

THE 4TH ANNUAL GOBESHONA GLOBAL CONFERENCE

LEARNING REPORT

Copyright © 2024 International Centre for Climate Change and Development
(ICCCAD)

All rights reserved. ICCCAD encourages fair use of this material for non-commercial purposes.

This learning report is based upon the sessions of the 4th annual Gobeshona Global Conference. It has been compiled from the rapporteur's notes and events details.

The publication is a summary from the organizer's point of view, and does not necessarily express the views of each individual participant.

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road
Bashundhara R/A

Ph: 88-02-840-1645-53 Ext. 3311 Fax: 88-02-840-1991

Web: <http://www.icccad.net>, <http://www.gobeshona.net>, <http://www.iub.edu.bd>,
[Youtube](#)

Date: 1-8 March 2024

Organizing Team: Saqib Huq, Fateen Fateh, Noor-E-Elahi, Mehedi Hasan Tuhin, Magnus Mayeen Ahmed, S M Saify Iqbal, Ahasan Habib, Fauzia Hossain

Contributors: Nusrat Naushin, Savio Rousseau Rozario, Towrin Zaman Raya, Juel Mahmud, Afsara Binte Mirza, Hafizur Rahman, Farhin Rahman Reeda, Md. Fahad Hossain, Sumaiya Binte Selim, Madiha Chowdhury, Adiba Bintey Kamal, Nafia Saddaf, Bushra Anjum, Mahzabeen Mahfuz, Shamrita Zaman, Lutfor Rahman, Nazmus Sakib, Joyee Chakma, Ranon Jahan, Fariha Jahin Biva, Md. Tariqul Hasan Rifat, Habibur Rahman, Maria Aktar, Gausia Islam Keya, Chowdhury Abrar Zahin, Munia Tahsin, Md. Rashed Hasan, Nafis Imtiaj Hossain, Abid Hasan, Md Al-Mamun Rakib, Tanjib Islam, Abu Kaium Aunik, Md. Sifat Hossain, Nazrana Islam

Editors: Shohail Bin Saifullah, Afsara Binte Mirza, Fateen Fateh, Nafis Imtiaj Hossain, Abid Hasan, Md Al-Mamun Rakib, Tanjib Islam, and Abu Kaium Aunik.

International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Address: Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka,
Bangladesh. Phone: 88-02-840-1645-53 Ext. 3311 Fax: 88-02-840-1991

Copyright © 2024 International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). All rights reserved. ICCCAD encourages fair use of this material for non-commercial purposes.

In the memory of Dr. Saleemul Huq



“Gobeshona is a Bangla word for research, and it is the name we chose for developing a platform of researchers working on climate change in Bangladesh. Almost a decade ago we brought together all the researchers working on different aspects of climate change together with people who are also practicing, and over the years we now have well over 50 research institutes, universities, and NGOs as partners in Bangladesh.

We used to do a big annual in-person conference over four days at the Independent University, Bangladesh, for many years, but then during Covid we were not able to convene in-person. So in 2021, we decided to switch from in-person to online, and because we were online, we were able to reach out to many of our friends around the world and invite them to host online sessions.

We got such an overwhelming response that we ended up running the conference 24 hours a day for seven days. The initial eight hours start with the Asia Pacific time zone, then eight hours for the Africa and Europe time zones, and then eight hours for the Americas South Central and North time zones. This allowed us to engage all over the world.

The theme has always been **Locally Led adaptation and Resilience**. Locally Led adaptation which has gone through quite an evolution in thinking and in planning, and we have developed collectively, a community that practices the eight principles of Locally Led Adaptation as a global community of practice. ””

Dr. Saleemul Huq (1952-2023) was the Founder and Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

He was a champion and pioneer in climate change, environment, and development arena. His decades of expertise in this field led to the initiation of the Gobeshona Conference.

In honour of his vision and contributions, the annual Gobeshona conference will be dedicated to him this year and in the years to come.

Message from Managing Director



“ The fourth annual Gobeshona Global Conference was held from 1st to 8th March 2024 with an overarching goal of linking local initiatives with global discourses.

With over sixty-eight virtual sessions, running 24/7, the Annual Gobeshona Conference has created a global community focusing on Climate Change and Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) issues with lived experiences and lessons from Action Research (research by doing).

We were able to have participation and meaningful engagements by a mixture of community groups, research centres, funding entities, and development partners from both developed as well as developing countries; that are working on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) issues.

Session organizers were encouraged to share their respective adaptation interventions, practices, and lessons from respective locations and contexts to enhance the knowledge and understanding for everyone's benefit.

This report is a proceeding of the conference, which aims to share the learnings from the sessions of the 4th Annual Gobeshona Global Conference.

There is an unfortunate realization from these proceedings that adaptation efforts need to be strengthened, as the impacts of climate change are now at their peak and causing losses and damages. We may now have to come up with strategies to mobilize the recently operationalised Loss and Damage Fund to address the impacts faced by the most vulnerable communities. ”

-Saqib Huq, 2024, Managing Director at ICCCAD

Contents

01	About Gobeshona Conference	01
02	About Gobeshona Global Conference 4	02
03	The Need for Locally led Climate Adaptation	04
3.1	Adaptation Technology	06
3.2	Bangladesh	08
3.3	Capacity Building	09
3.4	Cities and Urban Resilience	10
3.5	Climate Induced Migration	11
3.6	Climate Finance	12
3.7	Climate Justice	14
3.8	Deltas	15
3.9	Disaster Management	16
3.10	Drylands and Barinds	17
3.11	Food Security and Agriculture	18
3.12	Gender Youth and Social Inclusion	19
3.13	Geo-engineering	20
3.14	Health and Wellbeing	21
3.15	Humanitarian Action	22
3.16	Least Developed Countries	23
	Universities Consortium on Climate Change	
3.17	Locally Led Adaptation	24
3.18	Monitoring and Accountability	25
3.19	Loss and Damage	26
3.20	Mitigation and Renewable Energy	27
3.21	Nature-Based Solutions	28
3.22	Resilient Livelihoods	29
04	New Theme at GC4: Arts and Culture	30
05	Going Forward	31
06	Glimpses from the conference	32
07	Acknowledgements	33

About Gobeshona Conference

'Gobeshona' was launched in June 2014 as a knowledge platform for people and institutes doing research on climate change in Bangladesh to share their findings, ideas and to address the quality of related research produced in Bangladesh. Gobeshona aims to make research on climate change more effective in informing policy and practice.

Since 2015, Gobeshona began hosting a four-day-long, in-person conference with several hundred participants at the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB). The conference assembled a multidisciplinary group of scholars, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to share their expertise, practical experiences, knowledge, research, and lessons learned related to climate change adaptation. From the beginning, Gobeshona aimed to promote quality research outputs in Bangladesh with the theme of "Climate Change Research into Action."

Even though it was focused on Bangladesh, it attracted a significant number of international participants, especially from the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC).

The conference series also aims to address the quality of research and take steps to ensure publications are effective in capturing the real picture of impacts and solutions from communities and by encouraging constructive discussions and feedback among researchers, practitioners, funding partners and communities.

The Gobeshona conference series, centers on 'actionable research' that can help make effective policies and inform climate actions to support vulnerable communities. Research that are presented within the conference are encouraged to focus on: Practical lessons, Effective solutions, Innovative ideas - that can be put into action. To access the potential recordings of the sessions and other information please visit:

<https://conference.gobeshona.net>

About Gobeshona Global Conference 4

The [4th Annual Gobeshona Global Conference](#) took place virtually from 1st March to 8th March 2024. This year the theme was '**Monitoring Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and Resilience.**'

The virtual conference held 68 sessions comprised of; 1 opening and 1 closing session; 59 thematic sessions; 3 keynote sessions; 2 high-level panel discussions; and 2 arts and cultural sessions. The sessions were conducted virtually through Zoom on a virtual conference platform named Whova, allowing for greater participation.

The conference ran over 24 hours over 7 days aimed at different continents and geographies as follows:

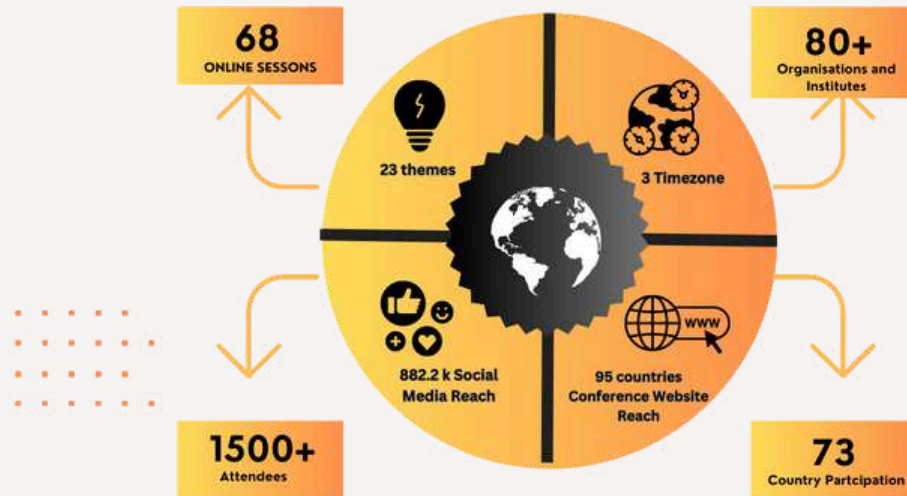
1. Asia and Pacific
2. Africa and Europe
3. North, Central, and South America

The conference platform aimed to linking local, and international researchers, scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners to participate, support, and leverage the upstanding intentions and creativity of local communities to develop and implement solutions dealing with climate change and monitor progress. This virtual format also helped to reduce the carbon footprint by minimizing the travel required for attendees, while still promoting the formation of a vibrant "Community of Practice" on Locally Led Adaptation issues.

The event had the support of government partners, namely the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of The Kingdom of Netherlands. Additionally, the conference was supported by our partners and we would like to express our gratitude.



Gobeshona Global Conference-4 At a Glance



Highlights of the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference:

- Poetry and animation video used to portray stories of resilience and exhibit the lived realities of local communities bearing the brunt of climate crisis and adapting with their autonomous responses.
- Several sessions emphasized the phenomenon of inadequate funding reaching at local level to promote locally led climate action.
- Limited capacity building efforts designed for local actors and organisations which makes it difficult to access, implement and monitor the top-down adaptation financing mechanisms
- Language barriers amongst the local communities, intermediaries and donors can hinder effective contextual planning and designing of several resilient adaptation interventions, projects and programmes communication.

KEY MESSAGES OF THE GGC4



Connecting local to global, the need for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) represents a paradigm shift in the approach to climate action, emphasizing the empowerment of local communities to design, implement, and sustain climate solutions that cater to their unique needs. This approach recognizes that communities living on the frontlines of climate change often have firsthand knowledge of the challenges they face and the practical, context-specific strategies that work best. The theme, "Monitoring Locally Led Adaptation and Resilience," aligns with Dr. Saleemul Huq's legacy, emphasizing community leadership in resilience-building efforts. Adaptive efforts, therefore, need to be locally driven to inform the unique and varying challenges that are associated with vulnerability in different geographical areas and socio-political, and economic structures. By emphasizing LLA and resilience, as highlighted during the Gobeshona Global Conference, which fosters a more inclusive and participatory approach to addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

The impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed; marginalized communities, particularly those in the Global South, are disproportionately affected. Coastal communities, for example, face rising sea levels, salinity intrusion, and intensified storms, while inland regions contend with droughts, heatwaves, and water scarcity. A centralized, one-size-fits-all approach often fails to address these diverse and localized challenges. Instead, LLA shifts decision-making power closer to the ground, ensuring that adaptation efforts are tailored to local environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts.

8 PRINCIPLES OF Locally-LED Adaptation



The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference provided a powerful platform to illustrate the principles of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) through tangible examples and vibrant discussions. These principles—centered around equity, inclusivity, and sustainability—were not merely abstract concepts but were embodied in the practices and strategies presented during the sessions. The conference served as a critical opportunity to connect these principles with real-world examples, thereby showcasing their relevance in addressing climate challenges and advancing adaptation.

One of the most compelling sessions focused on the **Village Common Forests (VCFs)** in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. This session highlighted how devolving decision-making power to local communities could lead to sustainable and effective conservation efforts. Managed entirely by indigenous groups, the VCFs serve as critical biodiversity hotspots and act as natural buffers against climate-induced hazards. The session delved into how this locally driven governance model not only ensures ecological preservation but also fosters economic stability for the communities involved. By aligning with the principle of devolving decision-making power, this example demonstrated that local actors, when empowered, are more adept at identifying and implementing solutions that resonate with their unique contexts and challenges.

Inclusivity was another recurring theme, underscored by the discussions surrounding women's participation in climate adaptation. Sessions such as those showcasing **Water Entrepreneurship for Women Empowerment** by WaterAid emphasized the critical role of women in driving adaptation initiatives. These programs provided training and resources for women to engage in sustainable water management, fostering leadership and capacity for the marginalised. By highlighting how these initiatives dismantle systemic barriers and enable women to lead adaptation strategies, the conference underscored the importance of ensuring inclusivity in climate action. These examples reinforced the principle that adaptation must reflect the voices and needs of marginalized groups, as their involvement enriches the design and implementation of solutions.

Another pivotal session explored indigenous knowledge systems and their role in climate adaptation. The case of Nepal's Luminy Province, presented by the Himalayan University Consortium, demonstrated how traditional agricultural practices could be effectively integrated with scientific approaches to enhance resilience. These community-driven strategies, rooted in generational wisdom, have proven invaluable in managing climate risks like erratic rainfall and soil erosion. This session illuminated how leveraging local knowledge is not only a means of preserving cultural heritage but also a pragmatic approach to addressing complex environmental challenges. By tying this principle to a specific case, the conference showcased how locally driven solutions can inspire broader adaptation frameworks.

Adaptation Technology

Adaptation technology plays a transformative role in enhancing resilience to climate change by providing tools that empower communities to assess risks, implement solutions, and monitor progress. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized how technological innovations aligned with Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles can bridge gaps in capacity, improve disaster preparedness, and sustain livelihoods.

- **Locally Relevant Technological Solutions**

Sessions at the conference explored the importance of developing technologies that reflect the unique needs and capacities of vulnerable communities. One widely discussed application was mobile-based early warning systems, which are used in flood-prone areas to provide real-time weather alerts. These systems are co-designed with local input to ensure accessibility and usability, enabling community members to act swiftly during disasters.

Another example was the GIS-based mapping tools that allow local governments and communities to identify climate vulnerabilities, such as flood-prone zones or areas at risk of salinity intrusion. These tools facilitate data-driven decision-making, empowering communities to prioritize interventions like reinforcing embankments or improving drainage systems. When combined with participatory approaches, GIS technologies ensure that adaptation planning remains inclusive and responsive to local needs.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation Through Technology**

Effective monitoring is critical to understanding the impacts of adaptation initiatives and informing future strategies. Participants discussed the growing use of mobile applications for real-time data collection on rainfall patterns, crop yields, and disaster impacts. These apps enable community members to document changes, contributing to a feedback loop that strengthens adaptation efforts.

For instance, in agricultural regions affected by erratic weather, mobile apps have been used to track crop performance under varying conditions. The data collected informs local farmers about adaptive practices, such as shifting planting schedules or adopting drought-tolerant crops.

- **Challenges in Scaling Adaptation Technology**

Despite its potential, the adoption of adaptation technology faces significant barriers. Limited funding, lack of infrastructure, and insufficient technical expertise are common challenges that restrict access to these tools in vulnerable regions. The conference underscored the importance of capacity-building initiatives to train local actors in the use and maintenance of technological solutions.

Speakers also emphasized the role of public-private partnerships in scaling technology. By fostering collaboration among governments, businesses, and grassroots organizations, these partnerships can reduce costs and improve access to innovative tools.

The Role of Technology in Advancing LLA

Technology, when aligned with LLA principles, serves as a bridge between innovation and local action. It enhances the ability of communities to lead their own adaptation efforts while fostering inclusivity and accountability. The discussions at the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference demonstrated that adaptation technology, when co-developed with local actors, can empower vulnerable populations to build resilience and navigate climate challenges effectively.



Bangladesh

As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, Bangladesh has emerged as a global leader in adaptation practices. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference highlighted the country's innovative approaches to implementing Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) strategies, emphasizing its integration of local knowledge, participatory governance, and scalable solutions.

- **Community-Led Initiatives in Bangladesh**

Coastal communities in Bangladesh have developed unique solutions to address climate risks, particularly in areas prone to storm surges and rising salinity. One such initiative is the mangrove restoration program in the Sundarbans. Managed by local residents, these efforts enhance natural defenses against coastal flooding while providing sustainable livelihoods through fishing, honey collection, and eco-tourism. These projects demonstrate the power of LLA in balancing ecological restoration with socio-economic benefits.

Another prominent adaptation strategy is the cultivation of salt-tolerant rice varieties in saline-affected regions. Farmers, in collaboration with researchers and NGOs, have successfully integrated these crops to maintain food security despite increasing soil salinity. By blending traditional farming practices with modern science, Bangladesh exemplifies how LLA fosters innovation that addresses local needs.

- **Aligning Local and National Action**

Bangladesh's adaptation model is further strengthened by its ability to connect local efforts with national and global frameworks. Efforts have been made to integrate the LLA principles into the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) serves as a blueprint for scaling community-driven solutions across the country.

Conference participants highlighted that scaling such initiatives requires sustained financial and institutional support. By aligning grassroots action with broader policy goals, Bangladesh offers valuable lessons for other nations grappling with climate challenges.

The sessions on Bangladesh reaffirmed its status as a trailblazer in Locally Led Adaptation, demonstrating that community empowerment, when paired with innovative practices, can effectively address complex climate risks.

Capacity Building

Capacity building is essential to Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), providing communities and local institutions with the skills, resources, and knowledge needed to design and sustain effective adaptation solutions. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference highlighted the role of capacity building in fostering resilience, with a focus on training, institutional strengthening, and cross-regional knowledge sharing.

- **Empowering Communities Through Training**

Training programs tailored to local contexts are at the heart of capacity building. A key focus of the conference was water security, where community women in salinity-prone areas have been capacitated to facilitate and work together on community managed water supply systems. These practices enable communities to adapt to changing environmental conditions while improving water security. Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan, Regional Advisor at Helvetas Bangladesh, emphasized that, “ensuring water security and resilient WaSH services in climate-vulnerable regions is critical to achieving climate justice and safeguarding vulnerable communities”.

Youth engagement also emerged as a critical component of capacity building. Programs that train young leaders in climate data collection, community mobilization, and advocacy ensure that future generations are equipped to sustain and expand adaptation efforts. Discussions emphasized that intergenerational knowledge transfer strengthens the overall resilience of communities.

- **Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**

The conference also highlighted the role of regional networks such as the Least Developed Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) in promoting South-South cooperation. By connecting academic institutions across climate-vulnerable countries, these networks facilitate the exchange of best practices and technical expertise, enabling nations to learn from each other’s experiences. Mr. Julien, in his speech, emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation mentioning that "South-South cooperation is vital for fostering innovative solutions and strengthening collaboration among climate-vulnerable nations,"

For instance, countries in South Asia and Africa have collaborated on approaches to water resource management, demonstrating the value of peer-to-peer learning in advancing LLA. Such initiatives underscore the importance of building institutional capacity alongside community training.

- **Addressing Challenges in Capacity Building**

Despite its potential, capacity building faces challenges such as limited funding, fragmented coordination, and lack of access to technical expertise. Conference called for sustained investments in training programs, infrastructure, and technology to ensure that capacity-building efforts translate into tangible resilience outcomes. The discussions underscored that capacity building is not a one-time intervention but an ongoing process that evolves with changing climate risks. By investing in local capacities, adaptation strategies become more sustainable, equitable, and impactful.

Cities and Urban Resilience

Urban areas are increasingly vulnerable to climate risks, from flooding and heatwaves to water scarcity and resource stress. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference explored how Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can empower urban communities to address these challenges while fostering sustainability and inclusivity.

- **Community-Driven Urban Solutions**

Green infrastructure projects were a key focus of discussions, showcasing their potential to enhance urban resilience. Examples included wetland restoration and rooftop gardening initiatives, which mitigate urban flooding, reduce heat island effects, and improve air quality. These projects are often co-designed with local residents, reflecting the LLA principle of inclusivity. However, there are several challenges, Mr. Mozaharul Alam, representing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Adaptation Network, stated that “To bring sustainability back into urban areas and enhance climate resilience, we must overcome challenges such as financing, technology gaps, capacity constraints, and a lack of political will.”

Informal settlements, which are disproportionately affected by climate risks, were also highlighted. Residents in these areas have organized grassroots efforts to address drainage and waste management challenges. For instance, community-led drainage systems have significantly reduced waterlogging in urban slums, demonstrating the effectiveness of locally driven solutions.

- **Monitoring and Scaling Urban Adaptation**

The role of technology in monitoring urban resilience was emphasized during the conference. GIS mapping tools and mobile data collection platforms enable communities to identify vulnerabilities and track the effectiveness of adaptation interventions. By integrating local inputs with scientific data, these tools foster accountability and inclusivity in urban planning.

Participants stressed the importance of scaling successful urban adaptation models through multi-stakeholder collaboration. Partnerships between local governments, private sector actors, and community organizations were identified as key to ensuring that solutions are sustainable and replicable.

The discussions reinforced that resilient cities are built through the collective efforts of their residents, ensuring that adaptation strategies address the unique challenges and opportunities of urban environments. At the inauguration ceremony of the conference, Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, stressed the urgent need for locally led adaptation ensuring community safety and resilience in urban settings.

Climate-Induced Migration

Climate-induced migration is an increasingly urgent issue, with millions forced to leave their homes due to rising sea levels, floods, and prolonged droughts. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized the role of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in addressing the root causes of migration, supporting vulnerable populations, and fostering resilience in affected communities.

- **Reducing Migration Pressures Through LLA**

Conference sessions highlighted adaptive livelihood programs as essential tools for reducing the economic and environmental pressures that often drive migration. For example, in arid and semi-arid regions, communities have adopted drought-tolerant crops and water-efficient farming practices, enabling them to sustain agricultural productivity despite changing rainfall patterns. In case of applying LLA in reduction to migration pressure within Bangladesh, Lutfur Rahman from the International Centre for Climate Change and Development mentioned that “Adaptive measures like rainwater harvesting and creating 'Migrant Friendly Cities' are crucial for addressing migration challenges in Bangladesh, reducing pressure on major cities, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.”

Another focal point was nature-based solutions (NbS), such as mangrove restoration projects in coastal areas. These initiatives, led and maintained by local communities, protect against flooding and salinity intrusion, reducing displacement risks while providing livelihoods through eco-tourism and sustainable aquaculture. Such projects illustrate how LLA can address the drivers of migration at their source.

- **Monitoring and Planning for Migration**

Monitoring migration patterns is critical for designing effective adaptation strategies. The conference underscored the importance of participatory monitoring frameworks, where community members document population movements and assess associated risks. Tools like GIS mapping have been used to identify migration hotspots, enabling local governments and NGOs to allocate resources effectively.

While direct discussions of resettlement planning were not explicitly featured in the document, the broader conference themes stressed the need to integrate migration considerations into local and national adaptation plans. By incorporating local perspectives, policies can better address the complexities of displacement and provide sustainable solutions.

The sessions on climate-induced migration demonstrated that by empowering communities through LLA, migration challenges can be addressed in a way that strengthens resilience and supports sustainable development.

The specific mention of addressing migrants with dignity and inclusive resettlement planning in the Climate-Induced Migration section does not appear to be directly referenced in the document. To ensure accuracy and avoid inferred examples, I will revise the section to remove or generalize such content while grounding it in themes explicitly discussed during the conference.

Climate Finance

Climate finance is a cornerstone of adaptation, providing the resources necessary to implement and sustain Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) initiatives. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized the need for equitable and accessible financing mechanisms that prioritize vulnerable communities while fostering accountability and transparency.

- The Role of LLA in Climate Finance

The sessions highlighted how LLA ensures that financial flows reach the communities most affected by climate risks. Grassroots organizations and local governments often face challenges in accessing funds due to bureaucratic processes and lack of technical capacity. Simplifying these mechanisms was identified as a critical step toward empowering local actors.

One example discussed was the establishment of micro-grant programs that provide direct funding for community-led adaptation projects. These programs reduce administrative hurdles and enable communities to implement small-scale solutions, such as rainwater harvesting systems or coastal dune restoration. Another effective solution raised by Girlie Lopez, Country Programs Manager at Build Change Philippines, emphasized that resilient housing microfinance empowers local communities by addressing barriers of people, money, and technology, reducing disaster vulnerability.



“Radical transformation is needed in the space of climate biodiversity and climate finance and also these changes need to happen at various levels, from international right down to local level”

-Shehnaaz Moosa, CEO, Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)

- **Monitoring and Accountability in Climate Finance**

A recurring theme was the importance of robust monitoring systems to ensure transparency in the use of climate finance. Community-based monitoring frameworks were highlighted as effective tools for tracking fund allocation and project outcomes. By involving local actors in these processes, monitoring systems foster accountability and build trust between funders and recipients. Dr. Md. Shamsuddoha, Chief Executive at Center for Participatory Research and Development-CPRD, emphasized that community-based monitoring frameworks are essential for fostering accountability and transparency in climate finance, ensuring resources address the differentiated vulnerabilities of climate-affected communities effectively.

The discussions at the conference underscored that aligning climate finance with LLA principles is essential for creating equitable and sustainable adaptation pathways.

Climate Justice

Climate justice is a foundational principle of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), focusing on addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference highlighted the importance of integrating equity and inclusivity into adaptation strategies to ensure that vulnerable populations are prioritized in climate action.

- **Justice-Centered Adaptation Approaches**

Discussions at the conference emphasized the need to center adaptation efforts on the needs and voices of those most affected by climate change, including indigenous communities, women, and youth. Participants shared insights on how traditional knowledge systems play a critical role in crafting equitable and effective adaptation solutions. For example, local governance structures in vulnerable regions have been instrumental in implementing community-driven disaster preparedness and resource management strategies.

The role of inclusive decision-making was another key focus, with examples highlighting how community consultations and participatory planning ensure that adaptation projects address diverse needs. By embedding justice into the core of adaptation frameworks, LLA fosters not just resilience but also empowerment for historically excluded groups.

- **Monitoring Equity in Adaptation**

The conference underscored the importance of participatory monitoring systems to evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of adaptation initiatives. Frameworks that include local perspectives provide critical insights into how resources are allocated and whether projects meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

While specific tools or case studies were not highlighted in the document, discussions reinforced the idea that adaptation strategies must prioritize accountability and inclusivity. By involving communities in tracking adaptation outcomes, monitoring systems can ensure that justice remains at the forefront of climate action. Ms. Anna Walnycki, Senior Researcher at IIED, stated, 'Achieving climate justice and equality requires decentralized adaptation finance and inclusive community participation, with robust monitoring systems to ensure equity and accountability in adaptation efforts.'

The sessions on climate justice reaffirmed that addressing inequities requires both local empowerment and global solidarity. By integrating justice into LLA, adaptation efforts can drive meaningful change for the most affected communities.

Deltas

Deltas are among the most climate-vulnerable ecosystems, facing threats such as sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, and riverbank erosion. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference highlighted the importance of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in addressing these challenges while preserving the ecological and economic value of deltaic regions.

- **Community-Led Adaptation in Deltas**

The Sundarbans, one of the world's largest delta systems, served as a case study for LLA in action. Mangrove restoration projects in this region are managed by local communities, providing natural defenses against storm surges while supporting livelihoods. These initiatives demonstrate how LLA integrates environmental restoration with socio-economic development.

Participants also discussed adaptive agriculture in saline-affected areas of deltas. The cultivation of salt-tolerant crops, coupled with rainwater harvesting systems, has enabled farmers to sustain productivity despite increasing salinity. For instance, Ms. Sharon Tshipa, Chairperson of Botswana Society for Human Development, emphasized on community-led adaptation for Africa mentioning that sustainable solutions for the Okavango Delta require infrastructure investment, income diversification, and empowering local communities to adapt to climate change. These efforts highlight the role of local innovation in building resilience.

- **Monitoring and Scaling Efforts**

The conference emphasized the need for robust monitoring systems to track the effectiveness of adaptation efforts in deltas. Community-led data collection on water quality, soil conditions, and biodiversity loss was identified as critical for informing adaptive management practices.

Scaling these efforts requires sustained financial and technical support. The discussions highlighted that aligning deltaic adaptation strategies with national policies and international frameworks is essential for achieving long-term resilience. By focusing on locally driven solutions, the sessions on deltas showcased how LLA can address the unique challenges of these fragile ecosystems while empowering communities to lead their own resilience journeys.

Disaster Management

Effective disaster management is central to Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), enabling communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-induced hazards. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized how community-driven approaches, participatory governance, and capacity building can enhance resilience to disasters while prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

- **Community-Based Disaster Preparedness**

Sessions at the conference highlighted examples of how LLA principles have been integrated into disaster preparedness initiatives. For instance, communities in flood-prone regions have established volunteer networks to manage early warning systems and conduct evacuation drills. These networks are often supported by local governments and NGOs, ensuring that disaster response strategies are both inclusive and effective.

The role of indigenous knowledge in disaster management was another focus of discussion. Coastal communities, for example, have adapted traditional building techniques to withstand cyclones and storm surges. In addition, Ms. Supranee (Pern) Kampongsun, Head of the Thailand Programme at IUCN, emphasized that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are a cost-effective approach to reducing disaster vulnerability by enhancing ecosystem services and integrating stakeholder engagement and climate risk assessments into urban planning. By combining these methods with modern disaster risk reduction practices, communities have been able to minimize damage and recover more quickly from extreme weather events.

- **Strengthening Monitoring and Response Mechanisms**

Monitoring disaster risks and evaluating response strategies are critical components of disaster management. The use of geospatial tools to map flood-prone areas and track the movement of cyclones was highlighted as a key innovation. These tools provide real-time data that informs evacuation plans and resource allocation, ensuring that disaster management efforts are timely and targeted.

Community-led data collection was also emphasized as a way to improve monitoring frameworks. By involving local actors in tracking hazard impacts, these systems ensure that disaster management strategies are grounded in lived realities and address the specific vulnerabilities of affected populations. Ms. Constance Achom Okollet, Chairperson of Osukuru United Women's Network, highlighted the importance of tree-planting initiatives to combat environmental degradation, improve water access, and enhance food security in response to the devastating impacts of floods and droughts.

These discussions reinforced that Locally Led Adaptation offers a pathway to building disaster-resilient communities by combining local knowledge with technical expertise and ensuring that adaptation strategies are equitable and sustainable.

Drylands and Barinds

Drylands, including Bangladesh's Barind Tract, are highly vulnerable to climate change, facing challenges such as water scarcity, soil degradation, and desertification. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference showcased how Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can address these challenges by empowering communities to implement innovative and context-specific solutions.

- **Adaptation Strategies in Drylands**

A key focus of the conference was on water resource management in drought-prone regions. Community-led initiatives, such as the construction of rainwater harvesting systems and the adoption of water-efficient irrigation techniques, were highlighted as critical for sustaining livelihoods in drylands. These projects align with LLA principles by leveraging local knowledge and fostering community ownership.

Another adaptation strategy discussed was the use of drought-tolerant crops, which have enabled farmers in the Barind Tract to maintain agricultural productivity despite declining water availability. These efforts reflect the importance of integrating traditional farming practices with scientific advancements to build resilience.

- **Challenges and Opportunities**

While progress has been made, challenges such as limited access to funding and technical expertise continue to hinder adaptation efforts in drylands. Ms. Shawkat Begum, Country Director of Practical Action, highlighted the challenge of managing water resources altered by embankments and land use changes, which exacerbate coastal and dryland vulnerabilities. Overall, the participants in the conference emphasized the need for capacity-building programs to train local actors in sustainable land and water management practices.

The conference sessions underscored that scaling successful initiatives requires multi-stakeholder collaboration and sustained financial support. By aligning local adaptation strategies with national policies, dryland communities can enhance their resilience to climate change while ensuring long-term sustainability.

Food Security and Agriculture

Food security is intricately linked to climate resilience, as changing weather patterns disrupt agricultural productivity and threaten livelihoods. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference explored how Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can transform agricultural systems to address food security challenges while fostering sustainability and equity.

- **Building Resilient Agricultural Systems**

Sessions highlighted the importance of adopting climate-smart agriculture practices to enhance resilience. Examples included the use of stress-tolerant crop varieties, such as drought-resistant maize and flood-tolerant rice, which have been developed and implemented through collaboration between researchers and local farmers.

The integration of agroecological practices, such as intercropping and mulching, was also discussed as a way to improve soil health and increase crop yields. Mr. Md. Mintu Miah, Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO), Fulchori, Gaibandha, emphasized that mulching is a vital practice for conserving soil moisture, enhancing resilience, and building sustainable agricultural systems in vulnerable char land regions. These approaches reflect the LLA principle of co-creation, ensuring that adaptation strategies are tailored to the specific needs of farming communities.

- **Strengthening Local Food Systems**

The role of community-led initiatives in strengthening local food systems was another focus. Examples included farmer cooperatives that pool resources and share knowledge on adaptive practices. By fostering collaboration and mutual support, these initiatives enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers to adapt to climate risks.

The discussions emphasized that achieving food security in the face of climate change requires empowering local actors to lead the transformation of agricultural systems. By integrating adaptation into food production, storage, and distribution, LLA can ensure sustainable and equitable outcomes for farming communities.



Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion

Gender equality, youth leadership, and social inclusion are integral to Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), ensuring that adaptation efforts address the diverse needs and capacities of all community members. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference highlighted how empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups can drive transformative climate action.

- Empowering Women and Youth

Sessions at the conference underscored the critical role of women in advancing adaptation strategies. Examples included women-led cooperatives that promote sustainable farming practices and manage community resources in climate-vulnerable areas. These initiatives not only enhance resilience but also challenge systemic gender inequities.

Youth engagement was another prominent theme, with discussions focusing on the contributions of young leaders in climate advocacy and innovation. Programs that train youth in data collection, project implementation, and policy engagement were highlighted as essential for fostering intergenerational resilience.

- Ensuring Inclusivity in Adaptation

The importance of social inclusion in adaptation planning was emphasized, with examples of participatory governance models that involve marginalized groups in decision-making processes. By ensuring that diverse perspectives are represented, these models enhance the equity and effectiveness of adaptation efforts. Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, stated, 'Inclusion of women and youth in decision-making processes is crucial for empowering communities and ensuring equitable and effective climate adaptation strategies

The discussions reaffirmed that gender equality, youth leadership, and social inclusion are not just outcomes of effective adaptation—they are its drivers. By embedding inclusivity into LLA frameworks, adaptation strategies can achieve greater equity and sustainability.

“

We need to constantly champion the rights of poor communities especially women to celebrate what they know, to be inquisitive about what they don't know, and to systematize the manner in which they use aggregable knowledge that can transform the discourse on what kind of support, what kind of structured policies, and what kind of measurements can be done

-Sheela Patel, Founder, SPARC

”



Geo-engineering

Geo-engineering encompasses large-scale technological interventions aimed at mitigating or adapting to climate change. While its potential for addressing global climate challenges is significant, the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized the need for ensuring that geo-engineering solutions align with Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles to prioritize equity, inclusivity, and sustainability.

- Exploring the Role of Geo-engineering in Adaptation

Sessions at the conference delved into the ethical and practical implications of geo-engineering, particularly in regions vulnerable to climate risks. Technologies such as solar radiation management and carbon capture were discussed as potential tools for mitigating extreme weather impacts. However, participants emphasized that such interventions must consider local contexts and avoid unintended consequences that could exacerbate vulnerabilities.

One of the key discussions focused on combining geo-engineering with nature-based solutions (NbS). For instance, integrating carbon capture technologies with afforestation initiatives not only offsets emissions but also provides co-benefits such as biodiversity conservation and livelihood opportunities for local communities.

- Challenges and Ethical Considerations

Participants raised concerns about the potential risks of geo-engineering, including its impact on ecosystems, governance challenges, and the potential for unequal resource distribution. The importance of involving local communities in decision-making processes was highlighted to ensure that geo-engineering projects address their needs and do not impose external solutions. For reference, Ms. Rupa Mukerji, Director Advisory Services / Senior Advisor Adaptation to Climate Change at Helvetas, stated, 'Technological solutions like solar-powered systems, combined with local knowledge and governance, are crucial for sustainable adaptation and fulfilling SDG commitments in climate-vulnerable regions.'

The conference underscored that geo-engineering, while promising, must be implemented with a focus on accountability, inclusivity, and collaboration to support sustainable adaptation pathways.



“

Beyond the increase in the volume of adaptation, We must also increase the quality and impact of adaptation finance. In that matter, LLA principles are a crucial element for quality and impacts.

-Christophe Buffet, Climate Change Adaptation Expert at AFD

”

Health and Wellbeing

Climate change has profound implications for health and wellbeing, particularly in vulnerable communities. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized the role of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in addressing climate-induced health challenges while promoting equitable and sustainable healthcare solutions.

- **Addressing Climate-Related Health Risks**

Discussions highlighted the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on health, including heat stress, vector-borne diseases, and waterborne illnesses. Examples of community-led health initiatives were shared, such as programs for improving access to clean water and sanitation in flood-affected regions. These efforts, driven by local actors, reflect LLA principles by prioritizing community needs and capacities. The conference also explored how climate-smart healthcare infrastructure can enhance resilience. For instance, solar-powered clinics in remote areas ensure continuous access to healthcare services during extreme weather events. By integrating renewable energy with healthcare delivery, these projects address both health and environmental challenges.

- **Strengthening Health Monitoring Systems**

Monitoring and early warning systems were identified as critical for managing climate-related health risks. Participants discussed how mobile health (mHealth) applications are being used to track disease outbreaks and provide real-time updates to healthcare providers and communities.

By involving local health workers in data collection and analysis, these systems ensure that health adaptation strategies remain grounded in local realities. One of the grassroots speaker Ms. Jamuna Rani Sardar, from Burigoalini Union, Shyamnagar Upazila, Satkhira, stated, 'Ensuring women's health and well-being in saline-affected areas requires urgent government action to provide fresh water, affordable healthcare, hygiene products, and alternative livelihoods free from saline water exposure. Above all, the conference emphasized that building adaptive capacity in the health sector requires collaboration among communities, governments, and international organizations.

The discussions reaffirmed that addressing climate-related health risks is integral to LLA, ensuring that adaptation efforts support both environmental and human wellbeing.

Humanitarian Action

The intersection of climate change and humanitarian crises has made Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) increasingly vital in disaster response and recovery. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference highlighted the importance of empowering local actors to lead humanitarian efforts, ensuring that responses are timely, inclusive, and sustainable.

- **Enhancing Local Humanitarian Capacity**

Sessions explored how LLA can strengthen humanitarian action by prioritizing local leadership and resources. Examples included community-led disaster response teams that manage evacuations, distribute relief supplies, and coordinate recovery efforts in the aftermath of extreme weather events. These teams, often trained and supported by NGOs, exemplify how local actors can drive effective and context-specific humanitarian responses.

The role of pre-disaster planning was another key focus. Participants highlighted the importance of integrating early warning systems with community-based disaster preparedness programs. By involving local stakeholders in planning processes, these initiatives ensure that humanitarian efforts address the unique vulnerabilities of affected populations. Dr. Md. Golam Rabbani, Head of Secretariat at BRAC, emphasized that enhancing local humanitarian capacity requires community consultation, financial sustainability, and gender-responsive approaches to ensure effective and equitable disaster response interventions.

- **Challenges and Opportunities**

Despite their effectiveness, locally led humanitarian actions face challenges such as limited funding, bureaucratic hurdles, and lack of access to advanced technologies. The conference called for greater investment in local capacities, including training programs and resource mobilization, to strengthen resilience in crisis-affected regions. The discussions underscored that aligning humanitarian action with LLA principles creates a more equitable and sustainable framework for addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities.

Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)

The Least Developed Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) plays a pivotal role in advancing climate adaptation through education, research, and capacity building. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference showcased the consortium's efforts to promote Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) by fostering South-South cooperation and empowering academic institutions in least-developed countries (LDCs).

- **Fostering Knowledge Exchange**

One of LUCCC's key contributions is facilitating knowledge exchange among universities in LDCs. Conference sessions highlighted collaborative research projects on climate resilience, which bring together academic institutions, local governments, and communities. These projects enable the co-creation of adaptation strategies that are context-specific and inclusive.

For example, LUCCC-supported universities have developed training modules on sustainable agriculture and water resource management, equipping students and practitioners with the skills needed to address local climate challenges. By integrating education with practical solutions, these programs strengthen the capacity of LDCs to lead adaptation efforts.

- **Strengthening Regional Networks**

LUCCC also fosters regional collaboration through workshops, conferences, and exchange programs. These initiatives enable universities to share best practices and learn from one another's experiences, creating a robust network of adaptation leaders. The consortium's emphasis on South-South cooperation ensures that adaptation strategies are informed by the lived experiences of those on the frontlines of climate change. In the opening ceremony of the conference, Mr. Julien Deur, an alumnus of École des Ponts ParisTech and Paris School of Economics, emphasized the transformative potential of South-South collaboration in driving innovative solutions for climate adaptation and development.

The discussions at the conference reinforced the importance of academic institutions as drivers of Locally Led Adaptation, highlighting LUCCC's role in building a knowledge base that empowers communities and strengthens resilience in LDCs.



Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)

Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) represents a transformative approach to addressing climate challenges by prioritizing the voices, knowledge, and capacities of those most directly affected. Unlike top-down adaptation frameworks, LLA empowers communities to design, implement, and monitor strategies that reflect their unique contexts and vulnerabilities. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference placed LLA at the heart of its discussions, showcasing practical applications, successes, and the challenges of scaling this approach globally.

- **Principles of Locally Led Adaptation**

LLA is guided by eight foundational principles that include devolving decision-making, fostering inclusivity, ensuring accountability, and supporting local knowledge systems. These principles underpin efforts to create adaptation strategies that are equitable, effective, and sustainable. Sessions at the conference demonstrated how these principles translate into action, offering case studies from various regions.

For example, communities in flood-prone regions of Bangladesh are employing traditional water management techniques alongside modern technology to mitigate flooding. Local actors take the lead in designing embankments and drainage systems that align with the natural flow of rivers and the cultural practices of the area. These efforts exemplify how LLA combines innovation with traditional wisdom to address localized climate risks.

- **Operationalizing LLA Through Community Engagement**

The conference emphasized that community engagement is central to operationalizing LLA. One session explored adaptive farming practices in the drought-prone regions of South Asia, where farmers collaborate with researchers to develop drought-resistant crops. These collaborations ensure that scientific innovations are accessible and applicable to the specific needs of farmers, reflecting the principle of co-creation.

Participatory planning processes were another focal point. In coastal areas, community members actively contribute to designing and implementing mangrove restoration projects. These projects not only protect against storm surges but also enhance biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods. By placing communities at the center of decision-making, such initiatives embody the LLA principle of inclusivity.

- **Scaling Locally Led Adaptation**

While LLA has achieved significant successes, scaling these efforts remains a challenge. The conference highlighted barriers such as insufficient funding, lack of technical expertise, and fragmented institutional support. Participants called for greater investment in capacity-building programs that equip local actors with the skills and resources needed to lead adaptation projects.

One example of scaling LLA discussed was the advocacy for integration of community-driven initiatives into national policies. This alignment ensures that adaptation efforts are coherent across local, national, and international levels.

Monitoring and Accountability

Monitoring and evaluation are critical for ensuring the effectiveness and equity of LLA initiatives. The conference showcased participatory monitoring frameworks where communities track the progress of adaptation projects and provide feedback to policymakers. For instance, in delta regions, local actors document changes in flood patterns and evaluate the performance of embankments. This data informs adjustments to strategies, ensuring that they remain responsive to evolving risks.

By involving communities in monitoring, LLA fosters transparency and accountability, building trust among stakeholders and ensuring that adaptation efforts deliver tangible benefits.

- Global Relevance of LLA

While LLA is rooted in local contexts, its principles have global relevance. The conference emphasized that LLA serves as a framework for addressing broader issues such as climate justice and sustainable development. By empowering communities to lead adaptation efforts, LLA ensures that marginalized voices are amplified and that adaptation strategies are equitable and inclusive. In the session 'A Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) Framework for Bangladesh', the potential of the LLA Framework to empower local communities in Bangladesh through bottom-up planning, transformative adaptation, and sustainable resource allocation was emphasized as a critical step towards achieving effective and inclusive climate resilience.

The sessions at the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference demonstrated that LLA is not just an approach to adaptation—it is a transformative vision for a more resilient and just future. By fostering collaboration across scales and prioritizing local leadership, LLA offers a pathway to addressing the complexities of climate change in a sustainable and equitable manner.



“

Through activities such as the awards and the annual publication that we now bring out on locally Led adaptation, we would hear from communities they would write in and tell us all the important work that they are doing and the response has been really heartening. Clearly, people are so eager and willing to share their work, their experiences, the challenges they face, their learning Etc

-Anju Sharma, Lead LLA,GCA

”

Loss and Damage

Loss and damage refer to the irreversible impacts of climate change that cannot be mitigated or adapted to, including loss of lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and cultural heritage. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference placed significant emphasis on this critical topic, exploring how Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can address loss and damage equitably and effectively.

- **Understanding Loss and Damage**

Sessions highlighted that loss and damage disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, particularly those in low-lying coastal and deltaic regions. In areas like the Sundarbans, rising sea levels and increased salinity are not only displacing communities but also rendering agricultural lands unusable. These impacts often result in long-term economic and social costs that go beyond immediate recovery needs.

- **Community-Driven Solutions**

The role of LLA in addressing loss and damage was discussed extensively. Community-driven initiatives, such as mangrove restoration projects, were presented as effective strategies for mitigating risks associated with storm surges and flooding. These projects, managed by local actors, not only reduce vulnerabilities but also support livelihoods through sustainable fishing and eco-tourism.

Micro-insurance schemes were another innovative solution discussed at the conference. These schemes provide financial relief to affected households, enabling them to recover more quickly from climate-induced losses. For research and development, Dr. Tom Mitchell, Director of IIED, highlighted the Saleemul Huq Memorial Scholarship and Prize as a vital initiative to support researchers from least developed countries and small island developing states in addressing loss and damage caused by climate change.

- **Challenges and Gaps**

Despite progress, significant gaps remain in addressing loss and damage at scale. Conference participants pointed out that global funding mechanisms, such as the Loss and Damage Fund established under the UNFCCC, often fail to prioritize local needs. There is a pressing need for simpler, community-focused funding processes that empower local actors to lead recovery efforts. By integrating LLA principles into loss and damage frameworks, the global climate community can create solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with the needs of those most affected.

Particularly to understand the loss and damage to assess the community needs to assess the needs for technology to assess the needs for finance at the national level we need to develop some sort of integrated and coordinated institutional approach also at the global level there is a need for coordination

-Adv. Hafijul Islam Khan, Director, Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B)

The newly created loss and damage fund that's its delivery could be influenced by what Solutions practically work on the ground or in terms of what are the gaps that are already there and how those gaps can be bridged through this existing loss and damage fund

-Ritu Bharadwaj, Researcher, IIED

Mitigation & Renewable Energy

Mitigation and renewable energy are critical components of global climate action, addressing the root causes of climate change while supporting sustainable development. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference explored how Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) can facilitate the transition to renewable energy in vulnerable regions, ensuring inclusivity and equity in implementation.

- **Community-Led Renewable Energy Projects**

Sessions showcased inspiring examples of locally driven renewable energy initiatives. Solar micro-grids in off-grid rural areas, for instance, provide reliable and affordable electricity to households and small businesses. These projects, often managed by community cooperatives, ensure that renewable energy solutions are tailored to local needs and capacities.

Wind energy projects were another focus, particularly in coastal regions where consistent wind patterns make these systems viable. Participants discussed how local governments and NGOs collaborate with communities to install and maintain wind turbines, creating jobs while reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

- **Empowering Marginalized Groups**

The conference highlighted the role of women in advancing renewable energy solutions. Programs that train women as solar technicians not only promote gender equity but also enhance local capacities. By involving marginalized groups in project design and management, renewable energy initiatives embody the inclusivity principle of LLA. Ms. Constance Achom Okollet, Chairperson of the Osukuru United Women's Network from Uganda, emphasized that clean energy utilization is vital for mitigating climate change impacts and improving community resilience while reducing the burden on women.

- **Challenges and Pathways Forward**

Scaling renewable energy faces challenges such as high upfront costs, lack of technical expertise, and policy barriers. Participants emphasized the need for capacity-building initiatives and public-private partnerships to address these issues. For example, partnerships between local governments and renewable energy companies can mobilize resources and technical support for rural electrification projects.

The discussions underscored that aligning renewable energy projects with LLA principles creates a pathway for equitable mitigation, empowering communities while addressing global climate goals.

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

Nature-based solutions (NbS) offer ecological approaches to climate resilience, leveraging natural systems to address climate risks while delivering co-benefits for communities and ecosystems. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized the critical role of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in implementing and scaling NbS.

- **Examples of NbS in Action**

Coastal mangrove restoration projects were a centerpiece of discussions, showcasing their ability to act as natural buffers against storm surges while supporting biodiversity. In delta regions, these initiatives are managed by local communities, ensuring that they align with ecological and socio-economic needs.

Urban NbS, such as wetland restoration and green infrastructure projects, were also highlighted. These initiatives help manage urban flooding, improve air quality, and provide recreational spaces, demonstrating the versatility of NbS in addressing diverse climate challenges. For instance, Ms. Souphavanh (Toon Toon) Phoosavanh, National Technical Expert for the Urban EbA Project in Lao PDR, emphasized that green infrastructure, such as improved drainage systems, plays a crucial role in mitigating floods and landslides while enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **Scaling NbS Through Collaboration**

Participants emphasized the importance of partnerships among local governments, NGOs, and communities in scaling NbS. Funding mechanisms that prioritize NbS, such as payments for ecosystem services, were discussed as effective tools for incentivizing community participation and ensuring long-term sustainability.

The conference underscored that NbS, when aligned with LLA principles, offer a holistic approach to climate adaptation, integrating ecological restoration with community empowerment.



“

NbS can help communities prepare, cope with, and recover from disasters providing cost-effective and no-regret solutions.

-- Ms. Supranee (Pern) Kampongsun,
Head, Thailand Programme (IUCN)

”

Resilient Livelihoods

Resilient livelihoods are essential for communities to withstand and recover from climate shocks, ensuring that adaptation efforts are sustainable and equitable. The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference emphasized how Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) creates livelihood opportunities that enhance resilience while reducing vulnerability.

- **Diversifying Livelihoods in Climate-Vulnerable Areas**

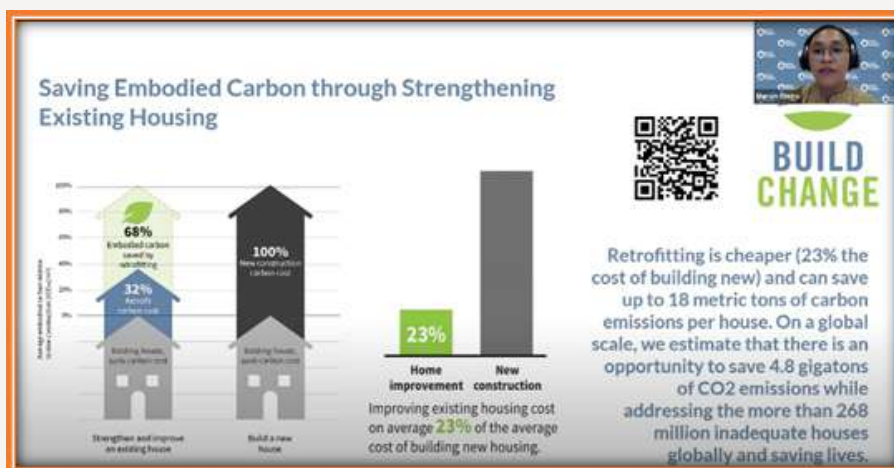
Examples from coastal regions demonstrated how communities are diversifying their income sources through sustainable aquaculture, eco-tourism, and crab farming. These activities reduce dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, such as traditional agriculture, while providing alternative income streams.

In drought-prone areas, agroforestry practices and drought-tolerant crops have helped maintain agricultural productivity despite erratic rainfall patterns. In case of char land areas for example, Md. Nayeem Khan, General Manager at Climate Action, stated, 'Livelihood diversification through interventions like solar enterprises and livestock funding is essential for enhancing economic stability, promoting resilience, and improving disaster preparedness in vulnerable char land communities. These initiatives reflect the LLA principle of leveraging local knowledge to develop context-specific solutions.

- **Supporting Livelihood Resilience**

The conference highlighted the importance of capacity-building programs in scaling resilient livelihood projects. Training sessions on sustainable farming techniques and market access were presented as effective tools for empowering local actors. By aligning livelihood strategies with LLA principles, adaptation efforts not only enhance resilience but also create pathways for long-term socio-economic development.

The 4th Gobeshona Global Conference showcased Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) as a transformative framework for addressing the multifaceted impacts of climate change. Over the course of the conference, experts, practitioners, and community leaders from diverse contexts came together to share insights, best practices, and innovative solutions. This conclusion synthesizes the key themes, outcomes, and pathways forward to ensure that the momentum generated during the conference translates into meaningful action.



New Theme at GGC4: Arts and Culture

Through the lens of arts and culture, climate change impacts can be powerfully showcased in various forms, including visual arts, music, theater, literature, and multimedia installations, offering unique perspectives and emotional connections. Climate change is already affecting heritage sites globally, posing increased risks to intangible cultural heritage and marginalized communities. Current research focuses primarily on physical losses, neglecting the broader economic, social, and cultural significance of heritage.

The first cultural session from SDI. Through their poem [INE KWATU](#) they shared the severe impacts of climate change on informal settlements, highlighting the community's turmoil and the daily struggle for survival amidst deteriorating infrastructure. The gap, developing better terminology and employing transformational, interdisciplinary, and decolonial approaches are crucial for evaluating and managing climatic risks to cultural assets. It critiques the focus on complex climate jargon over practical solutions, emphasizing the need for immediate, tangible measures like better housing and drainage systems. The poem also calls for youth involvement, climate education, policy changes, and corporate accountability, advocating for a holistic approach that addresses both urgent survival needs and long-term environmental sustainability.

In the arts and culture session, "Renaissance 21: The Rise of the Climate Warriors," climate change impact was showcased through animation. The session was narrated by AROHON, who effectively blends art with climate activism to raise youth awareness. The series explores environmental issues, promotes sustainable practices, and emphasizes individual impact in combating pollution. It highlights the interconnectedness of human actions and natural processes, focusing on disaster risk reduction and the role of educated youth in addressing environmental challenges through innovation and resilience.

Efforts that leverage arts and culture to raise awareness about climate change should be actively supported and encouraged. These endeavors play a crucial role in disseminating knowledge about the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, highlighting their innovative strategies for resilience, and sharing their inspiring stories with audiences who can benefit from their experiences.



Going Forward

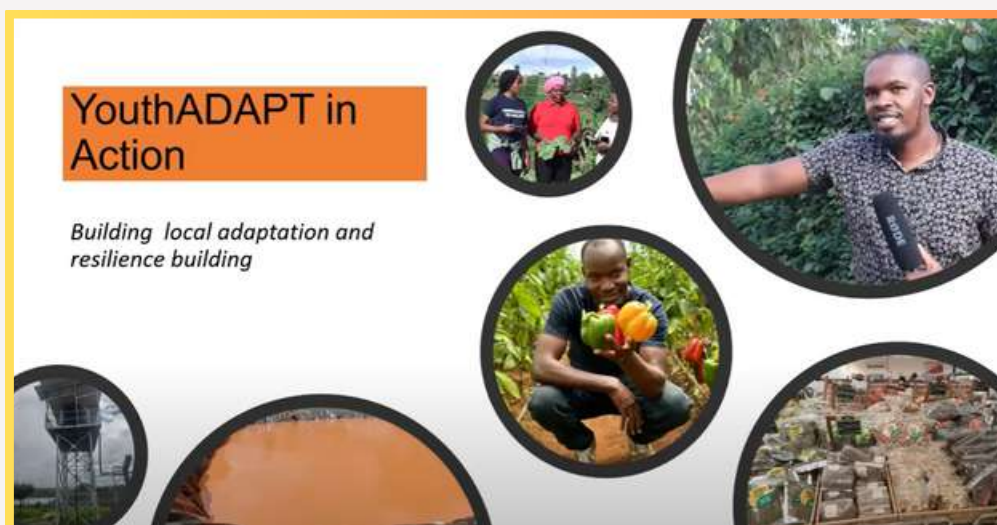
Building on the discussions and outcomes, the following recommendations emerged as critical for advancing Locally Led Adaptation:

1. **Scaling LLA Globally:** National governments and international organizations should prioritize LLA in their adaptation strategies, ensuring that local actors are at the forefront of decision-making and implementation.
2. **Strengthening Capacity:** Investments in training, education, and institutional support are essential to equip local communities with the skills and resources needed for effective adaptation.
3. **Enhancing Monitoring and Accountability:** Participatory monitoring frameworks must be developed to track the progress and impact of adaptation initiatives, ensuring that they align with community priorities and deliver equitable outcomes.
4. **Mobilizing Climate Finance:** Simplified and inclusive funding mechanisms are needed to ensure that financial resources reach the most vulnerable communities. Public-private partnerships and innovative financing models can play a pivotal role in bridging funding gaps.

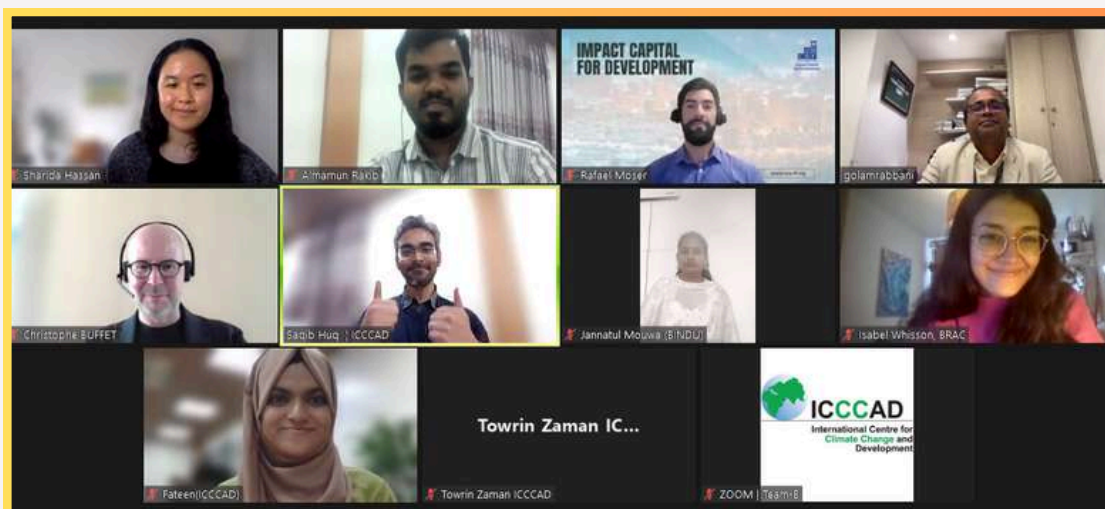
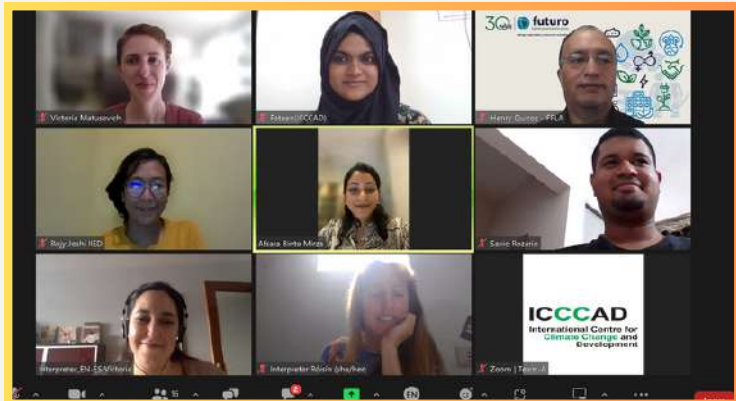
Global Relevance and Broader Impacts

The themes and discussions of the conference resonate far beyond the participating regions, offering lessons and inspiration for global climate action. LLA aligns closely with the broader goals of climate justice, ensuring that adaptation strategies address the needs of those most affected by climate change.

By prioritizing equity and inclusivity, LLA contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to poverty eradication, gender equality, and sustainable ecosystems. The conference also reinforced the urgency of integrating LLA into global agreements like the Paris Agreement, ensuring that adaptation commitments are locally relevant and impactful.



Glimpses from the Conference



Acknowledgments

The success of the 4th Gobeshona Global Conference is a testament to the collective efforts of its organizers, participants, and sponsors. Special recognition is due to the communities whose adaptation stories and strategies were shared during the conference, offering invaluable insights and inspiration.

The contributions of academic institutions, particularly those in the Least Developed Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), played a pivotal role in shaping the discussions. Their commitment to fostering South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing underscores the importance of academic leadership in driving climate resilience.

To get the full session rapporteur notes, please [click here](#).



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



SUPPORTING PARTNERS

SESSION PARTNERS



To get more updates, follow us on:



Facebook



Twitter



Linkdin



Youtube