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Ideas for
climate
advocacy

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R E P O R T

Ideas for climate advocacy

“Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C is vital to lessen the eventual impacts of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, particularly women and girls in all their diversity who are the most affected by climate-induced disasters. To keep 1.5°C alive, the world must phase out fossil fuel production and consumption as fast as possible.”

—Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, ACT Alliance General Secretary
COP26, Glasgow, 2021

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Abbreviations

AOSIS	Association of Small Island States (https://www.aosis.org)
AR6	6th Assessment Report of the IPCC
BFA	Banco de Fomento Agropecuario (Agricultural Development Bank, El Salvador)
CAT	Climate Action Tracker (https://climateactiontracker.org)
CJG	Climate Justice Group (ACT Reference Group steering the Climate Justice Programme)
CoP	Community of Practice (of ACT Alliance)
COP	Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)
CRDP	Climate-Resilient Development Pathways
CSO	Civil society organisation
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum (https://thecvf.org)
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
FBO	Faith-based organisations
GHG	Greenhouse gases (CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O)
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
L&D	Loss and damage (caused by adverse climate impacts)
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean (one of the world regions of ACT)
LTS	Long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy (of a country)
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
NAP	National Adaptation Plan (of a country)
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NCCP	National Council of Churches in the Philippines
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategies
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution (the climate pledge of states)
PA	Paris Agreement
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SWOFA	Salvacion Women Farmers' Association
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
V20	Vulnerable 20, Group of Ministers of Finance of CVF (https://www.v-20.org/about)
WCC	World Council of Churches
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

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Introduction

The climate crisis is one of the existential threats of our time, jeopardising our well-being, health, and development perspectives in almost every community around the world. Half of the global population is living in countries or contexts that are considered as very vulnerable to the manifold adverse impacts of global warming, according to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).¹

An immediate and decisive response to this crisis is required to prevent climate change from becoming completely uncontrollable, the same report warns. Therefore, we need a significant rise in the level of ambition in climate policy at all levels: in mitigation on the path to climate neutrality, in adaptation on the path to climate resilience, in compensating for loss and damage, and in mobilising much more support and climate finance for the most vulnerable countries and communities as a prerequisite for ambitious action. This publication aims to deepen the understanding of these topics and provide guidance on how to address them at the level of climate advocacy.

A solution to the climate crisis requires justice and equity. Without more social equality, gender justice, and participatory and distributive justice, there can be no successful climate resilient development pathway, states the IPCC. Justice is therefore not only an outcome but also a precondition for a just transition. This scientific finding is in line with our faith principles and core values as faith-based actors. Our publication is aimed at ACT Alliance members and partner organisations who want to work for climate justice at various levels. This could be in our global Climate Justice Reference Group and the related teams, our regional Communities of Practice (CoPs), or our National ACT Forums, as well as with local and church communities, in our campaigning, public relations and education work, in youth groups, or at association level. No special previous knowledge is required. The ACT Advocacy Academy provides more in-depth skills for those who would like to learn more about advocacy.²

Three sections

This publication is divided into three major sections. In the first one, we start by explaining our understanding of climate justice, based on the foundations of our faith and our constitution as a faith-based alliance. This is followed by a summary of the most important scientific findings on the climate crisis, which is based on the results of the recently published 6th Assessment Report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). We show how the climate impacts that have already occurred and those projected for the future threaten the climate-resilient and sustainable development of all people, especially in the most vulnerable communities. In the last step of the first section, we turn to climate policy and analyse the results of COP26, the so-called Glasgow Climate Pact. We end this section with an outlook on the climate policy challenges of the coming years.

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>

² https://fabo.org/act/ACT_Advocacy_Academy_-_Advocacy_

In the second section, we move to advocacy practice. Using concrete examples, we show how advocacy for climate justice at local, national, and international levels can be carried out in comparatively simple ways. The aim is to raise the level of ambition in national and international climate targets, adaptation programmes, climate finance and in addressing climate-related Loss and Damage (L&D). This second section also explains the basics of the Paris Climate Agreement and the resulting state obligations. We also show how climate adaptation programmes can be designed to be gender responsive. Finally, we present the Climate Justice Module of the ACT Advocacy Academy as the central training tool of our Climate Justice Programme.

The third section focuses on the advocacy activities of ACT's Climate Justice Programme itself. We use current examples of good practices to show how our ACT Communities of Practice (CoPs) from the different world regions are advocating for higher climate ambition. They closely cooperate with national ACT Forums on the one hand and our global Climate Justice Team on the other. It will also become clear how diverse the ACT Alliance is and the different priorities that are set regionally for climate justice. Together, this creates a picture of 'unity in diversity.' A bibliography and list of useful resources concludes the publication.

We wish you good and inspiring reading.

A young woman with a red headwrap and a blue patterned shirt is smiling and holding several small green seedlings in plastic pots. The background is a blurred green field.

Section I

Understanding
climate justice

Ethiopia: Aberash Hilu buys seedlings that will flourish
in depleted soil. PHOTO: MAHEDERE YEMOANFILM/ACT

How our faith communities understand and live climate justice

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the water." (Psalm 24:1-2)

With this psalm, the WCC (World Council of Churches) Executive Committee opened its November 2016 statement on climate justice.³ It further states:

"The Paris Agreement was widely welcomed and celebrated by the international community and civil society. The WCC especially welcomes the fact that this agreement better reflects a justice-oriented perspective on addressing the climate crisis, offering a long-awaited sign of hope to those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

"(...) Victims of climate change are the new face of the poor, the widow and the stranger that are especially loved and cared for by God. The 10th Assembly called on WCC member churches and ecumenical organizations to insist that their respective governments look beyond national interests to be responsible towards God's creation and our common future, and to urge them to safeguard and promote the basic human rights of those who are threatened by the effects of climate change.

"Members of the ecumenical delegation (convened jointly by WCC and ACT Alliance) attending the UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh, 7-18 November 2016 (COP22), called for COP22 to translate the hope generated by the Paris Agreement into higher ambitions and concrete actions— noting that thus far the nationally determined commitments (NDCs) fall far short of what is needed to prevent the global temperature rise exceeding 2°C, let alone the more ambitious 1.5°C target. The ecumenical delegation also called for countries to initiate a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy including by ending fossil fuel subsidies and boosting investments in renewable energies, and for wealthier industrialized countries to support poorer developing countries in this transition through finance (...)." (Ibid)

According to the Strategic Directions for Climate Justice (2019-2024) of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a member of ACT Alliance, climate justice encompasses, apart from care for creation, further dimensions:⁴

"Climate change is a matter of social and economic justice (...) Climate change is a matter of gender justice (...) Climate change is a matter of inter-generational justice. It moreover raises an issue of justice for other vulnerable people, like children, disabled people and indigenous people (...) affecting the (...) enjoyment of human rights."

³ <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/wcc-statement-on-climate-justice>

⁴ <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-lwf-strategy-2019-2024>

Based on these values, LWF commits to six guiding climate justice principles (ibid):

- Using climate justice as an umbrella, while remaining rooted in a richer and broader theology
- Promoting climate justice as a positive narrative of climate action with sustainable development co-benefits
- Exploring climate justice as a bridge-builder for intergenerational collaboration and youth leadership
- Applying climate justice in a gender-responsive way
- Linking climate justice to the Local-to-Global-back to-Local approach
- Implementing climate justice through multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaborations.

ACT Alliance's Climate Justice Programme advocates for a sustainable, zero-carbon climate-resilient development pathway aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement where no one is left behind.⁵

Climate justice advocacy priorities are:

- To avert, minimise and address loss and damage
- Encourage adaptation towards community resilience
- Promote zero carbon development and keep global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees.
- Delivery of climate finance and capacity building for the most vulnerable and
- Promote human rights and gender justice in climate action.

The challenges ahead

The deepening climate crisis

The latest findings of climate science (**IPCC 6th Assessment Report, AR6**) show accurate calculations of future risks due to climate change. These future **key risks increase the challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs.)**

SDG 1 (No poverty) is strongly influenced by climate impacts. The poorest societal groups are often hit hardest by and are less resilient to climate impacts. Future climate change impacts are highly likely to worsen poverty and exacerbate inequalities within and between nations—and projections are that by 2030 these will increase significantly. Climate change is negatively affecting food production systems in many ways, overall slowing the rate of productivity growth in agriculture globally.

To achieve **SDG 2** (Zero hunger), food security must be ensured. However, climate change is expected to lead to production losses from extreme climate events, thus reducing food security and nutrition quality. Trade-offs and synergies between **SDG 2** (Zero hunger) and **SDG 13** (Climate action) at the global level

⁵ <https://actalliance.org/climate-justice/>

were recognised in the IPCC *Special Report on Climate Change and Land* (2019).

To ensure people's good health and well-being (**SDG 3**), climate impacts must be minimised. Heat is a growing health risk. A significant increase in premature deaths from climate-sensitive diseases and conditions is projected due to climate change.

Direct and indirect climate risks will negatively affect marine ecosystem services and thus life below water (**SDG 14**). It has been estimated that mean global animal biomass in the ocean will decrease by 5 percent by 2100 if global temperature rise is limited to well below 2°C, and 17 percent under a high emission scenario, with an average decline of 5 percent for every 1°C of warming.

There is growing evidence that extreme weather events such as tropical cyclones, droughts and floods have not only caused substantial direct economic losses, but have also reduced economic growth (**SDG 8**, Decent work and economic growth) in the short term as well as the long term, with more severe impacts in developing than in industrialised economies.

The most vulnerable geographies are small islands, megacities, coastal regions, and high mountain ranges. Small islands are increasingly negatively affected by tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, and invasive alien species.

Worldwide, numerous ecosystems are at risk of severe impacts, particularly warm-water tropical reefs and Arctic ecosystems. Projected climate change will increasingly affect marine and terrestrial ecosystems and ecosystem services, with severe cascading impacts across both natural and human systems, especially due to coastal flooding from 2050 to 2070.

The most vulnerable regions are west, central, and east Africa, the dry corridor of Central America, South Asia, and the South Pacific.

Enabling environments for adaptation that support sustainable development (and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals) are essential. The principles of gender, distributive and participatory justice (vis-à-vis vulnerable groups) and intergenerational fairness (for youth and future generations) are essential requirements for effective adaptation, according to the IPCC.

Climate Resilient Development Pathways (CRDP) must include better access to climate services, empowerment of women smallholder farmers, payments for ecosystem services, local management of natural resources, social safety nets, disaster risk reduction (DRR), risk sharing, and financing if these pathways are to better protect lives, livelihoods, and assets from climate risks. Synergies exist between CRDP and the implementation of the SDGs, especially in small islands, because development decisions and outcomes are strengthened by consideration of climate and disaster risk.

Rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, and ocean ecosystems, and urban, infrastructure and industrial systems are needed to switch to CRDP. This is because these systems are increasingly exposed to climate stressors. Heat, drought, flood, food security, health and water security are of particular concern.

COP26

'Keeping the 1.5 degrees temperature goal alive.' The British COP presidency deliberately chose this motto for the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which ended on 13 November 2021. It underscores the lofty expectations of the summit. This claim was justified, as the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that global warming of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius would have unforeseeable consequences. A considerable risk of irreversible climate change is already imminent in the next decade if greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are not halved within this decade.

Keep 1.5°C alive. Taking this slogan seriously, the bar for assessing the Glasgow results is correspondingly high. Halving GHG within 10 years requires an unprecedented effort and an extraordinary unity of all states to subordinate all actions to this one goal. Global emissions have risen consistently by about 7 percent per year over the last decade and then fell by 4 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. This reduction would have to double again—despite the reset of the economy—and then remain constant. This makes it clear how much effort is needed to keep 1.5 degrees alive.

Measured against this, the conference was not successful. Admittedly, the mandatory programme was completed and the rules of the Paris Climate Agreement, adopted in 2015, were finalised so that the agreement can be implemented. But the rules alone contain loopholes because some are not binding and there is much room for interpretation. They are not sufficient to achieve emission reductions on the required scale and in the shortest possible time. To achieve this, countries must adjust their reduction targets, which are still far too low, accordingly. This has not been done to a sufficient extent.

Full implementation of all 2030 targets announced before or in Glasgow would reduce global warming by about 0.8 degrees Celsius compared to Paris (2015) levels and by about 0.3 degrees Celsius compared to 2019 levels. Yet the world is still on a path leading to a warming of 2.4 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels—and thus 0.9 degrees above the 1.5 degree line.

The Climate Action Tracker (CAT) in Glasgow presents a new calculation with which, in the most optimistic scenario of all proclaimed programmes—including the long-term promises of achieving greenhouse gas neutrality—it might be possible to limit warming to 1.8 degrees. However, CAT also identifies a massive triple gap in terms of credibility, targets, and actions.

Glasgow Climate Pact

The list of decisions taken in Glasgow is long. Most relevant here is the so-called Glasgow Climate Pact.

The Pact includes:

- Decisions on long-term climate finance
- The future rules on international carbon markets
- The rules on transparent reporting on progress towards national climate targets and
- The future cycle for submission of new national climate targets.

The greatest achievement of the Glasgow Climate Pact was the request to all parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as needed to align with the Paris Agreement's temperature goal by the end of 2022. This is in line with the call from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for countries to submit new climate targets every year until the gap to reach the 1.5-degree temperature goal is closed.

Most public attention has been given to the Pact's call upon nations to accelerate the "phase-down of unabated coal power and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, recognising the need for support towards a just transition." It is the first time a climate conference has concluded with a call to end the era of fossil fuels. However, this is only an appeal and not bound to a deadline. Moreover, it includes several relativisations that could be used as loopholes which will make it possible to argue about its interpretation in the future—and delay the end of coal-fired power generation.

The second objective of the Paris Agreement is to improve climate adaptation in a way that makes all countries resilient to the unmitigable impacts of climate change. The Glasgow Climate Pact notes 'with great concern' the findings of the IPCC. The Pact, however, does not make any decisions. It instead appeals to states to make climate adaptation an integral part of national development and regional planning, and to the industrialised countries to increase their 'insufficient international adaptation funding.' Specifically, they are 'urged' to increase international adaptation funding for developing countries to twice the level of 2019 by 2025. In concrete terms this would mean an increase from USD 10 to 20 billion per year. Yet the financing needs are ten times higher.

International climate financing

The Glasgow outcomes are particularly weak regarding international climate financing. In Paris, industrialised countries committed to supporting developing countries with at least USD 100 billion per year from 2020 onwards. Only around USD 78.9 billion, or even less, had been achieved in 2018. In 2020, climate finance provided and mobilised amounted to USD 83.3 billion.⁶

Shortly before COP26, donor countries presented a paper in which this gap would be compensated by 2025 through higher pledges from 2023. Developing countries were disappointed and pushed for binding pledges. The Glasgow Climate Pact only "urges developed country parties to fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasises the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges."

Santiago Network and future COPs

Once again, the discussion was particularly controversial on how to deal with—and redress—growing climate-related loss and damage. In the Paris Agreement, this is recognised in principle as a problem that needs to be better understood, reduced, and addressed. This is the responsibility of the so-called 'Warsaw Mechanism', established in 2013 with no decision-making or implementation powers. At COP25 in Madrid it was decided after tough wrangling to support the Warsaw Mechanism with the so-called 'Santiago Network', an expert network with an implementation-oriented focus.

⁶ 2 OECD (2022), *Aggregate trends of Climate Finance Provided and Mobilised by Developed Countries in 2013-2020*, <https://www.oecd.org/climate-change/finance-usd-100-billion-goal>.

The Santiago Network was further operationalised in Glasgow. It was also decided to provide it with the financial means to provide technical support to implement relevant approaches in developing countries with the aim of avoiding, minimising, and addressing climate-related damage and losses. In addition, a dialogue programme ('Glasgow Dialogue') was agreed to further discuss how financing could be provided in the future to address climate-related damages.

These decisions fall far short of what developing countries had called for—dedicated loss and damage finance and the establishment of a financing facility to organise burden-sharing to address massive climate damage in vulnerable states on a substantial scale. This financing requirement is estimated by experts at around USD 300 billion annually in 2030. The additional costs for risk premiums on loans due to higher exposure to climate risks will burden vulnerable states with about USD 170 billion in this decade (ACT Alliance 2020). Compensation from polluters is therefore one of the key demands of vulnerable states to achieve climate justice.

COP27 takes place in Egypt in 2022. The Egyptian COP presidency has announced that it will make this a climate adaptation COP and put the issue of burden sharing back on the agenda. The question of transparency and verifiability of financing commitments will also play a significant role. The German G7 presidency in 2022, possibly in consultation with the Indonesian G20 presidency, aims to anchor the issue of climate adaptation much more prominently in international politics. They speak of building a “global protection shield against climate change.”

Action track and announcements

Climate conferences are not only about achieving progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement through the negotiation track of climate diplomacy. The so-called action track, where new initiatives are presented, is also important. The business community, financial community, cities, regions, and municipalities, as well as non-governmental associations and international organisations can participate here—in contrast to the negotiation track. The action track is becoming more important every year. Never have so many new programmes been launched. But to what extent they are implemented is another matter.

Even so, the announcements are not enough to reach the 1.5 degree temperature goal, as assessed by the International Climate Policy Hub, which includes influential think tanks and foundations such as E3G and the European Climate Foundation.

Among the most important announcements coming out of COP26 were:

- The commitment of at least 25 countries to end international public funding of coal in 2022
- The commitment of at least 23 countries to phase out national coal-fired power generation
- The formation of BOGA (Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance), bringing together states and municipalities that no longer want to produce oil and gas
- The Global Methane Pledge, with over 100 countries pledging to reducing methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030 and
- The Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use, with 130 countries committing to end deforestation by 2030.

Climate ambition

In Glasgow, AOSIS (Association of Small Island States) and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF, 49 countries led by Bangladesh, the Philippines, Costa Rica, and the Marshall Islands) were the drivers of ambition on almost all issues. Saudi Arabia and other oil states—Brazil, China, India, and Australia as well as Russia—were once again among those applying the brakes.

The USA showed a lot of presence but could hardly make any commitments due to a blockade in Congress. This is a continuation of the USA's decades-long seesaw policy, which makes it one of the least calculable countries in terms of climate policy. The EU (European Union) and Germany remain restrained. Once again, their self-appointed claim to climate leadership could not be convincingly fulfilled. This is regrettable, as a strong and ambitious EU climate policy will be crucial if the EU is to succeed in bringing climate change under control—neither China nor the USA have ambitions as high as the EU's Green Deal.

Structural limits and role of the UN Secretary-General

The Glasgow outcomes make it clear that the UNFCCC process is flawed by structural limits inherent in the system, which do not allow the 1.5 degree temperature goal to be achieved without much stronger pressure from outside. The biggest problem lies in the principle of unanimity—the lowest common denominator is always agreed upon in climate diplomacy. In view of the increasingly dramatic climate crisis, this interferes with needed decisions.

The multilateral process acts like a brake on the international community, which is already like a ponderous tanker—it moves very slowly and cannot change course quickly. In times like these, when quick reactions and leadership are needed, this is disastrous. The question arises whether there are other options outside the UNFCCC negotiations to accelerate progress in the transformation. If no large advocate is present, can several smaller advocates accelerate the process towards climate neutrality and resilience?

By virtue of his office, the UN Secretary-General enjoys political authority and, due to the convictions he has repeatedly expressed in recent years, credibility in the public arena. Most recently, in Glasgow, he urged states to revise their climate targets annually. He has repeatedly pointed out the failure of rich countries to financially support developing countries in overcoming the climate crisis. He has made it clear that failures in climate policy pose a permanent threat to human security and global stability.

Putting the Pact into action

Against this background, it would be logical to declare a global emergency in the face of the climate crisis and to call for further steps in all UN forums, international organisations, and agreements as well as bilateral cooperation—wherever necessary to examine what contribution can be made towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Many synergies could be mobilised. Measures could be adopted without the need for unanimity.

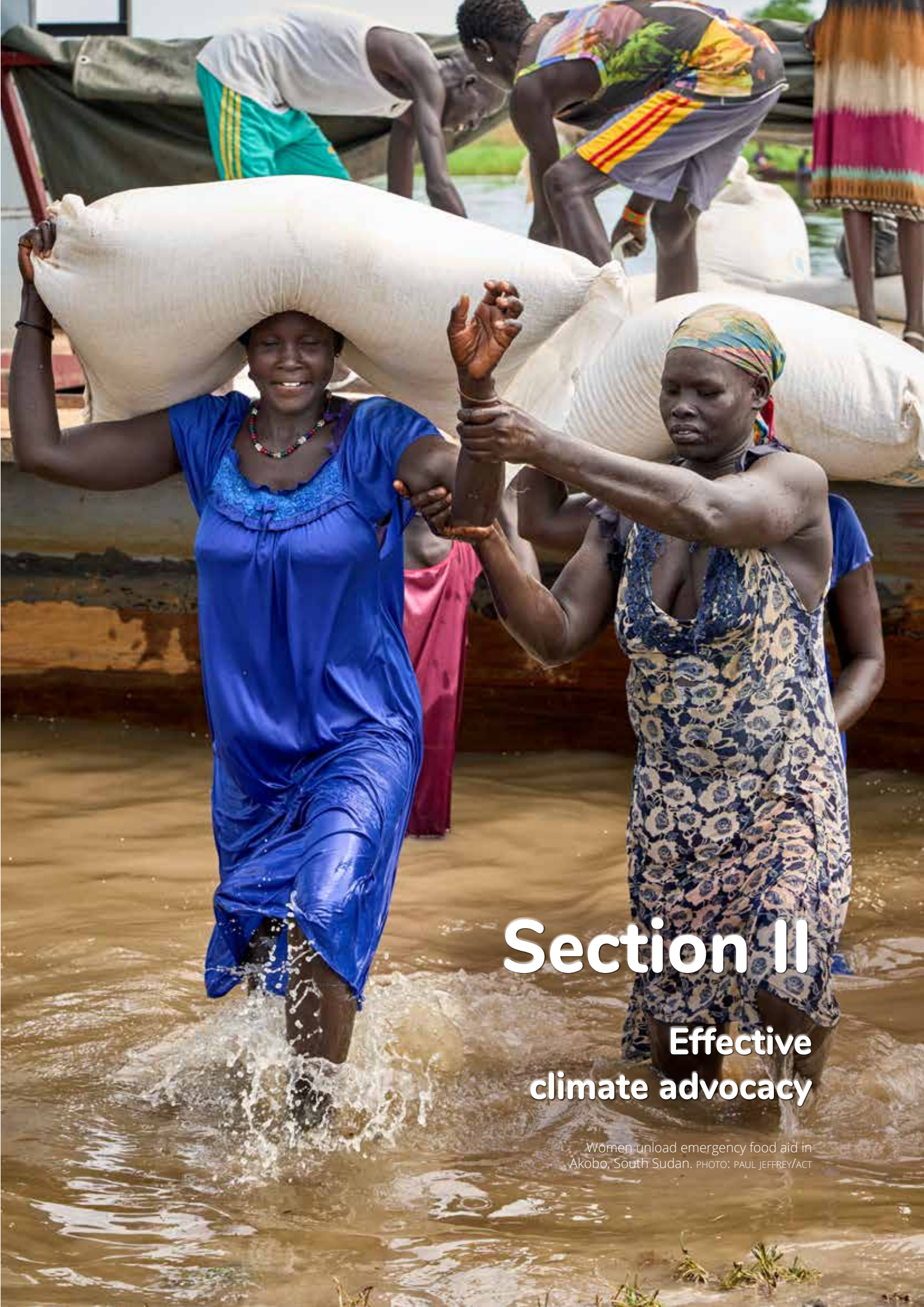
Increasing adaptive capacity as well as taking further action to reduce emissions requires greater financial resources than can be mobilised in the UNFCCC process anytime soon. A fast-acting measure would be to

mobilise USD 500 billion per year in Special Drawing Rights from the International Monetary Fund for the next 20 years. These would have to be redistributed in such a way that they benefit poor countries. With such a 'climate dividend', the transformation could be pushed forward. This addresses a core problem—that states set climate targets but have no money to achieve them.

The idea of special drawing rights was presented in Glasgow by Prime Minister Mottley (Barbados). It comes from her compatriot Avinash Persaud, a former professor. "The whole framework of the Paris Agreement... is potentially fundamentally flawed in being based around national pledges," he said. "Because these are pledges without any financing plan, we have a USD 50 trillion scale of a problem and we're using a village hall budget to try and address it. That's not going to work."

Second, the rapid development of carbon markets such as the European Emissions Trading Scheme is crucial. Their main objective is to make fossil fuels uncompetitive and replace them with renewable energies. Part of the proceeds of carbon pricing could in turn be passed on to countries particularly affected by climate change as compensation for the damage suffered. This would implement the environmental principle of 'polluter pays.' The burden sharing could, for example, take place through a 'loss and damage facility,' as demanded in Glasgow by affected states. Industrialised countries could enter transformative climate partnerships with other pioneering countries to accelerate the breakthrough of greenhouse gas-neutral technologies and adaptation strategies.

The ecumenical analysis of COP26 can be found here: <https://actalliance.org/act-news/disappointed-but-not-disheartened-cop26-ecumenical-analysis/>



Section II

Effective climate advocacy

Women unload emergency food aid in
Akobo, South Sudan. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

Practical guidance for effective climate advocacy

Understanding obligations of State Parties to the Paris Agreement

The **Paris Agreement** (PA) was adopted by 196 Parties on December 12, 2015, at COP21, the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is a landmark in multilateral climate policy and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Not until November 2021 were all technical rules and regulations finalised, meaning the PA has only been fully implementable since the beginning of 2022.

The PA pursues three long-term goals (Article 2):

- Limiting global warming to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5°C
- Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster resilience
- Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate resilient development.

The PA is structured as 29 Articles on 12 pages, complemented by a COP decision with six chapters on 16 pages to give effect to the PA. Legally speaking, the PA reflects a hybrid approach of nationally determined bottom-up action (national liability) with internationally determined legally binding obligations of conduct, as a top-down element. It enshrines aspirational goals (see above), binding obligations of conduct in relation to national mitigation action, and a rigorous system of oversight in international law to ensure transparency and accountability of national action. The Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and is the supreme decision-making body that provides guidance to the Parties by a combination of mandatory (legally binding) and discretionary (non-binding) decisions:

- Parties are mandatorily obliged to contribute to the global response to climate change by developing, submitting and implementing **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs, mid-term national climate targets by 2025/2030) that must cover mitigation and may cover adaptation. NDC targets need to increase their level of ambition over time.
- Developing country Parties are discretionally obliged to elaborate and submit **National Adaptation Plans** (NAPs) and integrate them into development planning.
- All Parties are invited to communicate to the UNFCCC secretariat **mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies** (LTS) showing how they envisage achieving climate neutrality by the middle of the century.
- **Climate finance:** Apart from the goal to shift all financial flows in a way consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development (see above), the PA includes a commitment to grant permanent, predictable, transparent and increasing support to developing countries to switch to a resilient low carbon pathway: “Developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and

adaptation” [PA, Art. 9, para 1](...) “Other Parties are encouraged to provide (...) such support voluntarily” [Art. 9, para 2]. Furthermore, the abovementioned COP Decision 1/CP.21, in para 54, “decides that... developed countries intend to continue their existing collective mobilization goal through 2025 (...). Prior to 2025, the COP (...) shall set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of US \$100bn per year.”

- **Climate induced loss and damage (L&D)** is recognised in Article 8 of the PA as an issue that deserves enhanced cooperation. The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) is firmly anchored and upgraded through the Paris Agreement: “Parties should enhance understanding, action and support, including through the Warsaw International Mechanism... on a cooperative (...) basis.” At the same time, and very much to the discontent of climate vulnerable countries, the PA “does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation,” as stated in the accompanying COP decision 1/CP.21 in para 52.

Climate advocacy: ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are at the core of the Paris Agreement (PA). All Parties are obliged to submit their NDC, their national climate action plan, to the United Nations. The level of ambition—the greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives and adaptation objectives, or measures to address loss and damage, or support provided to other countries—are all set by the Parties themselves (‘nationally determined’). Parties are obliged to raise their level of ambition over time.

The **Glasgow Climate Pact** calls on Parties to revisit their NDCs and raise the level of ambition. Without higher mitigation ambition, the 1.5°C temperature threshold will be out of reach. Without higher ambition in adaptation action, losses and damages will continue to rise. How dangerous these risks are is shown in recent IPCC reports. Stepping up climate finance, nationally as well as internationally, is a key requirement for higher ambition.

Climate justice for vulnerable communities is also dependent on the level of ambition of governments to prioritise the rights of the most vulnerable in their policies on climate action and support. So far, most countries provide only a small fraction of financial and technical support to those most in need. Thus, **advocating for climate justice requires a strong focus on participatory and distributive justice in the way NDCs are planned and implemented.** At the international level, a strong advocacy focus should be placed on the provision of a 50 percent share of climate finance for adaptation, accompanied by more support for local-level projects.

Tip 1

Assess the NDC of your country and make suggestions for enhancing participation and SDG co-benefits.

The so-called **NDC Partnership**⁷ includes most of the major donors and many Global South states. It offers an entry point to connect your advocacy at the local and national level with international-level advocacy for climate justice. It is recommended that you engage with the NDC Partnership to call for climate justice. If a country is not a member, faith-based organisations (FBOs) could call on their government to become a member. Furthermore, the knowledge portal of the Partnership includes many interesting tools, including a climate finance navigator. These can be used by FBOs to advocate for ambitious and effective NDCs (see <http://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal>).

Ensuring alignment of NDCs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) are important aspects for raising the level of ambition in NDCs in the context of climate justice. FBOs have a unique role to play in shaping NDCs.

Care for God's creation, solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable people, and respect for human dignity are deeply rooted in faith-based organisations. Human rights, equity, gender and intergenerational justice, and deep respect for identity (of local communities and Indigenous peoples) are central to our faith. This requires devotion and lived solidarity with and among people as well as between countries within the global community. As climate justice advocates, FBOs speak out against oppression and injustice. An effective way to address these issues is to convene **multi-stakeholder engagements** and call for cooperative rather than competitive interaction.

FBOs can mobilise important resources originating in faith and spirituality. These can empower the transformation to a resilient and sustainable lifestyle. **Empowerment** has turned into a key concept in advocacy for climate justice. Empowerment puts the focus on local people, and their identity and engagement in collective processes seeking to overcome situations of poverty, injustice, and suffering. Empowerment takes a holistic and interdisciplinary approach when dealing with human life in defence of dignity and justice in the context of faith and hope.

Tip 2

Engage faith leaders who are committed to the cause of the poor.

ACT Toolkit for Climate Advocacy: <https://actalliance.org/documents/towards-the-ambitious-implementation-of-the-paris-agreement-a-toolkit-for-national-level-advocacy/>

An assessment of your country's level of climate ambition is provided by the independent **Climate Action Tracker** (CAT): <https://climateactiontracker.org>

⁷ <http://ndcpartnership.org>

Climate advocacy for ambitious National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was established at COP16 in Cancun (Mexico, 2010). Since then, it has served as a solid basis for systematic national adaptation planning, aimed at:

- Reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience
- Facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant policies, programmes, and activities.

The Least Developed Country Expert Group developed **Technical Guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan Process**. According to these guidelines, the NAP process should follow these steps:

1. A national stock-take (a baseline analysis, mapping of actors, and climate risk assessment),
2. A planning phase including stakeholder consultations,
3. An implementation phase, and
4. A monitoring and evaluation phase.

Respective institutional arrangements, information sharing, and capacity development are important enabling factors.

Tip 3

Organise consultation on your NAP and present suggestions for how to implement the NAP in a participatory and inclusive way, with a priority on building the resilience of the most vulnerable.

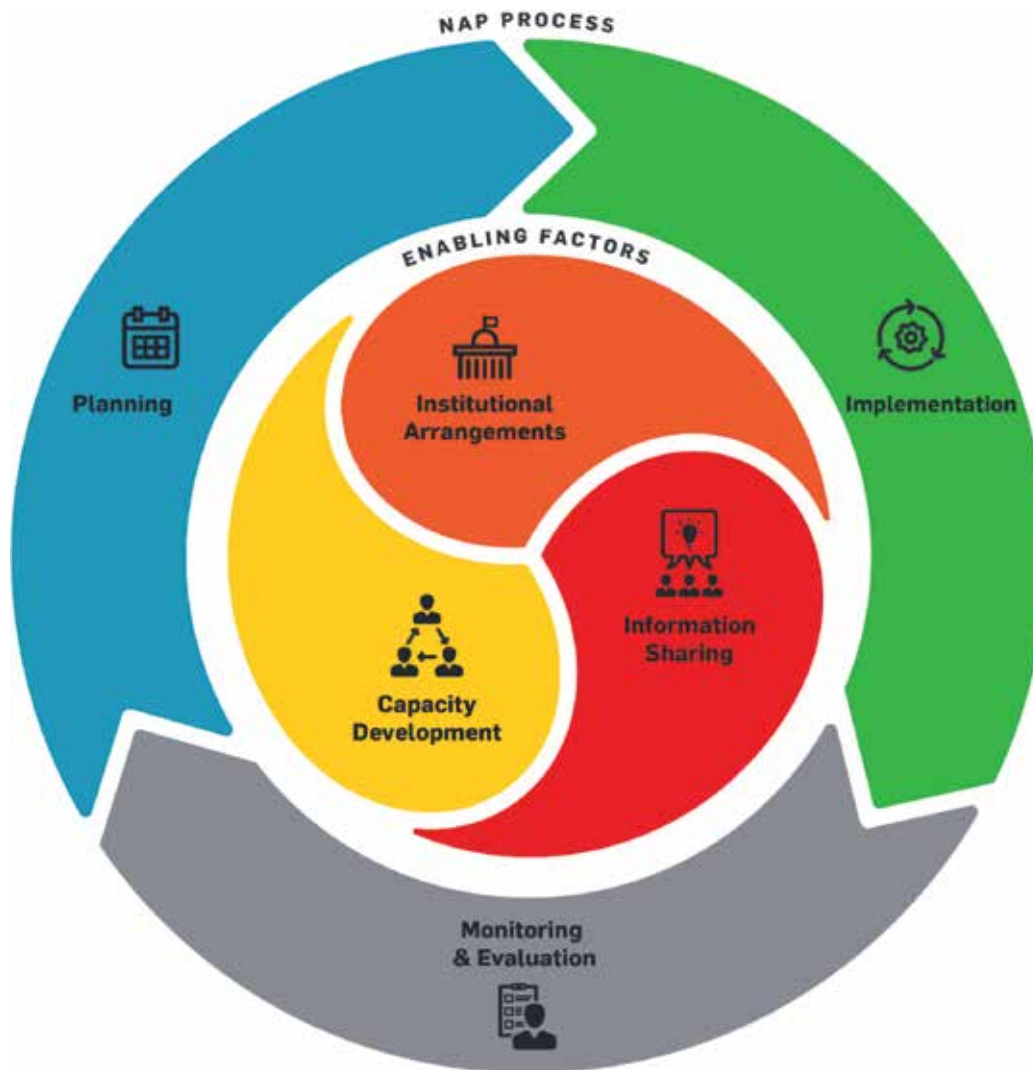


Figure 1

Practical guidelines on the NAP process

(<https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/guidelines-for-national-adaptation-plans-naps>)

These guidelines should be used as a basis for elaborating and implementing the NAP in a transparent and participatory manner to the benefit of vulnerable people and communities. This, however, requires further capacity development, a massive upscaling of support, and the establishment of bottom-up, people-centred, and vulnerability-focused climate risk assessments in most countries. Human rights risk assessments and gender-sensitive impact assessments should be integral parts of all climate risk assessments. While the Technical Guidelines refer to gender, human rights are not covered. Addressing this gap should be an integral part of advocacy work on NAPs.

What is human a rights-based approach to the NAP?

First, it must be understood which human rights are being threatened by climate change in the country and who is affected. Secondly, the state obligations arising from this threat need to be assessed—what can be expected from state authorities to protect affected people? Finally, the steps above should be part of the NAP assessment, then translated into targeted adaptation measures that will minimise threats to human rights caused by climate change.

For further guidance, see the ACT **Toolkit for Climate Advocacy**: <https://actalliance.org/documents/towards-the-ambitious-implementation-of-the-paris-agreement-a-toolkit-for-national-level-advocacy/>

Advocacy to close the climate finance gap

Poor and vulnerable countries of the Global South are affected disproportionately by the impacts of climate change while having contributed the least to it. To foster climate action in these countries is a prerequisite to achieving the SDGs and reducing climate-induced loss and damage (ACT 2022).⁸

A major precondition for effective climate action and climate justice is **access to adequate international climate finance** to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. Such finance comes from public, private, multilateral, and bilateral **sources**. These include the UN Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, and the Green Climate Fund. Financing is delivered primarily in the form of **grants and concessional loans**, and to a lesser degree as guarantees and export credits. In 2020, climate finance totalled approximately USD 70 billion.⁹

Developed countries pledged to provide USD 100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020. They failed to meet their commitment. At COP26 they said they will deliver it by 2023. They presented a climate finance delivery plan in which they could overshoot their annual target in subsequent years, so that the cumulative target for 2020-2025 would be met.

⁸ https://fabo.org/act/ACT_Advocacy_Academy_-_Climate_Justice

⁹ www.oecd.org/environment/cc/Projecting%20Climate%20Change%202020Web.pdf

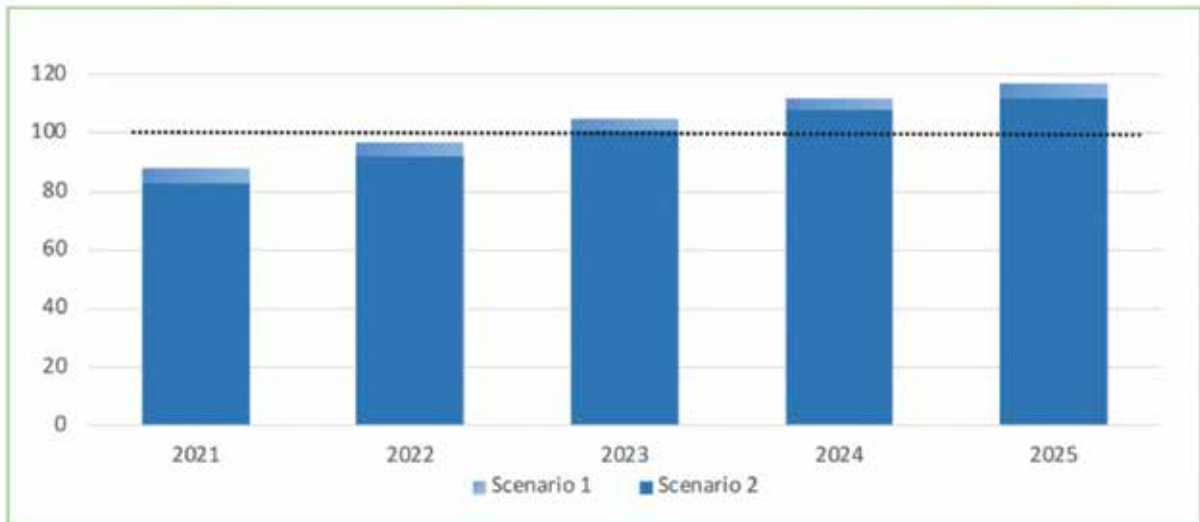


Figure 2
Climate finance delivery plan 2020-2025
 Additional funds from 2023 could make up for the climate finance shortfall in earlier years.
 Source: COP26 Presidency

ACT Alliance actively engages at national and international levels with public decision makers, the private sector, civil society actors and the public to demand that climate finance meets the needs of developing countries, with a focus on the most vulnerable (ACT 2022).

ACT Alliance has criticised the climate finance delivered through EU institutions¹⁰ as insufficient, non-transparent, skewed heavily towards mitigation, not focused enough on least-developed countries, and not enough given as grants. The report advocates for more adaptation finance, improved reporting practices, more grants, and more support for the most vulnerable.

TIP 4

Track the climate finance that has gone to your country, assess how it was spent against climate justice criteria and present the findings in a report, nationally and globally.¹¹

¹⁰ <https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Falling-Short-Seven-ways-in-which-the-EU-could-improve-its-climate-support-to-developing-countries.pdf>

¹¹ The necessary data can be found here: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/climate-change.htm>

Recommended resources

ACT Alliance, 2018. *A Resource Guide to Climate Finance*. www.actalliance.org/act-news/new-act-resource-identifies-climate-finance-sources-relevant-to-members/

ACT Alliance, 2020. *Falling Short: Seven ways in which the EU could improve its climate support to developing countries*. <https://actalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Falling-Short-Seven-ways-in-which-the-EU-could-improve-its-climate-support-to-developing-countries.pdf>

ACT Alliance, 2021. *Post 2025 Climate Finance Architecture - through a climate justice lens*. <https://actalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ACT-Post-2025-Final-Report-v2.1.pdf>

Advocacy to address loss and damage

Loss and damage (L&D) refers to those climate change impacts that cannot be addressed by mitigation or adaptation. Many vulnerable countries with low capacities have already reached their soft limits of adaptation. This hinders their progress towards climate resilient development and achieving the SDGs. **Slow-onset processes** like sea level rise, glacier melting and droughts, and **extreme events** like cyclones, landslides, flooding, and forest fires cause **economic and non-economic L&D**.

Loss and damage type	Avoidable loss and damage		Not avoided and unavoidable loss and damage
Measure	Mitigation	Adaptation and risk reduction	Curative and tranformational measures to address loss and damage
Objective	Avert and minimise potential loss and damage		Address and minimise the (potential and actual) socio-economic or human effects of loss and damage

Figure 3
Averting, minimising, and addressing loss and damage (Source: Schäfer et al. 2021)

Though the Paris Agreement has acknowledged L&D as a critical issue, developed countries have failed to embrace the agenda and financially support vulnerable countries. To date, no mechanisms have been set up to compensate those affected. Countries that suffer from L&D associated with climate change are forced to divert national budgets allocated for education, health, infrastructure, or food security to help communities that have suffered from losses. Therefore, it has become a crucial issue of climate justice that polluters pay and that those who experience L&D receive support.

Support vulnerable countries' call for climate justice in addressing L&D by advocating for:

- **Developed countries to acknowledge limits to adaptation** and that L&D must be addressed with equal priority for mitigation and adaptation.
- **Developed countries to accept the need for a separate category for loss and damage finance** in addition to existing climate finance, as well as additional existing humanitarian and development aid.
- **Developed countries to recognise L&D as a fundamental issue of climate justice and rights** of those being damaged vis-à-vis polluters. This implies recognition that L&D has become an obstacle that violates the rights of all nations to climate-resilient sustainable development.
- **The establishment of arrangements for channeling L&D finance.** For example, through a facility under the UNFCCC and other mechanisms that would ensure scaled-up provision and mobilisation of finance for the entire spectrum of loss and damage needs of developing countries.
- **Recognition of L&D from a climate justice perspective.** Due to extreme events, many communities have been displaced, lost their lives, livelihoods, and cultural practices, and faced family disintegration. Acknowledging this suffering and its injustice is a key step in overcoming it.

Loss and damage are not distant problems, but current realities faced by many. Timely recognition and support would help save lives and property and avoid irreversible economic and non-economic losses. Developed countries should support the Global South in addressing L&D.

Tip 5

Collect data on Loss and Damage that has occurred in selected communities where you work. Draft a report, organise a media tour to affected villages and hold a public hearing where you call for action.¹²

Advocacy for effective climate governance

Climate governance encompasses the institutional set-up, the laws, norms and programmes, the processes and interactions, and the thematic arrangements made, and priorities set by national governments or the community of states (at the multilateral level of the UNFCCC and the PA) to address the climate crisis. Good climate governance would seek to ensure a 'whole-of-government' approach, or

¹² An illustrative example can be found here: <https://actalliance.org/act-news/climate-induced-loss-and-damage-is-a-harsh-reality-in-nepal-press-release-cop26/>

better still a 'whole-of-society' approach, by ensuring broad support for ambitious climate action.

From a **climate justice perspective**, in addition to high ambition and effective goal achievement, broad civil society participation and inclusion are essential elements of good climate governance at all levels. FBOs can make a unique contribution by ensuring **the voices of the most vulnerable communities are heard**, be it locally, nationally, or at COPs.

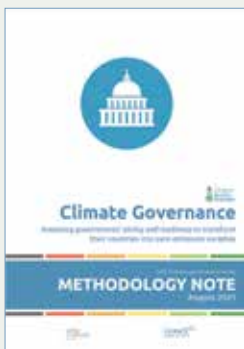
To ensure effective climate governance, we recommend advocating for:

- Multi-stakeholder workshops to identify and facilitate trade-offs between NDCs, NAPs and SDGs
- Human rights and gender impact assessments of the NDCs and NAPs
- Mapping of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders involved in NDC implementation
- Capacity development of stakeholders
- The establishment of an inter-ministerial climate steering group with civil society organisations (CSOs) and/or FBOs in an advisory role
- Integration of climate goals in national planning processes
- Regular consultations with all stakeholder groups at all levels for NDC/NAP implementation.



Useful resources

In 2018, ACT Alliance published the report *Enhanced Climate Action in Response to 1.5°C of Global Warming* which shows, for seven countries of the Global South and the European Union, how climate governance could be enforced to increase ambition in NDCs. The report can be found here: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ACT-Alliance_-Report-1.5C.pdf



In 2021, Climate Action Tracker, in cooperation with New Climate Institute and Climate Analytics, published a methodology note on how to assess and improve national climate governance. This approach can be used by FBOs: https://climateactiontracker.org/documents/865/2021-08_CAT_ClimateGovernance_MethodologyNote.pdf

Circumstances differ from country to country, and a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. However, there are several principles and actions for climate just governance that can be used as a framework for your advocacy from the local to global levels. The following actions and principles can be a useful **guide**:

- Climate goals should reflect an ambitious attempt to become GHG neutral by around the middle of the century.
- Develop an energy roadmap that leads to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.
- Develop national adaptation plans and programmes that turn vulnerability into resilience and effectively minimise loss and damage.
- Align climate policies closely with implementation of the SDGs, leading to co-benefits.
- NDC implementation strives to create decent work and is focused on the most vulnerable.
- NDC implementation has a positive impact on social equity and gender equality.
- Guarantee multi-stakeholder participation in the NDC process from planning through implementation.
- Ensure transparency and accountability of the climate governance system and processes.

Advocacy for gender-responsive climate action

Although climate change affects everyone, there are **differences across societies in how men and women are affected**. For example, **during natural disasters** women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die, according to UN Women. Many women and girls in all their diversity **lack legal rights to property**, leaving them **fewer opportunities** to rebuild their lives. Amnesty International reports that 80 percent of people displaced by climate change are women.¹³

Women are more **affected by displacement** and are also at increased risk of **gender-based violence**, forced marriage, and trafficking. As women are often responsible for domestic and care work, it is harder for them to leave home. In many cases they are left as de facto heads of households when men migrate. Their livelihoods are the most affected by environmental changes. For example, water or fuel scarcity due to climate change further increases labour demands on women and girls. Therefore, climate action should be **sensitive** to the unequal conditions and effects women face.

Because women and girls in all their diversity are disproportionately affected by climate change, they must be considered as **key agents for change**. They play a significant role in building resilience in communities and managing natural resources such as energy and food. For example, women manage 70 percent of smallholder farms in Africa. Women are also effective local and global leaders, and when they are meaningfully included in negotiations more durable and better-implemented agreements result. Yet women and girls in all their diversity systematically lack equal representation in decision-making and climate action projects.

¹³ https://fabo.org/act/ACT_Advocacy_Academy_-_Advocacy_

Good practice: Waste for Value, ACT Alliance Ethiopia Forum

Climate action must acknowledge inequalities and actively work to change them. A **good practice** in doing so is the **Waste for Value project** in Addis Ababa and other regional cities initiated by **ACT Alliance Forum members in Ethiopia**. While the aim of the project is to reduce and recycle waste, it also creates jobs for women who face reduced access to productive resources and who are economically dependent on men. The project provides the opportunity for income generation and actively builds the capacity of women's cooperatives to enhance their management and financial capacity. **This makes it exemplary of women's participation in climate mitigation actions.**

While around three-quarters of all countries globally **mention gender and/or women and girls in all their diversity in their NDCs**, the challenge lies in the transition of these commitments into action. It is **crucial that grass roots projects raise awareness of national priorities and strengthen the links between local community practices and national-level efforts.**

A few **concrete steps** can help **to make climate action projects more gender responsive**. In the programming phase:

- A **review and assessment of the gendered nature of the estimated impacts**, special vulnerabilities and inclusion possibilities of women is important.
- **Women and girls in all their diversity should be actively included** and considered as stakeholders and allies. It may be necessary to raise awareness and ensure that partners are sensitised to gender inequalities.
- It can be helpful to facilitate an internal and external exchange on **best practices that considers gender in various aspects of climate action** work processes.
- Meaningful inclusion can be facilitated through active **capacity building and support**.
- The collection of **gender-disaggregated data and reporting on impacts of gender-responsive climate action allow for accountability** and improvement of climate action projects.
- In all stages of project management, it is central to consider gender-responsive solutions and engage women and girls in all their diversity in the process of climate action.

Although these steps require additional resources, the meaningful inclusion and participation of women and girls in all their diversity in adaptation and mitigation efforts can lead to better solutions.

Being sensitive to unequal opportunities and impacts for women and girls enables programmes to address inequalities through empowering women and girls in climate action, which in turn delivers better overall results.

Good practice from ACT:

https://actalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Climate_FromWordToAction-final.pdf
<https://actalliance.org/act-news/new-act-ethiopia-study-on-gender-and-climate-justice/>



The ACT Advocacy Academy

The ACT Advocacy Academy (Academy) is a **capacity-building initiative** launched by ACT Alliance. Its objective is **to strengthen the capacity of ACT members and partners to engage in advocacy actions**.¹⁴ The Academy is meant to support those who would like to develop and take part in advocacy action around the world. The Academy aims to strengthen the ability of ACT members and, where appropriate, partners around the world to engage in successful lobbying, campaigns, and media initiatives to influence duty bearers, public debates, private companies, and political structures.

Advocacy involves strategic action to influence policies, structures, practices, and processes. In the case of **faith-based advocacy**, it can provide added value to advocacy efforts in many ways. FBOs are legitimised institutions **rooted in local communities**. FBOs can also act as influential institutions for leaders due to their constitution as an integral and trusted pillar of the social fabric in many societies. ACT is a diverse alliance of churches and faith-based actors with valuable spiritual and material resources, as well as connections to local communities and global networks. The members and partners participating in the Academy have access to intra- and interfaith networks that can assist them as they advocate for peace and justice.

In the Academy, members and partners learn about **advocacy tools and strategies** while learning to analyse their context. Participants are trained in political dialogue, public policy, and legislative processes as well as methods for public advocacy and policy change. Additional tools and strategies complete the **Academy modules**. These include but are not limited to:

- Campaigning
- Media outreach
- Public mobilisation
- Creating direct influence with your constituencies and
- How to work with alliances and networks.

¹⁴ https://fabo.org/act/ACT_Advocacy_Academy_-_Advocacy_?section=1#1

The key issues studied are **climate and gender justice**, humanitarian advocacy, sustainable development, migration, business, civic space, and human rights. Following these areas of study, participants can **successfully implement advocacy actions**, as well as improving the lives of poor and vulnerable people. Participants can **exchange and cooperate with fellow ACT members and partners** and develop their professional advocacy network.

The Academy is **digital** and global and **can be accessed anytime from anywhere**. Additionally, the Academy provides **coaching**, trying to match the theme and geography to the participants. At the end of the modules, participants know what advocacy is and why it is important. They also become familiar with the components and stages of advocacy planning. As advocates, **participants are better prepared to start advancing their goals through advocacy**. Participants can develop, run, and monitor advocacy strategies—including how to lobby and engage in dialogue with policymakers, how to run successful campaigns and how to use media.

The Academy is an initiative built on the advocacy experience of ACT Alliance, which has an impact at global, national, and local levels. Examples of such efforts were the advocacy actions from by ACT Ethiopia delegates at COP26. ACT Ethiopia put pressure on the COP26 negotiations and urged their government negotiators to commit to environmentally friendly investment and practical applications for the green transition of the economy.¹⁵

More information about the ACT Advocacy Academy is available here: https://fabo.org/act/ACT_Advocacy_Academy_-_Advocacy_

¹⁵ <https://actalliance.org/act-news/its-good-to-swim-together-act-ethiopia-delegates-reflect-on-cop26/>

Section III

ACT advocacy in action



Typhoon Goni Philippines 2020
PHOTO: MARK SALUDES/ACT

1 ACT Regional Forum Africa

Towards more effective climate governance and capacity

By Lee Nigirazie

The ACT Regional Forum Africa has made some strides towards more **effective climate governance and capacity** in terms of **advocacy priorities** and good practices in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation. ACT is contributing to the full, inclusive, and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement, aligned with the SDGs, while leveraging the experiences, programmes, and evidence of the communities with which it works **to influence transformational change for a just transition to more sustainable systems and structures**.

Key climate advocacy priorities address **emissions reduction, loss and damage, and community resilience** through national and community-level adaptation, and the promotion of a **fair transformation** of economies, development plans, policies, and practice, by promoting a **low carbon development, where no one is left behind**. Climate finance and capacity building for the most vulnerable within and across countries and communities, and the integration of **human rights frameworks, gender justice and faith-based values** that promote the protection and participation of the most vulnerable are also key aspects of what we consider to be **good climate governance**.

Our **Loss and Damage (L&D) advocacy** focuses on addressing information gaps regarding the financial dimension of L&D. Another focus is the establishment of a **financial tracking system** so that it will become possible to present, at all times, an accurate picture of the means of financial support provided. We call for introducing elements of solidarity in **regional risk pools** and **risk insurance** based on mutuality. Furthermore, we call for applying a **human rights-based approach** to future mechanisms that will contribute to financially addressing L&D. From a compensatory climate justice perspective, and based on the polluter pays principle, we advocate using revenues generated by carbon pricing for redressing loss and damage, and to apply compensatory justice.

Building **community resilience** through national and community-level adaptation is another climate advocacy priority. The general policy framework for adaptation governance is inadequate and most countries lack a coherent policy framework for adaptation. This is particularly the case in countries that have not embarked on a comprehensive planning process for adapting to climate change, often articulated in National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) or National Climate Change Response Strategies (NCCRS). Some countries lack such plans and strategies. Where they do not exist, adaptation tends to be addressed through an overabundance of fragmented environment and development policies. Where NAPAs/NCCRS do exist, they tend to be narrowly focused on biophysical vulnerabilities, following sectoral and project adaptation approaches. They fail to facilitate integrated responses or to account for

micro-level adaptation requirements. As a result of these shortcomings, the needs of the most vulnerable groups in society—women, the poor and smallholder farmers—are not met.

Adaptation in the environmental sector is limited and lacks effective integration with other sectors. A review of the **environment and development policy frameworks** reveals that they are **insufficiently aligned**. This has been found to limit public and decision makers' understanding of climate change impacts and the implications for national economies, thus undermining political buy-in for prioritisation and resource mobilisation for climate change adaptation. Therefore, we advocate for **guidelines on how to mainstream adaptation into national development** and economic planning. Still, climate impacts are often recognised too late, and adaptation planning takes place ex-post and ad hoc rather than adaptation measures being taken ex ante, to minimise or even prevent adverse impacts.

Takeaways from the ACT Alliance Pan-African Consultation on Good Practices in Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building

In November 2021, we held the first ever Pan-African Consultation on Good Practices in Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building. The consultation established the foundation for a coordinated process of regional peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing on climate adaptation and resilience building, with a view to scaling up and mainstreaming best practices in ACT's climate justice advocacy and programming. Members of the Regional Forum for Africa also committed to contribute to the ambitious NDC implementation to enhance governance and capacity to respond more effectively to the climate crisis. **Advocacy is a key element of our Climate Justice Programme, driven by collaborative action. To achieve high visibility and buy-in from other stakeholders we must remain united and speak with one voice.**

Good practices in NDC implementation in Africa: the role of climate governance and capacity development

Good climate governance needs to be rooted in **common ownership and collaboration**. African countries that have been successful in setting up and implementing ambitious NDCs were able to mobilise support and active participation from multiple political stakeholders at all levels, by showing how the NDC and its projects were aligned with wider development agendas. Most African countries are making satisfactory progress in the implementation of their NDCs, following their commitments. Through this practice, Africa has ensured that **local capacity is built** during the NDC implementation. Training is integrated into core project activities and accompanying measures are taken to build human capacity. These are maintained and replicated beyond the project's lifetime. Africa is slowly securing financing for sustaining and expanding project impacts beyond the initial project lifetime and scope. Projects have secured national (government) and international (international donor) support for replication and scaling up.

Mainstreaming climate change into economic frameworks and sectoral policies ensures integrated adaptation responses. However, the insufficient status of national adaptation strategies makes it difficult for development planners to have a holistic perspective on adaptation priorities at both macro (national) and micro (local) levels. There is a need for national adaptation policies that provide clear guidelines for integration and implementation of strategies, programmes, and activities, and we will advocate for it.

Coordination capacity needs to be strengthened and placed within a state agency with political influence and convening power to facilitate integration across other agencies and sectors. Adaptation should be integrated into the planning frameworks of decentralised governance structures and adaptive capacity built at that level. The success of climate change adaptation will depend on the extent to which positive impacts are felt at the local level. There is a need for increased adaptation funding at local and national levels. However, priority must be given to the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable in society. Systemic capacities to improve accountability must be built at all levels of governance. The individual capacities of donor partners and other non-state actors (non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, private sector and research institutions) ought to be harnessed to support national adaptation needs. Overall, **adaptation governance in Africa calls for a review of the quality of growth and development processes, an emphasis on equity as well as improvement of the level of public engagement in the formulation of national responses.**

2 ACT Regional Forum Asia-Pacific

Building climate resilience through locally led adaptation

By Linda Titilestari

In the Asia-Pacific region, the ACT Alliance climate justice advocacy programme has a **strong focus on climate adaptation**. This is not surprising when one considers that South Asia as well as thousands of small islands in Southeast Asia and the Pacific region are among the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world, according to the 6th Assessment Report of the IPCC.

Ten takeaways from the ACT Alliance multi-stakeholder consultation on good practices in adaptation in ACT's Asia-Pacific region

In early 2022, ACT members and partners, climate experts and other stakeholders attended a consultation on good practices in adaptation and shared how to advocate for climate resilience in Asia-Pacific.

A summary of the main consultation results are as follows:

1. A shared adaptation framework, based on both science and faith-based perspectives, has been drafted.
2. A common regional stock-taking of lessons learned from climate adaptation and an agreed theory of change for future regional ACT adaptation approaches.
3. Options and platforms for mainstreaming and scaling up best practices in ACT's adaptation advocacy and programming, including the ACT Climate Resilience Award, have been documented.
4. It has been agreed to advocate for strengthening and enhancing regional and global climate action.
5. It has been agreed to strategise and strengthen ACT Alliance's adaptation and resilience-building programmes in Asia-Pacific, including by strengthening links with the gender, agriculture, development, and humanitarian programmes, and by exploring and enhancing close cooperation and joint implementation with stakeholders such as CSOs, governments, media, science, and the private sector.
6. Community-based and locally led adaptation will be further strengthened regarding capacity building, local climate impact analysis, intergenerational justice, and the use of traditional and Indigenous knowledge.
7. Gender responsiveness and gender justice will be promoted in the context of climate justice.
8. The IPCC's strong call for climate resilient development was endorsed.
9. Human dignity, climate justice, a priority focus on the most vulnerable communities and stewardship for creation are agreed upon as the key principles of an FBO perspective on climate resilience building.
10. Advocating for the provision of more adaptation finance as a prerequisite for achieving climate resilience has been agreed upon.



(L) Female farmers training, (R) ACT disaster response to Typhoon Haiyan (2013). Photos: NCCP, Philippines

CASE STUDY

Gender-responsive climate resilience, Salvacion, the Philippines

The Philippines is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, experiencing intense and frequent extreme weather events. The **National Council of the Churches** in the Philippines (NCCP) provides support to those who are most vulnerable, poor, or marginalised. Particular attention is given to adaptation in agriculture in small island communities. We will never forget the devastating impact of 2013's **Haiyan**, one **of the strongest typhoons ever**. The **village of Salvacion in Jinamoc Island** was one of many villages destroyed by Haiyan. It was submerged by two-storey high storm surges, destroying 80 percent of houses, and causing people's productive assets such as farmlands or fishing boats to be lost. ACT Alliance responded to this catastrophe.

As part of an NCCP intervention, the village of Salvacion received **capacity-building support** in disaster risk management, climate adaptation and organisational strengthening. Inclusion and participation were mainstreamed through community organising. To prevent similar disasters from happening again, a community-based disaster risk reduction committee with an early warning system and rescue teams was formed. Skills were learned, responsibilities defined, an evacuation plan developed, and evacuation was practised with the whole community.

Through **community-based climate change risk assessments**, the community grew to better understand the profound impact of climate change on their agricultural systems, sources of livelihood and on food security.

After a series of consultations, NCCP supported the formation of the **Salvacion Women Farmers Association (SWOFA)** through capacity building. SWOFA began to promote climate resilient organic farming practices as way to increase environmentally sound food production on the island. NCCP provided SWOFA with seeds, inputs to produce organic fertilisers, and skills training. One of the SWOFA members set up a demonstration farm.

Households were encouraged to produce compost using kitchen waste and to practise organic farming in their backyards. Vegetables harvested from the demonstration farm were given free to SWOFA members and the surplus was sold in the community. SWOFA successfully encouraged village women to contribute

to their families' livelihood, diversify sources of income, and enhance food sovereignty at the household level. If another typhoon strikes, Salvacion will be more resilient, and the risk of a disaster will be lower.

NCCP will replicate this successful approach in other climate vulnerable communities. We recommend that other ACT Alliance members consider the lessons we've learned on **how to enhance community resilience** and adopt them for **climate justice advocacy**:

- Enhanced climate risk awareness to incentivise adaptation initiatives at the community level
- Boost local leadership for disaster risk reduction and adaptation management capacities
- Strengthen community relations
- Empower women and girls in all their diversity to participate in community action and to form their own groups, and
- Sustain efforts by strengthening local and organisational capacity.

Our framework

NCCP emphasises that community empowerment for self-determination is as important as community mobilisation for disaster preparedness. Empowerment means being fully aware of individual and community rights and being able to advocate to duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfil these rights. While Filipinos are regarded as resilient, the dire situation of the poor (even before a calamity) leads to mere survival rather than living a life in dignity. NCCP, as a faith-based organisation, sees its dual role as (a) advocating that governments engage proactively in reducing communities' disaster risks by addressing root causes, and (b) journeying with the people as they claim their right to life in its fullness.

3 ACT Regional Forum Latin America and the Caribbean

Addressing loss and damage

By Carlos Huevo, Mercedes Palacios, and Carlos Rauda

In recent years, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have experienced a threefold paradigm shift: theologically towards the stewardship concept of nature, socioeconomically towards the integrity of creation, and politically towards the local-to-global approach.

ACT's climate justice programme in LAC is based on these three pillars, and finds its expression in (i) a stronger multi-stakeholder cooperation, including with science; (ii) the mobilisation of local decision makers through advocacy to take ambitious action at home, and, at the same time, rally for ambition in COP delegations; and (iii) promoting climate resilience at local levels across sectors (food, water, biodiversity), in alignment with humanitarian and disaster risk reduction approaches, gender justice, and tackling migration.

As result of a recent LAC consultation on good practices in resilience building, it was decided to launch a regional ecumenical climate resilience initiative for the socio-economic benefit of local communities. Intergenerational climate justice, gender justice, justice for migrants, and distributional justice were defined as justice principles for this initiative. To maximise mutual learning and synergies, it was decided to develop one single and comprehensive resilience building programme for LAC.

Takeaways from the ACT multi-stakeholder dialogues on enhanced climate action in LAC

In 2021, 346 participants (FBOs and other stakeholders) from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries attended a series of hybrid consultations on how to develop effective climate advocacy strategies for taking more ambitious climate action with tangible results. Participants identified the need to provide more information to churches and FBOs about climate change impacts, policies, and actions, and to agree on a common climate advocacy agenda among ACT, LWF and WCC as the key steps to strengthen FBOs' advocacy for climate justice. Participants agreed to prioritise advocacy actions proposed at national levels, undertake actor mapping, promote an ecumenical movement to influence the government, develop national climate advocacy roadmaps, and ensure regional coordination.



Corn farmer in the dry corridor ('corredor seco') of El Salvador. PHOTO: LWF

CASE STUDY

Climate risk microinsurance, El Salvador

Based on years of intensive climate advocacy, awareness raising and capacity development on **microinsurance in the context of loss and damage**, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) programme in Central America began a microinsurance **pilot project** in 2021. This will explore the impact of financial training and support for smallholder farmers to help them access microclimate insurance. The project will



Training in Santa Cruz Loma. PHOTO: LWF

examine whether this is an effective way to build resilience against frequent climate shocks and eventually reduce (or remove) dependence on agricultural loans within the region. Project partners are **micro and small subsistence agricultural producers** who grow basic grains at considerable risk caused by the adverse impacts of climate change. Central America's dry corridor is identified by the IPCC as one of the world's highest risk regions.

In March 2021, smallholder farmers growing basic grains were trained in seven municipalities in the **eastern and paracentral regions of El Salvador**. Planning and training with communities was carried out by a joint team of the **National Bank for Agricultural Development** (Banco de Fomento Agropecuario, BFA), the state agricultural extension service and LWF. By June 2021, when corn planting started, more than 50 farmers had purchased subsidised microinsurance in combination with concessional agricultural loans from BFA.

To further increase demand for the product, the team developed a campaign to raise awareness of climate change impacts and of parametric insurance. This insurance minimises the risks of loss and damage caused by climate change. Information sessions, a new training methodology and new multimedia materials reached more than 300 smallholder farmers, including current BFA clients, microinsurance users and new clients. By early 2022, these male and female farmers had enhanced their understanding of climate change adaptation measures and the benefits of parametric microinsurance. It is a risk transfer instrument that protects farmers against financial losses caused by extreme climate events against which there is no longer any adaptation.

The pilot project, especially the subsidisation of the insurance policy for poor farmers, is provided by Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the Canadian Food Grains Bank, which supports food security projects in highly vulnerable countries. The pilot will be evaluated once it is completed.

4 ACT Alliance Climate Justice Programme

The Climate Justice Programme is steered by the Climate Justice Group (CJG) as one of the Alliance's Reference Groups (composed of and elected by ACT members). The CJG is composed of experts and co-ordinated by two co-chairs. The CJG advises and supports the ACT Secretariat, where the ACT Climate Justice Manager is responsible for implementing the Climate Justice Programme at the global level. Parts of the global structure are the climate advocacy group, the communications and campaign group, and the climate programmes team, all of them open to ACT members' participation (contact: julius.mbatia@actalliance.org). Regional partners for implementation are ACT Communities of Practice (CoPs), formed by the regional members, who are: the African Climate Justice CoP, Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation CoP, Latin America and the Caribbean Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation CoP, and the Middle East & North Africa Climate Justice CoP. These in turn partner with national ACT Forums to carry out the programme on the ground.

Figure 4
Structure of the ACT Alliance Climate Justice Programme

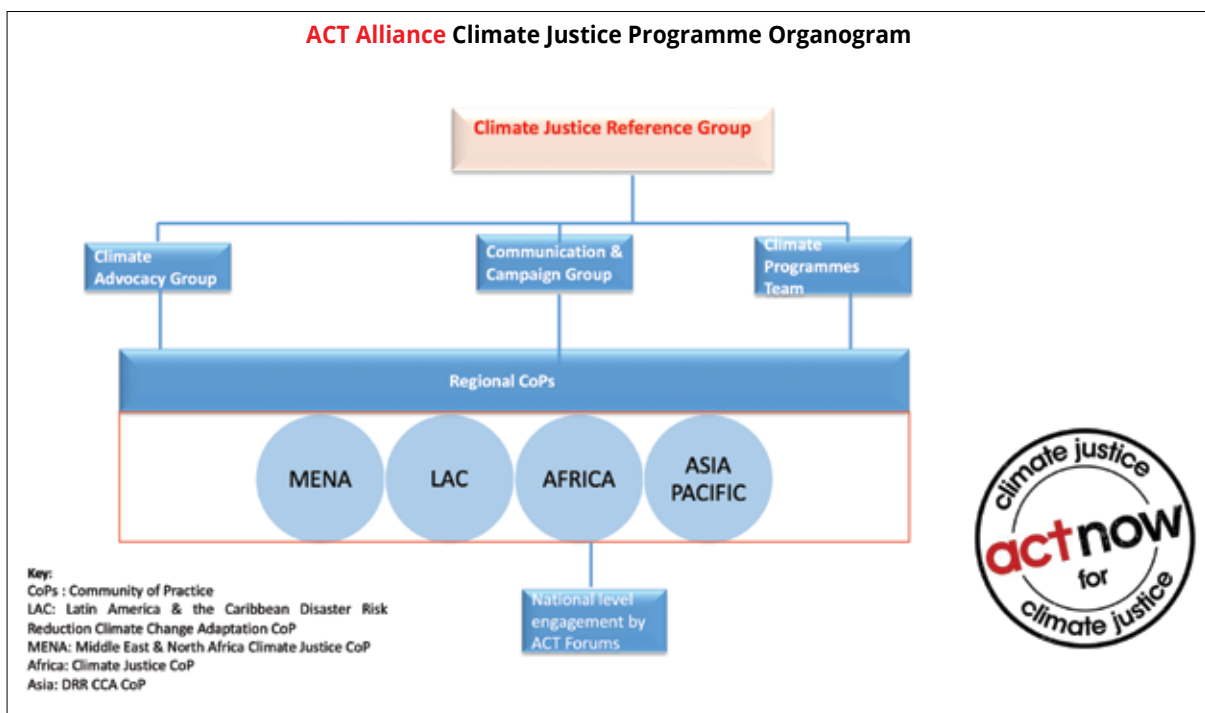
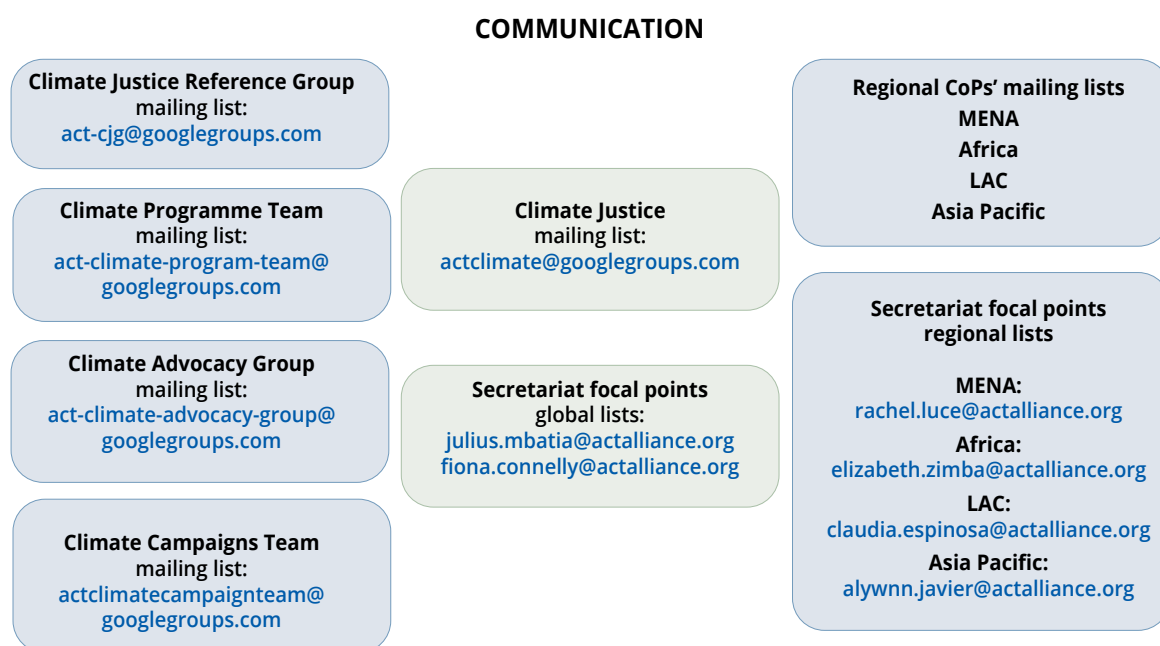


Figure 4 (continued)
Structure of the ACT Alliance Climate Justice Programme



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