

Strategic Documentation on the ARA Launch at COP26, Covering Function, Membership and Operation

Following the plenary meeting held on 5 May, in which the salient aspects of the ARA's governance structure were agreed, the ARA secretariat focused efforts related to the Alliance's functions, membership and operations, in order to realise a successful launch at COP26. These can be summarised in the following interlinked categories.

- The development and launch of six workstreams

In order to begin the ARA's operations and give effect to its functions even while the Alliance was being co-developed, six interlinked workstreams were launched, in effect linking the functions to the outcomes via specific activities under each workstream. These included: Evidence Review and Analysis; Consultative Processes; Co-Creation Space; Tracking, Sharing and learning; UNFCCC Linkages and Strategic Partnerships; and the Membership Campaign. The updated ARA [concept note](#) illustrates the linkage between the functions, workstreams and outcomes, and provides an overview of each workstream. Detailed documentation on each workstream can be accessed [here](#).

- The development of the ARA membership base

At the time of its launch, the ARA had 100 members. Membership to the ARA is conferred upon an organisation signing the [membership proforma](#), which stipulates the key conditions of ARA membership. These conditions were determined by consensus in May 2021 among the organisations that have been actively involved in the development of the ARA. Together, these members issued a [joint statement](#) at the ARA launch, declaring their intent to work together to realise a paradigm shift in action research for climate adaptation.

- The co-development of the Action Research for Impact Principles

The [Action Research for Impact Principles](#) were developed in concert with organisations engaged in the ARA's development, over the course of 2021. Organisations seeking to become ARA members were invited to provide inputs to, and shape the principles. The purpose of these Principles is to align the action research community with a single set of tenets that will guide the paradigm shift that the ARA seeks to effect.

- Socialisation of the ARA's goals and approach via a series of workshops and events

The ARA's functions were socialised during workshops targeting different communities of practice, at high-profile conferences taking place during the year, such as the [Asia-Pacific Climate Week](#), the [London Climate Action Week](#), and [CBA-15](#).

- The planning and execution of a high-profile launch event as part of the official COP26 Presidency programme on Science and Innovation Day, held on 9 November 2021.

The ARA was officially launched at "[ROAR: Science and Innovation for Climate Action](#)", an event of the COP26 Presidency programme. [Additional, supportive launch events](#) took place at COP26 to maximise the visibility of the ARA. A robust communications strategy amplified the visibility of the ARA launch, including through a [press release](#), [blogs](#), [newspaper coverage](#), [focused coverage on the COP26 website](#); and social media.



CONCEPT NOTE

JULY 2021

As part of the UK COP26 Presidency Adaptation & Resilience campaign, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is working with partners to co-develop an international Adaptation Research Alliance for launch at COP26.

This global collaborative effort will seek to catalyse increased investment and capacity for action-orientated research that supports effective adaptation to climate change – primarily in developing countries – at the scale and urgency demanded by the science.

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is an integral component of the Adaptation & Resilience (A&R) campaign, one of the four goal priority areas for the COP26 Presidency. The ARA focuses on ensuring that increased ambition can be delivered through evidence-based action, supporting the campaign objective to scale up adaptation, and recognising that practical action is required to minimize and avert loss and damage. We need a step-change on adaptation, collaborating with governments, business, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to prepare for climate risks, mobilise further action, and increase adaptation financing.

The campaign is championing a range of initiatives to deliver three core internationally-focussed areas:

Plan - Plan, anticipate and respond to climate change, by enhancing disaster preparedness and embedding climate risk across all investments.

Act - Take action to reduce vulnerability in key priority sectors, enhance adaptive capacity and strengthen resilience of people, nature and the economy by working and learning from others

Finance - Significantly increase overall quantum of finance and improve quality and access of finance to local institutions and those most vulnerable.

The ARA has relevance to each of these areas, connecting up the knowledge-science-action agendas and highlighting the critical role that research has to play in informing effective action at local and national levels to reduce the risks from climate change.

At the centre of the A&R campaign, the UK has launched the Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC) alongside co-chairs Egypt, and Bangladesh, Malawi, St Lucia, Netherlands and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The AAC now has over 30 member countries with the mission of driving adaptation action, based on the best evidence from science and practice. Countries are asked to endorse the ARA and its principles as part of their commitment to the AAC, and will be invited to nominate relevant national organisations/ministries to become ARA members.

The ARA has an excellent opportunity to inform and underpin adaptation actions with pioneering research and technical expertise.

1. Background and Problem Statement

Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a changing climate requires transformational adaptation that is driven by local needs. This must be enabled and supported by actionable knowledge – both of the risks of climate change, and of tangible solutions.

This actionable knowledge requires a process of **action-orientated research** - an iterative process of transdisciplinary and co-produced knowledge that: is usable in practice, outcome-focussed and demand driven; creates equitable partnerships between stakeholders and researchers, leads to capacity-building and enhances the resilience of those most vulnerable to current and future climate risks.

However, the current scope and scale of action-orientated research is insufficient to address the **magnitude and urgency of actions needed** across sectors. **Six key deficits** impede our efforts:

1. There is significant **under-investment** in action-orientated research that improves the understanding of climate risks and leads towards actionable, locally and contextually relevant solutions that meet local needs and demands.
2. Research agendas are often **decoupled** from the needs of the most vulnerable and are not set in user-centred and action-orientated ways. There is also a **mismatch** in the timescales of investments in research (often short-term project orientated) versus the demonstrable need for long-term sustained investment to achieve impactful results.
3. **Misaligned incentives** and institutional barriers often prevent the multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research that is needed to effectively link knowledge and implementation.
4. There is a **lack of coherence** in investments along the chain from research through to useful application, and a **lack of coordination** and collaboration to ensure effective use of scarce funding.
5. There is insufficient emphasis on creating lasting **institutional and knowledge capacities** in the communities, regions and countries facing the greatest climate adaptation and resilience challenges.
6. Implementation efforts do not pay sufficient attention to **learning**, leading to a lack of knowledge about the benefits and effectiveness of adaptation interventions. In part this is due to the **lack of metrics** to evaluate progress on adaptation and resilience.

In short, there is inadequate concerted effort towards the research needed to build climate resilient futures. The Adaptation Research Alliance seeks to redress this situation, seizing the opportunity to strengthen coordination and scale-up investments in action-orientated research to enable achievement of our societal goals under a changing climate, with a particular focus on developing countries.

2. The Adaptation Research Alliance and its Theory of Change

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a coalition of institutions across the adaptation research and action communities that brings together both traditional ‘research funders’, such as science councils, and ‘action funders’, such as development donors, multilateral financial institutions, philanthropic organisations and the private sector – motivated by the shared goal of scaling investment in action-orientated research and effective adaptation solutions. The Alliance provides a forum that brings together these research and action funders with active stakeholders along the full chain from research through to action, including research organisations, intermediary organisations, practitioners, civil society organisations, academic networks, science-policy-practice networks etc. The ARA envisions a world by 2030 in which the research community is a highly valued partner to policymakers, practitioners and the most vulnerable communities, and engages effectively for the delivery of innovative, user-driven solutions for adaptation and resilience from the global to local levels.

The ARA will contribute to the realisation of this vision by implementing its Theory of Change (Figure 1), which defines the ARA’s mission in response to the problem statement, and specifies the functions, outcomes, impacts and values that will enable the ARA to achieve its mission.

2.1 The Mission of the Adaptation Research Alliance

The **mission** of the Adaptation Research Alliance is to accelerate and scale investments in action-orientated research in developing countries, that addresses the pressing knowledge needs for adaptation and resilience of the most vulnerable, builds capacity at all stages from research to action, strengthens research–implementation linkages, and promotes greater learning.

2.2 Functions of the ARA

The ARA will deliver on its mission by conducting activities spanning three strategic functions:

1. **Advocacy:** The ARA will advocate globally for greater emphasis, investment and enabling environment to support and incentivise action-orientated research and its uptake for informing adaptation and resilience from the local to global scales. ARA advocacy will emphasize more widespread uptake of research to inform effective adaptation planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels. A key element of the ARA’s advocacy efforts is the development and uptake of a set of Principles for Climate Adaptation Action Research to better align and link knowledge to action; with the objective of maximizing the benefits to those most at risk.

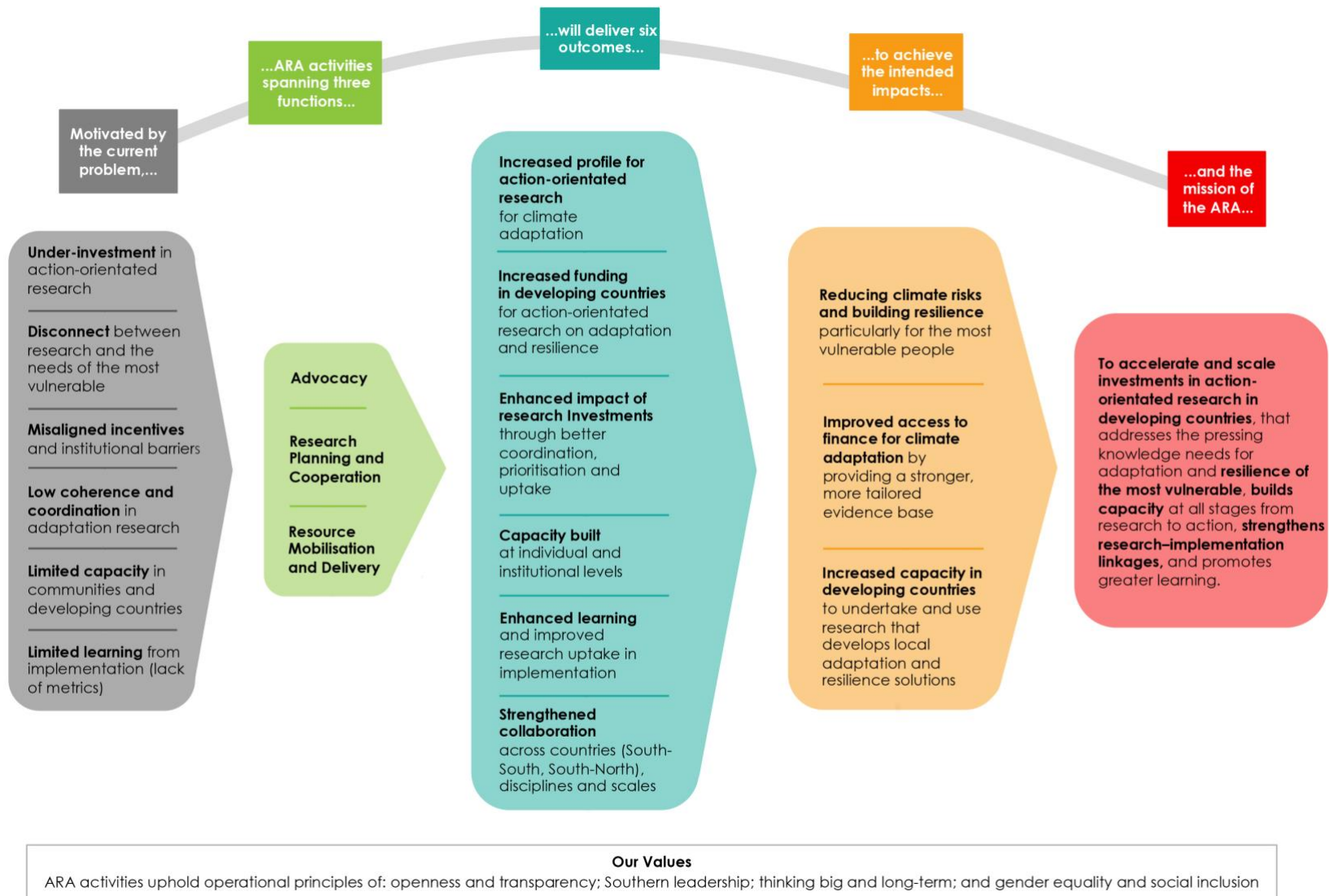


Figure 1. The ARA Theory of Change

2. **Research planning and cooperation:** The ARA will provide a forum for better research planning and cooperation, acting as a connector and an enabler for the variety of actors seeking to promote action-orientated research, target emerging priorities driven by demand, and enabling partners to plan and coordinate better to achieve greater effectiveness and impact of their research efforts.
3. **Resource mobilization and delivery:** The ARA will ‘walk the talk’ by creating, operating and facilitating targeted and long-duration programmes that deliver resources for action-orientated research in developing countries. These programmes will strengthen capacity along the full chain from research to action at scale, recognising the interconnections from individuals to institutions, and the need to build capacity across a range of skills and functions, including transdisciplinary collaboration, peer learning, knowledge brokering, and access to – and use of – information to inform action.

2.3 Outcomes of the ARA

Activities implemented under the three functions will lead to **six outcomes**:

- 1) **Increased profile for action-orientated research** within the research and action communities, with improved understanding of action-orientated, demand driven, user-centred research, its value and best practices;
- 2) **Increased funding in developing countries** for action-orientated research on adaptation and resilience from a diverse set of funders – including traditional research funders and action funders;
- 3) **Enhanced impact of research investments** by ensuring that they are better coordinated, and better targeted to address the priority knowledge needs to inform interventions supporting the most vulnerable, and that there is greater uptake of research to inform decision-making;
- 4) **Capacity-building** along the whole chain from research to action, at individual and institutional levels, expanding on existing schemes and building a more integrated approach to better link science, innovation and application;
- 5) **Enhanced learning** by better engaging the research community in monitoring, evaluation and assessment activities, improved knowledge management and peer-to-peer networks across the research and action communities;
- 6) **Strengthened collaboration** across nations (South-South, South-North), across disciplines and across scales through a global multi-stakeholder coalition, co-developed by southern and northern stakeholders, to improve understanding of risks and promote development of locally-relevant solutions.

2.4 The ARA's Impacts

Taken together, the outcomes of the ARA will lead to the following **intended impacts**:

- Enabling more effective adaptation and resilience actions that reduce climate risks to achieving societal goals in both developed and developing countries, particularly for the most vulnerable people, including women and girls, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, and other marginalised groups;
- Facilitating access to climate finance for adaptation through a stronger, more tailored, evidence base that also improves our understanding of what works;
- Increasing capacity in developing countries to do and use research to develop local adaptation and resilience solutions.

2.5 Our Values

In carrying out its activities under each of the strategic functions, the ARA will adhere to **four core values**:

1. The ARA will be an **inclusive, open and transparent** coalition of interested organisations. This alliance should draw upon – and draw together – existing networks and organizations working in this space, along the full chain from research through to action, including research funders, adaptation funders, research organisations, intermediary organisations, practitioners, civil society organisations, academic networks, science-policy-practice networks etc. The exact priorities, mechanisms and commitments should be co-developed.
2. The ARA will **promote Southern leadership** through its activities and ensure that its programmes and activities empower Southern researchers and institutions, building long-term human and institutional capacity and helping address existing informational, structural and power imbalances.
3. The ARA will ensure its activities follow the mantra “**think big and think long term**”. The importance of avoiding short-termism and piecemeal approaches will therefore be an important factor shaping the nature of the ARA’s activities.
4. The ARA will champion the **promotion of gender equality and social inclusion**. The consideration of the rights of, and opportunities for, women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrants and refugees, among other marginalised groups, will be central in the conceptualisation and implementation of all ARA activities. These considerations will be shaped by relevant local or regional contexts.

3. ARA Membership Criteria, Structure and Operation

The ARA is a multi-stakeholder coalition across the research and action communities. The ARA seeks member organisations and entities from across the research-action nexus of climate adaptation.

3.1 Membership Criteria

To join the ARA, organisations and entities will be encouraged to:

1. Endorse the ARA's Theory of Change and commit to help deliver its outcomes, including by contributing to the tracking, sharing and learning of progress towards these outcomes.
2. Endorse the ARA's Principles for Climate Adaptation Action Research (currently in near-final draft — to be finalised with members by COP26) and share experiences of their practical application.
3. Commit to engage in at least one ARA activity or workstream annually, in a manner that is appropriate and feasible for the organisation / entity.
4. Volunteer for a reasonable degree of participation in the governance of the ARA (including annual meetings and periodical decision-making processes), in keeping with their respective abilities and capacities.

3.2 Governance Structure

The governance structure of the ARA — currently being co-developed by ARA partners — will be light-touch. The core governance structure will include: a Plenary Body as the highest governance body and comprising all ARA members and observers; a Steering Board as the ARA's operational decision-making body and comprising 10-15 ARA members; and a Secretariat as the operational body. In addition, ad-hoc task forces and/or committees will be established as needed to carry out the ARA's activities. The governance structure will evolve over time to respond to growing needs/changing demands as relevant.

3.3 Resources

Resources of the ARA will fall under two broad categories: core and leveraged.

Core resources are resources that will be mobilized and delivered through the ARA Secretariat. These resources will support the Secretariat itself (approximately 8-10 professional full-time international staff members) as well as the portfolio of ARA activities that are implemented centrally through the Secretariat. The ARA will seek to maximize the flow of resources to activities, such as commissioned evidence reviews and consultative processes and advocacy and outreach.

Leveraged funds are funds that will not be centrally pooled, at least initially. They will consist of funds that ARA members or other supporters may wish to expend to advance specific ARA activities or workstreams, but which need not be routed centrally through the ARA Secretariat. For example, an action research programme that is co-funded by multiple donors, under the banner of the ARA. In the future, pooled funds may be considered by ARA members.

The long-term funding model for the ARA is currently under development, and will be designed to be a light, flexible structure to enable the smooth and accountable operation of the ARA via the core and leveraged resources described above.

4. The ARA's Activities and Key Milestones

The Adaptation Research Alliance aims to launch formally at COP26. A soft launch of the ARA took place at the Global Gobeshona Conference on Locally Led Adaptation on January 23, 2021, when 33 ARA members signed the Adaptation Research Alliance Gobeshona Declaration, thereby endorsing the ARA concept and committing to co-develop the Alliance. A robust portfolio of activities to achieve the targeted outcomes is under development and is summarised in Figure 2. The activities are organized into six main workstreams and are described below. More detailed descriptions and implementation plans of the workstreams are under preparation.

1.1 Current ARA Workstreams

The ARA workstreams vary in scope, activity type and anticipated timescales but all are central to achieving short- and long-term ARA goals. Some of the workstreams will undertake pilot/proof-of-concept activities in the run-up to COP26. Each workstream is overseen by a Task Force comprised of ARA members that helps guide the planning and execution of relevant activities. A core team leads the delivery of the key activities within the respective workstreams. ARA members could engage in these workstreams in a variety of ways – from planning & guiding them through the Task Forces, to implementing and delivering them, or simply participating in specific activities.

1. Evidence reviews and analytical backstopping

Promoting evidence-based decision-making is a central goal of the ARA. This includes decision-making regarding investments in action research, which needs evidence regarding the benefits of action research; as well as the emerging and best practices in action research. In the initial phase of this workstream, activities will focus on strengthening this evidence base regarding action research, including benefits, iconic examples & best practices and approaches and modalities for supporting action research. In the long-term, supporting the generation, synthesis and use of evidence for adaptation actions will continue to drive this workstream. The workstream will adopt a collaborative and Southern-led approach, in keeping with the ARA values; which will help strengthen collaboration and capacity and linkages among ARA members and other actors. This should contribute towards increased relevance, uptake and evidence-informed action .

Members interested in contributing to or leading an evidence review may contact the Secretariat or, more specifically, apply to an open call for planned evidence reviews.

2. Consultative processes for identifying research needs & opportunities

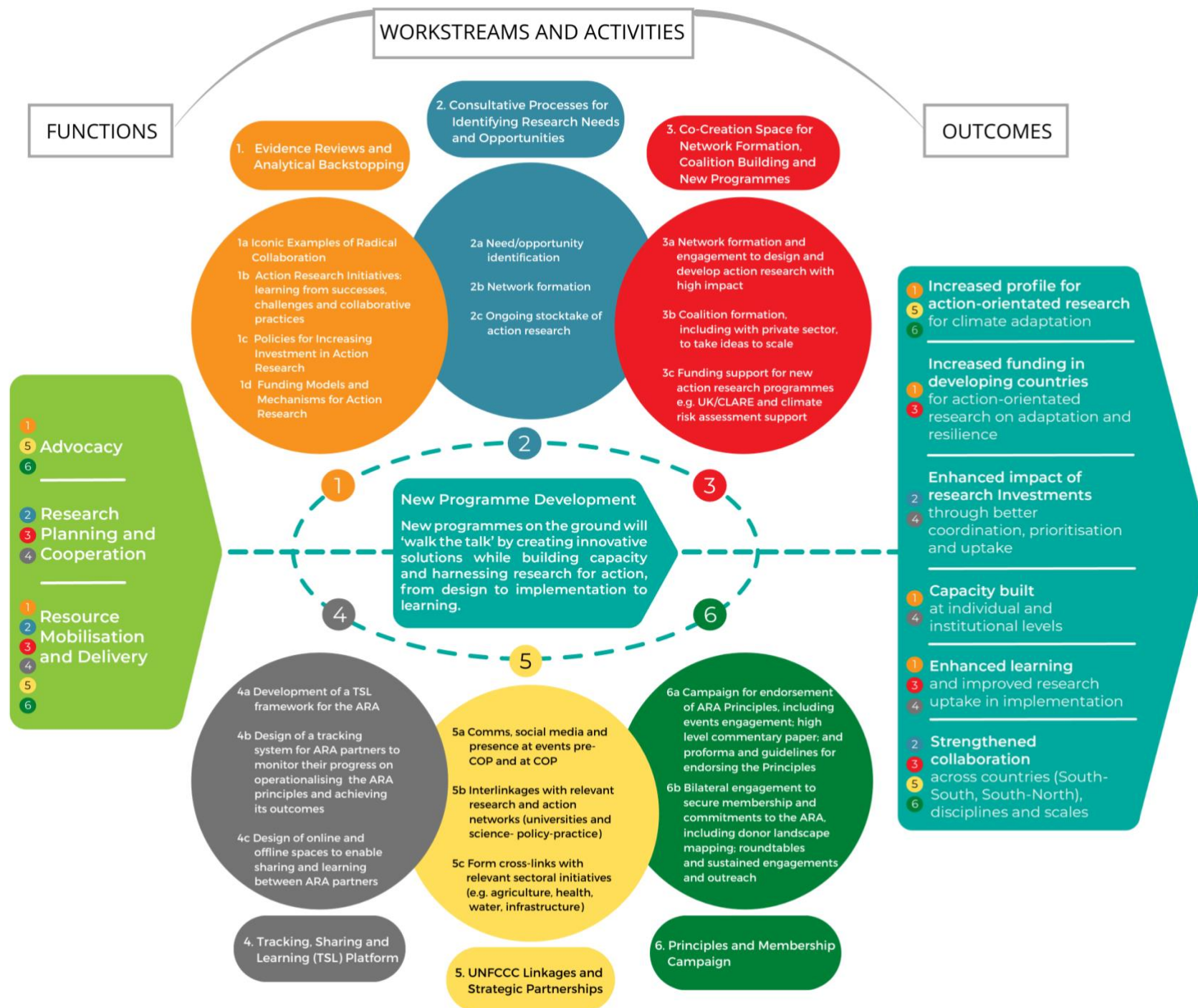
The first of the ARA principles emphasizes that action research needs to be demand-driven and user-centred. This Workstream directly seeks to put this principle into practice by identifying research and knowledge needs in a user-driven manner; ensuring that investments in research are effectively directed and targeted. By convening producers and users of applied research for adaptation, it will enhance the legitimacy of outcomes from research, while also creating a sense of ownership over said outcomes by diverse stakeholders. In turn, these stakeholders will be able to use the outcomes for their own purposes (e.g., advocacy), thereby enhancing credibility of research within the evolving Adaptation & Resilience agenda. The consultative processes will not only help identify needs and the demand for action research; the processes will also surface actors and organizations with the strengths and capabilities to deliver on the research needs. In this way, this Workstream will lay the base for more effective action research programmes.

Members interested in supporting this workstream can participate in the overall Workstream Task Force, or specific Topic Steering Groups), or apply for taking on the role of Delivery Leads, for carrying out the process. In the run-up to COP26, pilot consultative processes are being conducted in four Topic Areas: Food Systems, Global Health, Gender & Social Inclusion, Climate Risk Assessments in LDCs.

3. Co-creation space for network formation, coalition building and new programme development

Effective action research requires transdisciplinary and collaborative networks across the research – action landscape. Existing networks often tend to be narrow and limited to a few institutions especially in the Global South. There is a need to broaden and deepen the range of institutions and organizations that can engage effectively in funding, supporting and carrying out action research. This Workstream will develop co-creation spaces that help incubate new action research activities and programs, through modalities ranging from multi-stakeholder dialogues to seed grants and coalition and network building. These co-creation spaces could contribute towards evidence informed, societally impactful initiatives and programmes which increase climate resilience of the global south.

Members may contribute to this workstream by participating in the Workstream Task Force, or by joining an existing Co-Creation Space or proposing new thematic foci or activities for co-creation.



ARA activities organised under six interlinked work streams will support the ARA's functions and contribute to its outcomes under the ARA Theory of Change. Together, these activities will yield new programmes on the ground.

4. Tracking, sharing and learning (TSL)

The TSL Workstream is core to the ARA's commitment to "enhanced learning by better engaging the research community in monitoring, evaluation and assessment activities, improved knowledge management and peer to peer networks across the research and action communities." The Workstream will collectively track Member and partners' progress on toward achieving ARA outcomes and provide a platform, with guidelines, to share and learn from distinct experiences (both positive and negative). The co-development process and the framework itself will support members to engagement actively with each other and provides the basis for long term peer to peer sharing and learning via online and offline spaces.

Interested members may express their interest in joining the Workstream Task Force as well as contribute to the current development stage of the TSL framework by contributing to the co-development of the framework through the consultations and KIIs, and/or validation and revision of the draft framework.

5. Principles & membership campaigns

A robust and diverse membership across the range of actors in the research – action landscape is essential for effective functioning – and eventual success of the ARA. In the run-up to COP26, this Workstream will focus on a campaign to drive endorsement of – and membership in the ARA. Given the importance of the ARA's principles for Climate Adaptation Action Research as an advocacy tool – and for membership in the ARA itself; the membership campaign will include a campaign for the ARA principles as an integral component. The Workstream will also include efforts for resource mobilization through targeted convenings with donors and other potential ARA supporters.

Members are invited to contribute to the campaign by sharing ARA membership information with other like-minded organizations. Members may also contribute by consolidating the list of asks for donors and to provide input on potential donor engagement and roundtables. Members can contribute to incrementally improve the principles by making them as widely accessible and applicable as possible.

6. UNFCCC linkages & Strategic Partnerships

The ARA aims to work with, and in support of, key on-going adaptation initiatives in the areas of science, policy and practice. Engagement with the UNFCCC processes and bodies, including the Conference of the Parties (COP), shall be a key activity of the Secretariat on behalf of ARA members. Furthermore, the need to mobilise and implement adaptation actions at scale requires the continued development of strategic partnerships within the "adaptation space" and beyond. This Workstream, led by the Secretariat, is an emergent process based on continued developments.

Members may contribute to this Workstream by identifying opportunities, events for engagement, co-developing key messages for events, and facilitating conversations and engagement at country- and institutional-levels with potential strategic partners.

4.2 New Programme Development

The development of new long-duration, action-orientated research programmes that develop user-centred adaptation solutions and build capacity in the global South is a core activity of the Adaptation Research Alliance. Members are encouraged to come together to form new partnerships to fund such programmes, which address the most pressing user needs and opportunities for research, facilitated by Workstreams 2 & 3 above.

4.3 How to get involved

All current and potential ARA members are invited to express their interest and participate in one or more workstreams, or contribute resources, by contacting the ARA secretariat at ara@southsouthnorth.org. For further information, please contact us by email or see the Workstream Overview documents on the ARA website:

https://southsouthnorth.org/portfolio_page/adaptation-research-alliance/

Rosalind West, FCDO
Anand Patwardhan, University of Maryland
Co-chairs of ARA Steering Board



Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) Joint Statement on Launch

9 November 2021

We the undersigned, representing over 90 organisations across 30 economies, have gathered here at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26), in Glasgow, United Kingdom, to launch the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA).

A bold new coalition of global adaptation actors, the ARA will catalyse and scale investment in action-oriented research and innovation for adaptation that strengthens resilience in communities most vulnerable to climate change.

As the IPCC Working Group I Sixth Assessment Report has concluded, human activity has and will continue to cause unprecedented changes in the Earth's climate system, leading to significant impacts on societies, economies and ecosystems. Responding effectively to these impacts requires adaptation that is enabled and supported by actionable knowledge – of both risks of climate change and of tangible responses.

However, the current scope and scale of action-oriented research is insufficient. It is hampered by under-investment, a disconnect between researchers and experiences from the most vulnerable, misaligned incentives, fragmentation, low capacity in developing countries, and limited learning from experience.

As members of the ARA, we endorse its theory of change intended to address these challenges. We commit to co-developing a robust and ambitious portfolio of activities that will lead to a paradigm shift where the needs of the most vulnerable take centre stage, and where research becomes a highly valued tool for all actors involved in climate adaptation including policymakers, funders, practitioners and vulnerable communities.

As a first step in supporting that process, we endorse the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles, which set out guidelines intended to stimulate the needed systemic change: demand-driven and transdisciplinary research, and evidence-based action that emphasises societal impact, builds capacity, and addresses structural inequalities faced by vulnerable groups.

We recognise and welcome the announcements made today of new investments in action-oriented research and innovation for adaptation and resilience. We encourage others to become co-funders or to develop aligned activities to facilitate the achievement of our collective aims.

The ARA calls for increased investment and capacity in the Global South, but our members and actions are not limited by geographical boundaries. International collaboration, sharing and learning from experiences worldwide are essential for informing effective adaptation at the scale and urgency required to keep pace with the rate of climate change.

Join our movement to help create the systemic change that is needed for this to happen. Together, we can enable solutions for adaptation and resilience that make a difference for those who need it the most. To become a member email: ara@southsouthnorth.org





ADAPTATION RESEARCH FOR IMPACT PRINCIPLES

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The Adaptation Research Alliance is a global collaborative effort to catalyse increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research that supports effective adaptation to climate change – primarily in developing countries – at the scale and urgency demanded by the science. The ARA aims to promote evidence-based solutions that best serve those most vulnerable to climate change. This requires an agile ecosystem of action research, with alignment among all influential actors in this nexus: action funders, research funders, policy-makers, beneficiaries on the frontlines of climate change, researchers and intermediaries.

The Adaptation Research for Impact Principles have been designed by the ARA to better align and link knowledge to action; with the objective of maximising the benefits to those most at risk. In particular, widespread endorsement of the Principles should help address some of the key barriers for action research: a disconnect between research and the needs of the most vulnerable; misaligned incentives and institutional barriers; low coherence and coordination in adaptation research; limited capacity in communities and developing countries; and limited learning from implementation.

Relevant entities and organisations are invited to endorse these Principles and to make their endorsements publicly known. Following endorsement, entities and organisations will be encouraged to put these Principles into practice in their work and share learning on these efforts.

It is hoped that the endorsement of these Principles will instigate a systemic change in the landscape of action research - one that puts the needs of the most vulnerable front and centre and leads to enhanced and effective actions for adaptation and resilience.

The ARA is proposing six principles, which address: the purpose of research, the research process itself, the value and benefits of research and the linkages between research and action.

1. Research is needs-driven, solutions-oriented and leads to a positive impact on the lives of those at risk from climate change

Who or what is the research for?

Action research for adaptation is driven by the needs of users and seeks to be solutions-oriented. Research processes should aim to find practical and implementable solutions that can make a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable communities by delivering effective solutions to ameliorate both current and future climate risks. Research priorities and agendas should be set through open and inclusive processes that reflect all stakeholder contexts, needs and interests.

2. Research is transdisciplinary and co-produced with users

How should research be carried out?

From the outset, research is co-produced with the people who will use it in practice and employs transdisciplinary approaches (i.e., incorporating thinking across boundaries of knowledge and disciplines) that emphasise collaboration. Research processes should include a wide variety of stakeholders from the research-action spectrum, drawing from the science, practice and policy communities as well as vulnerable people while respecting their time, interest and capacities. Research processes should enable authentic inclusion of traditional and indigenous knowledge and a diversity of framings, narratives, voices, sectors and systems of knowledge.

3. Research emphasises societal impact

How is research valued?

Research should deliver societal impact at scale by ensuring the uptake of knowledge as well as innovative solutions for enhancing the resilience of those vulnerable to climate change impacts. Research outcomes should be measurable, with metrics that are co-developed with those at risk and relevant for their needs. Research institutions and funders should incentivize outcomes that are directed towards overcoming the challenges most relevant for those at risk.

4. Research builds capacity and empowers actors for the long-term

What can research enable?

Research processes should sustainably enhance the capacity of local institutions, organisations, coalitions, practitioners and researchers to respond to climate risks. This requires that information, tools, and knowledge products are widely accessible (e.g., in appropriate languages, not behind a paywall) and are embedded within capacity development activities that empower actors with the knowledge and ability to drive action. Research should not perpetuate existing inequalities but rather empower actors to question existing practices and produce alternative, innovative, inclusive and more effective pathways of adaptation.

5. Research processes address structural inequities that lead to increased vulnerability and reduced adaptive capacity of those at risk

How can research address root causes of risk?

Action research recognises that power relations manifest through intersectional, gender-based, economic, social, and political inequities, which are often the root causes of vulnerability. Research should encourage all sections of society, especially vulnerable and marginalised individuals, to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decision-making for transformative action. Research should recognise and mitigate the differentials in power-relations, which often leave gender and sexual minorities as well as other marginalised groups less able to effectively engage in – and benefit from – action and research processes. Everyone must have an equal right to be heard.

6. Learning-while-doing enables adaptation action to be evidence-based and increasingly effective

How can research–action links be strengthened?

Research and action processes for adaptation that involve inclusive monitoring and sharing processes allow for 'learning-while-doing' and stronger integration of emerging lessons on what is working and what is not. Additionally, iterative research processes accommodate emerging knowledge and allow adaptation efforts to adjust accordingly and improve effectiveness over time. Flexible approaches to planning and implementation allow real-time feedback loops between research and action, ensuring that evolving knowledge can influence adaptation practice, and enables effective anticipatory action in complex situations of high uncertainty.



Adaptation Research Alliance

ROAR: SCIENCE & INNOVATION FOR ADAPTATION

When: 9 November 2021, 11:30 - 13:00 GMT

Where: UNFCCC Meeting Room 4, COP26 Blue Zone, Glasgow

Climate change is making billions of people vulnerable to extreme weather events, food shortages, economic hardship and disease. Adapting effectively to a changing climate, based on evidence of what works best in each local context, is now an urgent imperative. For this to happen, researchers and implementers need to work together to ensure the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

Here is the solution: Results-Oriented Adaptation Research (ROAR). This new emerging paradigm in climate adaptation brings together and reorients the research and action communities in a space of radical collaboration, such that solutions are co-created from the start with those at risk and are responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable. We know this approach works. We now have to take it to scale.

This is the reason that thirty-three organisations came together at the Gobeshona Conference in January 2021 and [committed](#) to co-developing the [Adaptation Research Alliance](#) (ARA), an innovative initiative that co-creates adaptation solutions with those on the frontline of risk and catalyses investment in support of research that is action- and results-oriented. Over the course of this year, the ARA has evolved from an idea to a full-fledged partnership with membership consisting of over 70 major funders, end users, researchers, implementers and intermediaries. As a first step, the ARA members have co-developed a set of Adaptation Research for Impact Principles that serve as the signposts for the transformative change towards results and action oriented research, and help to align and galvanise the full range and depth of stakeholders on climate adaptation.

The purpose of the event is threefold: (1) to emphasise the importance of science and innovation for adaptation to transform the research-action landscape for enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities; (2) to surface the need for - and relevance of - action research and the need for the ARA in different contexts; (3) to mark the official launch of the Adaptation Research Alliance. In keeping with its purpose, the event will showcase a joint statement by ARA members endorsing the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles as well as commitments to action research and to the ARA

Event Programme

The programme will be facilitated by Mr. Jesse DeMaria-Kinney, Head of Secretariat of the ARA and will be livestreamed [here](#).

Time	Description	Speakers
I Welcome Remarks (5 minutes)		
11:30 – 11:35	<i>Prof Watts welcomes participants to the event and provides an overall framing of the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles as well as of the ARA in bridging the gap between science/innovation and practice for finding effective adaptation solutions.</i>	Prof Charlotte Watts Chief Scientific Adviser UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
II High-Level Segment (30 minutes)		
11:35 – 12:05	<i>Five high-level speakers articulate the demand and support for the Adaptation Research and the ARA by national governments around the world. Minister Milling of the United Kingdom formally launches the ARA.</i>	H.E. Ms Amanda Milling Minister for Asia of the United Kingdom H.E. Mr Henry Puna Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum and former Prime Minister of the Cook Islands H.E. Mr Keriako Tobiko Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Kenya H.E. Mr Rodrigo Rodriguez Tornquist Secretary of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation of Argentina H.E. Ms Patricia Fuller Ambassador for Climate Change of Canada
III Panel Discussion: ROAR in Reality (25 mins)		
12:05 – 12:30	<i>Panel members from organisations representing adaptation action and research at different scales articulate the transformative impact of ROAR, and their hopes and expectations from the ARA</i>	Prof Maarten Van Aalst Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre Ms Izabella Koziell Deputy Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Prof Mizan Khan

		<p>Programme Director, LDC University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)</p> <p>Ms Sunayana Sen Programme Manager, Resurgence</p> <p>Prof Maria Del Pilar Bueno Professor, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina, and UNFCCC Adaptation Committee member</p> <p>Dr Aditya Bahadur (moderator) Principal Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)</p>
IV Making it Happen: The Adaptation Research Alliance (25 mins)		
12:30 – 12:55	<i>The ARA co-chairs provide an overview of the key features of the ARA and plans for the future; and commitments to the ARA are announced by ARA members and partners</i>	<p>Dr Rosalind West ARA Co-Chair and Senior Climate Science Advisor, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office</p> <p>Prof Anand Patwardhan ARA Co-Chair and Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Policy</p> <p>Prof Lucy Chappell Chief Scientific Adviser, UK Department of Health and Social Care</p> <p>Dr Alix Zwane Chief Executive Officer, Global Innovation Fund</p> <p>Mr Max Cuvellier Head of Mobile for Development, GSM Association</p>
V Closing Remarks (5 mins)		
12:55 – 13:00	<i>The event concludes with thanks and a call to action by Prof Belcher for a concerted effort to deliver on the promise of the ARA</i>	<p>Prof Stephen Belcher UK Met Office Chief Scientist</p>



ARA celebrates its formal launch at COP26

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is celebrating its formal launch at the COP26 climate summit at Glasgow, UK. We are also proud to be participating in several other events at the summit.

See more details below along with information on how to attend in person or on-the-ground.

Find the full presidency programme for COP26 online [here](#). All presidency events will be webcast on the UNFCCC website [here](#).

Adaptation Loss & Damage



BUILDING A CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURE

- 8 November 15:30 – 17:00 GMT
- Blue Zone / hybrid event
- Climate risk assessments with examples of high impact action research from across the globe.



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The ARA will be presenting at 'Building a Climate Resilient Future at Adaptation Loss and Damage Day on **Monday 8 November 15.30-17.00 GMT**. The event, delivered jointly with the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), presents two high impact examples of adaptation action research from the ARA network.

The event will be held in the Blue Zone, UNFCCC Meeting Room 4. It is also available online [here](#).

Science & Innovation Day

ARA FORMAL LAUNCH

ROAR: SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

• 9 November 11:30 - 13:00 GMT, Blue Zone/UNFCCC Meeting Room 4

The formal launch of the ARA and illustration of the need for and commitment to adaptation research for impact.

PRESS EVENT

• 10 November 15:30 – 16:30 GMT, South Africa Pavilion

Engage with ARA network and speakers from its launch. Refreshments served.



The ARA will celebrate its formal launch at a session during Science and Innovation Day on **Tuesday 9 November 11.30-13.00 GMT**. Titled 'ROAR: Science and Innovation for Adaptation' it will illustrate the need for - and commitment to - Adaptation Research for Impact Principles. You can find the agenda for our launch on our website [here](#).

The event will be held in the Blue Zone, UNFCCC Meeting Room 4. It is also available online [here](#).

A special Press Event will be held following the ARA launch on **Wednesday 10 November 15.30-16.30 GMT** at the South Africa Pavilion. It will be an opportunity to meet and speak with the ARA Secretariat, its network and members of the media. Virtual attendance is possible via [this link](#).

Development and Climate Days

'RADICAL COLLABORATION' PLAY & THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESILIENT CITIES

• 10 November 8:30 – 10:00 GMT

• Virtual event

• Examples of radical collaborations that show its potential for developing urban resilience.



Asking what role 'radical collaboration' plays in the development of resilient cities, the ARA will present during D&C Days on **Wednesday 10 November 8.30-10.00 GMT**. The ARA's session will explore tangible examples of radical collaborations for enhancing urban resilience.

This is a virtual event and can be accessed via [this link](#). You can see the outline of the event below.

Title: What role does 'radical collaboration' play in the development of resilient cities?

Key messages:

- Low-income urban residents must be included as active agents of change in processes of enhancing the resilience of towns and cities
- Resilience to climate change and disasters is dependent on the contribution of insights and know-how from diverse urban stakeholders.
- Processes of 'radical collaboration' between diverse urban stakeholders are essential for enhancing urban resilience.
- A number of different components are needed to effect such 'radical collaboration' for enhancing urban resilience.

Speakers:

- Anand Patwardhan, Professor, University of Maryland
- Sumetee Pahwa Gajjar, Fellow, PlanAdapt and Evidence Review Lead, Adaptation Research Alliance
- Mark Harvey, CEO and Founder, Resurgence
- Joseph Kimani, Executive Director, Slum Dwellers International, Kenya
- Joy Bailey, Urban Climate Change Resilience Specialist (Consultant), Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF), Asian Development Bank
- Maarten Kapelle, Head, Thematic Scientific Assessments; Head, Secretariat, World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP); UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Science Division, Nairobi, Kenya
- Ndoni Mgunu, Bilateral Engagement Lead, Adaptation Research Alliance, SouthSouth North
- Sydney Church, Project Manager, Adaptation Research Alliance, SouthSouth North
- Aditya V. Bahadur, Principal Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK and member core development team, Adaptation Research Alliance
- Nora Nisi, Coordinator, Climate Change, International Institute for Environment and Development, UK (moderator)

Resilience Hub



**KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE
ACTION TOWARDS A RESILIENT FUTURE**

- 10 November 13:00 – 14:30 GMT
- Blue Zone/ Hybrid event
- Innovative approaches for putting knowledge into action for enhancing urban resilience.



UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The ARA joins the Resilience Hub on **Wednesday 10 November 13.00-14.30 GMT**. The session will introduce examples of radical collaboration and the impact such an approach could have for developing urban resilience.

This is a virtual event and can be accessed via the [Resilience Hub website](#). Visitors must sign up for the hub, log-in to the platform and then access the event. You can see the outline of the event below;

Title: Knowledge for transformative action towards a resilient future

Key messages:

- The session will be hosted by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, the Resilience Knowledge Coalition and the Adaptation Research Alliance - three major, global initiatives that seek to ensure that action to enhance adaptation and support resilience stems from a robust foundation of research, knowledge and learning.
- These three initiatives will share their different but complementary approaches to ensure adaptation action is locally-led and able to tackle the challenges of climate change in the 21st century.
- This session will deliver an insight into innovative approaches for moving knowledge into action
- It will examine new platforms for establishing researcher-practitioner linkages
- The session will identify approaches for sharing local knowledge and surfacing expertise and leadership from vulnerable communities
- It will be deliver an understanding of practical entry points for engagement with these three initiatives.

Speakers:

- Shuchi Vora, Programme Officer, Global Resilience Partnership
- Lisa McNamara, Global Knowledge lead for the Climate and Development Network, SouthSouth North
- Jesse DeMaria-Kinney, Head of Adaptation Research Alliance Secretariat
- Rosemary Atieno, Country Lead Kenya, Women's Climate Center International
- Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development
- Sohanur Rahman, Youthnet for Climate Justice
- Robbi Redda, Climate and Development Knowledge Network, Country Engagement Lead for Ethiopia
- Anne Hammill, Senior Director, Resilience International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Rosalind West, Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, Co-chair of the Adaptation Research Alliance
- Dominique Charron, Vice President, Canada's International Development Research Centre
- Nathaniel Matthews, CEO, Global Resilience Partnership

We look forward to seeing you there!



PRESS RELEASE

Adaptation Research Alliance: A new global coalition for adaptation action

A new global coalition working to catalyse investment and capacity for action-oriented research in adaptation to climate change has launched today at the COP26 summit.

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a group of over 90 organisations from 30 economies driving research and innovation for adaptation that strengthens resilience in the world's most vulnerable communities.

Representing the international breadth of the adaptation community, the ARA includes research and action funders, policymakers, scientists, development bodies and grassroots organisations. Its membership signals a growing movement away from business as usual toward a new framework of collaboration, inclusivity and action-oriented innovation that generates real world adaptation solutions.

"COP26 is a critical moment for galvanising action on adaptation and resilience. It is also a prime opportunity to underscore the centrality of research to understand what works and what doesn't to ensure our communities are resilient to the challenges posed by climate change," said the ARA's Head of Secretariat Jesse DeMaria-Kinney.

"The ARA works to build the bridge between research and action to co-develop ambitious but realistic outcomes that enable adaptation and resilience research led by the needs of the most vulnerable and which develop solutions that address the scale of the climate emergency."

Climate change is making billions of people across the globe vulnerable to extreme weather events, food shortages, economic hardship and disease. Yet adaptation action is not being delivered at the pace that science deems necessary to prepare and build resilience in the most vulnerable communities - and their risks continue to grow.

But a changing climate poses uncertain risks and responding effectively takes more than policy analysis or helicopter research. According to the ARA, accelerating adaptation efforts requires evidence-based solutions that are tailored to local contexts, where unprecedented levels of collaboration allow for peer-to-peer exchange and co-production between all parties.

"Those living at the forefront of climate change have valuable lessons of practice for the adaptation community. We must shift our efforts to embrace this knowledge, rather than apply solutions from faraway places out of context with the realities on the ground," said Mizan Khan, deputy director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), a member of the ARA.

As a first step in its movement, ARA members have co-developed the [Adaptation Research for Impact Principles](#). A framework for how new adaptation initiatives should be carried out, it works alongside the ARA's body of work to shape research design, knowledge-sharing and outcome tracking to ensure a focus on equity and action.



Putting those recommendations into action is the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) research programme, launched at COP26. A new partnership between the UK and Canada, it was revealed at the ARA launch that the countries would extend funding to CLARE with a total of £100m funding from UK aid and £10m (\$17m CAD) from Canada.

Nearly £40m of that CLARE funding is dedicated to addressing adaptation in Africa and identifying actionable solutions for the continent as it adapts to climate change.

"Action-focused research is crucial to effective, inclusive and sustainable climate adaptation, particularly to protect the most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change. We will ensure women's voices shape these conversations, and women's leadership and expertise are championed to deliver gender-sensitive adaptation solutions. Both the ARA and the UK's support for CLARE will improve the effectiveness of adaptation, putting people at the heart of climate research to build the resilience of those living on the frontline of the climate crisis," said Anne-Marie Trevelyan, UK Secretary of State for International Trade.

The ARA launch was also held alongside the launch of two new innovation funds for climate adaptation and resilience from ARA members the Global Innovation Fund the GSM Association. These funds will enable the acceleration, testing and adoption of innovations with the potential to scale and support the world's most vulnerable in building resilience and adapting to climate change.

By catalysing and supporting initiatives among its partners, the ARA strengthens its vision of a future where the research community is a highly valued partner to policymakers, practitioners and communities, and helps deliver innovative, user-driven solutions for adaptation and resilience.

"Our momentum will only grow as we welcome new members and facilitate more innovative projects where practical solutions that genuinely reduce the risks from climate change for the most vulnerable can be developed," said DeMaria-Kinney.

For more information please visit [Adaptation Research Alliance](https://www.adaptationresearchalliance.org) or contact ara@southsouthnorth.org.

Follow the Adaptation Research Alliance on Twitter: [@Adapt_Alliance](https://twitter.com/Adapt_Alliance) and LinkedIn: [The Adaptation Research Alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/adaptation-research-alliance).

PRESS RELEASE ENDS



NOTES TO EDITORS

About the ARA

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global coalition responding to the urgent challenges faced by vulnerable communities from climate change. Our membership is made up of researchers, funders, policymakers, development bodies and community-based organisations who are committed to co-producing solutions founded on real-world experiences that generate climate resilient futures. Visit the ARA online [here](#) and on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About CLARE

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience Research Programme (CLARE) supports action-focused research to inform development in a changing climate. CLARE is jointly funded by the UK and Canada. It will generate new knowledge, practical tools and approaches to support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and related natural hazards, such as floods, droughts and heatwaves.