

Adaptation Futures 2020

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS AND ABSTRACTS

Adaptation Futures is the flagship event of the World Adaptation Science Program (WASP) and is the premier international climate change adaptation conference series where practitioners, policy makers, researchers and academics from across the world gather to network, collaborate, learn and inspire!

The next Adaptation Futures conference is being held in New Delhi from 27-30 April 2020, co-hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and UN Environment. With 2020 declared as the year of action on adaptation by the global climate change community, the conference is uniquely placed to contribute to the worldwide momentum on adaptation.

This edition of the conference is significant as it is being held for the first time in Asia, providing an ideal opportunity to highlight adaptation challenges and actions in the Asian context. It will also emphasize knowledge sharing and co-learning for actionable solutions across the Global North and South.

Adaptation Futures is committed to generating a rich and stimulating discourse and providing a platform for engagement between and within the science, practice and policy communities. To achieve this, we invite proposals for sessions and individual abstracts in all areas related to climate adaptation, and in particular, aligning with the following key conference themes:

1. **Governance of Adaptation:**

Governance of adaptation includes how processes, institutions and actors across different scales (international, national, sub-national and local), and sectors interact with each other and within themselves for decision making, implementation and delivery of adaptation solutions. Possible sub-topics within this theme include:

- Transformational adaptation
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks to determine co-benefits, trade-offs and efficacy of adaptation actions
- The role of political will and leadership to address conflicts generated by climate change, ensuring co-ordination between intersectoral policies and effectively manage the implications of international policy on implementation of national and local adaptation initiatives
- Devolution and decentralization to support local and community-based action
- Role of civil society advocacy, including the youth, in raising awareness and securing political commitment to support adaptation of marginalized groups

- Enabling, supporting and channelling private sector action
- International climate policy and its actual implications in national and local implementation of adaptation solutions (through national law, regulations, policy, budgets, and also in practice)

2. Limits to adaptation:

There are limits to what humans and ecosystems can adapt to, yet these are still poorly understood. A range of limits have been identified (bio-physical, economic, sociocultural, technological) that will influence the effectiveness of the planning and implementation of adaptation options, together with processes and factors that constrain adaptation. Possible sub-topics within this theme include:

- Understanding of adaptation limits and better identification of areas where such limits are likely to emerge
- Constraints to scalability of existing adaptation interventions and innovation, including market penetration and barriers to adoption related to culture, knowledge or costs
- Improving understanding of high-end climate scenarios, local outcomes of 1.5, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0 degree climate change scenarios and addressing challenges of adapting to extreme climate change
- Analysing residual risks, detection and attribution, co-benefits, pathways/thresholds on the way to 4 degrees climate change scenarios
- Exploring the concept of loss and damage, especially in relation to limits of adaptation to climate change
- Understanding how the coupled global socio-economic system responds at different levels of warming

3. Fairness and Equity in Adaptation

Fairness in adaptation examines not just the cost and benefit of adaptation actions but also the differential vulnerabilities associated with individual and collective choices taken at different levels of decision-making in the context of present and projected climate change impacts, other social concerns and priorities. This also includes the existing institutional framework that engenders a particular distribution of resources, wealth and power. Climate change compounds the pre-existing vulnerabilities of the already fragile social, economic and political fabric of the society. Possible sub-topics in this theme include:

- Enhancing our understanding of the contradictions and synergies of adaptation in an inequitable world
- Mainstreaming climate justice into adaptation action
- Understanding the implications of climate change on multiple intersecting social identities including class, race and gender among others, to ensure a human-centric approach and an equitable sharing of burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts

- Ensuring that knowledge systems and planning processes are representative, participatory, transparent and accountable
- Adaptation outcomes to build synergies with SDGs and NDCs
- Understanding the role of different institutions and actors in supporting just adaptive management

4. Knowledge for Action

Accelerated and scaled-up action requires improved knowledge of the problem and possible solutions. Improved understanding can lead to innovative, multi-scale and localised solutions by varied stakeholders. This theme invites submissions that address:

- Ensuring effective co-creation of our understanding of climate change adaptation, communication and dissemination of adaptation science for evidence informed policy and practice making
- Demand-driven and user-centered climate services that ensure climate informed decision making
- Focusing on different sources of knowledge (local, traditional, community-based, experiential and indigenous or informal) and their dissemination and scaling up good practices
- Knowledge exchange, networks and co-production, and building of effective collaborations between the South-South and North-South

5. Nature Based Solutions

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines nature-based solutions as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”. These solutions can range from simply protecting natural areas to increasing the genetic diversity of trees, all the way to planting new ecosystems to make spaces greener and clean up polluted areas. This theme invites submissions that address:

- Identifying indicators for assessing the effectiveness of nature-based solutions and addressing related knowledge gaps
- Implementation of nature-based solutions in rural and urban landscapes that improve the quality of life and capitalise on co-benefits
- Understanding existing barriers and potential opportunities for increasing the scale and effectiveness of nature based solutions
- Limits to nature based solutions and alternatives

6. Financing Adaptation

Access to adequate finance is a pivotal concern across international, national and sub-national levels. The need to focus on increasing both private and public funding for adaptation is increasingly acknowledged as a crucial step to

strengthen resilience of nations against climate change and is particularly important in the context of the more vulnerable. This theme invites submissions that address:

- The role of national and sub-national governments, development finance institutions, private actors, academia and the civil society in addressing the adaptation finance gap in developing countries
- Analysing adaptation finance flows and tracking and measuring adaptation finance
- De-risking and climate proofing investments in adaptation
- Understanding the constraints and limits to investment decisions in adaptation, including access to adaptation funds, and finding effective solutions to address them
- Mobilising and catalysing private sector investments in climate change adaptation, by building multi-sectoral collaborations, networks and partnerships
- Development of innovative adaptation finance products in the Global North and the South, and through transnational partnerships

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

SUBMIT HERE: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/login?redirect=/events/1149/symposia/create>

We invite submissions for proposals to organise sessions at Adaptation Futures 2020. Session proposals should have details of proposed presenters and topics, including who will moderate/chair along with the chosen format of the session. We welcome sessions that are purely science-based or practitioner-oriented, as well as sessions that focus on amalgamating science and practice in their agenda. We invite calls for **Open** and **Closed** sessions.

TYPES OF SESSIONS

In an **Open Session**, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, invite one or more speakers to moderate/chair the session, but advertise for and accept contributions from the wider community through their own networks and the conference website. All contributions for an open session will need to be submitted via the conference abstract submission process. The conference Steering Committee may also suggest additional contributors to the session.

In a **Closed Session**, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, and invite all speakers/contributors in the session. Closed sessions therefore require the session proposal to include details of all the speakers/contributors.

SESSION FORMATS

Adaptation Futures is committed to producing rich, interactive sessions which engage diverse participants. So apart from the traditional session format with a facilitator and a

panel of speakers, we welcome proposals using stimulating, innovative formats with plenty of opportunity for audience interaction. A few examples of these formats are given below.

- World Café

This format begins with the first of two or more rounds of discussion for groups of 4-6 seated around a table. Each round is prefaced with a question. At the end of every 15-20 minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the “table host” for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Once all rounds have been completed, key points from each table are presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion.

- Talent Show

The talent show format is ideal for presenting projects, demonstrating technology or pitching ideas. Participants have 3-5 minutes to demonstrate their concepts and, ideally, this is done visually with props to create a “show”. After the demonstrations and presentations, the audience is asked to vote on their favourite. A presenter helps to introduce the acts and keep the audience engaged.

- Campfire Sessions

These sessions are set in a laid-back environment to simulate the atmosphere of storytelling by the campfire. The facilitator introduces a topic and lets the participants create content themselves through discussion. For the remainder of the session, the presenter becomes a facilitator, inviting comments, insights and questions from those around the room. Campfire sessions allow attendees to drive their own learning and share experiences with others, which also assists with networking and building new connections.

- Participatory or Interactive Art

This type of session will allow presenters to share a concrete climate adaptation experience in an interactive format and provide the audience with an opportunity to think about adaptation science in a lateral manner, outside of pure academics. This format includes submissions of theatre, art and design installations or other such projects. The format involves the multi-sensory presentation of material (visual, audio, physical, etc.) that will engage the audience and involve their participation.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Our main criteria for selection will be quality, relevance, diversity and inclusivity. We particularly welcome sessions that:

- Facilitate dialogue between research and government, civil society, international agencies and business

- Contribute to a diverse and balanced programme that focuses on solutions and innovations
- Link adaptation action to sustainable development, investment and planning.
- Contribute to a conference programme with a wide range of topics, stakeholders, scales and regions
- Showcase examples (case studies, best practices, tools) or research that are internationally applicable
- Involve a partner organisation from a different country or adaptation community
- Fit a 90 minute time slot (It is also possible to arrange for two or three linked sessions around a particular topic)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SUBMIT HERE: <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/login?redirect=/stages/1292/submissions/new>

We invite submissions of abstracts for Adaptation Futures 2020. You may submit a research, policy or practice abstract for inclusion in a session under any theme described above.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

All abstracts should directly link to at least one conference theme. Authors should make every effort to craft a well written abstract without grammatical or spelling errors and ensure that the abstract is easy to read and understand. We suggest that authors keep sentences simple, use the active voice and spell out any abbreviations or acronyms. There is a limit of two abstract submissions for a single registered presenting author. However, this does not exclude the opportunity to be a co-author in an unlimited number of abstracts or the opportunity to submit a session proposal separately.

Abstract review criteria include clarity, supporting data, scientific rigour, relevance, potential significance, interest in the topic chosen and innovation or usefulness.

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions of session proposals and abstracts can be made online through the online submission portal. Submissions must be in English and may only be made once. One can save their application in draft format and edit until they are ready for final submission. Before submitting, please carefully read the instructions in the online form, the criteria, conditions and important dates given below.

All session proposals and abstracts will be reviewed by at least 2 members of the Adaptation Futures review panel and the conference Science Committee will make the final decision.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

By submitting an abstract, authors agree to publication of the abstract, if accepted, on the conference website and in other conference materials such as the Programme Book.

Authors also agree to publication of photos, video recordings or live streaming of the presentations.

The Science Committee of Adaptation Futures 2020 is the final arbiter of:

- Whether the session proposal or abstract is accepted or rejected
- Whether it will be an oral or a poster presentation
- The session in which the abstract will be placed
- The date and time that the presentations will take place

Please note: All accepted presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fees. However, if you are from a Low or Lower Middle Income country*, you are eligible to apply for one of the attendance grants. Kindly understand that there are limited grants available, and selection for one will be based on the ranking of your abstract.

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE DATES:

Submission of session proposals	5 Sep- 31 Oct 2019
Notification of acceptance (session proposals)	15 Nov 2019
Submission of general abstracts	5 Sep- 31 Oct 2019
Submission of abstracts (under selected open sessions)	15 Nov- 30 Nov 2019
Notification of acceptance for selected abstracts	15 Dec 2019
Early bird registration	15 Oct 2019-15 Jan 2020

If there is sufficient interest in having extended abstracts published in conference proceedings, we will invite submissions from 1-15 February, 2020.

For further information, please visit our [website](#).

* As per World Bank Guidelines, available at <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/CLASS.xls> or <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.