

Appendix 3: Regional workshops, forums and events organised or contributed as a part of this project

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3.1 Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum)

3.1.1 APN and IGES co-organized two days deep-dive session on LLA “Enhancing community resilience for the Asia-Pacific region: Promoting effective governance for locally led adaptation and sustainable adaptive practices” at the 9th APAN Forum in September 2025

DEEP DIVE SESSION 29th (9:00-17:00) and 30th (9:00-12:30) September 2025

D1.DS.2: Regional workshop on developing a blueprint for upscaling Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) built on Indigenous/traditional and local knowledge system in the Asia-Pacific

Room MR-H, UN Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamasaki
Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson
Dr. Jun Ichihara
Dr. Srinivasan Ancha
Dr. Binaya Raj Shivakoti
Dr. Roselyn Kumar Nunn
Prof. Patrick Nunn

APN
IGES
University of the Sunshine Coast

Dr. Chi Huyen (Shachi) Truong
Ms. May Thazin Aung
Mr. Albert Jerry Whippy
Prof. Ho Ngoc Son

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9th ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FORUM
RESILIENCE FOR ALL: CATALYZING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION
29-30 SEPTEMBER 2025, BANGKOK, THAILAND
CO-ORGANIZERS
APN IGES UN ESCAP UN Women

Regional workshop on developing a blueprint for upscaling Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) built on Indigenous/traditional and local knowledge system in the Asia-Pacific

Organizers:

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

Date: 29 and 30th September 2025

Location: Room MR-H, UN Conference Center, Bangkok

IGES and APN has been jointly implementing a project on Locally Led Adaptation [Regional partnership for localization of NDC through community-led “local adaptation innovation hubs” in the Asia-Pacific region] by establishing Model Case Sites in Fiji (Pacific), Nepal (South Asia), and Vietnam (Southeast Asia) as a contribution to the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT). The project uses the Indigenous/traditional and local knowledge system as a basis for developing a blueprint for upscaling LLA action and practices.

This regional workshop marks the final synthesis of the project activities, findings and lessons. The workshop will intensively discuss the project outcomes, discuss on LLA blueprint, and a way forward for upscaling LLA in the Asia-Pacific region. First day of the workshop will be dedicated to discuss

and review project findings, outcomes and lessons as well as for planning future actions. Second day, which will be an open session for all 9APAN Forum Participants, will be devoted to knowledge sharing as well as to gain expert feedback on upscaling LLA through regional collaboration, including AP-PLAT.

Date and Time	Program
<u>Day 1 (Invite only):</u> <u>29 September 2025</u>	Opening and Welcome remarks Dr.Linda Stevenson, APN
9:00	
9:10	Introduction of the project and workshop outline Dr.Binaya Raj Shivakoti, IGES
	Q&A
9:40	Project activities and outcomes from Model Case Study Sites (20 minutes each) Fiji Case/ Prof.Patrick Nunn/Dr.Roselyn Kumar Nunn, University of Sunshine Coast Australia Nepal Case / Dr.Chi Huyen Troung, Himalayan University Consortium (HUC)/ Dr.Binaya Raj Shivakoti, IGES Vietnam Case/ Prof. Ho Ngoc Son, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam
10:40	Tea/Coffee Break
11:00	Discussion/Feedback on the presentation from Model Case Sites with respect to LLA principles
12:00	Lunch Break
13:30	Discussion on LLA Blueprint
14:00	Group work and discussion on upscaling LLA Blueprint
16:00	Tea/Coffee Break
16:15	Summarizing LLA Blueprint and Potential follow-up actions
17:00	Closing of the Workshop

<u>Day 2 (Open to all APAN forum participants): 29 September 2025</u> 10:00	Welcome remarks Mr. Toshiyuki Yamasaki, Director, Asia-Pacific Network of Global Change Research (APN) Secretariat, Japan Dr. Jun Ichihara, Programme Director/Director for IGES Regional Center
10:20	Panel Discussion on Upscaling LLA actions and practices in the Asia-Pacific Moderator: Dr. Binaya Raj Shivakoti, IGES Dr. Patrick Nunn/Dr. Roselyn Kumar Nunn, University of Sunshine Coast Australia (remote) Dr. Chi Huyen Troung, Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) Prof. Ho Ngoc Son, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam Dr. Srinivasan Ancha, Senior Fellow, IGES/ Chairperson of the Board, Save the Earth International Ms. May Thazin Aung, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Mr. Albert Whippy, Institute of Applied Science–Center for Sustainable Futures The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji
12:30	Summary and closing of the workshop

1. Summary outline of the session

Adaptation is most effective when it is designed and led by those living with climate risks. While communities have been adapting for centuries, there is now greater recognition of the need to embed these efforts within broader frameworks of governance and finance. The eight globally endorsed principles of LLA provide direction for devolving decision-making, embedding participation, and addressing inequalities. However, the true strength of LLA lies in allowing communities to define what resilience means in their own context, whether in farming, housing, or managing natural resources.

Experiences from Nepal, Vietnam, and Fiji demonstrate that communities are already leading in building resilience through knowledge, innovation, and culture. These practices are practical, sustainable, and rooted in local realities. What is now needed is a blueprint for Locally Led Adaptation that ensures such practices are supported, scaled, and recognized at national and global levels. By embedding traditional knowledge, reforming finance, strengthening partnerships, and prioritizing equity, the blueprint can serve as a foundation for adaptation that is both transformative and just.

2. Challenges raised for upscaling LLA

Access to finance remains one of the most significant challenges for LLA. Large-scale mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility are often inaccessible to local actors due to their complexity and high transaction costs. Smaller funds and intermediaries provide more accessible options but lack scale, while indigenous-led funds are emerging as important alternatives. Unless finance systems are reformed to reduce barriers and simplify processes, local innovations will remain underfunded and invisible to global adaptation strategies.

3. Lessons learned / recommendations / solutions presented in the session:

A key conclusion from these experiences is the need for a blueprint to guide the operationalization and scaling of LLA. Such a framework would provide structure without imposing rigidity, ensuring flexibility to adapt to diverse local contexts.

The blueprint would serve multiple purposes. It would recognize indigenous and local knowledge as the foundation of adaptation, while integrating scientific tools and modern technologies. It would establish participatory processes that respect free, prior, and informed consent, ensuring legitimacy and ownership. It would create monitoring and evaluation systems that communicate local outcomes in ways that are visible and credible to external funders. It would promote cross-learning, enabling communities across regions to share knowledge and innovations. Finally, it would diversify financial sources, combining global climate funds with smaller, flexible, and indigenous-led financing models.

4. Key takeaway:

- a. Local leadership is essential — Adaptation must be designed and led by communities themselves.
- b. A blueprint for LLA is needed — A structured but flexible guide can connect local practices with national and global systems, enabling scaling and sustainability.
- c. Traditional and modern knowledge must be integrated — Blending indigenous wisdom with science produces practical, affordable, and culturally relevant solutions.
- d. Finance must be made accessible — Without reforms to simplify funding and reduce barriers, local practices will remain under-supported.
- e. Equity and cultural identity matter — Inclusion of women, youth, and indigenous voices, and the preservation of cultural heritage, are central to transformative adaptation.

5. Quotations:

- “Resilience is nothing new to us, we Fijians have learnt to become resilient as a way of life”
- “Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) should not convey that adaptation could be accomplished only by the local level actions, instead we need holistic approach comprising of infrastructure resilience, social resilience, institutional resilience and financial resilience in which LLA should be embedded”
- “Locally lead adaptation could trigger transformative adaptation when upscaled rapidly across geographies”





3.1.2 APN and IGES organized the session “Enhancing Community Resilience: Promoting Effective Governance for Locally Led Adaptation in the Asia-Pacific Region” at the 8th APAN Forum in August 2023



Stream	Resilience of communities
Enabler	Policy & Governance, Technologies & Practices
Session title	Enhancing Community Resilience: Promoting Effective Governance for Locally Led Adaptation in the Asia-Pacific Region
Lead organiser	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) • Dr Linda Anne Stevenson, Head of Knowledge Management & Scientific Affairs, Deputy Head of Development & Institutional Affairs • Ms Rieko Tamura, Senior Programme Officer, Development & Institutional Affairs • Ms Naomi Young, Knowledge Management & Scientific Affairs
Focal point contact details	Ms Rieko Tamura, Senior Programme Officer, Development & Institutional Affairs, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
Co-organiser	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
Partner contribution	All the following partners contribute to formulating the session proposal. Most will be engaged as Chair/Panellists and scene setting. • Institute for Global Environmental Strategies • International Centre for Climate Change and Development • International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development • Practical Action Nepal • South Asia Forum Environment • University of the Philippines, Los Banos • University of the Sunshine Coast

Session Chair/ Moderator	Dr Dipayan Dey / Ms Rieko Tamura
Speakers (including panellists)	<i>Please indicate speakers' full name, affiliation or credentials, and professional email address.</i> Speakers/Panellists • Mr Genichiro Tsukada, Director, Climate Change Adaptation Office, Global Environment Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan • Dr Dipayan Dey, Chair, South Asian forum for Environment (SAFE) • Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development • Prof. Patrick Nunn, Professor of Geography/Director of the Sustainability Research Centre, School of Law and Society, University of the Sunshine Coast • Prof. Juan M. Pulhin, Department of Social Forestry and Forest Governance, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Baños • Dr Binaya Shivakoti, Senior Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies • Dr Ho Ngoc Son, Associate Professor/Deputy Dean of Forestry, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry Additional Panellists • Ms Menila Kharel, Thematic lead, Sustainable Agriculture and Markets, Practical Action Nepal • Dr Yuji Masutomi, AP-PLAT/Section Head, Center for Climate Change Adaptation, Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Research Section, National Institute for Environmental Studies
Target audience	Policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and local, marginalised and indigenous communities
Format of the session	The session began with a high-level government speaker providing an introduction, followed by setting the scene session that includes an interactive session designed to encourage audience participation. This session engaged web-based tools, social media and the APAN app (if available). Subsequently, 5 panellists presented specific activities and address key questions outlined in the "Short description of the session".
Short description of the session	Background and Rationale: This session focuses on collective learning about transformative adaptation, emphasising the need to build resilient communities. It introduces case studies on locally led adaptation (LLA) in 5 local communities in Asia-Pacific countries. By facilitating knowledge sharing, this session aims to foster effective strategies for

	addressing scaling challenges and barriers to transformative adaptation at the local level. Objectives: • Showcase case study sites in India, Fiji, Nepal, Philippines and Vietnam, which align with community based LLA principles. • Explore key factors and strategies for community resilience, including risk assessment, planning, community engagement and integrating with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). • Facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders to enhance resilience-building and promote LLA innovation hubs for NDC localisation. Participants will: • Understand the significance of LLA. Acquire knowledge of case study sites and strategies based on the 8 LLA principles. • Learn about challenges faced by communities and innovative approaches, including NDC incorporation. • Understand the concept of locally led innovation hubs for enhancing resilience and NDC localisation. • Identify collaboration opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation and marginalised groups. Takeaway Points: • Emphasise community engagement aligned with LLA principles in resilience-building and NDC localisation. • Highlight the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern approaches. • Stress cross-sectoral partnerships for holistic resilience and NDC localisation. • Recognise the importance of addressing marginalised groups and promoting social equity. • Highlight the co-production of knowledge between communities and scientists in climate change adaptation. Key Questions: 1. What are some of the key factors that contribute to community resilience, and can they be replicated? 2. How can community engagement be effectively integrated into resilience-building and NDC localisation, considering socio-cultural diversity? 3. What innovative technologies, like LLA innovation hubs, can enhance community resilience and support NDC localisation?
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| | 4. How can policymakers and stakeholders collaborate to promote transformative resilience-building, integrate NDC commitments, and foster locally led innovation hubs? |
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3.2) Global Gobeshona Conference (GGC)

3.2.2) IGES and APN co-organized the session “Asia-Pacific Resilience: Empowering Local Solutions Together” at the Second Global Gobeshona Conference (GGC3) in March 2024



ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



GOBESHONA
Global Conference 4
Monitoring Locally - Led Adaptation & Resilience



IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies



IUB
Independent University,
Bangladesh



GOBESHONA
Global Conference 4
Monitoring Locally - Led Adaptation & Resilience



ICCCAD
International Centre for
Climate Change and
Development



APN
ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



IGES
Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies

ASIA-PACIFIC RESILIENCE: EMPOWERING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

PRESENTERS



Dipayan Dey
Chair of Research and Planning,
South Asian Forum for
Environment



Chi Huyen Truong
Coordinator, Himalayan University
Consortium, Secretariat, International
Centre for Integrated Mountain
Development



Ho Ngoc Son
Associate Professor and
Deputy Dean of Forestry,
Thai Nguyen University Of
Agriculture and Forestry



Suman Basnet
Regional Director, Asia-Pacific at
World Association of Community
Radio Broadcasters, Asia-Pacific

OPENING REMARKS



Osamu Mizuno
Program Director, Adaptation and Water
Area, Institute for Global Environmental
Strategies (IGES)

MODERATOR



Binaya Raj Shivakoti
Senior Policy Researcher,
Adaptation and Water Area,
(IGES)

CLOSING REMARKS



Linda Anne Stevenson
Programme Director, Secretariat,
Asia-Pacific Network for Global
Change Research



 **Date:** 8th March 2024

 **Time:** 11:00-13:00
(Dhaka)/GMT+6)

 **Webinar ID:** 815 5005 8331
Passcode: 239191

Session Title: Asia-Pacific Resilience: Empowering Local Solutions Together

8 March 2024, 14:00 to 16:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Lead Organizations: Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Introduction:

The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), hosted the “Asia-Pacific Resilience: Empowering Local

Solutions Together” session as part of the Fourth Annual Gobeshona Global Conference. The session aimed to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, resource degradation, and pollution, emphasizing the need for transformative adaptation and resilient communities.

While successful climate adaptation hinges on robust planning and programming, the absence of long-term strategic planning can present challenges. To overcome these obstacles, it is crucial to provide targeted capacity building in climate adaptation planning. Moving forward, this session is planned to evaluate the adaptability and transformative capacity of community resilience, considering factors such as food security, livelihood vulnerability, climate risk and resilience. In addition, the session will touch upon the importance of monitoring progress in climate adaptation efforts. Recognising the need for ongoing assessment and feedback, the discussion will touch on the role of continuous monitoring in ensuring the effectiveness of community resilience initiatives.

Agenda		
Time of Activity	Facilitator/Team members	Description of Activity
5 minutes	Osamu Mizuno, Program Director, Adaptation and Water, IGES	Welcome remarks
10 minutes	APN	Audience engagement with Mentimeter
50 minutes	Moderation: Binaya Raj Shivakoti Dr Dipayan Dey, SAFE (Research & Planning) Dr.Chi Huyen Truong, Coordinator, Himalayan University Consortium, Secretariat, ICIMOD Dr Ho Ngoc Son, Associate Professor/Deputy Dean of Forestry, TUAF Mr Suman Basnet, Regional Director, Asia-Pacific at World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), Asia-Pacific	Presentation of cases

50 minutes	Panel discussion	Share insights on the presentation reflecting importance of collective learning, continuous monitoring of local capacity and transformative potential of LLA
5 minutes	Linda Anne Stevenson, Programme Director, APN	Closing and next step

Session Summary:

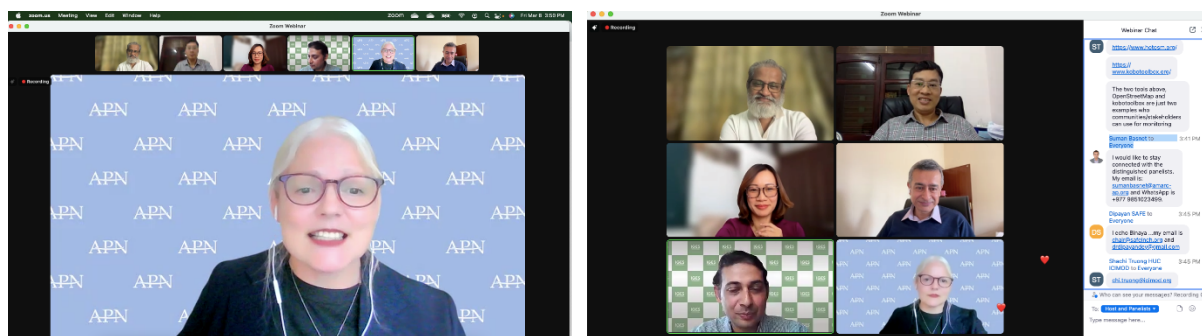
Recognition of Community Innovation: The session highlighted the crucial role of communities as innovators and stewards of vital ecosystems. Local solutions such as floating farms and community-based seed banks were showcased as examples of innovative approaches to climate resilience, particularly in marginalized communities.

Importance of Collaborative Partnerships: Effective climate action in mountain regions relies on collaborative partnerships that integrate indigenous knowledge with scientific validation. The session emphasized the need for just transitions in education and expanded funding to build soft skills at the local level, ensuring inclusive and scalable solutions.

Empowerment through Monitoring and Evaluation: Monitoring and evaluation were underscored as essential components of community action. Rather than being conducted by external entities, these processes should be integrated into local initiatives, with support from local authorities. Community communication mechanisms, such as community radios, were identified as vital tools for monitoring and evaluation, filling information gaps and fostering community engagement.

Nature-Based Solutions and Adaptive Learning: Implementing nature-based solutions and empowering local communities were highlighted as key strategies for fostering resilience to climate change. By promoting adaptive learning and diverse livelihood strategies, communities can enhance their resilience and adaptability in the face of environmental challenges.

In conclusion, the session emphasised the importance of collective action, community empowerment, and collaboration in building resilient and sustainable futures. By harnessing the creativity and ingenuity of local communities, participants were encouraged to contribute to transformative adaptation efforts and foster climate resilience on a global scale.



How to effectively monitor progress on adaptation and resilience building at the local level?
Please share examples that you know directly or indirectly.

Community-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) - Engaging local communities in defining indicators and collecting data relevant to their context	Build local capacity for data collection, analysis, and interpretation to ensure sustainability of monitoring efforts.	Reference to digital divide reiterates the value of community based media such as community radio in any initiative geared towards adaptation and resilience building.	(Francis Ste Ana, TUAF) We can develop through various approaches, for instance: 1. Through community engagement by building a local climate change hub. (To monitor the previous and present changes.) a. developed community seminars that promote circular economy practices to enhance local community literacy. b. Encourage community participation in the survey. 2. Develop approaches such as: a. Natural Based Solutions approaches b. application through digitalization and modernization such as Simile, Cropwat, and GIS (for mapping).
Develop indicator frameworks tailored to local contexts, covering aspects such as livelihoods, food security, infrastructure resilience, and ecosystem services.	Develop indicator ecologically and economically, such as total selling products per month and total area of plantation per month (example)	Empower community members and stakeholders to co-generate data, thru open tools such as OpenStreetMap and KoboToolbox, following FAIR & CARE principles.	Conduct a quantitative modelling of factors (adaptation and resilience) through development of indicators or weighing of relative importance.
Empowerment of community youth to led the monitoring	Develop national level learning sharing platform		

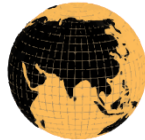
3.2.3) Contributed to a session by The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), led by IGES, entitled “Bridging Science and Policy: AP-PLAT’s Practices on Locally-led Adaptation for Climate Resilient Asia-Pacific” and shared project activities at the Fourth Global Gobeshona Conference (GGC3) on 7th March 2024 10:00-11:00 (DHK); 13:00-14:00 (JST)

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), initiated by Japan, aims to support the promotion of decision-making based on the best available science and effective climate change adaptation measures in the Asia-Pacific. Specifically, AP-PLAT has been promoting “scientific information infrastructure,” “adaptation support tools,” and “capacity development,” with a strong intention of collaboration among countries, local governments, and relevant organizations in the region.

This session focused on the AP-PLAT’s practices on locally-led adaptation (LLA), as one of the priority areas of the AP-PLAT Framework for Action, highlighting how to develop individual and institutional capacity for promoting LLA in the Asia-Pacific. The invited speakers presented the projects undertaken under the AP-PLAT, including the E-learning on LLA developed by the Asian Institute of Technology Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific as well as the joint LLA project initiated by the IGES

and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). In the panel discussion, we will invite the AP-PLAT partners to discuss how to strengthen the partnership with regional stakeholders to promote LLA in the Asia-Pacific by bridging science and policy. Through the discussions in this session, we aim to compile recommendations for future capacity development activities under AP-PLAT.

3.2.2) IGES and APN co-organized the session “Challenges and opportunities for promoting locally led adaptation: Cross learning from Nepal, Fiji, Vietnam” at the Second Global Gobeshona Conference (GGC2) in March 2023



GOBESHONA
Global Conference 3
Monitoring Locally - Led Adaptation & Resilience



The 3rd Annual Gobeshona Global Conference on research into Action, organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), will be held from 10th to 16th March 2023. The conference was held virtually with many National, International participants and high-profile guests from around the world, with an aim to support and leverage the enormous potential and creativity of local communities to develop and implement solutions.

Session Title: Challenges and opportunities for promoting locally led adaptation: cross learning from Nepal, Fiji, Vietnam

13 March 2023, 10:00-12:00 (Bangladesh Standard Time); UTC+6



Conference information: <https://conference.gobeshona.net/>

We welcome you to join our session as part of the Third Global Gobeshona Conference ([GGC3](#)), which is a continuation of the GGC1 session “Capacity Building for Promoting “Local Adaptation Innovation” through regional collaboration on 22nd January 2021 and

GGC2 session on “Localization of NDCs through community-led ‘adaptation innovation’ in the Asia-Pacific: Needs and Pathways” in March, 2022. The upcoming GGC3 session aims to introduce the challenges and opportunities for promoting locally led adaptation from three regionally distinct areas: Nepal, Fiji, and Vietnam as a part of a new initiative between APN and IGES on locally led adaption. The initiative aims to understand and establish a foundation for applying the principles of locally led adaptation. This initiative will contribute the capacity development programme of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform ([AP-PLAT](#)), an initiative of the Japanese Government to support adaptation action in the Asia-Pacific region. In this session, the presentation and discussion will focus on key challenges for understanding local climate risk, opportunities for promoting traditional, indigenous and local knowledge systems as a basis for locally led adaption, and necessary governance arrangements to institutionalize and integrate locally led adaptation into climate risk planning.

Agenda

10:00-10:10 Opening Session: Setting the Scene

Dr Linda Anne Stevenson, APN

10:10-10:20 Audience engagement with Mentimeter

Ms Rieko Tamura, APN

10:20-10:35 Overarching introduction: *Moderator: Ms Rieko Tamura, APN*

- Challenges and opportunities for promoting locally led adaptation (Dr Binaya Shivakoti, IGES)
- APN and IGES initiative on Locally Led Adaptation (Dr Linda Anne Stevenson, APN)

10:35-11:00 Locally led Adaptation Model Case Sites (MCS) in Asia and the Pacific

Moderator: Dr Chi Huyen Truong, ICIMOD

- Fiji MCS, Prof. Patrick Nunn, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia
- Nepal MCS, Ms.Menila Kharel, Practical Action, Nepal, Nepal

- Vietnam MCS, Dr Ho Ngoc Son, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam
- Tools for local-scale adaptation planning, Dr Yuji Masutomi, NIES, Japan
- Panel and Audience Q&A

11:00-11:45 Breakout sessions: Application of the 8 principles of locally led adaptation in subregions of Asia and the Pacific

Breakout session moderators/facilitators of 3 sessions

- For the Pacific: Prof. Patrick Nunn/Ms Rieko Tamura
- For South Asia: Ms Menila Kharel/ Practical Action or ICIMOD
- For Southeast Asia: Dr Ho Ngoc Son/ Dr Naoyuki Okano, IGES

Plenary Moderator: Dr Binaya Shivakoti

- Brief presentation of breakout sessions
- Key points for discussion from the breakout sessions
- Insights on breakout session outcomes

11:45-11:50 Key messages

Dr Linda Anne Stevenson, APN

11:50-12:00 Vote of thanks from IGES and APN

Mr Tetsuo Kuyama, Director, IGES Bangkok Regional Center

Mr Ryuji Tomisaka, Secretariat Director, APN

Key Messages from the Session

Why we need the LLA and its 8 principles?

- An approach to adaptation that emphasizes local priorities
- Tailored to context-specific adaptation solutions
- Participatory and inclusiveness in design and implementation
- Recognizes local's potentials for innovations

How can we fast track LLA into practice?

- Identify entry points

- Anchorage - self-sustaining models
- Scalability
- Policy mainstreaming - there is a large gap here especially for mainstreaming NDCs, etc
- Enhance local capacity to access and mobilize finance

Capacity challenges for promoting LLA

- How to understand and communicate local climate risks
- How to address climate risk building based on pre-existing ITLK systems
- How can we communicate LLA for resilience building?
- How do we address financial requirements?
- How to create incentives for meaningful participations?
- How to use the 8 LLA principles as a guide for an integrated adaptation planning?

Opportunities: From Coping responses to adaptation planning

- Recognition and realization of local potentials to innovate and adapt
- Convergence of ITLK with modern science and information
- Enhance decision making capacity to plan and implement adaptation solutions
- Cross-learning
- Local youth engagement for leadership development

Invest in building local capacity to attract climate and finance and resources and connect with the national level

Fiji Model Case Study Site: Tikina Malomalo

- Southwest of Nadi
- Subsistence-oriented traditional settlements
- Livelihoods: sale of mud crabs; fishing; farming; manage mangrove swamps for seafood; making salt
- **Challenges:**
 - heavy rains and strong winds in tropical cyclones;
 - infrastructure is poor and easily washed out;
 - food and water security.
 - lack of wage employment
 - Global warming and SLR will force changes to geographies and livelihoods
- **Opportunities**
 - Income-generation such as ecotourism
 - Optimizing community resilience
 - Climate proofing livelihoods
 - Relocating vulnerable settlements
 - Reconfiguring water and food security

Nepal Model Case Study Site:

- Dang and Rolpa districts in Lumbini Province in the western Nepal
- Agriculture industry is important and agriculture-climate nexus is coming into all levels of discussion
- Adaptation to climate change is a must, particularly locally led
- Male migration has caused women to bear the brunt of CC impacts
- Life expectancy is 52 years
- Predominantly small-scale agriculture (maize, pulse, rice, vegetables, legumes)

- Families earning very little compared to the average annual household income

Challenges

- Limited agriculture mechanization;
- Limited labor-saving devices
- Limited access to agriculture inputs, markets, financial services and other business developments
- Under representation women reported that they had not engaged with local government in planning, implementation, etc
- CC challenges across the sub-sectors of vegetable, livestock (Goat) and dairy

Opportunities

- **National plans are underway**
 - CC specific policies and actions
 - Second NDCs (2021-2030) and mitigation targets
 - NAP to be submitted
- **Adaptation is happening at small scale - we want to scale this up**
 - Farmers grow various resilient crops
 - Agronomic practices
 - Integrated pest management
 - Soil fertility management practices
 - Water management technologies
- **Adaptation opportunities**
 - Climate information services, climate field schools
 - Flood adaptive vegetable nursery
 - Ministry of Agriculture and livestock is scaling up the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) at 116 villages in Lumbini province
 - Adaptation requires systematic response for scaling up

MCS site in Vietnam

- **Challenges**
 - Devolution in decision making to local actors is still limited
 - Structural inequalities faced by vulnerable groups, especially, ethnic minorities
 - Understanding of climate risk and uncertainty is low
 - Institutional and technical capacity limited at the local level
 - Lack of investment in local capacities to manage funds and adaptation processes
- **Opportunities**
 - ITLK play an important role in CCA
 - Institutional frameworks support LLA
 - Private sector engagement is increasing: Climate-friendly enterprises promote NbS practices.

Feedback from AP-PLAT

We need tools for local-scale adaptation planning

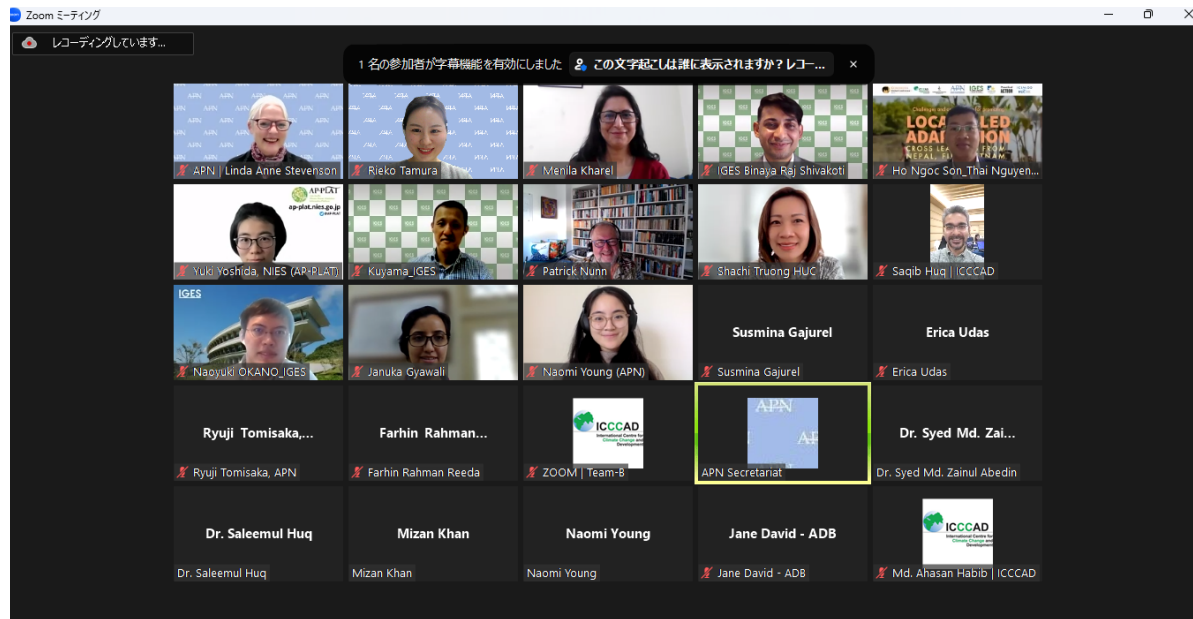
Common challenges

- Lack of data
- Lack of resources
- Lack of capacity

Opportunities

AP-PLAT tries to support as a platform some of the tools available:

- Provide user-friendly interfaces and access to scientific tools such as ClimoCast, Climate Impact Viewer and +Clomokit
- Offer e-learning content for capacity building and adaptation planning that is practical





3.3) ITLK-LLA Thematic Working Group Meeting & Hybrid Webinar “Many Ways of Knowing: Indigenous Local Knowledge and Locally-Led Adaptation in Asian Mountain Contexts”, 21–22 February 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal (Hybrid)

ILK-LLA Thematic Working Group Meeting & Hybrid Webinar

Many Ways of Knowing: Indigenous Local Knowledge and Locally-Led Adaptation in Asian Mountain Contexts

21–22 February 2026 | Kathmandu, Nepal (Hybrid)

Cross-cutting Workgroup on Indigenous Local Knowledge and Locally-Led Adaptation (ILK-LLA)

Asian Mountain Academic Alliance (AMAA), IGES, APN

1. Overview

The Cross-cutting Workgroup on Indigenous Traditional and Local Knowledge System and Locally-Led Adaptation (ITLK-LLA) of the Asian Mountain Academic Alliance (AMAA) convened its second workgroup meeting as a two-day hybrid event, bringing together researchers, practitioners, and knowledge holders from across the Asia-Pacific region. The event featured a public webinar on 22 February 2026 and an in-person working session in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Event	ILK-LLA Thematic Working Group Meeting & Hybrid Webinar
Dates	21–22 February 2026
Format	Hybrid (In-person: Kathmandu, Nepal + Online)
Organiser	AMAA Cross-cutting Workgroup on ITLK-LLA, in collaboration with Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
Webinar Theme	Many Ways of Knowing: Indigenous Local Knowledge and Locally-Led Adaptation
Participants	Researchers, practitioners, and knowledge holders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Fiji, Vietnam, and international partners

The event served two complementary purposes: the in-person meeting provided a structured forum for workgroup members to review progress, share findings from ongoing joint IGES-APN projects on LLA, and chart collaborative directions; while the public webinar brought together leading voices on Indigenous data sovereignty and epistemic justice to engage a broader audience of academics, policymakers, and civil society.

2. Joint IGES-APN Project Activities

A central element of the workgroup meeting was a review of findings and lessons from the project on LLA presented by researchers from partnering institutions across the region. The project — focused on upscaling Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) built on Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Knowledge (ITLK) systems in the Asia-Pacific — is coordinated by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES, Japan) in partnership with national teams in Nepal, Fiji, and Vietnam and regional engagements including partners from India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

2.1 Regional Overview: Upscaling LLA in Asia-Pacific

Dr. Binaya Raj Shivakoti (IGES, Japan) presented the regional framing and rationale for the APN project. The project's central approach is a partner-driven LLA model sites methodology, where regional cross-learning is facilitated across Nepal, Fiji, and Vietnam to co-develop and rapidly upscale locally led adaptation innovations.

Key arguments advanced in the presentation included:

- ITLK systems are an inbuilt, high buy-in, and low-cost foundation for adaptation — often the first coping choice for local communities facing climate impacts.
- Despite their value, ITLK-based solutions remain underutilised in national and international climate policy frameworks.
- The project proposes an actionable blueprint for LLA that devolves decision-making to the lowest possible level, linking local needs and priorities with national and international financing mechanisms.

Specific cases showcased from model sites include:

- Nepal: Climate-resilient seed varieties, tunnel farming, drip and solar-powered irrigation, traditional 'Dehari' grain storage, intercropping, and community-based seasonal weather prediction.
- Vietnam: Agroforestry, community vulnerability mapping, climate-agrobiodiversity calendars, reviving agricultural heritage through the GIAHS framework, and integration of ITLK with modern scientific monitoring.
- Fiji: Revival of traditional salt-making and community-based livelihoods such as mud crab cultivation (Vusama), demonstrating how traditional coastal practices support food security and economic resilience.

Dr. Shivakoti emphasised that fast-tracking LLA into practice requires identifying entry points, designing self-sustaining models, ensuring upscalability, mainstreaming into NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and attracting climate finance.

2.2 India: ILK in the Central Himalaya

Professor R.K. Maikhuri (HNB Garhwal Central University, Uttarakhand, India) presented findings from the Indian component of completed APN project, focused on documenting climate change perceptions and ILK-based adaptation practices across an elevational gradient of 600–2,600 metres above sea level in the Central Himalaya.

The study covered 703 randomly selected households across 12 villages in three districts (Rudraprayag, Chamoli, and Pauri), employing a mixed-methods approach including participatory rural appraisal, workshops, and household surveys.

Key findings by elevation band:

- Low elevations (600–1,000 m): Communities responded to drought and shifting seasons by integrating turmeric, colocasia, and ginger into traditional agroforestry systems; managing spring

sheds and rainwater harvesting; and adopting delayed sowing of rainfed paddy and diversified Baranaja mixed cropping with millets and pulses.

- Middle elevations (1,100–1,800 m): Communities replaced rainfed paddy with rhizomatous crops, increased soybean and millet cultivation, converted degraded agricultural land to agro-forestry and horticulture, and applied bio-control measures using ash, cow urine, and organic manure.
- Higher elevations (1,800–2,600 m): Practices included in-situ moisture conservation (weed-grass mulching), replacement of buckwheat with kidney bean and potato, cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), and reduced transhumance.

The project also documented several successful case studies of ILK-based adaptation that have been mainstreamed into Uttarakhand state and national policy:

- **Baranaja Mixed Cropping:** A traditional system of 12+ crops grown together in rainfed agriculture — millets, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables — that has influenced the Uttarakhand State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) to prioritise millets, and aligns with the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE).
- **Spring Sanctuary Development:** Reviving traditional springs (dharas, naulas) through community-led contour trenching and rainwater recharge, scaled up to over 300 village institutions across Uttarakhand and aligned with the National Water Mission.
- **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants:** Diversification into MAPs and off-season vegetable cultivation in polyhouses to combat erratic rainfall, supporting NMSHE, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), and state livelihood goals.
- **Degraded Land Restoration:** Community-participatory agro-forestry on 480 ha of village land across 75 villages, with a 25-year assessed carbon accumulation rate of 2.5 tC/ha/yr, contributing to climate mitigation and reducing women's drudgery.
- **Pine Needle-to-Product:** Transforming pine needle forest waste into handmade papers, handicrafts, and bio-briquettes, reducing forest fire risk while creating economic opportunities for women's self-help groups.

A total of seven capacity-building programmes were organised between September 2021 and July 2023 under the APN project, engaging approximately 1,058 stakeholders including farmers, NGO representatives, village panchayat members, youth, media personnel, and university students.

Prof. Maikhuri also identified key barriers to local climate adaptation implementation, including limited investment in local capacities, low institutional accountability, constrained local-level financing, and contested political and social power relations in adaptation planning.

2.3 Pakistan: ILK and Locally-Led Adaptation in Gilgit-Baltistan

Dr. Karamat Ali (Karakoram International University, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan) presented research and institutional activities from the Pakistan component, focusing on the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya (HKH) region and the dual imperatives of ILK documentation and disaster risk reduction.

Dr. Ali contextualised the scale of climate challenges in Gilgit-Baltistan: the HKH region feeds ten major Asian river systems providing freshwater to two billion people, while over 200 high-risk glacial lakes have been identified in the region. Mountain areas are warming faster than lowlands — up to 0.3°C per decade — accelerating glacier retreat, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, and biodiversity loss.

KIU has been a key implementing partner in both the GLOF-I (GEF/UNDP, 2011–2017) and GLOF-II (Green Climate Fund, ~USD 37 million, 2017–2025) projects. ILK has been central to both phases:

- Community-based early warning systems incorporate traditional knowledge of river sounds, glacier behaviour, and weather patterns alongside modern sensor-based systems.
- Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) are structured around local leadership and traditional governance systems, with communities developing their own risk management and evacuation plans.
- Indigenous knowledge informs scientific hazard mapping — local communities identify dangerous glacial lakes, flood pathways, and safe zones.

Particularly notable were three innovative ILK-grounded climate adaptation technologies presented:

- **Ice Stupa:** Piloted by KIU under GLOF-II, this technique involves freezing winter stream water into conical ice structures up to 30 metres tall using gravity-fed pipes. Inspired by Ladakh's ice stupas, these melt gradually in spring to provide irrigation water for high-altitude communities, reducing reliance on retreating glaciers.
- **Glacier Grafting:** An indigenous Himalayan technique for creating artificial glaciers by diverting and freezing water in shaded basins, forming ice reservoirs that melt slowly in dry seasons — practised for centuries in the Karakoram and Ladakh regions.
- **Avalanche Harvesting:** An innovative GLOF-II intervention combining indigenous knowledge with engineering (snow fences, retention walls) to capture and store snow from controlled avalanches, converting a natural hazard into a sustainable freshwater resource.

KIU was assigned specific GLOF-II activities in 2024, including documentation of six indigenous best practices for GLOF risk reduction and climate change adaptation in target valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, updating Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (HVRA) and GIS maps of 16 target valleys, and developing Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guidelines for the region.

2.4 Bhutan: Institutional Partnership and Research Capacity

Namgay (Royal Institute of Management, Bhutan) presented an overview of the Royal Institute of Management (RIM), Bhutan's primary institution for public sector training, research, and governance capacity-building since 1986.

RIM's institutional mandate encompasses training civil servants, conducting governance research, hosting knowledge-sharing forums, and providing consultancy services to both public and private sectors — with a key role in supporting Bhutan's decentralisation and local governance agenda.

The presentation positioned RIM as a prospective collaborator for the ILK-LLA workgroup's research agenda, particularly in the areas of governance, public administration, and sustainability. RIM's ongoing research programmes and platforms — including the Bhutan Journal of Management (BJoM) and the South Asian Management Forum — offer potential venues for collaborative publication and policy engagement.

2.5 Bangladesh: Climate Change, Environmental Health, and Locally-Led Research at AUW

Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin (Founding Director, Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health — 3CEH, Asian University for Women, Chattogram, Bangladesh) presented the work of 3CEH, a research and action centre established in April 2021 with a mission to provide leadership in environmental health and climate change across Asia through teaching, training, research, grassroots initiatives, and evidence-based policymaking.

3CEH operates from the Asian University for Women (AUW), an independent international university dedicated to educating and empowering women from diverse and underprivileged backgrounds across Asia and the Middle East. AUW's commitment to women's leadership and community-driven research provides a distinctive institutional context for 3CEH's transdisciplinary approach — one that merges local and global knowledge, centres community engagement, and connects empirical research with policy advocacy.

Research Focus and Thematic Areas

3CEH's research portfolio spans a wide range of environmental health and climate-related themes of direct relevance to the ILK-LLA agenda, including climate change and socio-economy, planetary health, environmental health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), disaster impacts, forced displacement and homelessness, water insecurity, waste management, rainwater harvesting, and public health. The centre has developed particular expertise in research with and for marginalised and displaced communities, most notably the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) — Rohingya refugees — in the Cox's Bazar camps, Bangladesh.

Completed Projects

3CEH has completed a significant portfolio of internationally funded research, with a strong emphasis on community-based participatory approaches:

- Project Romoni: Improving menstrual hygiene in Rohingya refugee camps, in partnership with the Aspire Institute, Harvard University.
- Household Water Insecurity Experience in Cox's Bazar: A collaborative study funded by UNHCR, Oxfam, and Groundwater Relief examining water access challenges for displaced and host communities.
- Household Water Insecurity in Rohingya Refugee Camps: A collaborative project funded by the University of the West of England, Bristol.
- HEAL in WASH (Humanitarian Empowerment through Active Learning): Developing a roadmap for WASH in the Rohingya refugee crisis, funded by Oxfam GB.

- WASH2 Knowledge Co-creation: Driving and sharing WASH knowledge among AUW and local communities, funded by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.
- Exploring Waste and Sanitation Hazards in Rohingya Refugee Camps: Faculty Research Grant, CAPI, University of Victoria, Canada.

Ongoing Projects

3CEH is currently engaged in four major active projects, reflecting a broadening geographic and thematic scope:

- Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar (K4DM), funded by IDRC, Canada: Exploring knowledge, education, and civic engagement in the context of the Myanmar crisis and its Bangladeshi diaspora implications.
- Catalysing Transformative Change in Planetary Health Education (CATA-Earth), funded by the European Commission Erasmus+: A multi-country initiative to transform planetary health education curricula, with partners in the Netherlands (UMC Utrecht, Elevate BV), Spain (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Indonesia (Universitas Indonesia, Gadjah Mada University), and Bangladesh (AUW and Noakhali Science and Technology University). Activities have included field research in Kutubdia and Khulna, and an annual meeting at UMC Utrecht.
- Lived Experiences of Invisibilized Slum Populations: Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation, and the Way Forward, funded by the American Red Cross (Global Disaster Preparedness Center): Documenting the climate vulnerabilities and coping strategies of urban slum populations in Bangladesh.
- SPIDERS (Sustainable Grassroots Programs and Initiatives for Household Water Security and Hydrological Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy), funded by the Community of Madrid Regional University network: Focusing on grassroots-level water security and hydrological disaster risk reduction.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Dissemination

3CEH has invested significantly in building research capacity among women students and early-career researchers at AUW, through paid research assistantships for data collection, regular mentoring, career development events, and information sessions for fellowship selection. Capacity-building activities have included a teacher training programme co-organised with NUPI and Harvard, WASH workshops, and an international student conference on environmental and health justice. Symposia on the education, environment, and health situation of FDMN camps have been hosted at Cox's Bazar, generating knowledge products including books of abstracts, newsletters (including the Voices of Resilience special edition), and peer-reviewed publications.

Research publications have appeared in journals including Sustainability, Water International, and the Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development, covering topics from drinking water security in refugee camps to waste and sanitation hazards, human-elephant conflicts, and energy access in humanitarian contexts.

Relevance to the ILK-LLA Workgroup

3CEH's work brings a distinct and complementary perspective to the ILK-LLA Workgroup, particularly in three respects. First, its focus on forced displacement and urban informality extends the workgroup's geographic and thematic scope beyond mountain highlands to coastal and lowland Bangladesh — capturing the experiences of communities displaced by climate-linked disasters and persecution. Second, its strong women-centred research model — with a deliberate emphasis on empowering female researchers and community members as knowledge producers — reinforces the workgroup's commitment to inclusive, bottom-up knowledge generation. Third, 3CEH's extensive network of international collaborators (including IDRC, the European Commission, UNHCR, Oxfam, UNHCR, American Red Cross, and universities in North America, Europe, and Southeast Asia) offers significant partnership potential for future ILK-LLA collaborative projects and funding applications.

3. Future Directions for ILK-LLA Workgroup Collaboration

Across the presentations and discussions, several shared priorities and forward-looking commitments emerged to guide the ILK-LLA Workgroup's agenda in the coming years.

3.1 An actionable Blueprint for Locally-Led Adaptation

Dr. Shivakoti's regional presentation proposed a comprehensive LLA Blueprint for the Asia-Pacific — a tool to assist partners in formulating LLA actions that are led by local needs and aspirations and institutionalised over time. The blueprint's key highlights include:

- Understanding climate change impacts on different actors across the mountain gradient.
- Identifying and packaging solutions — existing, improvised, and newly introduced — into bankable proposals ready for climate finance.
- Tracking the quality of progress and assessing performance of adaptation actions.
- Creating local opportunities for youth to lead and participate in LLA.
- Strengthening bottom-up adaptation communication across local, national, and international levels to influence top-down decision-making.

A key design principle is that devolving decision-making must occur both internally (within communities) and externally (vis-à-vis government and donor institutions), bridging existing gaps between local priorities and external financing processes.

3.2 Regional Cross-Learning and Comparative Research

The workgroup affirmed the value of regional cross-learning as a distinctive contribution of the ITLK-LLA group within AMAA. Building on case material from Nepal, Fiji, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, members identified the following priorities for deeper collaboration:

- Comparative documentation of ILK-based adaptation practices across elevational and cultural gradients in the Asian mountain region (Hindu Kush Himalaya, Karakoram, central Himalaya, Southeast Asian uplands, Pacific islands).
- Joint publications synthesising findings across national partners to contribute to international scientific discourse on locally-led climate adaptation.
- Collaborative training and capacity-building programmes for early-career researchers, building on models such as the APN project's stakeholder engagement activities in India.
- Shared methodological approaches for integrating ILK with scientific monitoring — including community vulnerability mapping, climate-agrobiodiversity calendars, and participatory hazard mapping.

3.3 Policy Mainstreaming and Advocacy

A recurring theme across country presentations was the potential and challenge of mainstreaming ILK-based adaptation into national climate policy frameworks. The workgroup identified opportunities for collaborative advocacy around:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Ensuring ILK and LLA principles are explicitly embedded in countries' international climate commitments.
- State and subnational action plans: Leveraging successful models (e.g., Uttarakhand SAPCC prioritisation of millets and traditional knowledge task forces) to advocate for ILK integration in equivalent frameworks across partner countries.
- Climate finance accessibility: Developing guidance for local communities and institutions on packaging ILK-based adaptation solutions for access to Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and other finance mechanisms.

3.4 Youth Engagement and Early-Career Researcher Development

Multiple presenters highlighted the critical role of youth as custodians and innovators of Indigenous knowledge systems and as frontline agents of adaptation. The workgroup endorsed greater attention to:

- Creating meaningful roles for youth in ILK documentation, participatory research, and adaptation planning.
- Supporting early-career researcher networks to develop comparative competency in ILK research methodologies.
- Linking ILK-based adaptation innovation to sustainable livelihood opportunities for young people in mountain communities.

4. Indigenous Data Governance: Insights from the Public Webinar

The hybrid public webinar on 22 February 2026 brought together two leading international scholars to engage the ITLK-LLA community on fundamental questions of knowledge governance, data sovereignty, and epistemic justice — topics of direct relevance to how the workgroup conducts its research, communicates findings, and collaborates with Indigenous knowledge holders.

4.1 Professor Maui Hudson: Many Ways of Knowing — Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance

Professor Maui Hudson (Te Kotahi Research Institute, University of Waikato, Aotearoa New Zealand) presented an extensive framework for understanding Indigenous data sovereignty within the context of research governance for Indigenous communities. Drawing on his foundational work with the Research Data Alliance's International Indigenous Data Sovereignty Interest Group and the Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA), Prof. Hudson identified three interconnected challenges facing Indigenous communities in relation to data and knowledge:

- Indigenous communities hold enormous collections of tangible and intangible cultural material, knowledge, and data — yet significant provenance information is often missing, and Indigenous communities are largely not the legal rights holders.
- The volume of researchers working in Indigenous communities and collecting data and biological samples has never been greater, raising urgent questions of consent and benefit-sharing.
- Colonial knowledge infrastructures — archives, museums, libraries, and digital repositories — were not designed to reflect or serve Indigenous self-determination.

Prof. Hudson drew a critical distinction between Indigenous Data Sovereignty and conventional data sovereignty: while the latter holds that data is subject to the laws of the nation in which it is stored, Indigenous Data Sovereignty asserts that data is subject to the laws of the nation from which it is collected — including Tribal nations and Indigenous peoples.

He articulated two foundational governance goals:

- Data for Governance: Gaining access to use data to transform the lives of Indigenous peoples.
- Governance of Data: Managing access to data to ensure its use is relevant and responsive to Indigenous communities.

Prof. Hudson presented the CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics) — developed as a complement to the FAIR data principles — as a framework for ensuring that data systems reflect Indigenous self-determination rather than simply open access.

He also introduced the Local Contexts initiative and the Biocultural (BC) Labels and Traditional Knowledge (TK) Labels framework — a set of digital tags developed collaboratively with Indigenous communities to communicate rights, responsibilities, and expectations regarding the use of cultural heritage materials and data in institutional repositories. An application of the Whakatōhea Labels within Manaaki Whenua collections was showcased as a working example.

Prof. Hudson concluded with a call for a Cultural Reciprocity Framework — research relationships that respect Indigenous cultural authority, align with Indigenous values and assets, reflect cultural integrity, and verify the centrality of Indigenous knowledge. He emphasised that Indigenous control of data, narratives, and aspirations is non-negotiable for equitable research partnerships.

4.2 Professor Dr. Sonajharia Minz: Epistemic Justice in the Highlands

Professor Dr. Sonajharia Minz (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; UNESCO Co-Chair in Transforming Indigenous Knowledge Research Governance and Rematriation; Former Vice-Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Jharkhand) addressed the challenge of epistemic justice for Indigenous communities in the Asian mountain research context.

Prof. Dr. Minz opened by grounding the discussion in the reality of Adivasi (tribal) communities in India — over 750 tribes comprising 8.6% of the national population — who face extreme inequalities in educational attainment, economic participation, and political recognition despite their role in preserving 80% of the world's biodiversity.

She identified two fundamental paradoxes that impede the recognition of Indigenous knowledge systems:

- The legitimacy paradox: Indigenous knowledge systems emerge from philosophical bases not easily translatable into the language of Western science, making them vulnerable to dismissal as 'unscientific' and denial of epistemic legitimacy.
- The scalability paradox: The contextual specificity that gives Indigenous knowledge systems their adaptive power also renders them resistant to the scaling-up logic demanded by mainstream policy.

Drawing on her experience in mainstreaming Adivasi knowledge in higher education — including the establishment of MA programmes in Santal Culture Studies and the introduction of tribal languages into university curricula — Prof. Dr. Minz argued that language is not merely a medium of communication but an epistemology: it encodes Indigenous ways of knowing, classifying, and relating to the natural world. Epistemic justice, in this framing, requires that linguistic diversity be treated as cognitive diversity.

She connected this framework to ongoing debates in research data governance, invoking both the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and the CARE principles as complementary tools — arguing that neither FAIR without CARE, nor CARE without FAIR, is sufficient for genuine knowledge justice.

Prof. Dr. Minz also introduced the concept of 'Indigenous Abundant Intelligence' as a counter-narrative to artificial intelligence-centric approaches to knowledge management: the deep, contextual, relational intelligence embedded in Indigenous knowledge systems represents a form of intelligence that AI systems cannot replicate and must learn to respect.

Her presentation concluded with a call to decolonise research governance by centering local, bottom-up, locally-led approaches that treat education, health practices, and land governance as sites of epistemic justice.

4.3 Implications for the ILK-LLA Workgroup

The webinar presentations have direct methodological and ethical implications for the ILK-LLA Workgroup's research agenda:

- Applying CARE alongside FAIR: All ILK documentation and data management activities under APN-funded and future projects should be reviewed against the CARE Principles to ensure Indigenous communities retain authority, benefit, and governance over their knowledge and data.

- **Local Contexts Labels:** The Workgroup may explore the application of BC and TK Labels in any digital archives or institutional repositories where ILK materials are held, in consultation with relevant knowledge holder communities.
- **Language and epistemology:** Research methodologies should be designed to preserve the linguistic contexts of Indigenous knowledge systems, resisting pressures to translate or reframe knowledge in ways that strip it of meaning.
- **Community consent and authorship:** Research partnerships with Indigenous communities should ensure meaningful consent, co-design of research questions, and attribution of community authorship in all outputs.
- **Decolonising research communication:** The Workgroup's communications and publications should actively centre the voices and perspectives of Indigenous knowledge holders rather than subordinating them to Western academic framing.

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

The February 2026 ILK-LLA Workgroup meeting and hybrid webinar demonstrated the growing vitality and relevance of the AMAA cross-cutting workgroup in connecting Indigenous knowledge governance debates with on-the-ground adaptation practice across the Asian mountain region.

The meeting affirmed four overarching commitments going forward:

- Deepen regional knowledge exchange by documenting and comparing ILK-based adaptation practices across the Hindu Kush Himalaya, Karakoram, central Himalaya, and Pacific island contexts, with emphasis on co-learning across partner institutions.
- Advance the LLA Blueprint by completing the conceptual and practical framework for devolving adaptation decision-making, and piloting it across model sites in Nepal, India, and Pakistan.
- Embed Indigenous data sovereignty principles into all workgroup research activities, drawing on the CARE and Local Contexts frameworks presented at the webinar.
- Engage with national and international policy processes to mainstream ILK and locally-led adaptation into NDCs, NAPs, and climate finance access mechanisms.

Join the Conversation

The ILK-LLA Workgroup welcomes expressions of interest from AMAA members, partner institutions, and civil society organisations working on Indigenous knowledge, locally-led adaptation, and mountain sustainability across Asia. Contact the AMAA Coordination Office at Asia.CoordinationOffice@amaa.earth or visit www.amaa.earth for membership and collaboration opportunities.

6. Contributors and Presenters

The ILK-LLA Workgroup gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following presenters and institutions:

Presenter	Affiliation
Prof. Maui Hudson	Te Kotahi Research Institute, University of Waikato, Aotearoa New Zealand
Prof. Dr. Sonajharia Minz	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; UNESCO Co-Chair in Transforming Indigenous Knowledge Research Governance and Rematriation
Dr. Binaya Raj Shivakoti	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan (Regional Coordinator, APN Project)
Prof. R.K. Maikhuri	Department of Environmental Science, HNB Garhwal (Central) University, Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India
Dr. Karamat Ali	Department of Environmental Sciences, Karakoram International University, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan
Namgay	Royal Institute of Management (RIM), Thimphu, Bhutan
Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin	Founding Director, Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH), Asian University for Women (AUW), Chattogram, Bangladesh

This summary report was prepared by the AMAA Asia Coordination Office on behalf of the ITLK-LLA Cross-cutting Workgroup. For queries or corrections, please write to Asia.CoordinationOffice@amaa.earth. © 2026 Asian Mountain Academic Alliance. www.amaa.earth

3.4) Seminar on “Locally Led Adaptation Incorporating Indigenous Traditional and Local Knowledge (I/TLK) System: A Need for Redefining Climate Action” to graduate students and faculties of University of Faisalabad, Pakistan



PROF. DR. IQBAL AHMAD KHAN (S.I. H.I.)
VICE CHANCELLOR



UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE
FAISALABAD-PAKISTAN

Seminar on

**LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION INCORPORATING
INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL AND LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM: A NEED FOR
REDEFINING CLIMATE ACTION**
20 AUGUST, 2024 11 - 00 AM



3.5) Contribution in other conferences and forums

- Presented paper “Role of Local Placed-based Knowledge in Sustaining Locally Led Adaptation to Climate Change: Insights from Vietnam” at the International Conference on Advancing Solutions for Climate Change Challenges in Rural Viet Nam on 4-7 November 2024.
- Presented “Catalysing Local Adaptation Innovations: Linking Indigenous Knowledge with National Commitments through Strong Partnerships” in the session Partnerships for Sustainability session (PS-2) organized by APN at the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) on 23 July 2024 Pacifico, Yokohama.



Catalysing Local Adaptation Innovations: Linking Indigenous Knowledge with National Commitments through Strong Partnerships

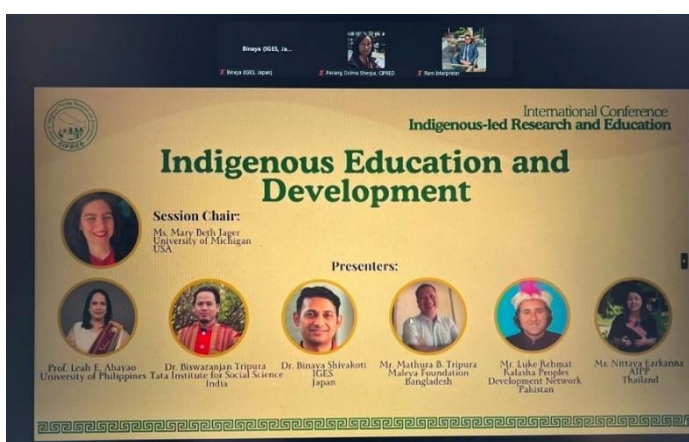


Binaya Raj Shivakoti
Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
(with inputs from partners/collaborators)



23 July 2024, 15:30 - 16:30,
Pacifico Yokohama

- Presented and contributed as a panel in “Communication and Education of Traditional, Indigenous and Local Knowledge (T/ILK) System for Effective Adaptation and Resilience at the Local Level” at the Second International Conference on Indigenous-Led Research and Education from 29-30 September 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal



- *Participation in CRPP Partnership Forum 2026, which is an annual event under the Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP), organised by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its partners. The platform was used to outreach project activities with wider stakeholders including governments and institutes mobilising climate finance*



Picture source: ADB

- *Keynote presentation and panel discussion at 2026 Indigenous Arts Festival & International Forum at JinFong, April 2026, organized by Taitung County and ICLEI Kaohsiung Capacity Center, Taiwan*





台東縣金峰鄉公所



ICLEI

- **FORUM B | Resilient Communities: Indigenous and Community-based Knowledge for Living with Climate Risk**
- **FORUM C | Sustainable Agriculture: Advancing Climate-Smart and Nature-based Agri-Food Systems for Local Sustainability**

Date Morning, 15-16 April 2026 (Wednesday & Thursday)

Location Zhengxing Village Flower Fields, Jinfong Township

Participants Representatives from the Indigenous Peoples Council, National Land Management agencies, Disaster Prevention and Response Centres, ICLEI member cities, county governments, Indigenous townships in Taitung County, and local leaders from Jinfong Township (township representatives, village heads, community organisations, youth groups), approx. 80 participants. *(Live-streaming available for ICLEI members.)*

Language Mandarin, English, and Japanese (with on-site interpretation)

Additional Programme 14:00–16:00 Community and village site visits –Group

Session B | Resilient Communities: Indigenous and Community-based Knowledge for Living with Climate Risk

Located at the intersection of the Central Mountain Range and the Taimali River basin, Jinfong Township is characterised by steep terrain and rapid water accumulation. During typhoons and seasonal rainfall events, precipitation can concentrate quickly, resulting in some of the highest cumulative rainfall levels in eastern Taiwan. Past extreme rainfall events have been accompanied by landslide risks and sudden river surges, highlighting the high levels of exposure, uncertainty, and climate-related risk faced by mountainous Indigenous communities.

Under these conditions, the challenge is not only how to reduce risk, but how to live with risk while sustaining community livelihoods, culture, and development. Forum B centres on *resilient Indigenous communities and place-based adaptation*, adopting a

and circular production. These cases highlight how local governments can foster **positive cycles between sustainable production and local consumption** through policy alignment, community participation, and cross-sector collaboration.

Through cross-regional exchange, participants will further discuss **agricultural ecosystem services, Indigenous and local knowledge systems, and the cultural values embedded in agro-ecological landscapes**, while identifying pathways to strengthen local sustainable production–consumption linkages in response to the multiple challenges faced by small towns and Indigenous communities.

15 APRIL

◆ **Forum B&C**

Time	Session	Moderator/Speaker
08:30-09:00	Registration	-
09:00-09:10	Opening & Welcome Remarks	- Jinfong Township - Indigenous Peoples Council
09:10-09:20	Introduction of Forum B: Building Resilient Tribes and Townships	Yisheng Yang, Director, ICLEI KCC
FORUM B- Resilient Communities		
09:20-10:00	Session B-1 Resilience Building and Community-Led Adaptation Strategies in Rural Townships and Villages #Local-based adaptation #Nature-based Solutions #Local or Indigenous knowledge	Dr. Binaya Raj SHIVAKOTI, Research Manager, Climate Change, IGES Japan
10:00-10:20	Session B-2 Climate Resilience in Rural Communities #Nature-based Design #Community Resilience	Kuriyama Town, Hokkaido, Japan (online)
10:10-10:30	Tea Break	



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