



Adaptation Research Alliance

Advancing Inclusive Climate Adaptation

ARA Member Contributions to the IPCC AR7 Scoping Process

This report compiles insights from ARA member organisations to inform key areas of the IPCC's AR7 scoping process. Through a targeted survey and previous ARA engagements, the report highlights member priorities across three areas: input for Working Group II's contributions, recommendations for updating the 1994 technical guidelines, and guidance on creating an inclusive AR7 development process. Key themes include the need for dedicated focus on Loss and Damage, adaptation strategies, climate migration, and accessible pathways for grassroots engagement. These perspectives aim to make AR7 more responsive to the diverse needs of communities facing climate impacts worldwide.

Prepared for: Adaptation Research Alliance

Prepared by: Transitions Research

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Executive Summary

This report synthesises key insights from ARA members to inform the IPCC's AR7 scoping process, focusing on three priorities: inputs for Working Group II, revisions to the 1994 technical guidelines, and recommendations for the overall approach of IPCC towards its objectives with AR7. This pre-scoping effort, gathered through surveys and ongoing engagements, ensures diverse, grassroots perspectives shape AR7's direction.

ARA members stressed three thematic areas for Working Group II: Loss and Damage, Adaptation and Resilience, and Climate Migration. Members urged for a dedicated Loss and Damage chapter, financial mechanisms, and frameworks to assess climate impacts on vulnerable communities. Adaptation priorities included cross-border cooperation, scalable infrastructure, and bioeconomy-led strategies, while climate migration inputs focused on capturing perspectives of host regions facing these compounded challenges.

To enhance the 1994 technical guidelines, ARA members proposed updates in six areas, including transboundary risk analysis, local multi-hazard modelling, and transformative adaptation approaches that address regional and local vulnerabilities. Members also advocated for a guideline to be able to establish "climate rationales" to support diverse adaptation projects.

In shaping a more inclusive AR7 process, members emphasised broader grassroots involvement, accessible communication in local languages, and capacity-building for subnational leaders. These inputs position the AR7 scoping process to be more responsive to the real-world needs of communities, fostering climate adaptation strategies that are informed, inclusive, and practical.

ARA Community Inputs on the upcoming AR7 development by the Working Group 2

Based on survey responses, three themes emerged as essential for the upcoming IPCC Working Group II contributions to AR7. These insights are presented without an order of priority, beginning with a new perspective that expands the scope of previous assessments, followed by insights that build upon and deepen areas addressed in AR6. This analysis synthesises perspectives from ARA members worldwide, uncovering distinct opportunities within each thematic area.

Loss and Damage

A prominent insight emerging from respondents is the call for a dedicated **Loss and Damage** chapter within the IPCC report, building on the mentions in IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). They emphasised the need for robust frameworks in climate finance and economic analysis tailored to address loss and damage. Respondents advocated for strong financial mechanisms to support adaptation and for frameworks to effectively quantify climate-related losses. The need for continued research on material and non-material climate impacts was also underlined.

Adaptation and Resilience Strategies

Adaptation and Resilience Strategies stood out as the foremost concern for expanding from the IPCC Working Group II report, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability* among the ARA community.

Building on *Chapter 2: Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems and their Services of AR6*, members emphasised the need to focus on **scaling climate-resilient infrastructure** through nature-based solutions.

They also advocated for inclusion of stronger **cross-border adaptation measures**, emphasising international cooperation, universal metric standardisation, and shared water management. Further exploration on understanding the balance of metrics to assess adaptation across regions, while ensuring local context is captured was requested. Respondents urged further investigation into cascading climate impacts as outlined in the cross-chapter box *Inter-regional Flows of Risks and Responses to Risk* in AR6.

Additionally, they underscored the importance of addressing the urban-rural divide as highlighted in cross-chapter *Paper 2 Cities and Settlements by the Sea*, recommending further elaboration on **administrative gaps** and the inequitable distribution of financial resources.

Additionally, the community also supported the further development of transformative foresight mechanisms, building on ongoing work such as Shared Socio-economic pathways (SSPs) and Resilience Frontier Initiative. Expanding the cross-working group box *BIOECONOMY: Mitigation and Adaptation via the Bioeconomy*, respondents advocated for **bioeconomy-led development** approaches, recognizing the vital role of ecosystem-based solutions in climate adaptation.

Climate Migration and Host Perspectives

The third theme highlighted how climate change intensifies structural inequalities, especially for vulnerable communities. Respondents stressed the need to expand the AR6 *Chapter 7: Health, Wellbeing and the Changing Structure of Communities* to include the effects of climate migration and displacement on **host regions**, which face distinct challenges as they receive and integrate climate migrants. Potentially a separate focus on climate adaptation needs emerging from migration, from the perspectives of different affected stakeholders would be relevant.

ARA Community Inputs on the revision of 1994 Technical Guidelines for Impact, Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment

Based on input from the ARA community, six areas have been identified as priorities for updating the IPCC's 1994 technical guidelines on impact, vulnerability, and adaptation assessment. These insights are presented without any order of priority, beginning with foundational aspects of risk assessment and moving toward themes focused on adaptation, resilience, and overall development.

These areas reflect the evolving needs of climate assessment and adaptation planning and underscore the importance of addressing specific, often underrepresented perspectives in climate resilience strategies.

Transboundary Climate Risks Analysis

Geographical analysis is crucial for climate impact assessment, enabling policymakers to visualise, evaluate, and adapt to regional climate changes and vulnerabilities, as outlined in the guidelines. To further enhance this analysis, the integration of **transboundary climate risks** has been identified as an area needing greater emphasis by our members.

Climate impacts often cross-national boundaries, making it essential to assess risks that affect multiple regions. By addressing these shared challenges, the guidelines can more effectively support collaborative adaptation efforts across borders.

Local-Level Multi Hazard Modeling

A particularly insightful response highlighted by the community members was the need for more robust multi hazard modelling at the local level. This approach would help account for overlapping and compounding risks at smaller scales, where communities often face a variety of simultaneous climate challenges.

Strengthening local-level assessments would make the guidelines more applicable to real-world scenarios, especially in vulnerable regions.

Multiscalar Perspective in Adaptation

Guidance for a multiscalar approach to adaptation was requested, which considers the various levels of development and specific vulnerabilities across national, subnational/regional, and local scales. This perspective emphasises regional and local vulnerabilities that may be overlooked in national-level assessments, ensuring that adaptation strategies are tailored to the needs of communities at every level.

Transformation as a Response to Climate Change

The concept of transformation has surfaced as a key response to climate change, emphasising the need for comprehensive shifts in mindset, practices, and policies. Respondents underscored the importance of behavioural change as a central component, highlighting that climate impacts should drive individuals, communities, and institutions toward intentional, meaningful shifts. Such behavioural change is viewed as essential, complementing environmental and socio-economic considerations, as communities move beyond basic adaptation to embrace proactive transformation.

Holistic Climate-Resilient Development

Many respondents advocated for a holistic climate-resilient development (CRD) approach that integrates vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience within a broader development framework. They noted that a more comprehensive perspective would help capture the interplay between climate risks and development pathways, offering a fuller picture of adaptation needs.

Climate Rationale for Adaptation Projects

ARA members advocated for the inclusion of a robust framework for establishing a “climate rationale” within adaptation projects. This would guide project developers in justifying the need for adaptation based on specific climate impacts, ensuring alignment with observed risks. Importantly, members emphasise that the framework should accommodate all types of adaptation projects, particularly locally led initiatives, allowing them to build credible rationales even with limited resources. This addition would make the guidelines more inclusive and practical, supporting diverse project contexts in substantiating their relevance to climate adaptation.

Community Inputs on IPCC's approach towards AR7

The survey responses for shaping the development and dissemination strategies for the upcoming AR7 primarily centred around three critical themes to be considered throughout the lifecycle of the report. These themes underscored the importance of empowering communities on the ground to actively engage in and contribute to climate initiatives, incorporating local and marginalised perspectives in co-developing solutions, and fostering greater inclusivity in dissemination and communication of the outputs.

Approach to Encourage Grassroots Contributions

The respondents highlighted that, despite the efforts of working groups to bridge science, policy, and practice, many grassroots contributors seem to perceive these reports as primarily intended for academics and government officials, which hinders wider participation in climate action. They suggested that crafting clear and accessible pathways for contributions from individuals and communities beyond academia, policy, and government could help overcome this barrier. A specific example on this included clarification on the cost implications of participation in the process. Other pathways could include investing in regional vision conversations, and ensuring continuity in engagements beyond the first conversation. Local organisations, they noted, could play an essential role in informing communities about report outcomes to promote greater inclusivity.

Elevating Local Voices and Strengthening Community Capacities

The call for a transparent approach advocating for local voices was recognised as a key theme for developing improved strategies for the forthcoming report. The focus was given in two aspects:

Direct Voices of the Affected: The respondents emphasised inclusion of non-governmental organisations with local approaches and representation of direct perspectives of the local communities most affected by climate change. Suggestion was made to further enhance direct engagement with the communities for more grounded, relevant policies and adaptation strategies, learning from the platforms like the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Local testing and validation of data were identified to be crucial for accurately reflecting on-the-ground realities and strengthening credibility among diverse stakeholders.

Encouraging Subnational and Local Decision Makers: The respondents highlighted the existing gap in jargon-heavy and inaccessible language when engaging with civil society and local communities regarding the reports. Due to which, public institutions at subnational and local levels often do not incorporate the insights presented in the ARs in public policies and adaptation measures. The respondents suggested that providing tailored summaries for subnational decision-makers would greatly enhance accessibility, enabling more effective integration of these insights into local policy and action. They also highlighted the need for accessible climate education for local communities, calling for simplified materials in local languages.

Inclusive Communication and Dissemination of Knowledge Outputs

The respondents stressed the importance of clear communication of scientific findings, noting that presenting information in simple language and in local languages would enhance the relevance and accessibility of the reports for a wider audience. They identified increased transparency regarding the IPCC's mandate, process, and limitations as a way to improve reader understanding and address any perceived biases. Additionally, respondents highlighted the need to empower civil society, the private sector, and other non-state actors to interpret and apply IPCC findings in innovative ways, making the reports more practical and actionable across different sectors. The respondents suggested disseminating outputs in the form of tailored summaries for various audiences, with a particular focus on business leaders, managers, and practitioners.

Appendix

Assessment Approach

Data for this report was gathered through a survey as the primary source to capture ARA members' insights on climate adaptation and resilience. 17 responses were received from the survey, with representation from all regions. **Kobo Toolbox** was used to collect responses from diverse regions and organisations, focusing on three key questions:

1. Based on your experience, what key topics and issues should be covered in the upcoming contribution of WG2 to the IPCC 7th Assessment Report?
2. As the IPCC updates the 1994 technical guidelines for impact vulnerability and adaptation assessment, what topics and issues are pertinent to include?
3. Are there additional considerations the IPCC should take in the development and dissemination of the 7th Assessment Report?

NVivo software was then used to analyse the responses, allowing for detailed coding and identification of unique insights, themes, and patterns. This systematic approach provided a clear view of the ARA community's priorities and perspectives to inform the IPCC's AR7 scoping and guideline updates. Insights from the surveys were augmented with inputs captured from approximately 38 member organisations during previous engagements, within the ARA Tracking, Learning and Sharing Program.

