

Indigenous and Local Pathways to Living, Multidimensional Adaptation:

Material, Cultural, and Spiritual Stewardship of Nature Across Generations

Version 10 August

I. Context

The third cycle of National Adaptation Plans (NAP 3.0)¹ represents a decisive shift from strategy design to implementation and investment, tapping a broader array of finance channels and delivery modalities, to accelerate the achievement of adaptation goals.

Across all biomes, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have long responded to climate change with adaptive knowledge systems and practices grounded in their diverse worldviews and experiences that are simultaneously economic, spiritual, ecological and sociocultural.

Yet these knowledge systems and diverse worldviews remain peripheral in national planning and largely invisible to adaptation finance because they are often:

- Relational and cyclical, not linear and output-driven;
- Family- or community-led, rather than institution-led;
- Smaller in scale but deeper in holistic thinking, making it difficult to “fit” into conventional metrics.

Bringing NAP 3.0 in dialogue with Indigenous worldviews and local practices, therefore offers a dual opportunity: to strengthen national adaptation processes and to safeguard the rights and agency of those peoples and communities who steward nature for the benefit of all.²

Within this context, the session will explore how the diverse knowledge systems, experiences, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities can both shape, and be advanced by, NAP 3.0, through the objectives below.

II. Objectives

- **Understanding NAP 3.0 pillars** through Indigenous relational ontological lens and local communities’ perspectives, including re-examining what “innovative” adaptation finance means in such contexts.
- **Surface the multi-dimensional impacts** of climate change on Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including non-economic losses (e.g., cultural heritage, place-based knowledge systems, languages, sense of place, and collective stewardship).
- **Showcase Indigenous and community-led adaptation practice and finance pathways**, featuring an Indigenous Peoples’ Adaptation Plan from Brazil

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/NAP-3.0>

² Decision 16/CP.26

- **Catalyze new partnerships and commitments** for financing Indigenous and community-led adaptation plans and action.
- **Elevate local communities' lived experiences and innovative leadership** through trans-local exchange and “scaling deep” so that practices take root rather than only expanding the number of sites or size of budgets.

III. Session Design (90 minutes)

Segment	Duration	Purpose	Lead(s)
<i>Opening Remarks</i>	6 min	Providing a forward-looking vision that weaves Indigenous values, worldviews, and local lived experience into NAP 3.0, the GGA, and adaptation finance to strengthen living, multidimensional adaptation.	Dr. Youssef Nassef
<i>Scene- Setting</i>	5 min	Introducing the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and its Baku Workplan as an enabler of NAP 3.0	Dr. Agrafena Kotova
<i>Storytelling x 4</i>	24 min	Four 6-minute sharing:	
		○ Relational Worldview and NAP 3.0	Fumukazi Zilanie Kamgundanga Gondwe from Nyika plateau in Malawi
		○ Multi-dimensional climate impacts	Robert Karoro
		○ An Indigenous Peoples' Adaptation Plan	Sineia Bezerra do Vale from Brazil
<i>Interactive Dialogue</i>	45 min	Interactive dialogue among Indigenous wisdom holders, representatives of local communities, Party representatives, representatives of financial institutions, and other relevant entities	Chishala Mwenya from Zambia
			FWG facilitator
			Intervenors: Party representatives from Zambia, Liberia, and Lesotho. Party representatives from Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, Mozambique, and Uganda (TBC)
<i>Closing Reflection</i>	10 min	Articulate collective intent and next steps, and honor shared learning	FWG representative

IV. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs

1. **Policy guidance:** concise and actionable recommendations on incorporating diverse worldviews and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into NAP 3.0
2. **Collaboration matrix:** One-page map of concrete collaborative opportunities to channel insights from NAP Expo 2025 into the LCIPP Baku workplan implementation, including ways to amplify the LCIPP annual theme.³
3. **Innovative adaptation financing commitments:** expressions of support (financial and in-kind) for financing Indigenous- and community-led adaptation plans and actions.

Outcomes

4. **Conceptual shift:** enrich participants' understanding of adaptation as a relational, living process rather than a technical fix, framing that will inform NAP 3.0 moving forward.
5. **Operational shift:** sustain the engagement of Indigenous wisdom holders and adaptation practitioners from local communities in the implementation of the NAP 3.0 initiative, including in any relevant advisory and/or expert groups.

V. Mandate

COP 29 welcomed the Baku Workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, consisting of six collective approaches (CA).⁴ The second CA focuses on regional engagement and calls for participating in and/or contributing to at least one existing regional level engagement activity per year (e.g., NAP Expo).⁵ These regional engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, through the work of the LCIPP, aims to amplify their participation and to support the repositioning of regional climate narratives in line with the FWG vision and strategy.⁶

VI. Speaker Profiles (proposed)

1. Dr. Youssef Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Division at the UNFCCC secretariat
2. Dr. Agrafena Kotova, Co-Chair of the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP
3. Robert Karoro, Vice Co-Chair of the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP

³ See decision 4 from FWG 13:

https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-06/Co-Chairs%20%80%99%20Summary%20Note%20of%20Decisions%20from%20the%20FWG%2013_Adopted.pdf

⁴ Per decision 14/CP.29

⁵ Baku Workplan of the LCIPP, see https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2024-12/Baku_Workplan_of_the_Local_Communities_and_Indigenous_Peoples_Platform.pdf

⁶ FWG vision and strategy statement, see https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2023-06/FWG%20Vision_FINAL.pdf

4. Fumukazi Zilanie Kamgundanga Gondwe from Nyika plateau in Malawi
5. Chishala Mweenya from Zambia
6. Sineia Bezerra do Vale from Brazil
7. Party representatives and other relevant entities – intervenors in the interactive dialogue

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