



GLOBAL ADAPTATION NETWORK



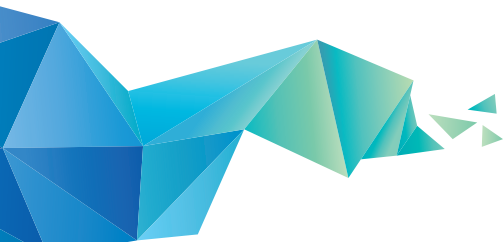


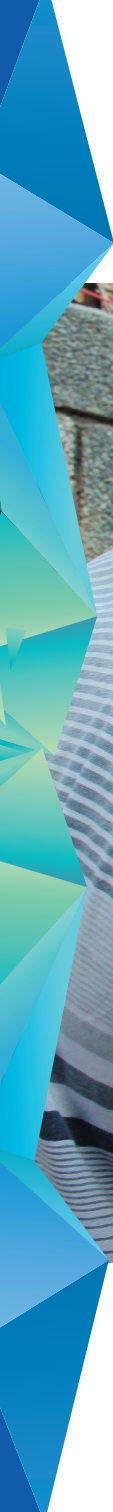
INTRODUCTION

On an almost daily basis, news headlines draw attention to the impact of climate change around the world. These are impacts to which we need to adapt. The policy world is responding. The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change includes, for the first time, a Global Adaptation Goal.

The UN Climate Conference in Bonn in November 2017, under the Presidency of Fiji, underscored the importance of building climate resilience. Many countries are starting to develop National Adaptation Plans. But adaptation is still a new area for many policy-makers and practitioners. When good solutions are developed we ought to be sharing knowledge with those who need it.

The Global Adaptation Network was created to promote this exchange of knowledge.





GLOBAL ADAPTATION NETWORK

Founded in 2010, the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) provides a worldwide platform to distribute and exchange climate change adaptation knowledge in a variety of ways and through a range of means. It emphasizes the value of direct personal exchange and partnerships, often within particular regions and localities.

The secretariat of GAN is hosted by the UN Environment in Nairobi. It is an umbrella organization that has a number of constituent regional networks and partners. Each of these provide knowledge services in their respective regions, and in turn, collaborate with local partners to enhance access to information on climate change adaptation.

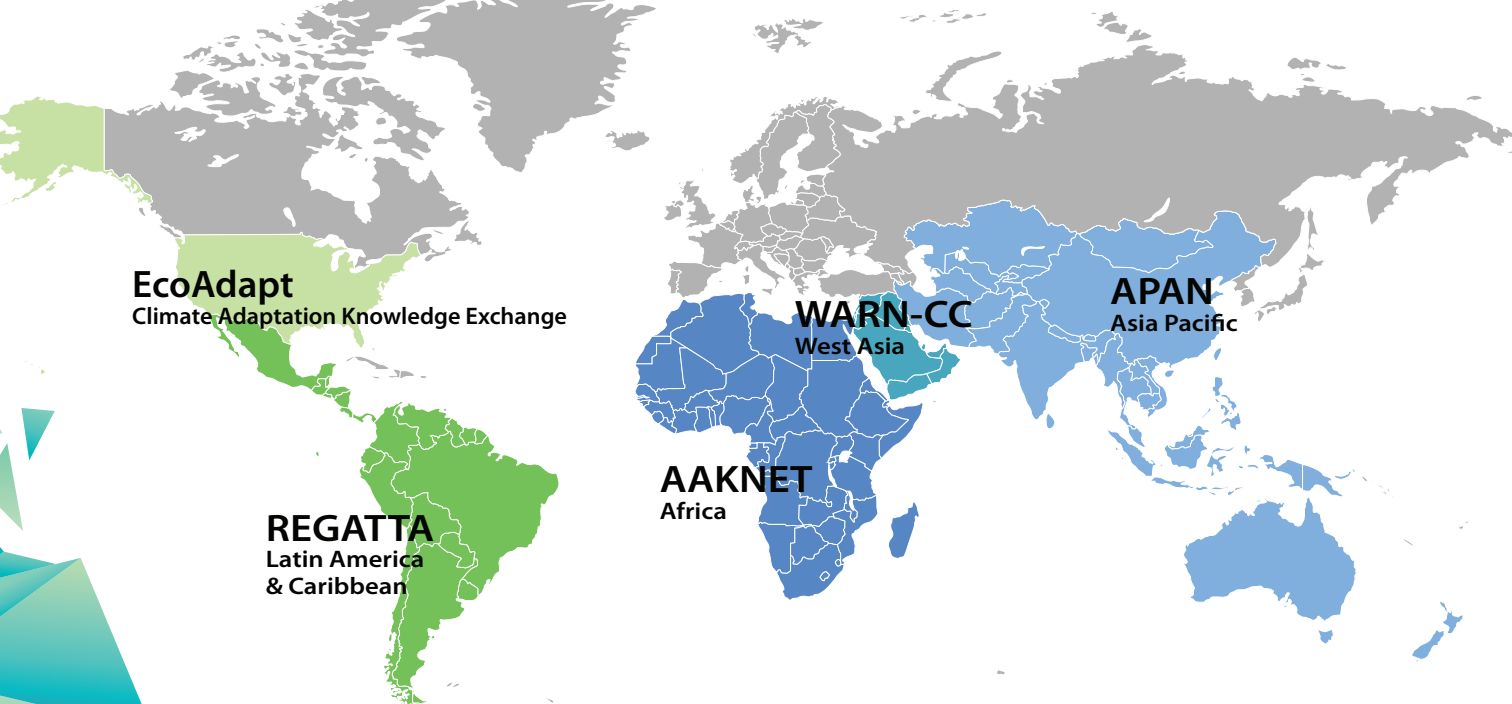
The current regional networks and partners are:

- **Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)**
- **Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action (REGATTA)** in Latin America and the Caribbean
- **West Asia Regional Network on Climate Change (WARN-CC)**
- **Africa Adaptation Knowledge Network (AAKNet)**
- **US Environmental Protection Agency**
- **EcoAdapt's Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE).**

EcoAdapt is a non-governmental organization that provides support, training and assistance for climate change adaptation in the US



WARN-CC



EcoAdapt
Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange

REGATTA
Latin America
& Caribbean

AAKNET
Africa

WARN-CC
West Asia

APAN
Asia Pacific

REGIONAL NETWORKS AND PARTNERS

The Regional Networks and Partners constitute the building blocks of the Global Adaptation Network. APAN regularly convenes large Asia-Pacific conferences on adaptation and the sixth such event is to be held in 2018. It has also developed a database for climate change adaptation good practices and technologies in the region. REGATTA has been responsible for developing six Communities of Practice on key issues, including a community around ecosystem-based adaptation and a community aimed to support the preparation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans in region.

These bring together policy-makers, practitioners and researchers across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) for focused exchanges on particular topics. REGATTA has carried out vulnerability assessments in more than 15 LAC countries, serving as prototypes for the design of large-scale adaptation strategies. EcoAdapt has been responsible for the development of the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE), which has become a model of how to share knowledge on adaptation.

In Africa, AAKNet established the Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly (EBAFOSA), which works with the African Union and other major stakeholders. The Assembly focuses on the urgent imperative to ensure that the food system of Africa is optimized and 'climate-proof'. In the West Asia region, WARN-CC conducted a mapping exercise of Climate Technology Centres to pinpoint the obstinate barriers to technology transfer in the region. The study urged that technology hubs be established to enhance regional cooperation.



GLOBAL ADAPTATION FORUM

GAN organizes global adaptation Forums in response to need and demand. Two have been held so far, one in Panama City in March 2015 and another in Abu Dhabi in March 2018. These Forums bring together adaptation experts and typically focus on a small number of key issues in adaptation. We work closely with the Adaptation Committee of the UNFCCC to integrate their work within the Forum.

The Abu Dhabi meeting focused on:

- Transferring adaptation solutions and technologies developed in the Gulf States to the rest of the world
- Addressing the challenge of measuring climate risks and our adaptation responses to those risks
- Building better mechanisms for sharing knowledge on adaptation
- Reaching those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change





Using University Resources To Address Resilience At The City Scale

GAN is working with the Educational Partnerships For Innovation In Communities (EPIC) Network to extend the successful model they developed in the United States to other parts of the world. The EPIC Framework is a sustainable and innovative way to harness university resources to address resilience and climate adaptation at the city scale. It allows existing university resources across broad administrative and disciplinary silos to be applied to real community needs in ways that can be sustained at the local level without ongoing external resources. The Chronicle of Higher Education called the model "one of higher education's most successful and comprehensive service-learning programs."

In 2016 GAN began working with the EPIC network and other partners to extend the model around the world. By the end of 2017, a successful EPIC-Africa network had been launched with several city-university partnerships established. Plans are underway for training events in other regions and the establishment of other regional members of the EPIC network.



Specialist Ecologist Richard Winn of eThekweni Municipality conducts a tour around a landfill site as part of GAN's learning exchanges

LEARNING EXCHANGES

The Adaptation practitioners deal with similar challenges across the world, and therefore face-to-face information exchanges are acknowledged to be an effective way of learning.

In 2016-17, GAN carried out 4 pilot Learning Exchanges in which practitioners shared their experiences of developing techniques for resilience. In southern Africa, four Mozambican cities had a Learning Exchange with the eThekweni municipality in South Africa. The Mozambicans were able to share detailed solutions with their South African counterparts to tackle erosion, catchment management and sea level rise, while the South African experts reciprocally imparted engineering and ecosystem-based solutions for resisting coastal erosion. Another exchange occurred between two grassroots organisations working with impoverished communities in India and Malawi. The results included the valuable transfer of information on technologies for locally produced, organic-based fertilizer that can produce healthier crops, significant cutbacks in costs and reduced water use

Additionally, in 2017 GAN supported another 4 learning exchanges in Latin America through REGATTA. In conjunction with the Chilean Ministry of Environment and the Mexican Centre for Research in Food and Development, participants from Mexico revealed an innovative participatory methodology to assess vulnerability to climate change. In turn, participants from Chile shared their unique framework for strengthening community governance.

Learning exchanges were also conducted between adaptation practitioners in Colombia and Honduras, and included:

- i) Sharing planning tools for adaptation,
- ii) implementing ecosystem-based adaptation measures, and
- iii) learning processes aimed at the inclusion of gender and generational change..

The GAN will be seeking to build these learning activities into the work of the UN Environment and other partners so these exchanges can be more widely used as a tool for sharing knowledge and understanding how to undertake adaptation action.

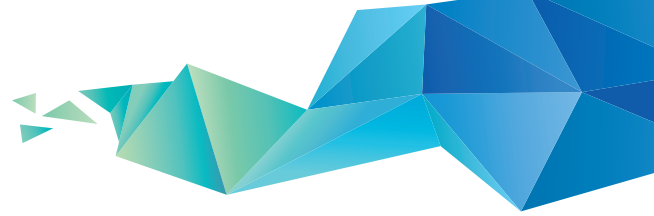
LIMA ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE

Climate change adaptation knowledge gaps have been repeatedly identified as a barrier to successful adaptation actions. Knowledge about adaptation is growing, yet the persistence of such gaps suggests the need for a better alignment of the supply and demand for adaptation knowledge.

The Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) addresses this issue. LAKI is a joint action pledge, under the Nairobi Work Programme, between the UNFCCC secretariat and UN Environment through the GAN. The LAKI interventions focus on addressing the gap that results from the deficit of accessible data, information and knowledge in the context of the specific sub-regions and sectors.

LAKI works through a participatory process of gap identification and prioritization, accompanied by facilitated science-policy-practice dialogues to catalyze collaborations and the implementation of actions to close existing gaps. To date, six priority-setting workshops have been convened, covering a total of 38 countries, of which 3 are small island developing states (SIDS), 11 are least developed countries (LDCs), and 13 are in Africa





NEW AREAS OF WORK

A number of issues are currently attracting increased attention amongst adaptation policymakers, researchers and practitioners. GAN seeks to ensure that emerging lessons are quickly shared and disseminated.

Measuring Adaptation:

Recently, the measurement problem has emerged as a crucial topic in adaptation. There are different dimensions to this. Some want a consistent way of measuring climate risks, while others want ways of measuring what is done and how effective it is in building resilience. GAN is hosting meetings to advance and share the understanding of these issues.

Climate Risk Insurance:

The potential of climate risk insurance to allow communities and societies to absorb climate impacts is attracting considerable interest. In many parts of the world, decision-makers and policy-makers need to decide whether - and in what form - climate risk insurance is an appropriate tool. GAN is seeking to spread the understanding that can inform these decisions, with an initial focus on Africa.

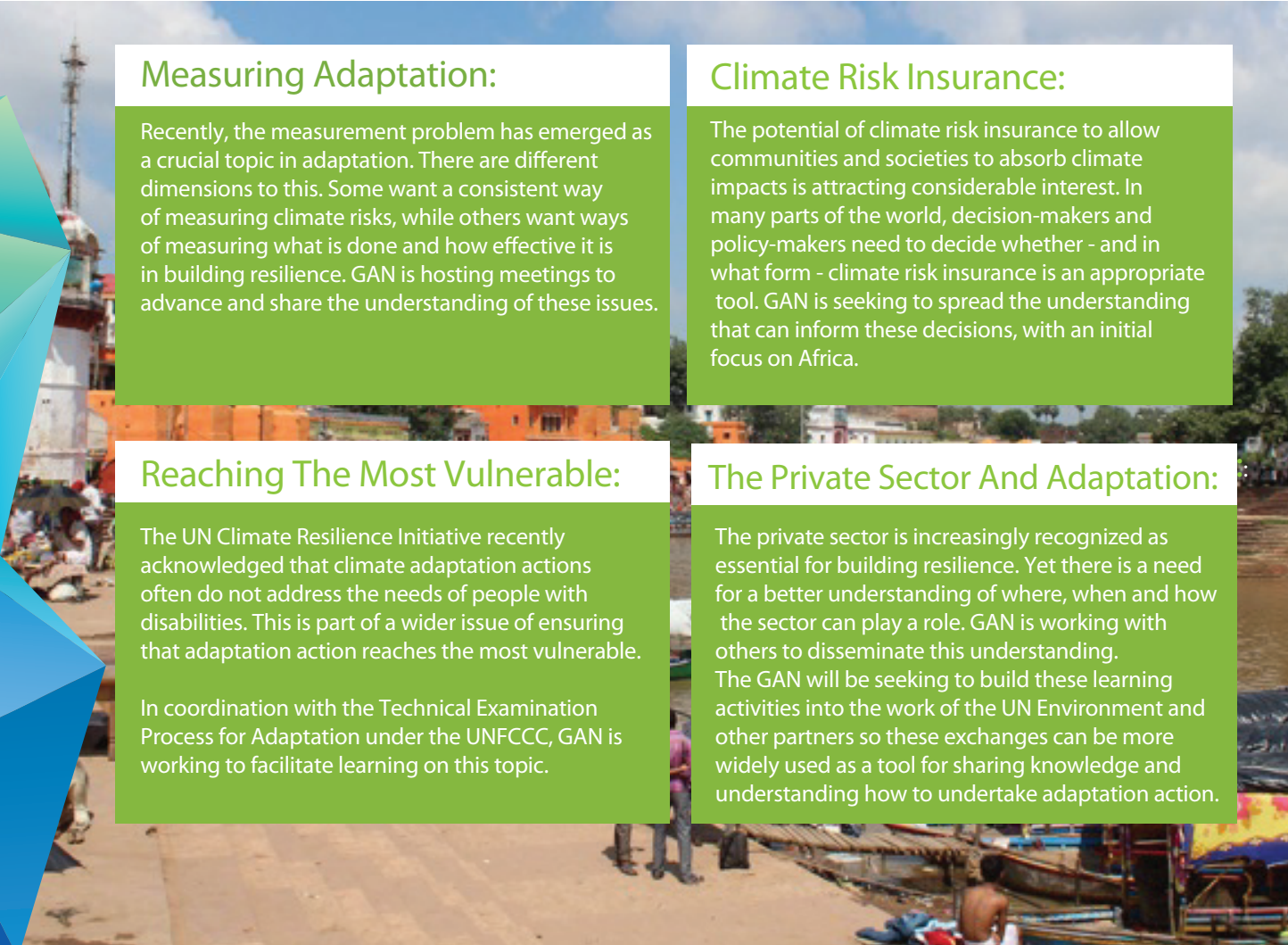
Reaching The Most Vulnerable:

The UN Climate Resilience Initiative recently acknowledged that climate adaptation actions often do not address the needs of people with disabilities. This is part of a wider issue of ensuring that adaptation action reaches the most vulnerable.

In coordination with the Technical Examination Process for Adaptation under the UNFCCC, GAN is working to facilitate learning on this topic.

The Private Sector And Adaptation:

The private sector is increasingly recognized as essential for building resilience. Yet there is a need for a better understanding of where, when and how the sector can play a role. GAN is working with others to disseminate this understanding. The GAN will be seeking to build these learning activities into the work of the UN Environment and other partners so these exchanges can be more widely used as a tool for sharing knowledge and understanding how to undertake adaptation action.



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