

ARIN at COP 27

 Consolidating Evidence for
Africa's Climate Voices

SHARM EL – SHEIKH
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FOREWORD



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The 27th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27) takes place amidst unprecedented global challenges, some of which have been aggravated by COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine. For African countries, the COP27 promises progress with the renewed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the delivery of finance, that is estimated at USD 140 billion annually and may escalate to USD 300 billion by 2030.

The financial commitment by the developed countries may not adequately facilitate the implementation of the NDCs and other climate actions hence it is imperative for countries to carry analysis of the challenges and opportunities available in realizing their adaptation priorities. This analysis is also critical in addressing wider concerns around climate justice in Africa such as the exclusion of women and youth in the climate discourse. Women are disproportionately harmed by climate change yet they are able to co-design solutions that are essential in transforming food systems and boosting resilience. It is therefore vital that their voices are heard in the decision-making. The youth hold immense potential in the climate discourse and a clear understanding of climate plans and the financing structure can accelerate and accomplish specified climate actions and targets.

Some of the opportunities that promise solutions to adaptation gaps in the developing countries include locally led adaptation that is cheaper and easily accessible to the local communities and partnerships for the NDC financing, that engages relevant stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels.

Ultimately, the need for research remains key in ascertaining the right adaptation measure depending on the ecological zone. Research has revealed that opportunities abound in mitigating climate change and improving the lives of the vulnerable in the society such as the e cooking that is now being piloted in many parts of Kenya. The paradox is that there is a significant number of scientific studies that have been carried around adaptation but have not been shared for policy and action.

The Africa Research and Impact network (ARIN) has created the much-needed space, to enable researchers and policy makers across 36 African countries to promote research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices. It 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.

The climax of ARIN programs is an annual conference. The ARIN conference this year will be held from 7th – 9th December 2022. The international conference seeks to interrogate pathways through which just transition processes in Africa could rebuild more resilient local communities. The conference will focus on three major thematic areas which are

- i.) Envisioning a just transition for Africa
- ii.) Building just and resilient community systems
- iii.) Decolonizing policy research toward resilient communities

ABOUT ARIN

The Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) is a consortium of over 200 researchers and policymakers with national focal points across 36 African countries. ARIN also draws from a database of over 3000 stakeholders from universities, think tanks, the private sector, and governments.

ARIN's mission is to promote research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices, by providing platforms for science-policy interface in Africa, building on evidence. ARIN recognizes that Africa is endowed with diverse researchers, innovation, and best policy practices that are not in the public domain yet are invaluable in the research and development agenda of the continent.

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 action. Among the areas that ARIN has pioneered path-breaking research, are climate change, knowledge management, science technology and innovation. The network currently convenes research and policy platforms on climate action, drawing from the perspective of researchers on, adaptation, science, technology and innovation status in Africa. Through the same approach, ARIN assesses opportunities for science-policy interface, through contextual projects on research commercialization, innovation, knowledge translation and practice.

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ARIN'S ENGAGEMENTS PRE-COP 27

The sessions presented here include various events that were organised by ARIN and partners to inform key messages and inputs in the COP 27 agenda. The focus of these pre-COP events was on locally led adaptation and climate financing. Through our networks and partners including the Adaptation Research Alliance, these events were key in setting the agenda for profiling African voices at the COP 27.

1. Leveraging NDC Financing for Africa

Climate Week Held on 1 September 2022 via zoom

Purpose

Understanding options for Leveraging NDC Financing for Africa" in the context of climate action.

Organizers

This was part of a series of pre-COP 27 dialogues led by the Africa Research Impact Network (ARIN) and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, hosted under their banner of the NDC Financing Fellowship Program. The event was co-organized with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) in Uganda as a build-up on the road to COP27. It aimed to promote NDC Financing in Africa and it The speakers at the event were from the Makerere University Business School (MUBS), NDC Partnership, Oxfam Uganda, and Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN).

Key messages

- There is need to address national poor governance structures, government bureaucracies in accessing climate finance, and the critical role of the research community and integrated academic programs in providing a solid case for evidence-based climate financing.

2. Youth Climate Week Webinar: Enhancing meaningful youth engagement in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions through capacity building

Held on 16 September 2022 via zoom

Purpose

To understand the capacity needs for the youth in their role in NDC implementation.

Organizers

The event was organized by the YOUNGO NDCs working group, the Africa Research and Impact Network, the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, and the International Development Research Centre hosted a capacity-building webinar series on Financing NDCs. The speakers at the webinar were from the Frankfurt School of Business (FS) and the Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Belize.

Key messages

Young people must understand climate plans, their financing structure, and how they can help accelerate and accomplish specified climate action targets at their respective levels ahead of COP 27.

3. Climate Proofing Locally Led Adaptation Solutions Among the Vulnerable Groups in Sub-Saharan Africa- Resilience Hub

Session, 21st September 2022 via zoom

Purpose

In the Post-COP26, Africa Research Alliance (ARA) funded 13 micro grantees in Africa, and have co-generated lessons on climate risk understanding, LLA metrics, and co-generating of climate risk assessment tools at the local level. This event aimed to facilitate an understanding of lessons on climate risk assessment, LLA metrics identification, and opportunities for scaling up LLA solutions among the vulnerable in a rural and urban context in Southern Sahara Africa.

Organizers

- Africa Research and Impact Network
- Africa Resilience Hub
- Adaptation Research Alliance Micro-grantees
- Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- Rights and Resilience Programme (RARE)- University of Copenhagen & University of Nairobi

Key messages

- There is need to re-define what the locally-led adaptation means for African communities especially the vulnerable groups.
- Locally led adaptation is contextual and can be defined using key principles of equality, inclusivity and pro activeness in mitigating climate change at the community level.
- Locally led adaptation is keen on shifting power and resources from powerful elites to the communities' suffering impacts of climate change to enhance their adaptive capacity.
- Despite its contextual nature, locally led adaptation could benefit more from cross learning and best practices fora.
- If LLAs are not scaled up financially and their sustainability enhanced, climate change would continue to reinforce vulnerabilities in Africa.

4. High-level Dialogue on Gender and Climate Change in Africa

Held on 7 October 2022 at ILRI

Purpose

The ARIN participated in this high-level dialogue on gender and climate change. The dialogue was based on the CGIAR's new Initiative on Gender Equality, which is designed to address challenges to gender equality in food systems against the backdrop of climate change. This dialogue examined the challenges and solutions around gender equality and food systems to feed into COP27 deliberations on how to improve gender integration in the climate resilience decisions.

Organizers

Partners in this dialogue were HER+ and CGIAR Initiative on Gender while the speakers were drawn from the two organizations and the UN Women.

The dialogue generated essential takeaways but above all underscored the role of women in securing food systems against the backdrop of climate change.

Key messages

- Climate change impacts disproportionately on women, exposing social, and gender inequalities across the globe.
- Women make significant contributions to food systems and are central in safeguarding the vulnerable groups by supporting local the food and nutrition mechanisms.
- There is need to continue engaging women in policymaking and governance perspectives when tackling climate change. If women are better represented, heard and accounted for in climate related AFS governance, their voices will promote gender equality, poverty reduction, and resilience to climate change.
- When it comes to resilience and adaptation, this is interpretively different for different groups of women in different contexts. There is a rising need for tracking tools and indicators to demonstrate women's contributions beyond their household in climate change initiatives.
- The role of women in securing food systems can also be enhanced by ensuring that they are well equipped with knowledge on how to effectively contribute to the climate change conversation through policy, leading locally led adaptations and increasing their voice over the use of local resources.

ARIN'S ENGAGEMENTS AT COP 27

The Africa Research and Impact Network is co-hosting and contributing to a series of side events at COP 27. These side events are co-organised together with national, regional and international partners and with the aim of consolidating and strengthening evidence informed African voices.

1. Innovative Bridging Adaptation Action and Research Experience from ARA

Date: 8th November 2022

Time: 12.00 – 1300 hrs

Venue: Resilience Hub Side event at COP27

Purpose

To discuss how the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is driving a paradigm shift to make adaptation research more action-oriented and to ensure that the best research supports adaptation action on the ground

Organizers

- Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA),
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)

Speakers

Dr. Joanes Atela – Director, Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)

Key messages

- Locally led adaptation provides an important pathway for taking adaptation actions and resources to the most vulnerable groups in local communities
- Evidence on the experiences of Locally led adaptation by various social groups can inform targeted interventions
- Research evidence from the ARA micro-grants has revealed that Co-creation between researchers and local communities can reveal important niches for interventions.
- Key Announcements to be made at the event:
- Launch of the ARA grassroots action research micro-grants.
- Launch of the BASE initiative microgrants for climate resilience.
- ARA's submission to the Global Stocktake

2. NDC implementation: opportunities and challenges for Africa.

Date: Tuesday 9th November 2022

Time: 17.00 – 18.00 HRS

Venue: NDC Pavillion.

Purpose

- To discuss NDC implementation progress, opportunities, and challenges for Africa

Organizers

- East African Community (E.A.C)
- Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Speakers

- COMESA Partner States
- EAC Partner States
- Dr Joanes Atela – Director, ARIN
- Dr Bhim Adhikari – IDRC

Key messages

- Partner states are making varied progress in NDC implementation of NDCs
- A key challenge in the implementation is the funding gap is. the actual funding flow is less than 5% of the amount required to implement actions
- Capacity skills to develop innovative programmes and projects from the NDC plans is also a major gap.
- Some opportunities and challenges are common across partner states thus there is an opportunity for learning.

3. Resilience Measurement in Complex Systems: Water and Natural Ecosystems: Advancing Resilience Measurement: A Compass, a milestone or a benchmark for measuring resilience in complex systems?

Date: 10th November 2022

Time: 12.00 – 13.00 HRS

Purpose

To discuss Resilience Measurement in Complex Systems: Water and Natural Ecosystems: Advancing Resilience Measurement: A Compass, a milestone, or a benchmark for measuring resilience in complex systems?

Organizers

- Global Resilience Partnership,
- University of Arizona and
- USAID

Speakers

- Ms Leah Aoko, ARIN (Africa Research and Impact Network – representing the Africa Regional Resilience Hub)
- Ms Shuchi Vora iDE (Moderator)
- Jagdeesh Puppala Rao (Common Ground)
- Mr John Meyer (USAID)
- Ms Suzanne Carter (ARA – Representing Global Stocktake)
- Mr Marco (Race to Resilience Metrics)
- Private Sector Rep

Key Messages

- What are the entry points to resilience measurement in complex systems?
- What is the role of resilience measurement when tracking progress? Can it be a marker of future trajectories?
- Who is measurement meant for? How do the key audiences approach measurement in case of conflicting priorities?
- An expected outcome: to further our collective understanding on the need to measure resilience to track progress and navigate through an uncertain future.

4. Innovative Building Resilience in East African Community and Sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges and opportunities.

Date: Tuesday 11th November 2022

Time: 16.45 – 18.15 HRS

Venue: Main UNFCCC Pavilion

Purpose

To explore opportunities and challenges for pursuing locally led adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa. This session will build on the experiences from research and practical interventions taking place within the Partner States to highlight some of the opportunities and challenges for achieving innovative locally led adaptation actions. The East African Community is one of hard-hit regions by the impacts of climate change.

First Session: Case Presentations. The cases are focused on the climate vulnerabilities, challenges, and opportunities for building innovative locally led adaptation actions in SSA and East Africa in particular Conservation International.

Organizers

- East African Community (E.A.C),
- Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)
- Conservation International
- Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Rights and Resilience Program in Kenya

Speakers

- Dr Joanes Atela, Convener, ARIN (Moderator)
- Eng. Ladislaus Leonidas, Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, East African Community Secretariat (Opening remarks)
- Dr Kennedy Mbeva – Co-convener, ARIN
- Elijah Torai – Senior Environmental Economist, IDRC Canada
- Johnson Gwladys and Obed Asamoah – N.D.C – F.F.P Fellows
- Prof. Iben Nathan and Alphonse Mollo
- Shalom Ndiku – Conservation International
- Dr. Mikkel Funder – DIIS/ RARE
- Dr Bhim ADHIKARI – Senior Environmental Economist, IDRC Canada

Key messages

- A mapping of NDC financing strategies across 41 African countries shows that most SSA countries lack skills for translating NDCs into fundable interventions
- The NDCs focuses on adaptation sectors such as AFOLU, which are critical for most communities but do not consider financing a priority.
- National budgetary allocations are insignificant to achieve desired adaptation actions. Countries heavily rely on international funding, posing a major risk to the efforts to address the increasing vulnerabilities.
- Options to access international finance are not well understood by Partner States due to known common barriers such as lack of institutional capacity and the complexity of international financial architecture, and limited data on climate risks.
- There are emerging innovative financial strategies by the private sector, promising an opportunity, but countries have little clarity on how to institutionalize these strategies and make them responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups in their communities.

5. Science- Policy Implementation Interface for Food System Transformation & NAP Implementation in Middle East & Africa

Date: Tuesday 11th November 2022

Time: 11.45 – 13.00 HRS

Venue: UNDESA- SDG Pavilion, Blue zone

Purpose

To explore options through which Science-led policies and actions can play a critical role in strengthening communities' ability to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change and transform food systems towards more resilient systems in Africa and the Middle East.

Organizers

- Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- United National Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Arabas Emirates (UAE)
- UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO)

Speakers

- Ms. Georgina Kemp (IDRC) -Moderator
- Ms. Rohini Kohli, Lead Technical Specialist for National Adaptation Plans, UNDP(Keynote)
- Dr. Joanes Atela – Director, ARIN (Africa Research and Impact Network).
- Dr Christopher Trisos, co-ordinating lead author of Africa Chapter of IPCC.
- Dr Debra Roberts, IPCC Co-Chair: Working Group II
- Ms. Fatin Samara, Co-Chair of the United Arab Emirates Climate Change Research Network.
- Dr. Mamadou Fall, Director of IED Afrique (Innovation, Environnement, Développement).
- Dr Shehnaaz Moosa, CEO of CDKN (Climate and Development Knowledge Network).

Key Messages

- Science-based solutions are key to informing climate policies and scaling up NDCs and NAPs implementation particularly in the Middle East and Africa
- There is need for enhanced nexus between science, policy and development for enhanced NDC planning and implementation in developing countries
- Sharing learnings and experiences around best practices on science-policy nexus on climate change adaptation is critical.
- There is need to scale up existing and future mechanisms to enhance and update science-based solutions in climate policy and actions especially for vulnerable groups.

6. Understanding Urban Risk

Date: 12th November

Time: 11h30 AM–12h30 PM

Venue: Resilience Hub

Purpose

This session brings together at least four 'contestants' who will 'pitch' effective models of understanding and communicating urban risk, to two 'judges' in a 'shark tank' type format. "

Organizers

- Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA)
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)-UK
- SouthSouthNorth

Speakers

- ARA micro-grantees:
- Mr. Charles Tonui, ARIN and Tomorrow's Cities Nairobi Risk Hub

Key Messages

- There are various models for effective communication of disaster risks in urban settings
- However, there is limited opportunities for various cities to share and learn from these models. In their disaster management planning.

7. GLOCAL: Innovative Financing for Scaling-Up Adaptation in Africa

Date: Tuesday 15th November 2022

Time: 18.30 – 19.45

Venue: MDB Pavilion

Purpose

To understand the role and challenges of innovative financing instruments in bridging the gap through innovative financial instruments.

Organizers

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Africa Research & Impact Network (ARIN)
- African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- United Nations Economic Council of Africa (UNECA)

Speakers

- Dr Olufunso Somorin, Regional Principal Officer, AfDB (Moderator)
- Dr Al Hamndou Dorsouma, Acting Director, Climate Change, AfDB (Keynote Speech)
- Dr Bhim ADHIKARI – Senior Environmental Economist, IDRC Canada
- Dr Joanes ATELA – Director, Africa Research & Impact Network
- Dr Christine GUERNING – Senior Project Manager, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management
- Dr Daouda NDIAYE – Lead Climate Change Specialist, Islamic Dev. Bank
- Mr Joe-Ellen PARRY – Director, Adaptation, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Key messages

- Gaps in financing adaptation actions in Africa can mainly be filled through innovative financial frameworks and instruments
- There is need to understand the experiences including challenges and opportunities that countries face in their efforts to embrace innovative financial instruments.
- Many African countries require capacity support to adequately develop and adopt innovative financial strategies.
- Strengthening financial strategies to be more inclusive and to reduce inequalities among vulnerable local communities is critical for achieving just transition to low carbon economy and resilience in Africa.

8. Reaching Resilience: African solutions for the African continent

Date: Tuesday 15th November

TIME: 09.00 local time

Purpose

This session will share the key messages on resilience strengthening that arose from the Africa Regional Resilience Hub that took place in the lead up to COP27. We will hear from resilience experts from the continent on how the climate resilience agenda should be learning from, collaborating with and supporting Africans for improved and increased resilience in Africa.

Organizers

Africa Regional Hub

Speakers

- Dr Joanes ATELA – Convener/Director, Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN)
- Africa Regional Hub Experts

Key messages

- Multiple interventions are in place to drive climate resilience in Africa
- Several lessons have emerged and documented in different settings
- There is an opportunity to profile key learnings to collectively communicate the implications for the Global Goal on Adaptation
- There is need to strengthen the global learning mechanism/platforms to spur lesson sharing and leadership

ARIN POST-COP 27 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

ENHANCING COMMUNITIES' RESILIENCE THROUGH A JUST TRANSITION IN AFRICA -WHAT DOES COP 27 PORTEND?

Context

The World is on the verge of and amid several transitions structured by major social, economic, and environmental disruptions including climate change, COVID-19, and knowledge shifts. These disruptions are redefining new institutional cultures, governance, and decision-making processes, with implications on the people and particularly the poor and marginalized groups, including women, children, indigenous people, and ethnic minorities among others. In the recent international debates, attention has been given to the concept of just transition – aimed at safeguarding the socio-economic rights and resilience of these vulnerable groups. However, it is possible that some of the processes and interventions underpinning the just transition agenda, if not well understood, might reinforce vulnerabilities, or even create new ones especially for African communities. The ARIN International Conference 2022 seeks to interrogate pathways through which just transition processes in Africa could rebuild better and more resilient local communities.

Theme 1: Envisioning a just transition for Africa

This theme will explore the fundamental elements that underpin just transition in Africa including how just transition discourse is framed and pursued by different groups. The theme will include a reflection on the COP 27 outcomes and implications for the just transition discourse in Africa and particularly the vulnerable groups.

Theme 2: Building just and resilient community systems

This theme will focus on the implications of transition processes on local community systems especially the vulnerable and marginalized groups. The processes and interventions of pursuing a transition in response to shocks/interruptions often have varied implications on the vulnerable with some becoming worse off.

Theme 3: Decolonizing policy research toward resilient communities

This theme will explore the pathways for decolonizing research and policies to support resilient communities. It will seek to understand the underlying drivers of knowledge, resource and institutional coloniality that reinforce vulnerabilities. It will explore the role of equitable partnerships in decolonizing opportunities for resilient communities.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8b5z96>

OUR PARTNERS



