

Adaptation Futures, New Zealand, 13-16 October

Session (495 – Panel) - 13th October, Monday 16:00 - 17:45.

Scaling Innovation and Technology Transfer for Climate Adaptation: Insights from the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) Partnership

Conference Theme: Food, Water and Land Security

Cross-cutting issue: Technology Transfer, Climate Resilient Development

Session Structure: Panel discussion

Duration: 45 min. (Physical Participation only)

Session Lead and Partner Organizations:

- **UNDP AFCIA:** Monica Borrero, Ekin Celikyay
- **UNEP-CTCN AFCIA:** Nadège Trocellier, Christian Lohberger
- **Adaptation Fund:** Saliha Dobardzic, Alysa Gomes (TBC)

Introduction and Objective: Climate change adaptation requires the rapid scaling of innovative, locally-led solutions that are context-specific, inclusive, and sustainable. Funded by the **Adaptation Fund**, the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) is a pioneering programme designed to support the acceleration of adaptation solutions through funding, technical assistance, knowledge generation and sharing. Implemented by UNDP, UNEP-CTCN, WFP and UNIDO, AFCIA provides direct funding and technical support to local actors, enabling them to test, evaluate, refine, and scale adaptation innovations that enhance climate resilience in diverse socio-ecological contexts.

Contribution to New Knowledge and Practice: The session will contribute to the global discourse on climate adaptation by showcasing scalable, locally-led innovations and the financial and technical mechanisms that support them. The discussion will also explore how AFCIA has navigated challenges in funding, rescuing indigenous knowledge and technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity-building, providing actionable insights for enhancing locally-led adaptation efforts worldwide.

Key Themes and Discussions

- 1. Financing Climate Innovation for Adaptation:**
 - Identifying effective financing mechanisms that support early-stage climate adaptation innovations.
 - Examining gaps in funding and investment readiness support for locally-led adaptation initiatives.
 - Highlighting the role of public and private sector partnerships in scaling adaptation finance.
- 2. Scaling Locally-Led Adaptation Solutions:**
 - Lessons learned from UNDP AFCIA-supported innovative solution in Vanuatu and UNEP CTCN supported solutions in the Maldives, and Suriname.
 - Strategies for ensuring community ownership and sustainability of adaptation projects.
 - The role of traditional knowledge and nature-based solutions in enhancing climate resilience.
- 3. Technology and Innovation in Adaptation:**
 - The role of technology transfer in climate adaptation, with examples from AFCIA-supported grantees.
 - Addressing barriers to technology adoption in different socio-ecological contexts.
 - The importance of knowledge sharing and capacity-building for scaling innovations.
- 4. Cross-Sector Collaboration and Policy Alignment:**
 - How partnerships between governments, multilateral organizations, and private actors strengthen the adaptation ecosystem.
 - Aligning locally-led adaptation solutions with national and international climate policies.

- Exploring the Global Goal on Adaptation and its implications for local adaptation financing.

INDIVIDUAL PANELLIST CONTRIBUTION

Moderator Details

Moderator: *Ms. Saliha Dobardzic (TBC), Adaptation Fund*

Bio: Saliha is the Programming and Innovation Unit Lead and Senior Climate Change Specialist at the Adaptation Fund, overseeing over half a billion dollars in funding annually and leading policy work on climate finance for adaptation, innovation, and locally-led action.

Methodology: The session will be opened by Ms. Saliha Dobardzic, Team Leader for Programming and Innovation at the Adaptation Fund, who will highlight the strategic importance of innovation in climate adaptation and introduce the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA). AFCIA is a key initiative designed to pilot and scale locally-led climate adaptation solutions, achieved through collaborations with various UN agencies and stakeholders. UNEP-CTCN provides technical assistance and facilitates technology transfer, while WFP and UNIDO focus on engaging the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). UNDP implements AFCIA by supporting civil society and NGOs with grants and technical assistance, fostering peer learning, and enhancing the long-term impact of adaptation innovations.

Ms. Dobardzic will then lead a panel discussion exploring how finance, innovation, and technology transfer can accelerate climate resilience and contribute to the Global Goal on Adaptation. The session will take a systems-thinking approach, incorporating panel discussions, case studies from UNDP AFCIA and UNEP CTCN - supported initiatives, and interactive dialogues, all emphasizing technology transfer and climate-resilient development. These discussions will present key achievements and lessons from UNDP AFCIA and UNEP-CTCN AFCIA programme and supported solutions across diverse regions, focusing on successful approaches and future strategies for scaling locally-led solutions.

The session will provide an overview of AFCIA's progress, focusing on lessons learned from ongoing programs and exploring new collaborations with partners such as WFP, UNIDO, and the upcoming UNEP-Phase II. It will address challenges and identify future advancements in locally-led adaptation and resilience-building. By focusing on food, water, and land security, the session will explore how finance, innovation, and technology can enhance climate resilience in locally-led adaptation efforts. The session will also examine barriers to financing these solutions and highlight strategies for scaling up community-led adaptation.

This session aims to showcase the importance of funding, strong partnerships, and enabling ecosystems for scaling locally-led adaptation. Panelists will discuss financing models, cross-sector collaborations, and the challenges of scaling adaptation solutions, offering actionable insights for funders, policymakers, and practitioners. The session will contribute to global discussions on climate adaptation by highlighting scalable, locally-led innovations and the financial and technical mechanisms supporting them.

Furthermore, AFCIA's role in navigating funding challenges, protecting indigenous knowledge, transferring technology, and building capacity will be discussed, offering lessons on enhancing locally-led adaptation efforts worldwide. During the session, UNDP AFCIA grantees from Vanuatu and UNEP-CTCN grantees will showcase their work, highlighting the community perspective on climate adaptation solutions.

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

Panelist 1:

Name: Monica Borrero

Organization: UNDP AFCIA

Bio: Monica is the Global Programme Manager for UNDP- AFCIA, one of the funding windows anchored under the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace. In this role, she leads efforts supporting 44 organizations to scale up innovative adaptation solutions that advance climate adaptation in local communities, across 33 countries. She

previously worked at UNEP's LAC Office and with governments and SMEs on sustainable value chains. Monica holds an MSc in International Development and a BSc in Environmental Sciences.

Panelist 2:

Name: Nadège Trocellier

Organization: UNEP-CTCN AFCIA

Bio: Nadège Trocellier is the CTCN Global Programme Manager, overseeing the AFCIA 1, AFCIA 2 and AFCIA coordination Services amongst others. With expertise in Climate change adaptation technologies, innovative finance, and the nexus between CC and Security she drives support for locally-led climate solutions.

Panelist 3:

Name: Mr. Christian Lohberger, Vice Chair of the CTCN, representing the Pacific

Organization: UNEP-CTCN AFCIA

Bio: Christian Lohberger is the Vice Chair of the UN Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), with over two decades of experience driving renewable energy and climate technology solutions, particularly across the Pacific region. He has led initiatives in off-grid electrification, policy advisory, and national technology needs assessments, supporting countries like Papua New Guinea and Australia in advancing low-carbon, climate-resilient development. A passionate advocate for clean energy innovation.

Contribution:

Drawing from his experience in the Pacific, Christian will share perspectives on how AFCIA's micro-grant and technical assistance model has helped surface and support community-driven innovation in island contexts. He will reflect on the unique challenges of scaling adaptation technologies in remote and climate-vulnerable regions, and highlight how local innovation, when supported by targeted technical assistance and national policy alignment, can lead to transformational outcomes. His intervention will provide practical insights into how AFCIA-supported initiatives are contributing to systemic change through technology transfer, institutional engagement, and community ownership.

Panelist 3: UNDP AFCIA grantee: Mr. Allan Taman, Chairman of SSEN from Vanuatu

Panelist 4 : UNEP- CTCN grantee: Mr. David Tsiskaridze, CEO of International Business and Economic Development Center, Implementing partner in Georgia

3-4 Discussion Points

1. What financial and technical models have proven most effective in scaling locally-led climate adaptation innovations?
2. How can cross-sector partnerships and national innovation systems help overcome adoption barriers for technology transfer in adaptation?
3. What role does traditional and Indigenous knowledge play in shaping scalable and context-specific solutions?
4. How can the AFCIA model contribute to achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation and build broader systemic change?

Potential panel questions to be raised by the moderator

For UNDP-AFCIA (Monica Borrero): *What are some standout examples of innovative, locally-led adaptation solutions supported by UNDP AFCIA, and what key factors have contributed to their success and scalability? In your view, what key lessons does this examples offer about the role of capacity-building and finance in overcoming challenges and unlocking broader impact for locally-led innovation?*

For UNDP-AFCIA (grantees): Questions for Vanuatu – Santo Sunset Environment Network (SSEN): *How has integrating traditional knowledge with climate-smart agricultural practices helped Indigenous communities in Western Santo build resilience against climate risks, and what lessons can be shared for broader replication?*

For UNEP-CTCN AFCIA (Nadège Trocellier): *UNEP-CTCN plays a crucial role in connecting adaptation innovators with technical assistance and expertise. What have been the most effective strategies for ensuring that locally-led innovations receive the right support to do testing solutions and integrate into national adaptation plans?*

For UNEP CTCN Vice Chair: Question for Christian Lohberger, Vice Chair of the CTCN, representing the Pacific: *As Vice Chair of the CTCN and a regional expert on climate technologies in the Pacific, how do you see the AFCIA's micro-grant and technical assistance model contributing to transformational adaptation in small island contexts? What lessons can we draw from AFCIA-supported initiatives in the Pacific on effectively integrating local innovation into national adaptation priorities?*

Question for UNEP CTCN AFCIA grantee from Georgia: *How could a community led EWS for Forest Fires can increase the resilience of the selected region?*

Outline of the Session

Item/Question	Panelist	Duration	Visual Aids / Additional Requirements
Opening and framing remarks – Introducing the AFCIA programme, key achievements, and future direction	Ms. Saliha Dobardzic, Adaptation Fund (TBC)	5 minutes	Display stage backdrop (AF/UNDP/CTCN logos); Lectern with microphone
UNDP insights – Key lessons from Phase I, and pathways for scaling community-led adaptation ((Moderator will ask)	Ms. Monica Borrero, UNDP AFCIA	5 minutes	Display stage backdrop
UNEP-CTCN insights – What worked in Phase I, and how national systems of innovation support scaling (Moderator will ask)	Ms. Nadège Trocellier, UNEP-CTCN AFCIA	5 minutes	Display stage backdrop
Reflections from the Pacific – Supporting island innovation through AFCIA's micro-grant model (Moderator will ask)	Mr. Christian Lohberger, Vice Chair, CTCN	5 minutes	Display stage backdrop
Community perspective – How traditional knowledge and climate-smart practices build resilience? (Moderator will ask)	Mr. Allan Taman, Santo Sunset Environment Network (SSEN), Vanuatu	5 minutes	Display stage backdrop; image slide
Civil Society perspective: How do you think that an EWS for Forest Fires in the region will benefit the biodiversity, the populations leaving in the area? (Moderator will ask)	Mr. David Tsiskaridze, representing the AFCIA project in Georgia	5 minutes	Display stage backdrop
Moderated panel discussion Q&A(<i>below you can find potential questions</i>): What will it take to scale and sustain adaptation innovation globally?	Moderator: Ms. Saliha Dobardzic	15 minutes	Hand mics for panelists; roaming mic for audience (max 2-3 questions from the audience)

Expected Outcomes

- Showcase of scalable, community-driven innovations for food, water, and land security.
- Insight into financing and technical assistance models that enable adaptation innovation.
- Recommendations on strengthening enabling ecosystems through policy, partnerships, and innovation.
- Concrete contributions to global dialogue on the Global Goal on Adaptation and technology transfer