

Title: CLARE: 'Co-Creation' Labs for Urban Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Type of submission: Co-creation session – Knowledge Café

Theme: Cities, Settlements, and Infrastructure

Overview

Effective climate adaptation requires equitable, participatory co-production that integrates local knowledge and scientific research for informed policy action. CLARE is a flagship research programme on climate adaptation and resilience, funded mostly (about 90%) by UK Aid through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and co-funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. CLARE is aiming to bridge critical gaps between science and action by championing Southern leadership to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards. This session will explore how CLARE's project integrate participatory and equitable practices to co-analyse local climate risk narratives and co-construct pathways to more climate-resilient futures in multistakeholder '**Co-Creation Labs**' within the context of cities, settlements and infrastructure.

The session aims to share experiences from select CLARE projects working with urban communities in Africa and Asia to advocate for stronger integration of local and indigenous knowledge in the development of knowledge on urban resilience. The session will specifically highlight the different approaches being used to support transdisciplinary knowledge creation and enable transformational change for the communities in informal and complex urban contexts. CLARE currently has numerous projects under the themes of understanding climate risk, risk-informed early action and developing in changing climate. In order to produce research that has a societal impact, CLARE projects explicitly focus on co-defining risks and vulnerabilities to climate extremes and co-defining effective and desirable adaptation options often through the use of 'Co-creation Labs' Approaches, which bring together diverse stakeholders to explore shared climate resilience challenges, and confront power asymmetries and co-design solutions to adapt (Bussey et al., 2024; Pasquini et al., 2024). These Labs are spaces that intentionally integrate different forms of knowledge, while also empowering poor and marginalised groups to have a more active role in decision making around how their communities can adapt to the challenges presented by climate change.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aims of this co-creation session are to:

- Facilitate knowledge exchange on approaches to supporting urban resilience through the inclusive and transdisciplinary co-creation of risk narratives and adaptation solutions, highlighted through Co-creation Lab approaches.
- Highlight the value in integrating local experiences and scientific knowledge for more inclusive understanding of urban vulnerability and supporting the design of locally led adaptation solutions.

Session Format:

Opening and keynote (10 min): CLARE funders (FCDO and IDRC) will provide an overview of the CLARE programme including the research for impact approaches, highlighting the 'Co-creation' lab and how this is particularly useful in urban resilience interventions. The World Café speakers will be introduced with a quick pitch of their topic.

World Café (30 min): The keynote will be followed by a **World Café** to enable meaningful participation, strengthen networks, and produce practical outcomes. The room will be divided into 6 tables, with the listed participants below acting as rotating moderators. Each moderator will spend 15 minutes at a table sharing their experiences and facilitating a discussion before moving to one other table.

Reflection round (5 min): Quick reflection from each table (assign a rapporteur)

Expected Outcomes

This session is designed to share and advocate for actionable approaches and insights into delivering impactful research that is locally informed to have equitable and long-lasting influence on adaptation decision making. The session expects the following outcomes:

- Enable dialogue between researchers, practitioners, decision-makers and stakeholders on approaches to effectively co-create urban resilient pathways.
- Advancing knowledge on co-production for adaptation by showcasing practical examples of co-production in climate adaptation, providing valuable insights on how collaborative processes enhance the effectiveness, legitimacy, and sustainability of adaptation efforts.

Conclusion

This session will result in concrete recommendations:

- How co-produced knowledge can be integrated into urban resilience planning and governance
- Explore what capacities and skills are critical for facilitating and participating in co-creation labs.
- Participants will leave with clear strategies for applying these insights to their own contexts, fostering stronger collaborations between researchers, policymakers, and communities. Additionally, the event's documentation will serve as a resource for future initiatives, for scaling adaptation solutions that prioritise inclusivity and long-term impact.

PARTICIPANTS

Moderator Details

Full Name: Manuela Di Mauro

Organisation: Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Bio sketch: Manuela Di Mauro is an expert advisor on climate, environment and infrastructure in the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and currently leads the research portfolio under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience initiative (CLARE).

Full Name: Grace O'Donovan

Organisation: SouthSouthNorth

Bio: Dr Grace O'Donovan is a Senior Project Manager at the CLimate Adaptation and REsilience (CLARE) programme's Research for Impact (R4I) Hub based at SouthSouthNorth (SSN). She manages the CLARE R4I Opportunities Fund, which seeks to enable the uptake of existing research through demand-led climate adaptation and resilience projects towards sustainable outcomes across Africa and Asia-Pacific.

Participants

Participant 1

Full Name: Ma. Theresa L. Carampatana

Organisation: Homeless Peoples' Federation Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI)

Bio: **Ma. Theresa L. Carampatana**, former National President of the Homeless Peoples' Federation Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI), is a dedicated community organizer and social activist with over 20 years of experience advocating for the rights of slum dwellers. Carampatana's work emphasizes collaboration between local communities, government authorities, and civil society to improve housing conditions and development.

Participant 1 Contribution:

The **Building Resilience in the Context of Rapid Urbanisation: A View from Informal Settlements in the Philippines (RURBANISE)** project, focusing on understanding how vulnerability is differentiated across urban landscapes. This contribution will highlight how different communities and groups across cities in the Philippines experience climate risks and showcase how RURBANISE is co-creating adaptation strategies that are grounded in local knowledge and initiated by communities in low-income areas.

Participant 2

Full Name: Gilbert Siame

Organisation: University of Zambia

Bio: **Gilbert Siame** holds both a masters and PhD in city and regional planning from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He is a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies (GES) at the University of Zambia where he also founded and coordinates the Centre for Urban Research and Planning. He is the coordinator of graduate studies in the same department. Moreover, he has served as visiting lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and as external examiner for Universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town, Western Cape, and Free State- all in South Africa. He is centrally involved in two CLARE projects, MECHANICS and Tuwe Pamoja.

Participant 2 Contribution:

The **Tuwe Pamoja** project is developing approaches to strengthen capacity of local stakeholders in co-designing and implementing nature-based solutions in informal settlements. The Tuwe Pamoja project is a capacity strengthening project working with city stakeholders in Accra, Ghana; Nairobi Kenya; Cape Town, South Africa; and Lusaka, Zambia to strengthen the ability of local NGOs to strategically integrate better

understanding of climate risk and intersectional vulnerability into local climate resilient development pathways to co-create adaptation solutions. The contribution will highlight how enabling a culture of knowledge co-creation, particularly with the urban poor, can generate more equitable and sustainable adaptation solutions.

Participant 3

Full Name: John Thompson

Organisation: Institute of Development Studies

Bio: John Thompson is a resource geographer and a Senior Research Fellow in Rural Futures at the Institute of Development Studies, UK. His work focuses sustainability dynamics in complex, diverse and risk-prone environments, the political ecology of structural transformations and the governance of food and water systems.

Participants 3 Contribution:

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Tropical Drylands (CLARITY) project has created inclusive spaces where stakeholders, practitioners and researchers come together to co-design and test novel ideas and innovations, co-produce new knowledge and co-evaluate solutions, which it calls 'Transformation Labs' or 'T-Labs'. One of CLARITY's T-Labs is located in Dodoma, a city of half a million people and the capital of Tanzania, where the approach has focused on co-analysing equitable and sustainable water development pathways in dryland environments in a rapidly growing city region with complex urban-rural interactions. The contribution will explore challenges and opportunities of using T-Lab processes for engaging government officials and technical agency staff in a constructive dialogue on broadening out and opening socio-technical appraisal and governance processes to support more inclusive, stakeholder-informed decision making on climate resilient development.

Participants 4

Full Name: Laura Rawden

Organisation: Locomedia

Bio: Laura Rawden is the founder of Locomedia. She has a background in science and international media, and specialises in crafting engaging stories around technical and in-depth information. Her passion is the intersection between development goals and social justice in sub-Saharan Africa. Laura is a member and past Chair of the Southern African Freelancers Association (SAFREA). She holds a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology and a Master's degree in International Journalism & Media. Laura is the Communications Advisor for the CLARE programme, working with SouthSouthNorth.

Participants 4 Contribution:

Strengthening Research-for-Impact Capacities using 'Co-Creation' Labs: The CLARE Research for Impact Hub and Capacity Strengthening Hub are working with CLARE projects to understand how Co-creation Labs can serve as critical spaces for strengthening Research-for-Impact, Research-into-Use and action-research focused capacities essential for climate adaptation action. Key insights from CLARE's collective experience of running Co-creation Labs will be shared in this intervention, synthesizing lessons learned and identifying good practice.

Hybrid Platform requirements

- **We are not requesting a hybrid format**

Given that the session is very interactive with multiple table conversations envisaged, hybrid option may not be viable.