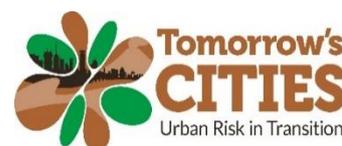


Adaptation Research and Policy Progress in East Africa

Insights from COP26, East Africa-Led Dialogue



Recommended Citation

ARIN & UKRI (2021). Adaptation Research and Policy in Southern and Western Africa

Insights from COP26, Southern and Western Africa-Led Dialogue, 2021. Technical Report No. 017. Africa Research and Impact Network Nairobi, Kenya.

Contributors

Joanes Atela (ARIN), Charles Tonui (ARIN), Sarah Blackburn (UKRI), Sara Webb (UKRI), Henry Gandhi (ARIN)

About ARIN

The ARIN is a network of over 200 researchers and policy makers across 36 African countries aimed at promoting research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices. The ARIN provides one of the unique convening platforms for science policy interface in Africa building on evidence. It recognises that Africa is home to multiple researchers, innovation, and best policy practices but these remain poorly shared, learnt from to inform impactful Research and Development Agenda. The ARIN therefore provides a peer review platform where best research and impact practices from different African contexts are shared, profiled, and leveraged to inform transformative policy actions.

www.arin-africa.org

ARIN Secretariat: P.O. Box 53358-00200, Nairobi – Kenya;

Phone: + +254 020 7126895; Email: info@arin-africa.org

Tweeter: [@arin_africa](https://twitter.com/arin_africa)

LinkedIn: The Africa Research and Impact Network

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Executive Summary

Africa is increasingly becoming a target for adaptation initiatives owing to its high vulnerability to climate change. The State and Trends on Adaptation in Africa report (2020) shows that adaptation to climate change is context-specific in nature. This is because different ecological zones and communities have over the years adapted to different climate change impacts. For instance, the East African context is characterized by increasing rainfall and malaria risks, on the other hand Northern Africa experiences increasing water stress and decreasing agricultural growing periods. The West of Africa is characterized by severe flood risks in coastal settlements and increased food insecurity, whilst Malaria risks and water stress are common in Southern Africa.

The Africa-wide adaptation dialogue event held on 29 July 2021 (ARIN and UKRI, 2021), underscored different regional challenges that require focused and targeted fora to understand adaptation in the regional context. More specifically, the need to profile regional experience and stakeholder voices is critical in building a broader, but consolidated Africa positioning on adaptation matters. Therefore, the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)(www.arin-africa.org) in collaboration with the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and wider partners, co-organized the East Africa-led event, held on 27 August 2021. The aim was to: 1) create a space for the adaptation stakeholders in the region to share the impacts of various existing adaptation projects; and 2) capture emerging lessons, gaps, and opportunities. This was one of the first fora for adaptation researchers and policymakers in East Africa. The outputs of the convening are part of the wider information package for Africa that is to be shared at COP26. The overall purpose is to inform the emerging adaptation research partnerships such as the Adaptation Research Alliance that are prioritizing Africa for their programming.

Key Insights from the Discussions

- There is a need to establish a regionally-led adaptation learning framework that could fast-track the realization of evidence-based learning and the development of robust regional data management for better access and utilization by climate change stakeholders.
- A regionally-led adaptation tracking and indicator framework which captures impacts and lessons is needed to facilitate appropriate climate finance and technology deployment.
- Community adaptation innovations have emerged in the region including nature-based solutions (NbS). These have been co-developed at the local community level over many years. The researchers, policymakers, and climate change stakeholders need to strengthen locally-led community adaptation innovation systems that not only scale up but also leverage innovation platforms from other regions.

- In East Africa, the linkages between science and policy are still not yet robust and need to be strengthened.
- The delegates called for the adoption of innovative research options, which include the use of space technology to map and analyse complex ecosystems such as Lake Victoria, in order to support transformative adaptation solutions.
- More investment is required in research focused on interactions between new and old land-use systems and their role in adaptation in the face of unprecedented climate variability and change in the region.

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Introduction

Africa's Adaptation Gap (AAG) Technical Report (2021) reveals that the capacity of African communities to cope with the differentiated effects of climate change on human and ecological systems is expected to be significantly challenged. They will be potentially overwhelmed by the magnitude and rapidity of the onset of the climate change impacts, manifested in various forms. Therefore, adaptation is a top priority for the continent. In the East Africa region, just like the rest of Africa, the projected adaptation costs are, however, expected to rise. In the lead-up to UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, there is an opportunity to better profile the impacts of various existing projects in the East Africa region. This is crucial in understanding some of the emerging lessons, gaps, and opportunities even as countries aim to raise adaptation ambitions during COP 26.

On 27 August 2021, the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN), in collaboration with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and wider partners co-organized COP26 Adaptation and Resilience Series, an East Africa-led virtual event. This event was part of the build-up regional events using the same format and questions but focused on the East African region. It sought to probe further, key issues raised at the COP26 Africa-led launch event, held on 29 July 2021. It was also part of the preparatory dialogues to mark the UK's presidency of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), held in Glasgow, in November 2021. The event brought together a range of different stakeholders including the UK-funded research consortia and projects in Africa, policymakers, members of the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN), think tanks, and climate change stakeholders. The aim was to showcase on-going adaptation and resilience research projects based in the Eastern Africa region and also gain insights on opportunities for their up scaling.

The discussions centred on four key questions:

1. What are the major adaptation research gaps in East Africa and what research is needed to respond to the adaptation gaps in East Africa?
2. What examples are there of transformative adaptation research-enabling action through addressing social justice, capacity building, and governance? And why are these considered transformative i.e. what is considered transformative in the East Africa context?
3. What forms of partnerships are required to achieve these transformations? How best should the UK engage East African researchers and policymakers in pursuing these transformative opportunities? How has COVID-19 and the resultant shifts in UK funding affected adaptation research in East Africa?
4. Evidence shows that East Africa is registering a relatively low presence at the global UNFCCC climate action platforms such as the Global Climate Action Portal (see here:

<https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>). How can we best profile adaptation research and actions taking place in various East African countries to a global scale? And what support is required to achieve this?

“We adamantly believe that climate adaptation research must go beyond assessing risks and identifying impacts to focus on finding green technology solutions that are user centred and action oriented.”

Professor Fekadu Beyene, UNFCCC Focal Point for Ethiopia, Ministry of Environment

What are the major adaptation research gaps in East Africa and what research is needed to respond to the adaptation gap in East Africa?

a. **Adaptation Learning Framework (ALF)**

The delegates who attended the EA event re-emphasized the need to have a regional-led adaptation learning framework. This was seen to fast-track the realization of evidence-based learning and the development of robust regional data management for better access and utilization by climate change stakeholders. This validated the finding of Africa’s Adaption Gap report, which identified the lack of a comprehensive database (for climate change adaptation) to inform climate adaptation science, financing, reporting, policy, and decision making in the region. The delegates also identified the need to ensure that the quality of the climate data and other data relevant to adaptation action in EA is incorporated in the ALF. They pointed out that the data management system needs to facilitate various data usage without losing its quality and accessibility.

However, there is a lack of a regional adaptation learning framework that not only brings together adaptation stakeholders but also facilitates a robust and stakeholder-friendly database to support sustained learning. The delegates reported that there is limited integration of many stakeholders including the private sector players in the adaptation actions even though they invest a lot in business activities that potentially support adaptation initiatives. Private sector players, especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), have been known to trade in nature-based products that are utilized by the local and vulnerable communities in the region. Some private sector players invest in knowledge management, for

example, in extension services where governments started devolving extension services. In the region, the private sector federations and alliances have mobilized their members to contribute to the adaptation planning, which the ALF can scale up to the robust adaptation stakeholders. There are innovative adaptation research projects in the region that will also contribute substantively to the mobilization of not only adaptation researchers but also policymakers and relevant stakeholders.

Some of the UK-funded projects which have profiled the impacts of climate change on the lake and their potential contribution to nature-based adaptation solutions include the Integrating Hydro-Climate Science into Policy Decisions for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Livelihoods in East Africa (HyCRISTAL). They have embedded learning frameworks at the project level. Therefore, such projects need to not just be brought together to provide and strengthen the foundation of the adaptation learning framework that takes care of the East Africa region, but also leverage it to the local, national, and regional levels. This will potentially be realized because such projects as HyCRISTAL are developing a new understanding of climate change and its impacts in the region. They are also working with decision-makers to manage resources such as water reservoirs for a more climate-resilient future.

The ALF should be designed to facilitate mutual North-South collaboration and learning that is perceived to be biased towards the North-based researchers in publishing scientific publications and setting the agenda, among others. This is because most of the globally recognized and high-quality international journals are based in the North and are largely influenced by the international funding mechanism. The delegates proposed the inclusion of the establishment of an African-led journal that specializes in the contribution of indigenous knowledge on adaptation in the region.

Delegates at the EA events agreed with the African launch event that the on-going adaptation research has significantly failed to integrate various knowledge systems that underpin adaptation in EA. They emphasized that the local and indigenous knowledge systems have evolved over many years and supported local adaptation in a cost-effective way. However, the unprecedented impact of climate change has strained the local adaptation systems, which don't necessarily need to be discarded but integrated into scientific knowledge and modern technologies. There are successful cases on the integration of local and indigenous knowledge with scientific climate predictions in the region. The Kenya Meteorological Department and the Nganyi community in the western part of Kenya have managed to integrate both indigenous and scientific climate and weather predictions. The partnership went further to incorporate community-targeted radio stations to disseminate co-produced climate and weather information to the local community and beyond. The delegates recommend that such successfully integrated knowledge systems need to be scaled up and improved through research to support adaptation knowledge systems for future generations.

b. Adaptation Tracking and Indicator Development

The adaptation tracking and indicator development are evolving in the region. This is because it is anchored on the global discussions and proposed frameworks to identify adaptation metrics/indicators. In addition, the separation of development and adaptation indicators is still complex in the region because there are competing needs and a web of interventions to meet those needs. This is compounded by the low capacity for defining adaptation indicators in the region. This, therefore, is a complexity that faces identification of the adaptation indicators in the region because there are no localized adaptation indicator identification frameworks. This is also caused by the dependency syndrome where Africa relies on the global community to leverage frameworks developed elsewhere.

Some of the key adaptation indicators include adaptation financing. The global adaptation financing for adaptation is less than 10% and Africa only received 3% of global climate finance. This shows that the climate financing mechanism has not delivered as expected on adaptation financing. The 3% received by Africa could be too little to be shared across the regions and countries in Africa. There is no clear data available on adaptation financing in the East African region other than the proxy data.

Eastern Africa countries are at different levels in developing and operationalizing climate finance policies. Rwanda, for instance, has FONERWA while Kenyan has climate change finance legislation (2016). The two countries have set the pace in policy preparation for climate change finance access but the robust implementation of the same policies is hindered by the lack of robust national and sub-national adaptation indicator identification frameworks. Kenya, with a devolved governance system, has to facilitate the identification of adaptation indicators at the national and county (sub-national) level. However, it so far lacks a country-focused adaptation indicator framework. This is likely to hinder the delivery of sufficient financing for adaptation research and actions in Kenya.

The international platform for adaptation metrics (IPAM) is among the networks supporting the identification of adaptation metrics/indicators in developing countries. The ARIN, as part of IPAM, is supporting outreach, awareness, and capacity development, especially to strengthen localized adaptation indicator identification frameworks. The IPAM network is leveraging global mechanisms under UNFCCC to support the national governments and local stakeholders to understand and co-identify adaptation indicators in different sectors as well as their tracking. A regional adaptation learning framework can leverage support from the IPAM network and other platforms in strengthening capacity in the region in order to co-develop a robust adaptation tracking and indicator framework.

c. Community Adaptation Innovations

The community adaptation innovations which have emerged in the region include nature-based solutions (NbS), which have been co-developed at the local community level over many years. The research,

policymakers, and other climate change stakeholders have acknowledged NbS, further ensuring the implementation of key research and policy processes that are focused on NbS in the region. Some of the emerging lessons include the potential role of the NbS in facilitating adaptation among vulnerable communities. However, the research is skewed since most of the local and vulnerable communities have not been sufficiently placed at the centre of NbS-related research and policy processes. This has had an impact on the NbS because many big “green” infrastructures spearheaded by the governments, donors, and multinational companies have displaced communities and/or are government-regulated, locking them out of the NbS hotspots. Delegates argued that there is a need for studies to carry out comprehensive mapping of NbS and their potential contribution to not only adaptation but also conflict management. The conflicts often emerge during the utilization of NbS in the various hotspots. The research needs to build on such NbS, with a focus on learning platforms such as the Ecosystem based Adaptation for food security in Africa Assembly (EBAFOSA). The EA member countries, for instance, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania are already subscribed. The other focus area is the protection of data usage rights such as the Intellectual Property (IP) of the community adaptation innovations.

d. Impact Research (IR)

In East Africa, the linkages between science and policy are still not robust. The delegates emphasized that research would be required to transform science to inform the evidence-based design of adaptation solutions in the region. The delegates recommended that data-driven evidence in policy formulation and implementation should drive the design of adaptation solutions. The delegates called for the adoption of innovative research options, which include the use of space technology to map and analyse complex ecosystems such as Lake Victoria. In the rural and urban settings that face new land-uses, there is a need to use innovative technologies such as OpenStreetMap in supporting data gathering and community-level engagement. This also involves linking these to open climate risk model outputs, policy, funding, and financing mechanism deployment.

Climate prediction based on the knowledge and technological advancement hosted by meteorological and climate prediction centres needs to be leveraged beyond the national levels. However, the delegates noted that the impact of the past climate predictions has not significantly informed sustainable adaptation solutions. Technological advancement for climate prediction, especially leveraging to the local level, is an opportunity for the region which is already getting support from the African Union’s Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa. It uses [IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre \(ICPAC\)](#) and other relevant programmes that focus on capacity support of climate modelling and prediction. The delegates at the EA event believed that it will then support the deployment of early warning systems to trigger early action.

e. Adaptation Interplay with Land-Uses and Development

The delegates acknowledge the dynamic land-uses and their potential influence on climate hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity of the vulnerable communities. Climate variability and change continue to push populations to new regions and ecosystems, hence introducing new land uses which have potential influence on the common land systems practiced over many years. Therefore, the interaction between new land uses vis-à-vis old ones, shapes climate risks and the adaptive capacities of the vulnerable communities. The delegates emphasized that more investments need to be made in research on these interactions and their implication on adaptation, in the face of varying and/or changing climate in the region.

f. Transformative Adaptation Research in East Africa

This question focused on guiding the researchers to identify transformative adaptation research that could enable the achievement of climate justice for the most vulnerable and the poor communities while strengthening capacity and building innovative climate governance. This section highlights reasons for considering some of these options transformative.

g. Transformative Adaptation Strategies

“Transformative research has the community and decision-makers incorporated at design and implementation. This not only ensures buy-ins from the decision-makers but also the incorporation of local solutions from the communities.”

Anna Murgatroyd, University of Oxford

The delegates reported how the various adaptation projects have demonstrated some element of transformation. Just like the Africa-led event, East African delegates were still unclear on what exactly constitutes transformation in the adaptation pursuit. The delegates were actually concerned whether there are cases of transformative adaptation initiatives.

According to them, these are relatively rare, even at the global level. The delegates, nonetheless, shared some cases from the on-going adaptation research. Some of these practices, as admitted by the delegates, have integrated some elements of transformation such as gender considerations, inclusivity, system approach, agency consideration, and resource efficiency, among other key elements.

The examples that were given include farming-related projects that have been known to produce harvests that are five times greater than the unpiloted programmes. There are other research programmes such as the [Improving Water Security for the Poor \(REACH\)](#). This programme has worked with partners in the

Awash Basin Development Authority in order to understand climate change risk in East Africa and further help strengthen future water resources planning under climate variability and change. The project has also helped to ensure that water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities are available for the most vulnerable in these communities. The National Scale Impact-Based Forecasting Flood Risk in Uganda (NIMFRU) project is a multi-partnership project which is engaging with researchers, policymakers, local councils, and local farmers to improve the targeting, relevance, and communications of flood risk warning and response in Uganda.

“Kenya submitted its NDCs in December 2020, and concerning adaptation, Kenya has 50 programmes just to address adaptation.”

Ressa Kombi, Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Environment & Forestry, Kenya

The [NIMFRU project](#) has incorporated the identification of the needs of the local communities. The project’s goal is to build the capacity of the local community in strengthening their preparedness for flood risk. It also seeks to reduce impacts on their livelihoods.

Ways Forward on Transformative Adaptation Research

The delegates highlighted some of the areas requiring attention so as to achieve some transformation in adaptation in East Africa.

First and foremost, leveraging on existing green strategies to anchor adaptation efforts could produce transformative results, both in policy and action. Member countries have developed green economy growth-related policies which have identified strategic sectors for intervention. For instance, the continued adoption of green energy and green buildings in the region is a step towards climate change adaptation in both urban and also rural settings. The anchorage on green policies also enables leveraging of comparative opportunities. For instance, some of the focus is on green and renewable energy especially in ASAL regions where green energy potential is in abundance. There also exist more strategic opportunities including entrepreneurship valuable to adaptation.

There is a transformative research opportunity in pursuing the synergy between green growth policies and climate adaptation policies and subsequent actions.

The other opportunity for transformative research lies in focusing on the decoloniality of adaptation governance. The East African region is home to most of the internal adaptation projects especially those funded by the UK Government. The East African countries such as Kenya have developed relatively active adaptation policies and governance systems including agencies and actions but these have not adequately addressed the adaptation challenges. This is partly attributed to overdependence on international support in adaptation financing, technologies, and even technical support. Research ought to focus on attempts to strengthen domestic systems for adaptation, enhancing their transparency, and strengthening their voices at the international level. This is likely to create transformation in the adaptation research space. Already, various African scholars have raised their voices on the need to decolonize adaptation financing through a position paper available [here](#).

“...there are great inequalities between the adaptive prospects of communities and given these inequalities in terms of adaptive capacities and adaptive outcomes, it’s necessary to examine how fair and equitable adaptation can be ensured and what structural injustices lie at the roots of these inequalities.”

Dr. Morten Byskov, University of Warwick

But this will require East Africa’s own systems to be strengthened and made effective so as to benefit from such empowerments. Additionally, the risk approach to adaptation research has been highlighted in the Africa-wide report (ARIN&UKRI, 2021). This requires that adaptation research is handled from a holistic perspective that captures the underlying drivers of adaptation such as hazards, vulnerability, exposures, and capacity to adapt. The projects such as the [Tomorrow’s Cities and Nairobi Risk Hub](#) were highlighted as examples that are beginning to give adaptation a multi-dimensional approach by integrating the concept of risk.

“...risk burden is predominantly on urban poor and marginalized communities.”

Vera Bukachi, Tomorrows Cities

Some delegates argued that the number of weather-related disasters has increased almost ten-fold over the past fifty years, and the damage suffered has multiplied to the same extent. The worsening of the impacts caused by climatic hazards is a result of the increasing anthropogenic pressure that urban and rural areas exert on environments as well as the modalities of urbanization itself that have made agglomerations real hotspots. Therefore, this called for concerted efforts in investing in research that targets not only adaptation but also disaster risk reduction and their synergies towards building climate resilience.

a. Enabling Partnerships for Adaptation Impact Research

This question focused on unpacking the forms of partnerships in adaptation research and actions that can facilitate the achievement of the desired transformations in the adaptation in East Africa. It also looks at how COVID-19 and the resultant shifts in UK funding have affected adaptation research in Africa. The cooperative climate research in Africa has enhanced partnerships between the UK and other international organizations as well as accelerated adaptation research. A number of adaptation partnerships are already in place with a priority focus on Africa. These include the Adaptation Tracker, Global Adaptation Mapping initiative, ND-GAIN, Countries Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Vulnerable 20 (V20), Global Centre on Adaptation, Cooperate Initiative on Climate Action, Groundswell, Community-based Adaptation, Adaptation Futures, weAdapt, Locally-led Adaptation initiative, and the Adaptation Research Alliance among others.

As partnership opportunities continue to increase for the East African region, there is an increasing consciousness in the region that various adaptation initiatives should be answerable to the plight of people but not overburdening them. Some of the suggested forms of partnerships that could enhance transformative adaptation include:

b. Facilitative Partnerships on Synergies and Stakeholder Interests

The delegates highlighted how balancing the interests of different stakeholders and being able to facilitate the implementation of the proposed solutions is critical. The various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) have emphasized the need for inclusive cooperation among researchers, academia, policymakers, civil society, UN agencies, international organizations, and the local communities, among others. In the EA region, the EAC partner states have signed and ratified several international conventions and treaties. The signing of these international treaties and conventions is a milestone but there is a need for better leverage so as to connect adequately with the sub-national and local level processes. This calls for enhanced horizontal and vertical partnerships that enable cross-sectoral sharing as well as multi-level engagements.

c. Inclusive Partnership for Transformative Processes

Across all levels, especially vertically, strong and transparent public-private partnerships will be required to bring transformation in the adaptation projects. At the horizontal level, collaborative and information-sharing relationships between different research institutions in different sectors of the economy will need to be strengthened. Partnerships should establish extensive relations on the global, regional, national and territorial dimensions because each level doesn't act in isolation. The global policies and programmes shape local policies and programmes and vice versa. Therefore, vertical and horizontal interplays of institutions and programmes need to be analysed to unpack the extent to which they facilitate partnerships that can enhance transformations in adaptation projects.

How should the UK best involve East African researchers and policymakers in pursuing these transformative opportunities?

a. Supporting the Development of Locally-led Technology Transfer and Adoption Systems

Innovation is now recognized in the EA region as an essential factor in adaptation and sustainable growth. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is leading an initiative to support developing countries that are part of the UNFCCC, in conducting technology needs assessments. Each country party has formulated a Technology Needs Assessment (TSA) project within the framework of the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer. The project should be renewed to reformulate the technology needs more ambitiously in the EAC countries.

Additionally, the EA member states have developed science, technology, and innovation (STI) related policies that incorporate sector policies at different levels, both in the integration and implementation phases. They have also developed national institutions which are centres of excellence for STIs and are affiliated with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). The Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), for example, is the National Designated Authority (NDA) for Kenya. KIRDI is working closely with the Kenya Climate Innovation Centre and other centres of excellence to deliver on incubation, development, and patenting of local climate innovations and technologies. They are progressively leveraging their systems to the sub-national and local levels. However, while there is a relatively top-down trickling of technologies, the profiling of indigenous innovations for scaling up remains relatively weak. Therefore, there is a need to invest in not only leveraging existing systems at the national level but also scaling up local and indigenous innovation and technology development systems.

b. Leveraging Climate Finance Mechanisms to Support Locally-led Adaptation Solutions

Under the Paris Agreement, climate finance is one of the enablers for the realization of adaptation in Africa. Climate financing is geared towards supporting the development and implementation of locally-led climate solutions, which in the African context, are largely adaptation practices. However, the climate finance mechanism has not delivered on the promise, leaving Africa more vulnerable and incapacitated. There is the renewal of the commitment, which has seen several funding streams design climate finance to support locally-led climate solutions. One such example is funding flows. The locally-led Climate Action Program (FLLOCA), which is coordinated by the World Bank, is an example of such initiatives. Kenya is a beneficiary of FLLOCA and also facilitates the mobilization of climate finance through its 47 county governments. A similar financial devolution is taking place in different East Africa countries even though the amount of funds that reach the local communities is still very minimal. A lot more needs to be done to mobilize adequate climate finance and leverage it to support locally-led climate solutions. The FLLOCA is just commencing its work and provides an opportunity for adaptation researchers to spend substantive time and resources to unpack the mechanism and its impact on either motivating or demotivating the development of locally-led adaptation options. What is clear though is that should the global community fail to deliver on global climate finance targets of US\$100 billion per year, then such innovative climate financing might not adequately deliver the transformation agenda.

There is also an open window through private sector financing which could enable synergy with the public finance to deliver on locally-led adaptation. Both the private and public financing are anticipated to amplify funding for adaptation and resilience to climate change and anchor climate issues at the heart of private sector operations. The use of insurance to direct adaptation investments is of significant interest in system-level adaptation, as failure to adapt is likely to lead to large numbers of correlated claims. Strategies of directing large quantities of private sector investments could involve working with insurers to make climate adaptation considerations a prerequisite for insurance of long-term investments.

c. Profiling Africa's Adaptation Actions at the Global Level

This theme focused on discussing options for profiling adaptation actions in East Africa at the global UNFCCC climate action platforms such as the Global Climate Action Portal ([see here](#)). The delegates acknowledged that adaptation actions taking place in Africa are not properly packaged or profiled at a global scale. This section highlights some of the ways of achieving these, as discussed below.

d. Inclusive Mutual Partnerships and Collaborations

The African countries need enhanced partnerships and collaborations that not only leverage international expertise and resource support but also facilitate appreciation and scaling up of local and indigenous knowledge systems and actions. This will support the operationalization of the provision on international cooperation as provided for by the Paris Agreement. The Agreement recognizes that parties may choose to "voluntarily cooperate" in the implementation of their NDCs, raise the level of ambition of their mitigation and adaptation measures (Paragraph 6.1) and that they could include market-based and non-market approaches. The North-South collaboration needs to be mutual for African researchers and stakeholders to provide leadership too in the research and development of adaptation actions while leveraging expertise from the Global North. As highlighted in the Africa-led report, there is a need for dedicated sharing and learning platforms on adaptation projects and expertise.

e. Responsive Adaptation Platforms to Profile Best Adaptation Practices and Ongoing Actions

The need for a dedicated adaptation platform was underscored during the Africa-wide adaptation dialogue as was re-emphasized during the East Africa event. The delegates acknowledged that East Africa is home to a lot of adaptation research and action projects and yet, there is poor documentation and sharing of these initiatives. The need for a dedicated platform that leverages regional actions and activities and links these to the continent-wide platform is urgent. So far, a number of platforms exist but from the reviews, these remain sector-focused and sometimes do not provide continuous engagement in the process.

f. Fast-Tracking and Scaling Up Adaptation Financing

While there seem to be several innovative adaptation actions taking place in different EA contexts, there are very limited resources at the local level to support the scaling up of these initiatives to the global level. The current climate funding available is mainly tied to global and national institutional processes, with little or no funds trickling down to support local innovations to grow and be felt globally. This calls for a rethinking of the financial architecture of adaptation funding. Affirmative action that allocates a share of funds to local activities rather than institution building should be put in place within global and domestic decision-making processes. Opportunities also exist for strengthening local actions through domestic funding.

Conclusion

Overall, the perspectives of stakeholders from the East African region align with the issues raised at the Africa-wide consultative event. An overarching outcome of the event is the recognition of the potential for scaling up adaptation in the region, both at the national levels and through regional integration. This builds on the several already on-going adaptation activities which have the potential for scaling up. A key gap, however, remains on how to build on the on-going best adaptation research and practices to a more integrated and scaled-up agenda. To this end, the need for dedicated learning frameworks remains a critical invitation that needs attention as part of transforming adaptation in East Africa.
