

How to translate this landmark Agreement into applied adaptation strategies?

SESSION REPORT
Brainstorming Session at European Development Days (EDD) 2016



Global Climate Change Alliance Support Facility+
EuropeAid/136121/DH/SER/Multi
Identification number 2015/365-494
2015/365-494

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTEXT

Last year's Paris Agreement on climate change was hailed as a huge step forward for climate diplomacy. A fundamental pivot toward a zero-carbon and climate-resilient world was established. However, some key steps lie ahead to take the momentum from Paris forward and ensure that the Agreement comes into effect and is fully implemented.

How to translate the Paris Agreement into applied adaptation strategies?

This was the central question addressed by the Global Climate Change Alliance + (GCCA+) during a dedicated brainstorming session organised at the European Development Days (EDD) 2016. The EDD is a Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation. Organised by the European Commission, the EDD aims to provide the development community with a platform to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the global development challenges. The EDD 2016 was held in Brussels on the 15th and 16th of June, with over 120 sessions, 67 stands, side events, a cultural exhibition built around 15 EDD topics, including climate change.

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION

The GCCA+ hosted a session at the EDD 2016 with the support of Acclimatise and Climate Policy Initiative to discuss how the Paris Agreement could be translated into applied adaptation strategies in the most vulnerable countries, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The aim of the session was to call on delegates to discuss and identify areas for the GCCA+ to enhance climate change adaptation efforts in a post-Paris setting with reinforced global commitment to integrate climate change considerations within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. METHODOLOGY

THEMES

The session was run under the format of brainstorming and aimed at collecting wide ranging perspectives from both practitioners and non-practitioners on the following three key areas related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement:

■ In the implementation of the Paris Agreement, what are the main thematic priorities for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - GCCA countries - in the period 2016–2020?

■ ■ Climate Finance and Private Sector engagement: what public policies, regulations and finance interventions can do to incentivize and enable private actors to take action on climate resilience?

■ ■ ■ Post-COP 21 policy development: What does the Paris Agreement mean for national adaptation planning?

The overall session was moderated by Guido Corno, technical expert for the GCCA+ support facility, and an expert for each thematic area facilitated the brainstorming groups: Leonardo Massai, Climate Change Law and Policy Specialist at Climalia (Theme 1); Jane Wilkinson and Chiara Trabacchi, Climate Change Policy Experts at the Climate Policy Initiative (Theme 2); and Sara Venturini, Policy Advisor on Climate Change at Climalia and Acclimatise Associate (Theme 3).

In order to facilitate the exchange and the brainstorming, the room was organised with three working tables (one table for each theme) able to host up to 10 participants. The main moderator introduced the session, led the overall event organization and engaged with the three experts during their group work. The audience was invited to actively interact with the experts during the group sessions by sharing their own perspectives, experiences and analysis on the specific themes. The group discussion yielded a set of action plans and recommendation that the moderator summarized and presented during the concluding remarks. Finally, particular attention was paid on how best the GCCA+ can move forward in the post-COP21 environment.

2.1

**STRUCTURE
OF THE SESSION**

Welcome and setting the scene by explaining the global context post COP21, the GCCA+ initiative and its role in putting the agreement into local actions.	5 minutes
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Introduction of three speakers/ experts and format of brainstorming session.	5 minutes
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Group work. Key questions/ table discussed in group sessions, supported-moderated by the 3 speakers, brief summary of main conclusion prepared	50 minutes
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Summary of table discussions. Conclusion and final recommendations	15 minutes
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3. SUMMARY OF THE BRAINSTORMING

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The main moderator, Dr. Guido Corno, began the session by formally welcoming the participants. He briefly introduced the general session theme and illustrated the key points of the Paris Agreement, including:

- Long-Term Goal
- Adaptation Goal (Article 7)
- INDC/NDC Contributions
- Ambition - Updating emissions reductions target by 2023
- Transparency – Reporting to UNFCCC

Dr. Corno continued providing an overview of the GCCA+ initiative. The GCCA was established by the European Union (EU) in 2007 to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS. In 2014, a new phase of the GCCA, the GCCA+ flagship initiative, began in line with the European Commission's new Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020). The GCCA+ main aim is to boost the efficiency of its response to the needs of vulnerable countries and groups. It will achieve its goals by serving as a platform for dialogue and exchange of experience between the EU and developing countries and by acting as a source of technical and financial support for the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

Finally, Dr. Corno concluded the introduction by presenting the format of the session, illustrating the three themes of the brainstorming and introducing the experts.

3.2 THEME 1

Dr. Leonardo Massai facilitated a brainstorming group to discuss what the Paris agreement mean for LDCs and SIDS as well as to draw out actions points and recommendations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Introduction to theme 1

Dr. Massai started by presenting the Paris Agreement as the new climate treaty driving mitigation and adaptation actions post-2020. He focused on the challenges related to the implementation of the agreement, in particular for SIDS and LDCs. In the period 2016 – 2020 countries are expected to agree on several rules and modalities for the implementation of the agreement. However, he highlighted the possibility of an early entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the consequent implications for all Parties. This is due to an overwhelming global support on the Agreement and the intention of many Parties to ratify it in the short term.

The implementation of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is the main priority for all Parties. Dr. Massai explained the difficulties of all parties to agree on clear concrete actions as well as the challenges faced in the conversion of INDCs into NDCs. He highlighted that INDCs/NDCs cover both mitigation and adaptation.

Dr. Massai continued by explaining that the Paris Agreement recognises special circumstances for LDCs and SIDS. He also identified the main priorities and needs of LDCs and SIDS, as reflected in their INDCs/NDCs.

In conclusion Dr. Massai illustrated the main thematic priorities of the Paris Agreement, including: mitigation/NDCs, REDD+, adaptation, Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage, finance, transparency, global stocktake, capacity building and technology transfer.



Brainstorming

Following the introduction, the participants were asked to interact and respond to the following questions:

- (i) What are the thematic priorities for LDCs and SIDS in the implementation of the Paris Agreement?
- (ii) What type of support LDCs and SIDS need for the implementation of the Paris Agreement?

Key outcomes of the discussion are as follows:

- Participants agreed that adaptation is a key a priority area for LDCs and SIDS and on the fact that the contribution of these countries to GHG reduction is minimal. Other priority areas include: agriculture policy; disaster risk reduction; forest management; loss and damage. In this regard, the participants also highlighted the key role of REDD+ in the Paris agreement and considered both mitigation and adaptation. Many countries see REDD+ as an opportunity and many NDCs include REDD+/forest as one of the main sources of greenhouse gases emissions.
- In terms of type of support needed, participants indicated mainly capacity building and financial support. Capacity building is mostly required at institutional level and in this respect the GCCA+ is working to support these countries. Citizens should also be involved and made accountable for implementing the agreement.
- The approaches to the implementation of the Paris agreement should be local and national level. LDCs and SIDS are not a homogeneous group, countries are diverse and might require different strategies. Climate change should be integrated into national development strategies.

In conclusion, the participants summarised a series of actions that would help SIDS and LDCs to effectively implement the Paris Agreement.

- Increasing knowledge among all stakeholders, including public and private sector as well as citizens;
- Understanding NDCs and how to translate NDCs in concrete actions;
- Having a scientific interface to support policy design;
- Capacity building for accessing and absorbing climate finance;

- Integrating migration considerations among the priority areas for SIDS and LDCs;
- Launching pilot projects and replicating successful projects;
- Measuring the impact of climate change on different sectors;
- Data availability in real time about the impacts of climate change on these countries.

3.3 THEME 2

Jane Wilkinson and Dr. Chiara Trabacchi (CPI) facilitated a brainstorming discussion focused on how adaptation finance is addressed in the Paris Agreement and what public policies, regulations and finance interventions can do to incentivize and enable private actors to take action on climate resilience.

Introduction to theme 2

The facilitators set the stage of the discussions by providing brief insights on the current status of the adaptation finance landscape, and the related objectives stated in the Paris Agreement. In particular, they highlighted that the Agreement has sent a strong signal to market players on the urgency of scaling-up efforts and integrating climate considerations into investments and financing decisions. Specifically, the Agreement urged developed countries to “significantly increase adaptation finance from current levels” (IV – 115) and, in an effort to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, called for countries to “make all finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development”.

They also underscored that the gap between adaptation investment needs and current flows mean that understanding of how to involve the private sector in responding to climate change risks, or encouraging the private sector to take advantage of the new business opportunities that may arise from changing climate conditions, is crucial to catalyse greater investment in activities that increase countries’, businesses’, and communities’ resilience.

Brainstorming

Following the introduction, participants were asked to share their views and experiences on:

- (i) the barriers that can hold back private investment in adaptation;
- (ii) practical examples of policies, regulations or financing approaches that have enabled the private sector to act on climate resilience; and
- (iii) to formulate recommendations for policy and decision-makers as well as the GCCA on how they could help overcome outstanding challenges or scale up and replicate best practices.

Key outcomes of the discussion are as follows:

- Participants noted that the following barriers have significant implications on private sector's ability and incentive to invest in climate resilience: deficiencies in countries' regulatory and policy frameworks, a lack of awareness, data and technical capacity necessary to integrate climate change risks into investment or financial decision-making; the lack of clarity on the business case for certain climate-resilient investments.
- Dialogue with regional or national public entities such as National Development Banks or public agencies, and the creation of dedicated 'climate departments' within these organizations, emerged as examples of interventions that can help adjust regulatory frameworks.
- Participants also noted the importance of capacity building and the provision of information for empowering private actors to integrate climate change considerations into projects' design. They also emphasized the importance of economic or financial incentives as well as risk coverage instruments to bridge possible viability gaps and create the business case. The creation of a track record of successful investments was also indicated as relevant to build trust and engage private actors at greater scale.
- It was pointed out that such interventions should be actor- and context- specific given the heterogeneity of the 'private sector' and the differences that can exist in the contexts within which they operate.
- In conclusion, Christophe Legrand, team leader of the GCCA Support Facility, noted that the GCCA has in fact tailored its support to Least Developed Countries and Small Islands States, providing financial support to projects deemed too small by other international public institutions.

Dr. Sara Venturini facilitated a brainstorming group to discuss how national adaptation planning processes are addressed in the Paris Agreement, including provisions for monitoring and evaluation, adaptation communications, and the work to be done to develop methodologies to measure adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation planning and implementation.

Introduction to theme 3

Dr. Venturini first introduced the topic by illustrating the provisions under art. 7 of the Paris Agreement which calls for all countries - developed and developing - to further engage in national adaptation planning processes. According to the Agreement, national adaptation plans (NAPs), inclusive of prioritisation of actions, are to be communicated through periodic submission of adaptation communications as a component of, or in conjunction with, NAPs, NDCs or national communications. In addition, the Agreement calls on countries to collectively strengthen cooperation on adaptation action, and improve the “effectiveness and durability” of their adaptation actions (Art. 7.7). Achieving the objective of improving effectiveness and durability would be supported in part by monitoring, evaluating and learning from adaptation planning and implementation as emphasized in the Agreement. The work-plan of the Paris Agreement in the next years includes developing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs (para 43b of the Decision accompanying the Paris Agreement), as well as adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation (para 46b of the Decision accompanying the Paris Agreement).

Dr. Venturini highlighted that adaptation reporting is not mandatory, however the expectation is that countries will continually enhance their efforts to address climate change—including with respect to adaptation. In part, this will be driven by a “global stocktake” process that will occur every five years starting in 2023, and that will cover adaptation among other issues. Countries will also be expected to ratchet up their adaptation actions and donors will be expected to enhance their commitments to support efforts by developing countries. These five-year cycles provide a clear timeframe for action and are well-aligned with political timeframes, which will hopefully complement national planning and coordination of bilateral support for adaptation. Ideally, the “monitoring, reporting and review” component of the NAP process will inform countries’ contributions to the global stocktake, reporting not only on adaptation needs and priorities, but also whether enough planning is in place and enough action has been taken.



Dr. Venturini noted that most of the submitted INDCs have an adaptation component, but their contents vary greatly in terms of their scope, aims, content, clarity, timeline, link with existing policies including mitigation actions, and measurability. This reflects the fact that adaptation is context-specific and changing over time, and that national – as well as global - adaptation goals as set out in the Paris Agreement may be challenging to conceive and measure. In fact, while most adaptation components in INDCs put forward generic actions and qualitative indicators to measure progress and success.

Brainstorming

After concluding the introduction to the topic, Dr Venturini encouraged the participants to introduce themselves and present their experiences with measuring adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation actions, projects and programmes on the ground. The discussion continued with reflections upon the challenges of measurability of progress in adaptation as a continuous, iterative process.

Key outcomes of the discussion are as follows:

- What tools and analytical approaches can help monitor, review and over time improve adaptation planning and implementation? The participants highlighted the need to develop and make use of quantitative tools such as indicators. In particular, they noted the relevance of socio economic and environmental indicators; the inclusion

of biodiversity indicators; and financial indicators. As a qualitative approach, the participants stated the importance of engaging citizens in policy-making, decision-making and implementation; mainstreaming adaptation in different policy areas as well as integration of adaptation goals and relevant laws. The participants agreed on the need of having a consistent law system: as of now, many countries have several scattered laws and regulations on climate change and adaptation. The consistency of the regulatory system can be a tool to measure the effectiveness of adaptation. Finally, it was suggested to further incorporate science into policy-making and have climate change laws systematically reviewed based on developments in science.

- Should the indicators to measure adaptation be framed at global level? The participants discussed the challenges posed by having a global indicator for adaptation that is valid for every country, bearing in mind that adaptation is local and context-specific by definition. In this regard, propositions included the use of country-specific indicator, the creation of a new indicator building on the existing ones such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals and related targets; and the creation of a Climate Smart Human Development Index (HDI), also based on other indicators that form part of the existing HDI.
- The role of mitigation co-benefits in adaptation was also discussed. This increases the complexity and the difficulty of measuring adaptation. However, there are several instruments already in place that allow to measure adaptation at project level in several areas, including disaster management, food security and health. These instruments could be scaled up to measure adaptation at the national level.
- Participants highlighted that in the process of preparing their INDCs, countries are taking the opportunity to include something more ambitious than was set in the Paris Agreement, to reach out to very concrete and country specific goals. This is an opportunity for policy makers



to include in their INDCs very concrete and measurable adaptation goals. So far, project managers and leaders have been doing projects on adaptation without having a proper policy framework to measure progress and success. For instance, without the means to effectively measure if the mainstreaming of adaptation in diverse policy areas is effective and successful. Participants agreed that this issue is largely driven by policy.

- How INDCs will be translated into national planning? Participants highlighted that this challenge needs to be addressed at the national policy level and would require the involvement of line ministries for planning and implementation, such as the Ministry of Finance/Economy, which would have the necessary authority and expertise to turn adaptation policy into concrete action at the national level.
- Finally, the session was concluded highlighting the importance of involvement of citizens and the private sector in monitoring processes and policy design.

4. ACTION POINTS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

By the end of the session the participants were encouraged to summarise the key findings and main points of the debates into a few actions points and final long-term recommendations for the GCCA+.

Theme	Action Points	Final Recommendations
Implementation of the Paris Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase knowledge on climate change impacts and actions needed • Institutions building and enabling environment • Integrate climate change into development plans/ strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide trainings on specific themes/best practices • Enhance understanding INDCs/ NDCs • Pilot projects/replication (ex. DRR and resilience recovery instruments)
Climate Finance and Private Sector engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tailor-made approaches to understand and address actor-, sector- and context-specific barriers to private engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the suitability of the GCCA+'s business model for mobilizing private capital and action • Work in partnership with other public and private institutions in order to target the use of GCCA+ concessional resources to bridge knowledge, policy, risk and finance gaps to private engagement
Post-COP 21 policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure links with SDGs, disaster risk reduction (DRR) indicators and targets • Provide support to continuous monitoring and review based on science (further incorporate science into policy-making) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of climate smart indicators and specific indicators to measure national adaptation progress and success (e.g. on biodiversity) • Ensure the involvement of line ministries, citizens and the private sector in adaptation initiatives for effective implementation

5. PARTICIPANTS

Participants to the session included representatives from the public and private sector encompassing experts and non-experts from:

Climate change and energy consulting firms	Academia	European Commission
Development Finance Institutions	United Nations Agencies	Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations



All participants actively contributed to the brainstorming and the variety of backgrounds and expertise made the exchange particularly insightful.

For more details, the full list of participants is available in the Annex.

The GCCA produced a video capturing some the participants' impressions on the event. The video is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uc_idMTBYuw

6. CONCLUSIONS

The brainstorming session provided an excellent opportunity to gain insights from a broad range of development stakeholders on ways to enhance climate change adaptation efforts in the post Paris Agreement scenario and within the SGDs framework. It also provided an opportunity to discuss the role of the GCCA+ in supporting the implementation of the Agreement in an evolved adaptation finance landscape.

To effectively implement the Paris Agreement and enhance developing countries' understanding of INDCs/NDCs adaptation needs, participants to the brainstorming sections highlighted three main action items.

First, they called for increased knowledge sharing and capacity building activities. Participant also emphasized the importance of pilot testing new approaches, replicating best practices as well as integrating science into policy and investment decision-making.

Secondly, given the central role of the private sector in scaling up adaptation finance at the country level, and its still relatively limited engagement, participants noted the relevance of private-public partnerships and the role the GCCA+ can play to enhance its participation. In particular, they highlighted entry points for target the use of the GCCA+ concessional resources to bridge knowledge, policy, risk and finance gaps that can represent key barriers to private sector engagement in adaptation.

Finally, participants highlighted the need for better tools, and in particularly quantitative indicators, to measure the adequacy and

effectiveness of adaptation planning and implementation. In this regard, remarkable ideas emerged, such as the creation of a climate smart human development index. Effective implementation is also better achieved by ensuring the involvement of line ministries, citizens and the private sector in adaptation initiatives.

Below a visual representation of the outstanding inputs provided by the participants during the brainstorming.



7. ANNEXES

7.1 PARTICIPANT LIST

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7.2 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- [GCCA+](#).
- [Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update, UNFCCC, may 2016.](#)
- [The Global Landscape of Climate Finance: The most comprehensive inventory of climate change investment available.](#)
- [Good practices and lessons learned in relation to adaptation planning processes, including processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning.](#)

