

Locally Led Adaptation and its Principles

Presentation by Stefanie Tye
Climate Adaptation and Resilience Research Associate
World Resources Institute

February 14, 2024



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

Climate finance isn't reaching the frontlines



Integrate and localize the approach

Integration may not sound like a particularly revolutionary approach to the global climate crisis, but it is indispensable. The main global regulatory frameworks - the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement - already call for integrated approaches in climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development. However, few national disaster risk management laws and policies fully integrate climate change adaptation and some states employ parallel and separate institutional mechanisms and planning processes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and development.

There is also a lack of integration across international finance sources, with climate, development and humanitarian funding streams often operating in uncoordinated ways, leaving gaps in coverage - particularly in support for local responders and community-level action.

Local humanitarian and civil society organisations can anticipate, respond to, and support the recovery of affected communities, if these communities have the resources they need. Multilateral climate finance is extremely difficult for civil society groups to access, and there is a collective blind spot that can prevent support from being available for long-term institutional capacity building of local disaster responders.

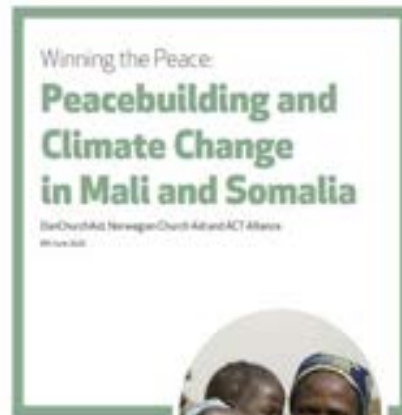


The initiative should come from the community, we should build inclusive dialogue in the community. Interviewee, Mali

LOCALLY LED, GENDER-RESPONSIVE FINANCE

All donors (developed countries, MOBs, multilateral climate funds and other institutions) need to:

- Expand resources and support for locally led action on climate change - in line with developing countries' own national planning, policies and strategies (including Nationally Determined Contributions) - and track and report on how much climate finance is spent at the local level.
- Urgently increase financial support for climate action with stronger gender equality efforts; ensure that all climate finance projects consider the different needs of women and men in objectives, design and implementation, and have gender equality markers transparently reported to the OECD.



Climate change adaptation should be locally led, with decision-making at the local level, where possible. Donors can contribute to this by allowing for greater decentralisation of funding streams for climate change adaptation and peacebuilding, and greater interplay between the funding organisations, including local authorities, should be encouraged. Donors should strive to involve the community in an inclusive manner.

Foundational Evidence Base



Money where it matters: designing funds for the frontier

Mark Swales, Glen Slayton, Anna Walytski and Ben Green



iiED

Climate finance fails to reach most vulnerable nations facing climate chaos



With only US\$1 in every US\$10 committed from climate funds for local level climate action, climate finance is failing to get money where it matters. We need to reimagine the climate finance system. This paper investigates the flow of finance from primary



How chronic gaps in adaptation finance expose the world's poorest people to climate chaos

Author: Tilly Wiegman



What's the problem?

- Less than 1% of the \$187 billion of total Official Development Assistance goes directly to local development actors (as of 2018 - the Share Trust)
- A WRI systematic review (Tye and Suarez 2021) of 374 community-based projects and programs around the world found that only 22 — or about 6 percent of examples — featured elements aligned with locally led adaptation
- Most international climate finance flows indirectly, through large intermediaries, which can hamper access
- Complex application processes, reporting requirements
- Power disparities – current system does not provide a role for local partners

What do we mean by Locally Led Adaptation?

- Recognizes the value of local knowledge and expertise to address climate risk
- Ensures local actors on the frontlines of climate change have equitable access to power and resources to build resilience
- About agency, not just participation or inclusion



LLA goes beyond traditional community consultation



TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION CAN INCLUDE:

- Community members are invited to learn about the intervention to be implemented; e.g., via participation in workshops.
- Community largely viewed as beneficiaries. They are consulted and involved in a limited manner.
- Community members ultimately don't have tangible power to decide who or what is funded or how projects are executed.



COMMUNITY-BASED AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES CAN INCLUDE:

- Community leaders or other local actors may be invited to help plan and carry out intervention.
- Community members may be able to direct some of the funding or elect priorities.
- Funding goes through one or more intermediaries before reaching the community.



LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION CAN INCLUDE:

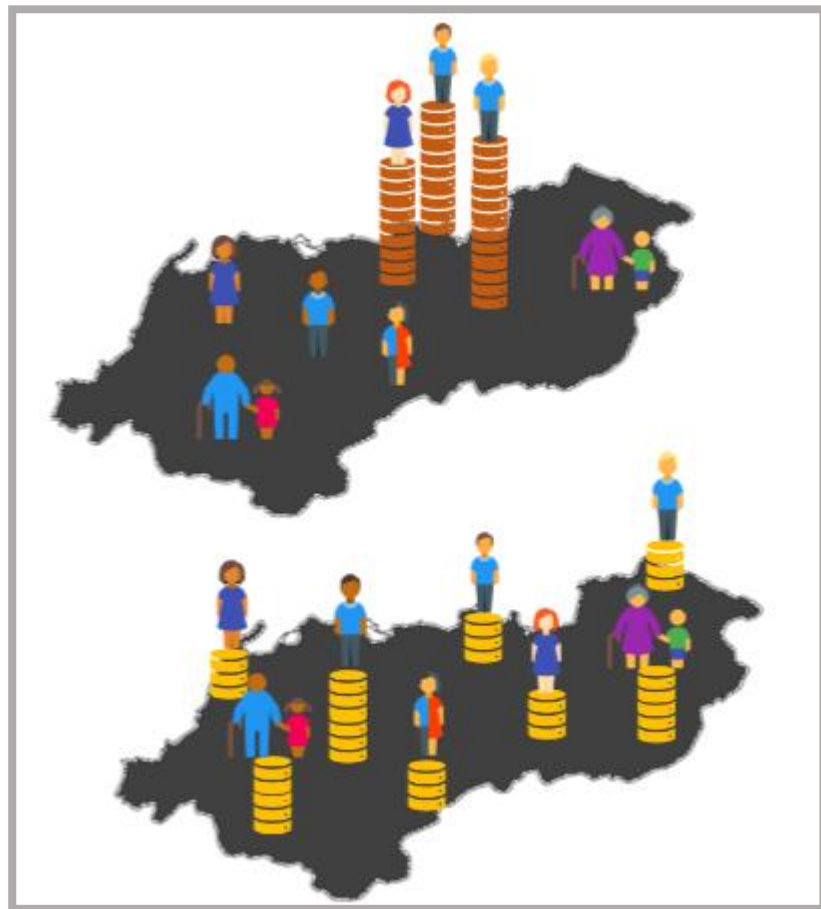
- Local actors (local organizations, local governments, small businesses, community members, etc.) decide what is implemented, how, and by whom.
- Local capacities are supported to design, implement, monitor, and maintain measures.
- Local knowledge and project ownership are highly present.
- Funding is managed by local actors and used to support long-term sustainable outcomes and institutional capacities.

LOCAL AGENCY AND LEADERSHIP INCREASING

If a transition brings overall benefits - isn't that enough?

Because we do not live in an equal world, transitions will impact people differently

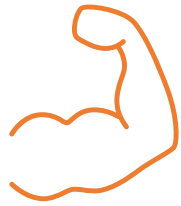
Increased Total Benefits \neq Everyone Benefits



Equal Compensation \neq Equitable Outcomes



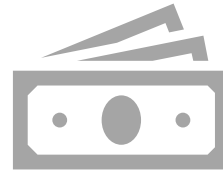
Why Locally Led Adaptation?



Effective

Ability to respond to highly localised, multiple-interacting stressors

Enables adaptation to align with local cultural contexts



Efficient

High value for money and return on investment

Less investment in admin/externalities



Equitable

More equitable distribution of power and resources

Promotes procedural and distributional justice

Growing political commitment on locally led adaptation

- **22** National governments endorse the LLA principles
- **COP28** text on Global Goal on Adaptation explicitly mentions “locally led and community-based adaptation”
- **G7** Foreign & Development Ministers communiqué welcomed the principles
- **COP26** Adaptation Campaign put LLA “at its heart”; more than \$450 million for efforts specifically targeted at implementing locally led approaches committed at COP26



What: Principles for Locally Led Adaptation

- Money Where it Matters Workshop, 2017
- Frontier Funds Workshop, 2018
- Donor consultations COP, Katowice, 2018
- Development and Climate Days, Katowice, 2018
- UNSG, New York, 2019
- Donors consultations COP, Madrid, 2019
- Development and Climate Days, Madrid, 2019
- Gobeshona, Dhaka, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Africa Climate Week, 2020, 2021, 2022
- MENA Climate Week 2022
- Climate Red Event, 2020
- CBA 13, CBA14, CBA 15, CBA 16, 2020, 2021, 2022
- London Climate Action Week, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Development and Climate Days, 2020
- Climate and Development Ministerial 2021, 2022



(1) Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level



(2) Providing patient & predictable funding that can be accessed more easily



(3) Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy



(4) Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, disabled, displaced, Indigenous Peoples & marginalised ethnic groups



(5) Building a robust understanding of climate risk & uncertainty



(6) Flexible programming & learning



(7) Ensure transparency & accountability



(8) Collaborative action & investment

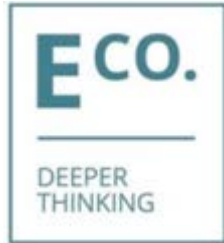
131 Entities Endorse the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation



131 Entities Endorse the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation



MAHILA HOUSING SEWA TRUST
Dignified Home, Dignified Work, Dignified Life



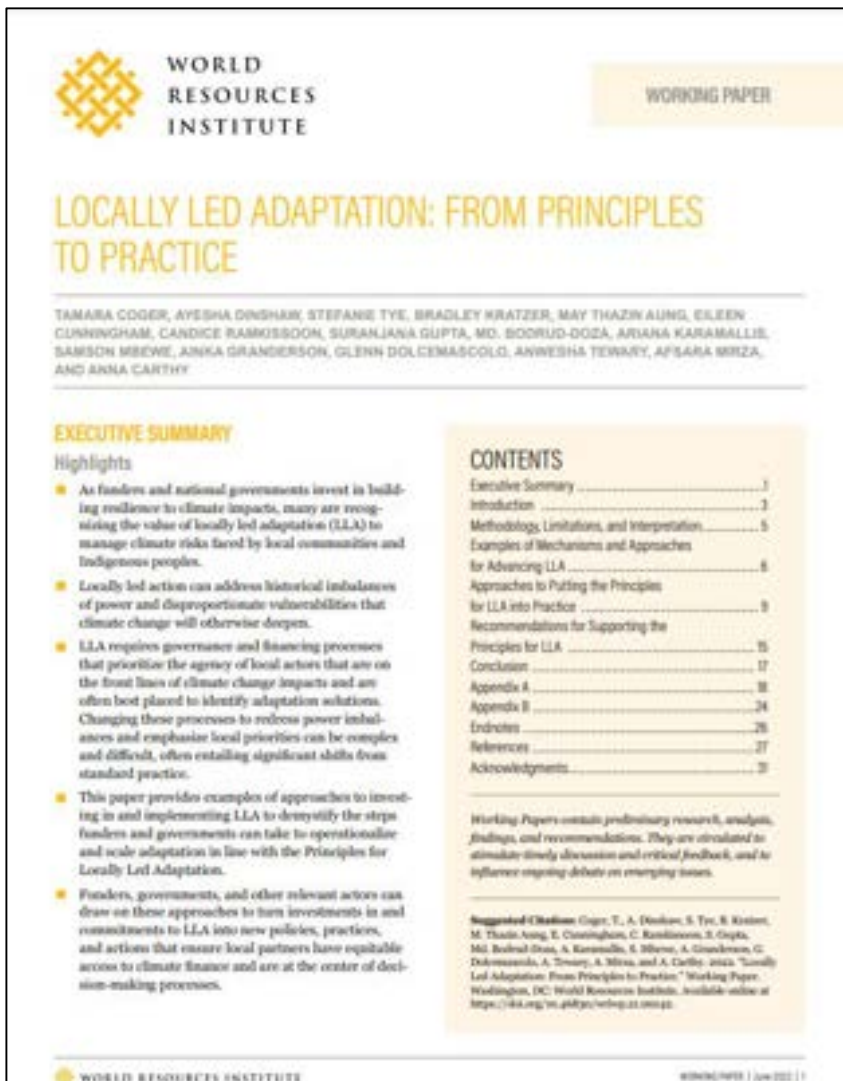
CLIMATE & DEVELOPMENT ADVICE



How: Locally led adaptation is already happening



What do these Principles look like in practice?



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE WORKING PAPER

LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE

TAMARA COGER, AYESHA DINGSHAW, STEFANIE TYE, BRADLEY KRATZER, MAY THAZIN AUNG, EILEEN CUNNINGHAM, CANDICE RAMMOSSOON, SURAJANA GUPTA, MD. BOORUD-DOZA, ARJANA KARAMALLIE, SAMSON MBEWE, ANIKA GRANDERSON, GLENN DOLCEMASCOLO, ANWESHA TEWARY, AFSARA MIRZA, AND ANNA CATHY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights

- As funders and national governments invest in building resilience to climate impacts, many are recognizing the value of locally led adaptation (LLA) to manage climate risks faced by local communities and Indigenous peoples.
- Locally led action can address historical imbalances of power and disproportionate vulnerabilities that climate change will otherwise deepen.
- LLA requires governance and financing processes that prioritize the agency of local actors that are on the front lines of climate change impacts and are often best placed to identify adaptation solutions. Changing these processes to redress power imbalances and emphasize local priorities can be complex and difficult, often entailing significant shifts from standard practice.
- This paper provides examples of approaches to investing in and implementing LLA to demystify the steps funders and governments can take to operationalize and scale adaptation in line with the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation.
- Funders, governments, and other relevant actors can draw on these approaches to turn investments in and commitments to LLA into new policies, practices, and actions that ensure local partners have equitable access to climate finance and are at the center of decision-making processes.

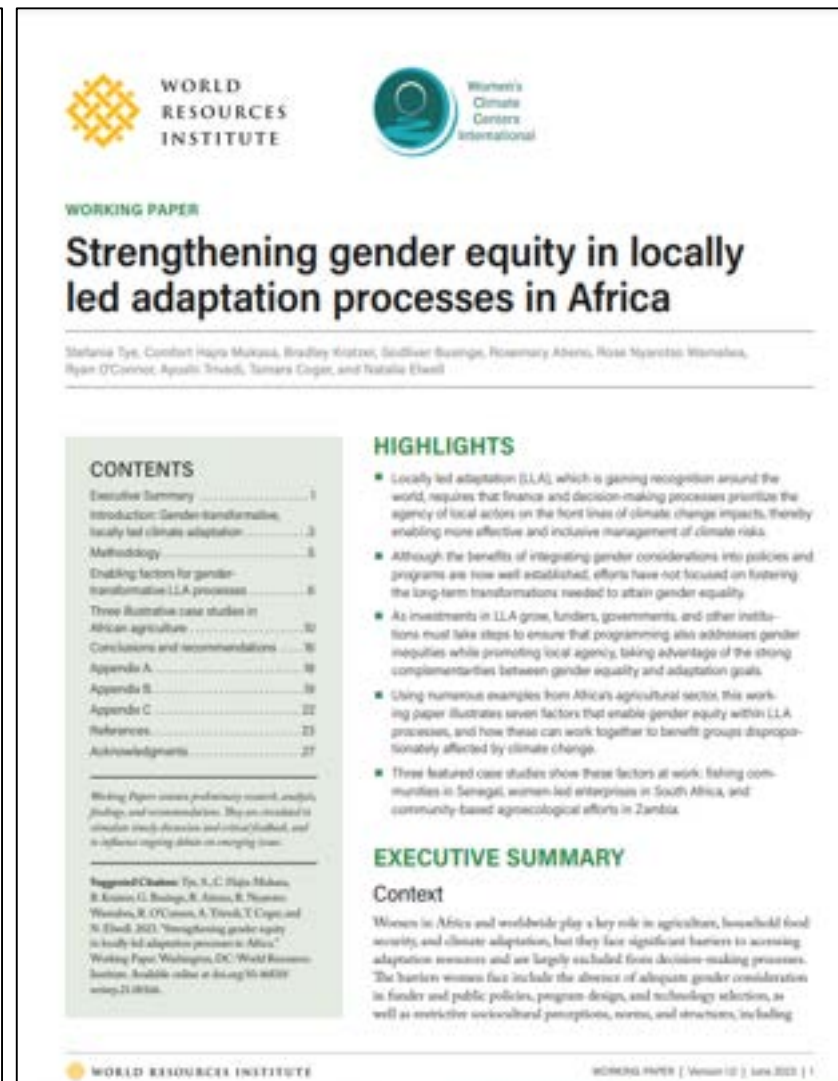
CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	1
Methodology, Limitations, and Interpretation	5
Examples of Mechanisms and Approaches for Advancing LLA	6
Approaches to Putting the Principles for LLA into Practice	9
Recommendations for Supporting the Principles for LLA	15
Conclusion	17
Appendix A	18
Appendix B	24
Endnotes	26
References	27
Acknowledgments	31

Working Papers contain preliminary research, analysis, findings, and recommendations. They are intended to stimulate timely discussion and critical feedback, and to influence ongoing debate on emerging issues.

Suggested Citation: Coger, T., A. Dingshaw, S. Tye, B. Kratzer, M. Thazin Aung, E. Cunningham, C. Rammoosoon, S. Gupta, M. Boorud-Doza, A. Karamallie, S. Mbeve, A. Granderson, G. Dolcemascuolo, A. Tewary, A. Mirza, and A. Cathy. 2022. "Locally Led Adaptation: From Principles to Practice." Working Paper, Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at <https://doi.org/10.46460/wriwp.22.001>

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE | WORKING PAPER | June 2022 | 1



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE Women's Climate Centers International

Strengthening gender equity in locally led adaptation processes in Africa

Stefanie Tye, Comfort Hago Mukasa, Bradley Kratzer, Godwin Bwanga, Rosemary Akono, Rose Nyarotso Wamala, Ryan O'Connor, Ayooli Tsvadi, Tamara Coger, and Tatiana Elwell

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
Introduction: Gender-transformative, locally led climate adaptation	3
Methodology	5
Enabling factors for gender-transformative LLA processes	6
Three illustrative case studies in African agriculture	10
Conclusions and recommendations	16
Appendix A	18
Appendix B	19
Appendix C	22
References	23
Acknowledgments	27

HIGHLIGHTS

- Locally led adaptation (LLA), which is gaining recognition around the world, requires that finance and decision-making processes prioritize the agency of local actors on the front lines of climate change impacts, thereby enabling more effective and inclusive management of climate risks.
- Although the benefits of integrating gender considerations into policies and programs are now well established, efforts have not focused on fostering the long-term transformations needed to attain gender equality.
- As investments in LLA grow, funders, governments, and other institutions must take steps to ensure that programming also addresses gender inequalities while promoting local agency, taking advantage of the strong complementarities between gender equality and adaptation goals.
- Using numerous examples from Africa's agricultural sector, this working paper illustrates seven factors that enable gender equity within LLA processes, and how these can work together to benefit groups disproportionately affected by climate change.
- Three featured case studies show these factors at work: fishing communities in Senegal, women-led enterprises in South Africa, and community-based agroecological efforts in Zambia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context

Women in Africa and worldwide play a key role in agriculture, household food security, and climate adaptation, but they face significant barriers to accessing adaptation resources and are largely excluded from decision-making processes. The barriers women face include the absence of adequate gender consideration in funder and public policies, program design, and technology selection, as well as restrictive sociocultural perceptions, norms, and structures, including

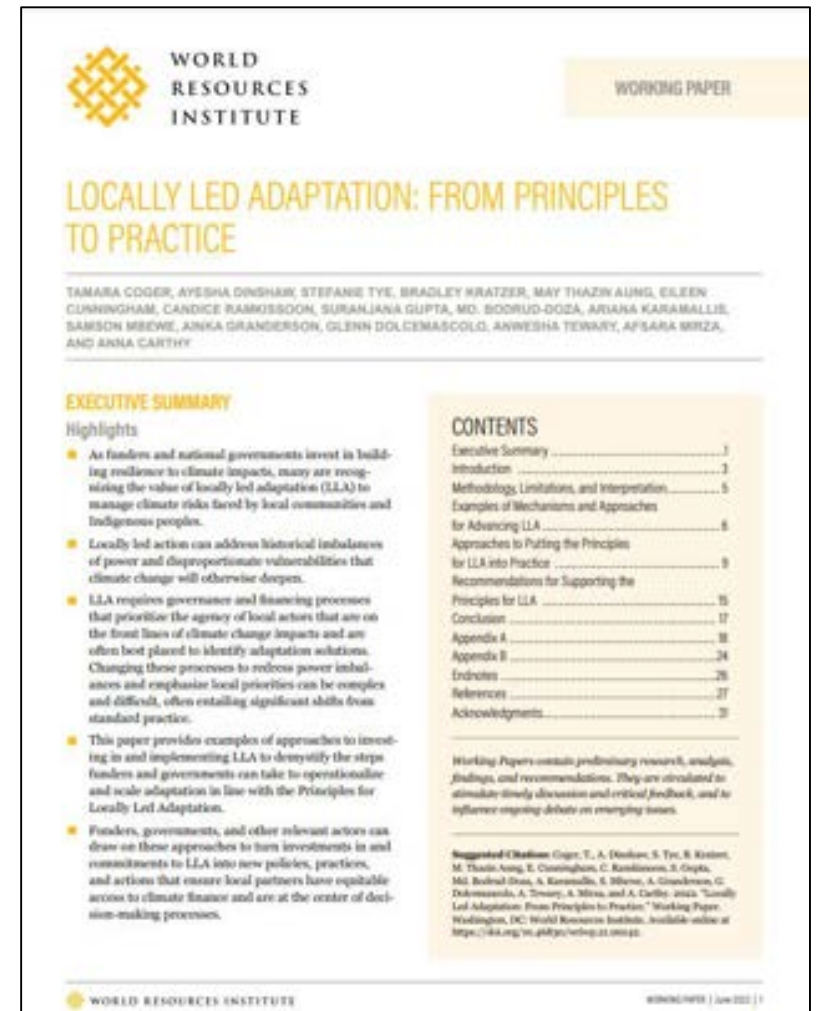
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE | WORKING PAPER | Volume 12 | June 2022 | 1

LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE

Coger et al., published in 2022

Key findings include:

- Locally led action can address historical imbalances of power and disproportionate vulnerabilities that climate change will otherwise deepen.
- There are many proven ways that adaptation finance can reach local actors and ensure they have agency, depending on the context and type of organization, and that there are many opportunities available to funders and governments to adapt and scale LLA approaches.
- 21 examples of investing in and implementing LLA across a range of sectors and contexts



STRENGTHENING GENDER EQUITY IN LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION PROCESSES IN AFRICA

Written jointly with Women's Climate Centers International (WCCI) and published in June 2023.

Key findings include:

- Literature review of gender-relevant projects and programs, assessing for gender-transformative LLA
- Although gender-related considerations such as including women in project or program activities are frequently featured in the literature, these do not generally meet accepted standards for gender transformative activities.
- Few cases demonstrated how engaging women in LLA approaches can foster gender equity in a range of African agricultural systems.
- Strong complementarities exist between gender equity and LLA, and the two approaches can work in sync to strengthen each other.
- The paper features three LLA cases with gender-transformative elements.



Embedding the gender equity dimension: three case studies

Enda Graf Sahel

Senegal



Duration: 2014-Present

Key agricultural climate

risks: Salinization, sea level rise

Approximate number of

people involved: 4,800 women fishers

✓ **Gender-responsive LLA activities**

GenderCC Project

South Africa



Duration: 2019-May 2022

Key agricultural climate

risks: Drought, erratic weather, decreasing natural resources

Approximate number of

people involved: 2,000 women and men farmers

✓ **Gender-responsive LLA activities**

Green Living Movement

Zambia



Duration: 2000-Present

Key agricultural climate

risks: Increasingly dry landscapes, drought

Approximate number of

people involved: 6,000 women and men

✓ **Gender-responsive LLA activities**

Principle 1: Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level

EXAMPLE 1: YAKKUM Emergency Unit in Indonesia

Civil society-led efforts, such as grassroots groups, representative committees, and federations, can leverage formal decentralized processes to further devolve adaptation decision-making. The YAKKUM Emergency Unit, Indonesia uses the Huairou Commission's Climate Resilience Funds (CRF) to enable the active involvement of women's groups in the village development planning process. The CRF is used to organize women's groups, enable them to map vulnerabilities and risks, and demonstrate solutions.

EXAMPLE 2. The UN's Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) mechanism's performance-based climate resilience grants are channeled through existing national to subnational government fiscal transfer systems. Local authorities directly access and determine the priorities for these grants. The involvement of local authorities creates linkages with existing adaptation planning processes and plans, thereby connecting locally led adaptation with adaptation efforts at other levels of government.

Principle 2: Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people living with disabilities, the displaced, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized ethnic groups

EXAMPLE 1. SIRF Fund in Antigua and Barbuda

Loans for upgrading infrastructure to address flooding and other small-scale adaptation solutions provided through Antigua and Barbuda's SIRF Fund explicitly target individuals, such as informal workers; households; and small businesses that tend to be excluded from accessing finance through banks and cooperatives that view them as high risk. The SIRF Fund provides 50 percent of loans to female-headed households, including dedicated funding for single mothers through a special lending program with flexible repayment options. It also aims to ensure that persons living with disabilities.

EXAMPLE 2. Pawanka Fund

Integrating equity considerations in eligibility or selection criteria ensures the inclusion of groups that are marginalized. The global Indigenous-led Pawanka Fund selects grantees based in part on how they score on a "cultural due diligence" assessment, which includes an evaluation of whether the potential local partner grantee consistently promotes gender equity and well-being for their community, and whether they revitalize traditional knowledge practices.

Principle 3: Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily

EXAMPLE 1: Micronesia Conservation Trust

Continuous, or sustained, finance, an element of patient finance, can enable local partners to make the decisions that are right for them. Insufficient time, often a result of short-term, project-based financing, results in decision-making structures that are fragile and unsustainable. The Micronesia Conservation Trust provides sustained financing by allowing some of its existing local community awardees to apply for additional funding under new financing windows. This has enabled sustained partnerships and projects to continue for over 10 years.

EXAMPLE 2: Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund in Antigua and Barbuda

Providing an easy mechanism for replenishing funds can address any anticipated and/or potential funding gaps. Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment allows grantees under the SIRF Fund to request additional funds once they have spent 70 percent of their initial allocation. This prevents potential gaps in funding due to any administrative delays in processing invoices and payments. This streamlining of the procurement process makes funding more predictable.



Principle 4: Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy & Principle 5: Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty

Example 1: Gran Chaco Proadapt in South America

Investing in local alliances, networks, and peer-to-peer training can build lasting adaptive capacity at scale. Gran Chaco Proadapt, which spans multiple cultures and countries in the Gran Chaco region, has established an early flood warning system. An intensive program on map-reading skills and monitoring tools has built community members' capacities to create, understand, and disseminate early-warning maps of the entire region, including through peer-to-peer training (Tye 2021). Community involvement ensures that these tools are accessible and user-friendly for all community members, promoting equitable access to weather and climate information. Complemented by women-led digital and computer literacy trainings and new technology centers established in once-isolated areas, new mobile messaging applications will connect thousands of people for years to come, permitting real-time sharing of alerts and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

To learn more about this example, head over to: <https://www.wri.org/insights/gran-chaco-communities-build-climate-resilience>



Principle 6: Flexible programming and learning

Example 1: Green Living Movement (GLM) in Zambia.

When GLM staff noted that some sections of the communities were not participating as much as others, they consulted with women. Women reported that some of the activities proposed to reduce vulnerability and poverty were too tedious and time-consuming, and they proposed new activities based on their comfort level and to decrease their labor burdens. GLM's flexible and adaptable program design allowed for these activities to then be implemented, thereby also accommodating the unique and specific needs of women to effectively engage in and benefit from adaptation projects.



Principle 8: Collaborative action and investment

Example 1: Enda Graf Sahel in Senegal.

Creating targeted spaces and platforms to promote women's leadership, including opportunities to take up key leadership positions in their communities and local government, and women's groups and associations, to advance climate resilience. Enda Graf facilitated training for men and women to strengthen equity in household chores and decision-making (Dazé and Terton 2021). Male sensitization to these changes brought greater trust, help with domestic chores which decreased labor burdens, and a reduction in domestic violence (Barre et al. 2020). A follow-up survey analyzing social changes from project trainings found a measurable shift in distribution of gender roles, especially among younger couples (Pers. Comm. 2022e).



To conclude:

- There is a clear understanding of the benefits of LLA
- There is growing political will and evidence base on how to operationalize
- There is clarity on what we need to take this to scale

If your organization is interested in endorsing the Principles, it's very easy:

1. Let us know by contacting Stefanie.tye@wri.org.
2. Fill out the simple form and send your organization's logo.
3. WRI uploads your organization's logo to the LLA Principles webpage.

Individuals and organizations are also welcome to join the LLA Community of Practice virtual calls