

WS 7: STRATEGIES TO REACH SCALE:

ADAPTATION AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT INITIATIVES IN COASTAL ZONES

Thursday, 12 July 2018: 15:45 – 17:45

Resorts World Convention Center: Room Virgo 2

Background

There has been an increasing recognition of the fact that successful adaptation solutions to the impacts of climate change are often thought and designed at the local level. By drawing on communities, scientific and/or business solutions and lived experience, much can be learned about the ways in which adaptation can be supported and brought to scale. Many adaptation measures are successful, because they have empowered communities to take ownership of their design and implementation. However, when they are taken to scale, these solutions can lose connection to the lived experience. Striking the balance between reaching scale and retaining community empowerment is a challenge.

Coastal zones are among those most at-risk to the impacts of extreme and slow onset events brought about by the changing climate. They are exposed to a range of coastal hazards and this trend is expected to continue into the future. Research shows that due to the high coastal population exposure in the Asia Pacific region, communities living in low-elevation coastal zones will become more vulnerable. To address these realities and help reduce vulnerabilities, various initiatives have been (or are being) implemented in the region that aim to strengthen resilience of governments, business groups and communities. This session will showcase approaches (from different organizations) that show building resilience and adaptive capacities of communities in coastal zones and identify ways on how they reach scale.

Objective

The workshop/session aimed to explore ways to support and bring coastal zone communities' resilience agendas to scale so that they become more widely adopted and lead to transformative impacts. It focused on how to bridge the gap between the local, subnational, and national levels, and on the complementary roles of formal and informal institutions, focusing on ways to connect communities to higher-level policy, technical assistance and information for effective adaptation support.

Speakers and Moderator

The session was organized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in close collaboration with the Adaptation Programme of the UNFCCC

Speakers:

1. Rima Al-Azar, Global Climate Governance Coordinator, FAO
2. Andi Eka Sakya, Principal, Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology
3. Benjamin William, Secretary General / CEO, Singapore Red Cross
4. Dr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, Environment and Development Division UN-ESCAP
5. Donna Lagdameo, Senior Policy Adviser and Asia Pacific Focal Point, RCRC Climate Centre
6. Youssef Nassef, Director, Adaptation Programme, UNFCCC Secretariat
7. Tomasz Chruszczow, High Level Climate Champion, Poland

Moderator: Mr. Steve Chao, Senior Presenter at Al Jazeera

Key Messages

Question on Scaling-Up --

What are the innovative models to the scaling up of community adaptation solutions in coastal zones to achieve policy influence?

- We need innovative models, policy and governmental frameworks, coordination, awareness, communication and technology
- Being innovative can sometimes mean starting and using what we already have and improve on it. This will not only help communities understand things better, but it is also the most practical and effective solution. Innovation is about finding ways to connect and be more responsive to the needs on the ground. Innovative solutions are customized based on the different needs of communities and realities on the ground.
- An innovative model is one that is timely. Being ready and being first are core to our work. Coastal communities are at risk with flooding, among others. We need to ensure that innovative solutions are not just piloted in a small community but that it should look at the big picture; identify areas most at risk; and develop mechanisms that will allow people and governments to act early and act based on forecast
- Let us derive lessons from 1992 Integrated Coastal Zone Management... countries are small; cities are not far from the coast; inland and coasts must be taken together. Low lying coastal islands have been providing momentum for pushing the envelope of ambition including on adaptation — from the insurance scheme proposal in 1992 to the push for 1.5 to the creation of the WIM
- We need to scale up to a visioning develop synergy between climate policy and human development
- As the phenomena becomes more cross-border, actors need to discern how their actions will result in consequences in other countries or industries
- Coastal zones, whether in low lying areas of small island states or in mega deltas in bigger countries, are integrated areas of vulnerabilities — with multiple sectors and hazards – and they need integrated approaches. We need to use Integrated Approach and cannot afford to work in silos.
- For coastal zones, planning adaptation is equal to planning development
- For scaling up, key issues are (i) enabling environment and policies that allow for scaling up; (ii) coordination both vertical (from one level to another) as well as horizontal at each level among all stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society) and (iii) awareness-raising.
- NDCs offer an opportunity to scale up and to enhance coordination.

Question on Scaling-Out --

Focusing on multiplication effect, what are the specific enabler and barriers to particular contexts in coastal zones?

- Enablers
 - While scaling out is about repeating the same cookie-cutter initiative from one community to the next, ownership and customization should be ensured — there is no one size fits all
 - Involving the younger generations is key
 - Transformative and forward-looking leaders and champions who will not just drive the process but will inspire people to come together and be part of the change. Being transformative means utilizing the most influential “language” the (next) generation will explore, that is through technology;
 - Global coalitions and platforms
 - The three main enablers are capacities, technology (e.g., use of ICTs in Caribbean) and funding.

- The importance of using an ecosystem-based approach which takes into consideration the physical aspects (acidification, rise of water temperature, sea level rise), social aspects (such as vulnerability, gender) and governance issues.
- Barriers
 - Leaders (again). The role of political leadership is also important in driving the resilience agenda forward and sometimes this is not a priority for city government. Identifying champions within the stakeholders (either government or non-government) has been one way of addressing this.
 - When we force “effective” solutions in one coastal zone to also be “effective” in another coastal zone. Each coastal zone is different from each other – in a number of aspects and understanding the operating context is critical. We cannot simply copy and paste. Because communities have different needs and levels of vulnerabilities and risk exposure, we need to apply local/regional context-specific approaches when we scale-out.
 - How to overcome and remoteness to increase participation and how to consider the specificity of each context to avoid the cookie cutter approach.

Question on Measuring Success in Scaling Initiatives --

What can be considered a successful scaling initiative? And how to measure this success?

- Success is when coastal communities are safer and more resilient communities today and tomorrow. In scaling out and up, communities’ needs should always take center stage
- Success is measured when mindsets and actions have changed.
- When risk-informed actions/programs/plans that are part of regular funds at the local and national level – this is success.
- Coastal zones, whether in low lying areas of small island states or in mega deltas in bigger countries, are integrated areas of vulnerabilities — with multiple sectors and hazards – and they need integrated approaches. (HIS approach – Holistic, Integrated and Spatial)
- Several challenges: lack of data, lack of baseline information, how to balance specificity with aggregation, weak capacity to do M&E, how to increase learning by doing and integrating lessons learnt.