

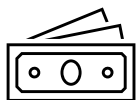


An overview of Locally Led Adaptation

Why champion locally led adaptation?



People and communities are on the frontlines of climate change impacts, yet they rarely have a voice in decisions over how to protect themselves from those impacts.



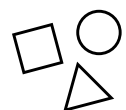
Climate finance rarely supports community-led activities. In 2017, IIED estimated that less than 10% of global climate fund finance was dedicated to the local levels between 2006-2016, and it is estimated that less than 2.5% of humanitarian aid went to local actors in 2019.



This dual lack of agency and funding is especially harmful for people living in poverty. Climate change is expected to push more than 130 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, making the situation increasingly challenging over time.



Bringing local people into decision making and financing improves the effectiveness of adaptation solutions.



Given the right resources, partnerships, information, voice, and agency, local people offer huge untapped resilience-building potential to deliver more context-specific, diverse and cost-effective adaptation solutions.

What is Locally led adaptation (LLA)?

- There is a growing movement for locally led adaptation (LLA), a new paradigm where local actors and communities have meaningful input in shaping decisions over how, when and where to adapt.
- LLA recognizes the value of local knowledge and expertise to address climate risk and ensures that local actors on the front lines of climate change have equitable access to power and resources to build resilience.
- LLA is about devolving authority and control over resources to local actors as well as strengthening these local actors and local institutions so that they are inclusive, agile, and responsive, given the uncertainties of climate change.
- LLA is not simply when adaptation benefits are targeted at local actors.



Community-mapping helps Friendship NGO determine the most strategic placement of its interventions. ©AJ Ghani/Friendship

Local actors

The people and communities on the front lines of climate change, including the formal and informal institutions below national level that are composed of or directly accountable to local people, and recognising that in very specific contexts (such as very small island states) local actors could include regional or national institutions..



Public: subnational authorities and governments that are responsible for meeting local needs, particularly through public services, infrastructure and enforcing regulatory frameworks and policy.



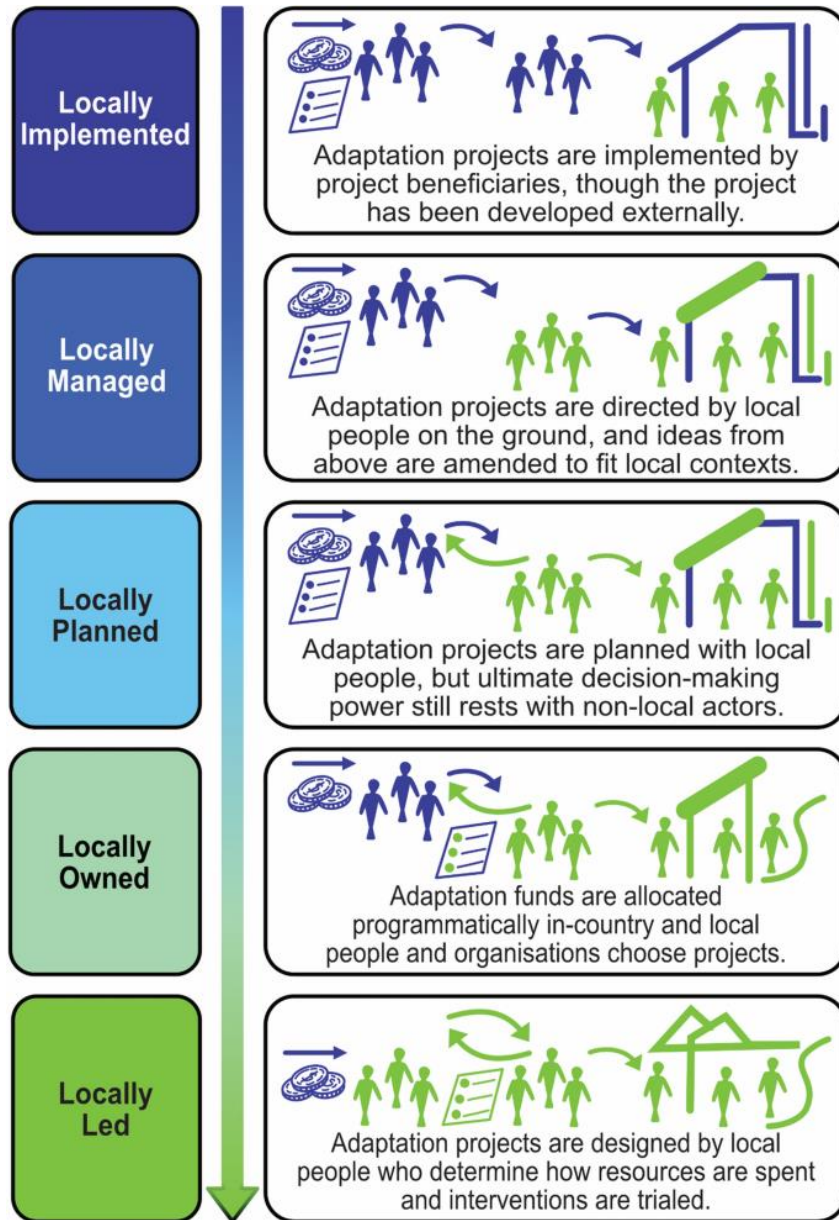
Private: formal and informal enterprises (including cooperatives) of all sizes that form a country's economic backbone, driving economic growth, generating employment and alleviating poverty.



Civil society: formal and informal community-based organisations (such as women's groups) and social movements that reach and represent excluded people, invest in locally led, people-centred solutions and engage in political and social issues to shift public opinion, norms and behaviours and public and private action.



Households and individuals: particularly women, youth, children, people with disabilities, displaced people, Indigenous People, and castes or racial and ethnic minority groups that have been excluded from the decisions and resources that affect them most.



Continuum of local contributions to adaptation programmes and projects.
 Source: Rahman, M.F., Falzon, D., Robinson, Sa. et al. Locally led adaptation: Promise, pitfalls, and possibilities. *Ambio* 52, 1543–1557 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01884-7>

The LLA Principles

- There has been a longstanding issue in the lack of, and barriers to, meaningful engagement with local actors in delivering climate adaptation.
- Between 2018 and 2021, through a series of deliberative dialogues, consultations, research studies, and knowledge sharing held under the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) and the leadership of Commissioners Sheela Patel (SDI and HC) and Dr Muhammed Musa (BRAC) with IIED, WRI, ICCCAD and more than 50 other stakeholders from across the landscape of climate action worked together to form 8 principles for delivering locally led adaptation. These principles were launched at the 2021 Climate Adaptation Summit.
- Since then, over 120 governments, leading global institutions and local and international NGOs that have endorsed these principles.

LLA Principles



1 Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level



2 Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, disabled and displaced people, Indigenous Peoples and marginalised ethnic groups



3 Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily



4 Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy



5 Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty



6 Flexible programming and learning



7 Ensure transparency and accountability



8 Collaborative action and investment

Common concerns

- Local people prioritise immediate rather than strategic needs
- Local elites, rather than the most vulnerable, capture the benefits
- Local actors lack the capabilities to design and deliver effective adaptation actions
- Transactions costs are too high
- Local actors lack the capacity to absorb, disburse and manage large sums of adaptation finance transparently and accountably at scale.

Effective locally led adaptation does not happen automatically; it requires strong local leadership and local institutions.

Many local (and in some instances, national) institutions are already governing and investing in local development and capabilities that can facilitate locally led adaptation at scale. Already connected and accountable to local people, they can:

- Help resolve trade-offs and conflict between communities
- Strengthen local actors' capabilities and support them to consider climate risks over different timescales
- Help shift local actors' incentives to make more sustainable choices, and
- Offer a means to cost-effectively aggregate local adaptation actions at scale.

Policies and planning: Nepal's Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs)

- Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPAs) are decentralised climate adaptation plans that are jointly developed by subnational governments, community groups and CSOs. The process includes climate risk and vulnerability analysis conducted by communities and vulnerable groups.
- The government of Nepal has a policy that 80% of climate finance is allocated to the local-level to support implementation of LAPAs.



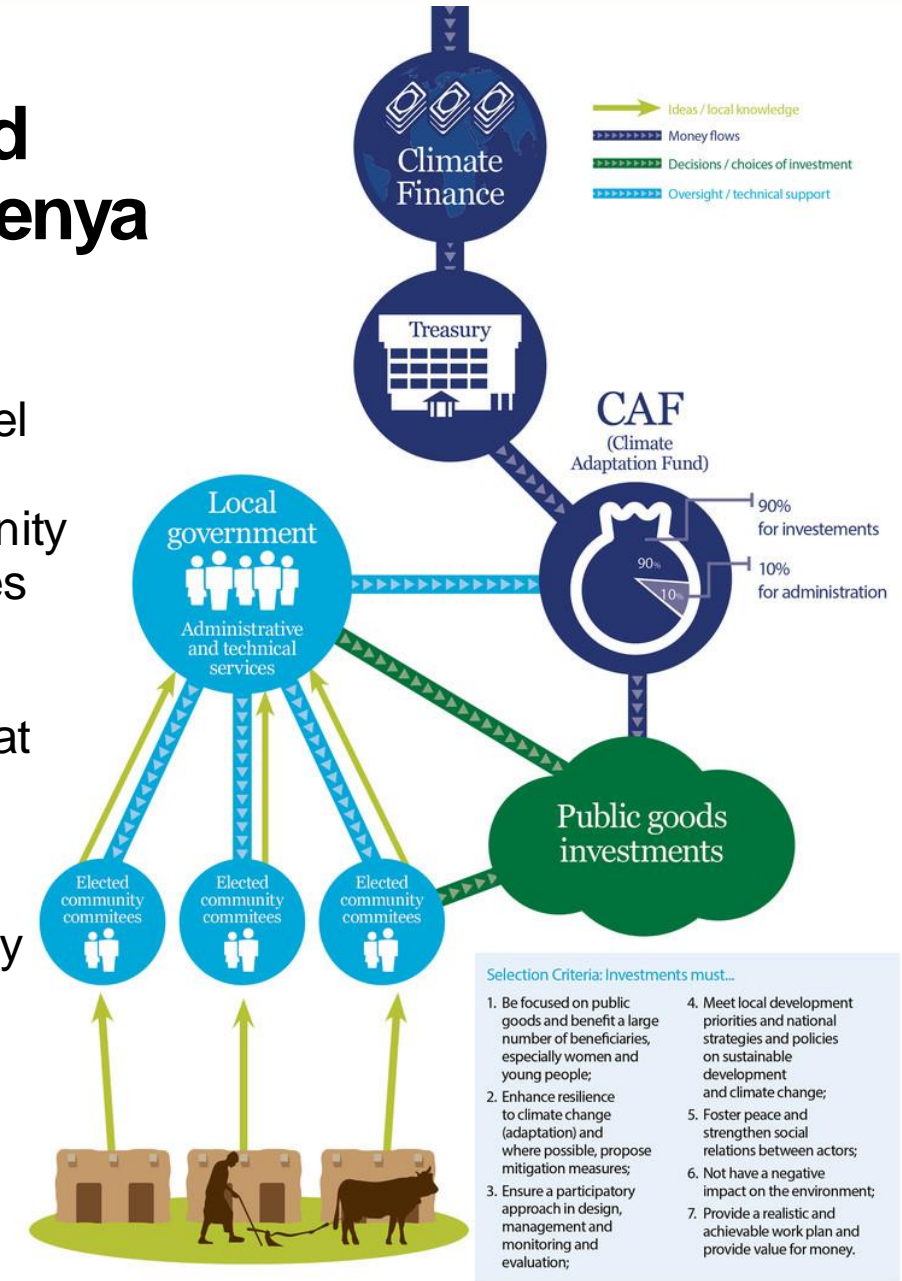
Figure 5.2 Seven steps of LAPA preparation process (Source: (GON, 2011))

<https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/khumbu-local-adaptation-plan-action-lapa-report-summary>

- LAPAs aim to mainstream climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and management in the local development process to develop a climate-resilient society.
- Both national and local adaptation planning are supported through the collection of household level data on climate impacts by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Financing and governance: The Decentralised Climate Finance approach in Senegal, Mali, Kenya and Tanzania

- DCF is a mechanism for delivering climate finance to the local level for investing in adaptation. It involves establishing subnational climate funds, managed by subnational governments and community institutions that identify their own priority climate change responses and invest the finance in building resilience.
- The authorities engage in institutional strengthening processes that engage local communities in decision-making on how the Fund money will be planned, procured, used, and evaluated.
- 90% of the fund finances investments in public goods prioritised by local government supported adaptation committees.
- 10% is allocated for administration and supporting the costs of consultation, accountability and monitoring.



Social Protection Programme: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- In India, approximately 20% of the population is deemed to be poor. Of these, 80% live in rural areas. Casual on- and off-farm labour is the main source of employment for vast numbers of India's poor.
- MGNREGS is the world's largest public works programme. It offers all rural households 100 days' guaranteed wage employment as unskilled labourers. It has a mandate that 30% of beneficiaries should be women).
- Its objectives have grown over time to encompass improving infrastructure, strengthening institutions, developing skills, and becoming shock responsive.



Picture source: thelawbug.com