of the following statements do you think best represents the dominant narrative of the adaptation and resilience conversations at COP26 and COP27 (in the Resilience Hub as well as elsewhere)?
To what extent do you think progress in securing accessible adaptation finance for developing countries was met at this COP?

From your engagement at the Resilience Hub and elsewhere at COP, which actors/stakeholders appear to be most actively scaling up adaptation and resilience actions?

From your engagement at the Resilience Hub and elsewhere at COP, which adaptation and resilience theme seems to have the most momentum (seeing increases in resources, activities, innovation, media attention etc.)?
REFLECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS TOWARDS COP28 AND BEYOND

Taken together, the narrative emerging from COP27 depicts a patchwork of progress on addressing the adaptation gap and strengthening resilience, mixed with a disappointing lack of progress on critical issues such as mitigation action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. The climate crisis cannot be solved unless both are addressed in tandem. COP27 demonstrated the unequivocal power of radical, long-term collaboration across civil society, state, and non-state actors that led to the breakthrough decision on Loss and Damage.

“The Resilience Hub, in its second year, has highlighted the collective action of thousands of communities, businesses, cities, and states across the world. Together they share the evidence and innovation of the solutions being implemented to accelerate adaptation, build resilience and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable. This transformational momentum is the essence and power of radical collaboration.”

— Nigel Topping, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for UK, COP26

Building on this momentum, the road to COP28 must continue to match the highest ambition with enabling frameworks and ground rules to ensure implementation moves beyond voluntary action towards regulation that centres justice and equity. The progress achieved at COP27 must be embedded into the Global Stocktake and decisively inform the ratchet of national climate plans. The Resilience Hub will double down on its endeavour to place resilience at the heart of the climate agenda, and will continue its strategic engagement at key moments on the road to COP28 – such as the Gobeshona Conference, UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks, the Community Based Adaptation Conference (CBA17), Development and Climate Days, Adaptation Futures - while the Resilience Hub virtual platform will provide an ongoing home to a wealth of resources, case studies, and session recordings.

Building resilience requires continuous action and investment in view of the already ongoing and increasingly compounding impacts of climate change. The managing partners remain dedicated to ensuring that the Resilience Hub serves as a significant force in catalysing climate-just action and increasing finance on resilience through an inclusive and dynamic space that it fosters at and between COPs, uniting and motivating actors from across different sectors, scales, and geographies. The Resilience Hub will remain home to the Race to Resilience Campaign and we will work closely with COP Presidencies and the High Level Champions Team to mobilise the highest ambition for non-State action that delivers for the most vulnerable. We thank the hundreds of partners who contributed their energy, dynamism and expertise to making this year’s Resilience Hub such a success and we look forward to engaging with all and more next year!
A ONE WORD TAKEAWAY FROM THE RESILIENCE HUB...