



# Adaptation Good Practice

## CHECKLIST

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Collecting water at the communal well in Maigochi, Dakoro, Niger.  
Credit: Agnes Otzelberger/ALP 2015.

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Cover Image: Woman collecting water in Angoche Mozambique.  
Credit: Tamara Plush/CARE, 2011.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security



## Introduction

Climate change impacts involve three defining features that are not always a part of other development challenges: they are diverse; they are both short and long-term; and they are not easily predictable. Adapting to these three traits is difficult because they create complexity and require context-specific and forward-looking planning regarding a variety of local climate impacts, risks and vulnerabilities when the future is highly uncertain. Adaptive capacity is central to building resilience and involves developing processes and capacities that enable continued response to a changing and uncertain climate over time.

The UNFCCC Paris Agreement enshrines a global commitment by Parties to increase financial flows to developing countries and support them in their efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Furthermore all governments acknowledge the role of aspects which basically define good adaptation practices in the Paris Agreement Article 7.5. Following ratification, countries in Africa are committed to National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and associated National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), which will provide the framework for programmes and activities that are financed.

Guidance on good practice for climate change adaptation, resilience and integration into key development sectors, will enable financial decision makers, policy-makers, programme designers and practitioners to place vulnerable people at the centre and ensure effective, equitable and sustainable responses to an ever-changing and uncertain future.

## Purpose of the Adaptation Good Practice checklist

Despite well-established institutional safeguards, fiduciary and procedural requirements, and readiness programmes to support countries and institutions to strengthen their capacity and prepare adaptation proposals, there is relatively limited guidance on what actually constitutes good adaptation practice and the relevant social and environmental safeguards required. The Adaptation Good Practice checklist (AGP checklist) is an initial effort to fill this gap and was developed with the objective to guide and ensure that actions proposed as adaptation do result in long-term effective impact.

The checklist is for use in the context of designing and deciding financial support to policy, projects, programmes and all other types of initiatives that focus on adaptation specifically, or in which climate resilience is mainstreamed. It presents nine practices that should feature in such initiatives in order to qualify as adaptation to climate change. The checklist and its use are described, including a practical scoring method for use in screening concepts, proposals and implementation plans for their incorporation of and compliance with adaptation good practices.

## Who is the AGP checklist for?

The checklist targets planners and proposal development teams involved in the development of proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and other financing mechanisms. It targets decision makers who are responsible for the roll out of national NDCs and adaptation plans and who carry out prioritisation and approve concepts and proposals including; multilateral and national Implementing Entities (MIEs / NIEs) and National Designated Authorities (NDAs), development banks and donors, and the AF and GCF boards. It also targets the Executing Entities and implementing teams of adaptation initiatives to inform and verify the quality of detailed design and implementation of adaptation processes and activities with local communities, local authorities and at national levels, but could be equally useful for broader development planners and implementers. It can also assist the work of bodies such as the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee which decided, after Paris, to contribute to the principles guiding adaptation action as contained in Article 7.5<sup>1</sup> of the Paris Agreement.

## How the AGP checklist was developed

The ideas and content that make up the AGP checklist and the criteria used to assess them are derived from an analysis of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and a range of authoritative sources<sup>2</sup> of what works well for approaches to adaptation – sector integration, community-based and ecosystems-based – which are emerging across Africa and globally. Included in this are practical experiences and learning from the work of CARE International’s Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP)<sup>3</sup> with communities, sub national and national governments and civil society organisations in developing and delivering approaches to community based adaptation in Africa, and providing technical capacity building support to a range of organisations and programmes. Version two of the checklist was developed with inputs from a range of Kenyan, Africa regional and global institutions.

<sup>1</sup> These include ‘that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems....’. UNFCCC Paris Agreement (2015)

<sup>2</sup> Comparison of coverage adaptation practices and principles from range of sources is available on request.

<sup>3</sup> ALP is a programme implemented by CARE International in Ghana, Kenya and Niger, and supporting adaptation initiatives in West, East and Southern Africa, from 2010 to 2017. For more on ALP, visit: <http://careclimatechange.org/our-work/alp/>

## Using the AGP checklist

The checklist can be used in a variety of ways, to:

- Engage proposal design teams in discussions on what good adaptation would look like in the particular context, vulnerable groups, prioritised sector and geographic areas agreed upon.
- Guide project or programme designs, roll out of NAPs/NDCs and implementation teams to include essential practices and approaches to support successful, sustainable adaptation outcomes and impacts.
- Guide appraisal, evaluation or screening of concepts and proposals in relation to adaptation content ensuring they satisfy the criteria for good adaptation at all levels.
- Guide content development of research, training and capacity building programmes for adaptation
- Inform national budget coding for climate finance
- Conduct a desk exercise or stakeholder discussions using the AGPs as a tool to trigger reflections on how good adaptation can be realised on the ground.
- Inspire and document dynamic evolution of adaptation good practice as it continues to be informed by emerging learning from practical experiences in response to climate change and uncertainty.



## The Adaptation Good Practices

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Good Practice</b>
1.	<b>Risk, vulnerability and capacity</b>	Analyse climate risks, differential vulnerability and capacity of people, ecosystems and institutions.
2.	<b>Participation, inclusion and gender equality</b>	Ensure participation, agency, transparency and inclusion of all groups
3.	<b>Climate information and uncertainty</b>	Incorporate management of uncertainty and use of climate information
4.	<b>Planning and decision making processes</b>	Promote anticipatory, flexible and forward looking adaptation planning and decision making processes
5.	<b>Innovation, local and indigenous knowledge and technology</b>	Promote innovation, local (including traditional and indigenous) knowledge and technology
6.	<b>Adaptive management</b>	Ensure an integrated and holistic response with adaptive management of climate related risks and impacts over time
7.	<b>Institutional linkages</b>	Establish institutional arrangements and linkages which facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement
8.	<b>Learning, capacity building and knowledge management</b>	Integrate learning, capacity building, monitoring and knowledge management processes
9.	<b>Scaling up and sustainability</b>	Support ongoing and sustainable adaptation at scale

Each of the practices and their criteria are described in more practical detail in *Table 1. Adaptation Good Practice Criteria*, which also serves as the practical tool for using the checklist in the chosen context. A scoring system is described below Table 1 to guide action following use of the checklist. Links to resources relevant to the practices are provided in the *Useful Document* section and a *Further Guidance* document providing case studies and practical information related to each of the practices will be available soon.

## Concepts which underpin the practices

- **Climate change risks and impacts are highly diverse and context-specific.** Planning for adaptation therefore needs to be locally driven and across sectors, and incorporate appropriate local and external resources, expertise and knowledge. Different groups have differing levels of vulnerability and capacity within and across populations and communities that need to be considered. As a result, differences in gender, social status, wealth, ethnicity, natural resource base, marginalization, and religion, among others; all affect people's ability to adapt and are important aspects to understand and work with.
- **Timescales matter.** Climate change occurs in short to long-term timescales, with direct and indirect changes and impacts. Institutions and systems must consider the linkage of adaptation work across time scales and integrate continuous learning on adaptation.
- **Uncertainty** - climate changes and resultant risks and impacts are difficult to predict with certainty. A framework must be developed with the appropriate flexibility to evolve with the changing climate risks, uncertainties, opportunities and impacts. Adaptation must go beyond being reactive to climate impacts, to focusing on anticipatory and precautionary measures to be prepared for future unknowns.
- **Adaptive capacity** of vulnerable people, ecosystems and institutions is a critical determinant of successful adaptation in the face of an uncertain future climate. Strengthening control of and access to knowledge and assets, strong institutions and linkages, innovation, anticipation of future risks and opportunities and above all forward looking decision making processes are the capacities which form the basis for adaptation actions to be identified and implemented now and into the future as the climate changes. These capacities ensure that adaptation technologies are relevant and effective. These capacities therefore require equal attention in terms of resourcing the systems and services which build and maintain adaptive capacity.
- **Decision-making processes are at the heart of effective adaptation.** The changing climate requires continuous and informed decision-making, reviewing past trends, current conditions and anticipating future scenarios. This calls for systems and processes, which motivate and sustain anticipatory, flexible, locally contextualised decision-making, in which those affected by climate impacts are fully involved.

- **Underlying causes and drivers of vulnerability** - for example, gender inequalities, exclusion or poor governance - and ongoing development and economic growth challenges all affect resilience to climate change and may hinder the success of the implementation of adaptation actions. A holistic response which takes these into account together with climate risks is needed in which adaptation is integrated, embedding climate change across all sectors and within all policy settings and decision making processes.
- **Climate Information Services** – access to available and useful climate information contributes to increasing resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups, (eco)systems and institutions to the impacts of climate change. Factors such as working with uncertainty and scenarios; valuing and integrating indigenous knowledge; interpretation of scientific and meteorological information; engagement of users in creating usable and accessible information, and effective communication to those who need it are key to building resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.
- **Non-climate benefits of adaptation** – adaptation aims to ensure socio-economic development at all levels is climate resilient, hence effective and coherent approaches to adaptation are relevant beyond climate specific issues and will contribute to key development objectives, increased equality and poverty reduction, as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Against this background, the checklist aims to reflect the latest knowledge on adaptation practices which respond to ongoing climate change and variability, risks, vulnerability and impacts. However, the checklist does not attempt to cover the full range of good practices needed for development as a whole. Rather it is indicative of and focuses on, those aspects where adaptation adds a new lens or approach and examines these aspects in some detail.










## Table 1: Adaptation Good Practice Criteria

Dry season Farmer in her onion farm in Tariganga community in Northern Ghana.  
Credit: Nicola Ward/ALP 2015




## Practice 1. Risk, vulnerability and capacity

	<b>Criteria to: Analyse climate risks, differential vulnerability and capacity of people, ecosystems and institutions.</b>	<b>SCORE<sup>4</sup></b>
a)	<b>Climate vulnerable people are targeted and defined:</b> by livelihood assets and strategies, social groups, ecological and climatic zones, land use and environmental management, gender, wealth differences.	
b)	<b>Assessments and risk surveillance systems include the study of:</b> climate risk; social, economic and ecosystem vulnerability; people's knowledge and capacity; underlying causes of vulnerability; existing systems to manage risk at different timescales	
c)	<b>Institutional mapping:</b> identifies the range of community, local and national organizations involved in management of climate change risks and impacts; analyses organisational capacity and linkages.	
d)	<b>Analysis results</b> inform the next steps of participatory planning and choice of adaptation strategies.	
	<b>Final score, check one box<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Red</b>  <b>Amber</b>  <b>Green</b> 	
Practice 1: Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

<sup>4</sup> Select and write one only of Red, Amber or Green. Refer to Scoring guidance.

<sup>5</sup> The lowest score applies. See scoring guidance. Comments are required to explain reasons

## Practice 2. Participation, inclusion, gender equality

	Criteria to: Ensure participation, voice and inclusion of all groups.	SCORE
a)	<b>The analysis in 1b)</b> involves a diverse range of social groups of people and includes: analysis of gender, power dynamics and relations among men, women and youth of different social standing and vulnerability, wealth and ethnicity; and how they affect risks, vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities and opportunities to participate in adaptation decision making.	
b)	<b>Mechanisms are incorporated for vulnerable groups to continually and actively engage in adaptation decision making at the most appropriate levels:</b> all groups and actors are supported to organise together, participate, identify their livelihood or sector aspirations, needs and priorities and assess them against the context and future climate scenarios.	
c)	<b>Gender equality is an explicit goal, addressing underlying causes</b> and ensuring gender equitable access, control and accumulation of assets, information, adaptation benefits and adaptive capacity strengthening.	
d)	<b>The rights and agency of the full range of actors, as well as gender and diversity representation</b> are strengthened across sectors, levels and activities so as to achieve local ownership over decision making processes and implementation and fully transparent communication.	
	<b>Final score, check one box:</b> <b>Red</b>  <b>Amber</b>  <b>Green</b> 	
Practice 2: Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

### Practice 3. Climate information, uncertainty

	Criteria to: corporate management of uncertainty and use of climate information.	SCORE
a)	The initiative engages with systems in which meteorological services and other sources <b>produce accessible and relevant climate information at appropriate spatial and temporal scales</b> to continuously inform actions at different levels.	
b)	<b>Climate information services are supported to respond to local knowledge and expressed information needs</b> of actors (community members, service providers and project stakeholders) across relevant spatial and time scales and roles.	
c)	The initiative addresses <b>uncertainty and on-going change in climate</b> as important factors to understand, communicate and work with, in all steps of adaptation.	
d)	Regular local level <b>multi-stakeholder dialogue and collective interpretation</b> of climate information advisories for action is supported to continuously inform adaptation decision making and actions.	
e)	The initiative supports <b>channels for communicating</b> climate information and advisories which ensure all social groups have sustainable access, confidence in and capacity to act, learn and give feedback.	
<b>Final score, check one box:</b> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/>		
Practice 3. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

## Practice 4. Planning and Decision-making processes

	<b>Criteria to: Promote anticipatory and flexible adaptation planning and decision-making processes with and by the people affected</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
a)	The initiative supports <b>planning and decision making at the most appropriate level</b> (community, local, sector, national and relevant governance structures), to ensure context-specific, locally determined plans with the participation of those who will be affected, will benefit and will provide on-going services and support.	
b)	<b>Provisions and budgets are created to ensure that plans and actions are flexible</b> and reviewed regularly, and enable systematic processes for anticipation of and response to changing conditions, needs and uncertainty of climate impacts.	
c)	<b>The planning process is informed by multiple sources and identifies a range of adaptation options:</b> trends analysis, past information, current conditions, people’s aspirations, and anticipation of future climate impact scenarios.	
d)	<b>Priority adaptation options are selected through a screening process</b> to assess social, economic and environmental feasibility, gender equality, underlying causes of vulnerability, resilience to expected climate impacts and risks and synergies with existing systems and plans.	
	<b>Final score, check one box:</b> <b>Red</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amber</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Green</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Practice 4. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

## Practice 5. Innovation, Local knowledge, Technology

	Criteria to: Promote innovation, local knowledge and technology	SCORE
a)	<b>The initiative introduces successful innovations and strengthens capacity for continuous innovation</b> / testing of: adaptation approaches, inclusive social systems, strategies and appropriate technologies by communities and all other stakeholders, to enable flexible, adaptive and relevant responses to current and future climate risks and impacts.	
b)	<b>The initiative supports use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge</b> , as appropriate through i) <b>access and validation</b> , ii) <b>combining</b> with other knowledge sources for participatory technology development, iii) <b>building capacity, local confidence and trust</b> and iv) <b>contextualising and informing</b> innovation and technology for adaptation actions.	
c)	<b>Technology choices consider climate impacts, trade-offs, synergies between vulnerable groups and ecosystems and equitable benefit sharing</b> , responding to risk, vulnerability and capacity at community and landscape level.	
d)	<b>Link research and implementation initiatives</b> for development of longer term solutions informed by climate science, trends and local conditions and aspirations, providing for continuous updating of available technologies	
<b>Final score, check one box:</b> <b>Red</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amber</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Green</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Practice 5. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

## Practice 6. Adaptive Management

	Criteria to: Ensure an integrated and holistic response with adaptive management of climate-related risks and impacts over time.	SCORE
a)	<b>Resources are available for on-going adaptive management systems and activities</b> in addition to implementation of adaptation technologies: e.g. for adaptive capacity strengthening, climate information services, extension, policy and finance support, appropriate monitoring and evaluation and learning systems.	
b)	<b>Initiatives ensure integration of disaster risk reduction, economic investment and livelihood improvement</b> options and plans: e.g. early warning early action systems, contingency plans, safety nets or risk insurance enhance the resilience of sector based development.	
c)	<b>The design avoids potential maladaptation</b> across the range of actors and sectors involved. It considers concerns, opportunities and synergies or trade-offs between: ecosystems and environmental management; peoples, sector and institutions aspirations for sustainable socio-economic development, and climate risk and vulnerability.	
d)	<b>Established social and environmental safeguards (SES) are known and respected</b> in design, implementation and monitoring.	
	<b>Final score, check one box:</b> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/>	
Practice 6. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

## Practice 7. Institutional linkages

	Criteria to: Establish institutional arrangements and linkages which facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement.	SCORE
a)	<b>The contribution, roles and responsibilities of all institutional stakeholders in supporting adaptation are well-defined</b> at different levels, including for coordination and coherent action.	
b)	<b>Inclusion of local and national civil society organisations</b> in adaptation decision making, planning and implementation is promoted, including community based organisations and NGOs.	
c)	<b>Multi-stakeholder forums are established, broadened or strengthened</b> to enable coordinated cross-sector and intra-sector planning and collective decision making at different levels to address climate risks and uncertainties.	
d)	<b>Governance systems and linkages between stakeholder institutions and sectors are strengthened</b> or established, to ensure institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms for equitable, sustainable and accountable adaptation planning processes and actions at local to national levels.	
<b>Final score, check one box:</b> <b>Red</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amber</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Green</b> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Practice 7. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		



## Practice 8. Learning, capacity building, knowledge management

	Criteria to: Integrate learning, capacity building, monitoring and knowledge management processes.	SCORE
a)	<b>Iterative learning, sharing and capacity building for all stakeholders are core activities, supporting co-generation</b> of new knowledge and solutions, access to information by a range of sources: local, national, south-south and globally.	
b)	<b>The monitoring system assesses and reports on change in: adaptive capacity, anticipated or avoided risk, systems and services, and resilience impacts</b> as part of the standard and agreed indicators for the initiative to enable improvements based on adaptation learning and evidence.	
c)	<b>The initiative supports continuous reflection, learning and feedback loops</b> among targeted communities, local service providers and other actors, to inform their planning and modification of activities and identification of capacity gaps, policy issues and demands as the climate and other circumstances change.	
d)	<b>Resources are allocated to sustain ongoing facilitation of learning, knowledge management and brokering</b> to enable exchange of and access to evidence and knowledge by stakeholders adaptation programmes, NIEs and other actors.	
	<b>Final score, check one box:</b> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/>	
Practice 8. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

## Practice 9. Scaling up and sustainability

	Criteria to: Support to ongoing sustainable adaptation at scale.	SCORE
a)	The initiative aims to <b>establish local ownership, adaptive capacity</b> and resources so that the resulting socio-cultural, economic and environmental adaptation benefits, and supporting systems and services, are sustainable and replicable.	
b)	<b>Adaptation is integrated into mainstream sectors, programmes and local / national development plans</b> in response to climate risk and uncertainty, to ensure all development is climate resilient.	
c)	The initiative <b>engages with policy processes, governance structures and services</b> , public, private and civil society institutions and the enabling environment to ensure the resulting adaptation processes and outcomes are sustainable, up-scaled and promoted nationwide.	
d)	<b>Socio-economic and environmental cost benefit analysis</b> of adaptation actions, including of on-going planning, climate service provision, direct and indirect impacts, and adaptive management, is documented and used to ensure cost effective design and outcomes.	
	<b>Final score, check one box:</b> <b>Red</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amber</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Green</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Practice 9. Explanation / comments and actions to be taken:		

## AGP scoring system

Scoring can be a self-assessment process or be incorporated into a formal evaluation system.

**Criteria ranking:** Assess the level of inclusion or adherence to the criteria for each practice. Select and record **one only** of Red, Amber or Green. Use Table 2 below to guide the selection.

**Practice scores:** The lowest ranking from the set of criteria determines the score for the practice as a whole. That is, if any criteria within one practice is assigned a red ranking, then the final score for that practice will be red. If no reds but one or more amber ranking, the score for the practice is amber. If all criteria are assigned green ranking, the score for the practice will be green. This is to ensure that red ranking scores are fully addressed in the follow up action to be taken on each practice.

**Comments** are essential to:

- explain and justify the ranking of criteria and scores assigned for each practice
- highlight areas for concern or further work
- describe the action to be taken following the appraisal.

**Recommendations for action.** Table 2 explains the actions to be taken for each practice.

## Table 2. Scoring Guide

Overall Ranking Guidance		Guidance on what happens next
Green	The criteria and quality standards set are met and the practice requires little or no revision.	Recommendations for some improvement or modification may be included, otherwise the initiative may proceed as planned.
Amber	The necessary quality standards are mostly met but the practice needs revision before it is adopted.	Detailed recommendations for improvement are recorded and used to guide revisions.
Red	The criteria is not met, the practice does not meet the required quality standards and substantial further revision is necessary.	Explanations of where the initiative fails to meet the criteria are recorded and recommendations provided for revisions. A process for revision and a second assessment is agreed

## Overall assessment of the initiative

An overall assessment can be made by reviewing the outcome for each practice and determining the level of modifications and revisions needed to ensure that the initiative will result in effective adaptation and climate resilience.

- A significant number of red scored practices will require the initiative to be thoroughly reviewed with significant rethinking and re-strategising before proceeding.
- A significant number of amber scores will require a thorough review and re-strategising of those components of the initiative and a review of the overall coherence of the initiative.
- A majority of green scores will provide information on the areas in the initiative that can be further strengthened or modified to create a more balanced and effective outcome

## Further guidance

Detailed explanation of the meaning and importance of the criteria and practices, with case studies, success stories and links to relevant resources and tools is under development. Guidance will be produced to elaborate:

- How to use the checklist for different purposes – proposal design, proposal evaluation, implementation planning, integration of adaptation in sector plans and local development plans, training design etc.
- Quality assurance and monitoring guidance.
- Details for each practice - why it is important, what it helps to achieve, case studies and examples to illustrate, implementation guidelines.
- Links to additional resources - approaches and tools, games, programmes and projects, training materials.
- Relationship between the checklist and UNFCCC agreements and procedures – Paris Agreement and related documents, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund etc.

## Selected useful resources

### UNFCCC and Adaptation Finance Resources:

**Adaptation Fund Results Tracker Guidance Document(2016)** <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/AF-ResultstrackerGuidance-final2.pdf>

**Adaptation Fund Ethics and Finance Committee (2011)** Project Level Result Frameworks and Baseline Guidance Document. <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/AF-FinalDraftGuidance-wimpactproposal-10March11.pdf>

**Green Climate Fund (2015) Concept Note Users Guide:** [http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/239759/GCF\\_Concept\\_Note\\_User\\_s\\_Guide.pdf/64866eea-3437-4007-a0e4-01b60e6e463b](http://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/239759/GCF_Concept_Note_User_s_Guide.pdf/64866eea-3437-4007-a0e4-01b60e6e463b)

**GCF Readiness Tools & Guidebooks – selection at:** <http://www.gcfreadinessprogramme.org/readiness-tools-and-guidebooks>

**UNFCCC secretariat Least Developed Countries Expert Group (2012)** National Adaptation Plans. Technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process. Available at <http://unfccc.int/NAP>.

**UNEP (2014) The Adaptation Gap Report (2014)** [http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/gapreport2014/portals/50270/pdf/AGR\\_FULL\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/gapreport2014/portals/50270/pdf/AGR_FULL_REPORT.pdf)

**UNFCCC (2015) Paris Agreement:** [http://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/convention/application/pdf/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

### Adaptation Practice Resources

**CARE (2009). Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis Handbook.** <http://www.careclimatechange.org/cvca>

**CCAFS, CARE, ICRAF (2014) Gender and Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture.** [https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/45955/CCAFS\\_Gender\\_Toolbox.pdf?sequence=7](https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/45955/CCAFS_Gender_Toolbox.pdf?sequence=7)

**CARE/ALP. (2015) Gender dynamics in a changing climate: How gender and adaptive capacity affect resilience:** <http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/Gender-and-Adaptation-Learning-Brief.pdf>

**CARE/ALP. (2013) Community Based Adaptation: An empowering approach for climate resilient development and risk reduction** [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA\\_Brief\\_nov\\_13.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA_Brief_nov_13.pdf)

**CARE/ALP (2015). Practitioner Brief 1: Adaptation Planning with Communities:** [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA\\_Planning\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CBA_Planning_Brief.pdf)

**CARE/ALP (2015). Practitioner Brief 2: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and adaptation to climate change** <http://careclimatechange.org/publications/cba-drr-practitioner-brief/>

- CARE/ALP (2015). Practitioner Brief 3: Understanding Gender in Community Based Adaptation** <http://careclimatechange.org/publications/cba-and-gender-analysis/>
- CARE/ALP (2015). Practitioner Brief 4: Strengthening Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change** <http://careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptive-capacity-practitioner-brief/>
- ODI (2010) Towards a characterisation of adaptive capacity: a framework for analysing adaptive capacity at the local level:** <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/6353.pdf>
- ODI (2015) The 3As: tracking resilience across BRACED:** <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9812.pdf>
- CARE/ALP (2015) Adaptation Strategies Compendium:** <http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Adaptation-Strategies-Compendium.pdf>
- CARE/ALP (2014) Facing Uncertainty:** The value of climate information for adaptation, risk reduction and resilience in Africa [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/Facing\\_Uncertainty\\_ALP\\_Climate\\_Communications\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/Facing_Uncertainty_ALP_Climate_Communications_Brief.pdf)
- CARE/ALP (2012). Decision-making for climate resilient livelihoods and risk reduction: A Participatory Scenario Planning approach.** ALP Brief [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/ALP\\_PSP\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/ALP_PSP_Brief.pdf)
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- NEF (2012) Counting on uncertainty - The economic case for community-based adaptation in North-East Kenya. Summary Report** [http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/Counting\\_on\\_Uncertainty\\_July12.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/Counting_on_Uncertainty_July12.pdf)
- NEF (2014) Simplified guidelines for Social Cost-Benefit Analysis of Climate Change adaptation projects on a local scale** <http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CostBenefit.pdf>
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- ALP and Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) Joto Afrika Magazine Special Issues on CBA:** <http://www.alin.net/Joto%20Afrika>
- Issue 9: Why mainstreaming gender into community based climate change adaptation is a priority
  - Issue 11: Community based adaptation: experiences from Africa
  - Issue 12: Climate communication for adaptation
  - Issue 13: Integrating community based adaptation into local government planning
  - Issue 14: Community based adaptation to climate change strengthens pastoralists' resilience

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NB. A long list of resources linked to each AGP will be included in the accompanying AGP guide [Forthcoming]

## Climate Change Adaptation Glossary

**Adaptation** human-driven adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems or policy processes, in response to actual or expected climate stimuli and their effects or impacts (LEG, 2011). Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation, private and public adaptation, and autonomous and planned adaptation.

**Adaptive capacity** (in relation to climate change impacts) the ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes) in order to moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities or to cope with the consequences. Local Adaptive Capacity characteristics: asset base, institutions and entitlements, knowledge and information, innovation, and flexible forward-looking decision-making (ODI, ACCRA LAC Framework, 2010)

**Maladaptation** Any changes in natural or human systems that inadvertently increase vulnerability to climatic stimuli; an adaptation that does not succeed in reducing vulnerability but increases it instead (IPCC Third Assessment Report, 2001).

**Climate change** Refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.

**Climate variability** Variations in the climate (as measured by comparison with the mean state and other statistics such as standard deviations and statistics of extremes) at all temporal and spatial scales beyond that of individual weather events. Variability may be due to natural internal processes within the climate system (internal variability) or to variations in natural or anthropogenic external forcing (external variability).

**Disaster risk reduction (DRR)** Denotes both a policy goal or objective, and the strategic and instrumental measures employed for anticipating future disaster risk; reducing existing exposure, hazard, or vulnerability; and improving resilience. (IPCC, SEREX, 2012)

**Resilience** The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.

**Vulnerability** The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity and its adaptive capacity. Therefore adaptation would also include any efforts to address these components.

**Mainstreaming or integration** The integration of (adaptation) objectives, strategies, policies, measures or operations such that they become part of the national and regional development policies, processes and budgets at all levels and stages (Lim and Spanger-Sieghed, 2005).

**Sustainability** the ability of socio-ecological processes and activities to continue producing benefits in the long term environmentally, socially, technically, financially and culturally.



## Adaptation Learning Programme

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Women from Dan Maza Idi community create a resource map of their community as part of the climate change vulnerability and capacity analysis. Credit: Awais Yahaya/ALP, 2010.

Find this document online: <http://careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation-good-practice-checklist/>

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