

## Engagements with researchers in Least Developed Country (LDC) Universities

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### Introduction

Interfer has been contracted by the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) to facilitate the co-creation of a new engaged adaptation research programme, to be led by LDC Universities. It is envisioned that the new research programme will focus on knowledge generation in relation to the formulation and implementation of NAPs (National Adaptation Plans) and NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). The co-creation process entails a series of online and in-person engagements. The process will evolve and be refined the more we understand LDC University needs.

To do this, we are now speaking with a group of key informants to understand:

- Experiences of engaged adaptation research between your University and national government
- Barriers and enablers to research uptake and knowledge translation in your context
- Gaps in adaptation knowledge in your country and more broadly in order to design this new adaptation research programme and make sure that it is attuned to local and broader needs

Thank you for your time. We will be asking you questions about your work and research needs to help inform our process going forward. Given this, we are not asking you to sign an informed consent document. However, we intend to keep what you tell us confidential and do NOT intend to use your name or title in the findings we share and will not share interview recordings or notes with others. We will rather refer to you by your general position (i.e. researcher, implementer, professor, etc).

Please capture your responses in the column on the left.

**Questions in bold are the main point of each section - if you are pressed for time, you are welcome to only focus on these.**

Questions	Responses
<b>Topic 1: Experiences of engaged</b>	

adaptation research between your University and national government

- What type of climate change research do you do?
- **Are you involved in climate adaptation research?** Can you give examples of projects?
- How did you decide on this research?
- Who are you working with in this research/in these projects? **Are you engaging with government policy making processes at all?**
- Would you classify your research as engaged or TD?

*i.e. research that engages with non-academic communities of policy-makers and practitioners to understand research needs in the hopes of having an impact in policy or practice. This type of research approach can also be called transdisciplinary research, action research or research-into-use, though these terms all have slightly different meanings.*

- Analysis of climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector.
- Study of the impact of climate change on coastal ecosystems.
- Study of the vulnerability of rural areas.
- Education and awareness

Examples projects

- Yes, Analysis of climate changes adaptation in the agricultural sector and its impact on food security.
- Education and awareness campaigns to promote understanding of climate change and its implications.
- Climate risk studies examining the potential impacts of climate change on various sectors and ecosystems.
  
- Depending on the funds available for this research.
  
- Technical communities, local organizations, and NGOs. Yes, sometimes but it is so complicated in Haiti.
  
- Engaged

Topic 2: Barriers and enablers to engaged research in your context

- What are the challenges you face within your university for this type of research - i.e. research that engages beyond the university?
- **What factors increase the likelihood of research being taken up and used in policy and practice in your experience?**
- In your opinion, **what are the gaps/bottlenecks in the translation of evidence to policy or practice in your context?** What stands in the way of knowledge being used to

- Funding: One of the major challenges for research that extends beyond the university is securing funding.
- Access to resources: When conducting research outside of the university, access to necessary resources may be limited.
- Inter-institutional collaboration: Factors such as differences in academic schedules, language barriers, varying academic cultures, and divergent goals can make collaboration complex.
  
- Relevance and applicability
- Reliability and credibility

<p>shape policy and practice?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Collaboration and commitment</li> <li>• Evidence of impact</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion, here are some of the main challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to data.</li> <li>• Limited research and evaluation capacity.</li> <li>• Weak integration between researchers and policymakers.</li> <li>• Political and institutional instability.</li> <li>• Competing priorities and resource constraints.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Topic 3: Needs for engaged adaptation research in your country</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main climate change challenges in your country?</li> <li>• What are the main needs or priorities for engaged <u>adaptation</u> research in your country? <b>What are the main gaps in adaptation research in your country?</b> What knowledge is needed to inform new policy?</li> <li>• How do you engage with or consider NAPs, NDCs or national development plans in your research?</li> <li>• Are there any forums for researchers to interact with policy makers and government implementers around CCA?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food insecurity</li> <li>• Extreme weather events</li> <li>• Degradation of natural resources</li> </ul> <p>There are many needs and priorities for committed research on adaptation. Some of the key research needs and priorities in Haiti include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding climate impacts</li> <li>2. Identification of adaptation solutions</li> <li>3. Capacity building</li> <li>4. Community participation</li> </ol> <p>Regarding the gaps in adaptation research in Haiti, here are some important points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of funding .</li> <li>2. Fragmentation of research</li> <li>3. Limited access to data and information</li> </ol> <p>To inform new policies in Haiti, it is necessary to develop the following knowledge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate risk assessment</li> <li>2. Climate justice</li> <li>3. Environmental education</li> </ol> <p>I incorporate the NAPs, NDCs, or national development plans into my research in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a frame of reference</li> <li>• For policy analysis</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate collaboration and make recommendations</li> </ul> <p>No, until now there hasn't been a forum. This year, I will attempt to organize one with CITE if we can secure sufficient resources</p>
<p><b><u>Topic 4: Interest in attendance at Community Based Adaptation conference</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you planning to / interested in attending <a href="#">CBA 17</a>?</li> <li>If you are attending, would you like to stay on an extra day (or two) to take part in a workshop as part of the co-creation of an adaptation research programme led by LDC universities?</li> <li>If not, is cost limiting you, or other factors?</li> <li>Do you have any suggestions for us for how best to leverage CBA17 for a workshop exploring the issues we've discussed here today?</li> <li>Are you attending the <a href="#">Resilience Evidence Forum</a> in Cape Town, South Africa in June 2023?</li> <li>Would you be interested in attending this event and joining our 1 day workshop?</li> </ul>	<p>Yes, I would like to attend the CBA 17 conference, but the cost of accommodation and travel tickets is still too high for me. It would be a great opportunity to participate in this workshop for capacity building and experience sharing with other universities in the LDC (Least Developed Country) category.</p> <p>I believe that actively participating, sharing experiences, and networking are the best ways to benefit from a workshop. Therefore, I am excited and fully committed to participating in the Evidence of Resilience Forum scheduled to take place in South Africa in June 2023.</p>
<p><b><u>Topic 5: Interest in participating in process as a whole</u></b></p> <p>Our full planned process includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>these individual engagements with researchers from LDC universities,</li> <li>sessions and a post-conference workshop at CBA17,</li> <li>online case study pr thematic workshops that bring together policy makers and national government from LDCs,</li> </ol>	

<p>d) Attendance at Adaptation Futures 23</p> <p>Notably, we intend to synthesising our findings as we go, and circulating the synthesis for further comment and feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Would you like to engage in other ways along this process (whether attending CBA 17 or not) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Receive and comment on outputs from CBA17?</li> <li>○ Online case study workshop - participate in shaping agenda, attend or suggest participants?</li> <li>○ Receive and comment on outputs from case study / thematic workshops?</li> <li>○ Receive and comment on the final engaged adaptation research programme?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Yes, I will be available to participate in this work. It would be a privilege for me to represent the voice of Haitian researchers. Haiti is a highly vulnerable country, and it is crucial for us to engage in this work in order to establish our position and contribute to the discussions.</p>
<p><b>Anything else you would like to add?</b></p> <p><b>Anything you would like to ask us?</b></p>	<p>I will be very happy to meet you in Bangkok to share experiences and opportunities.</p> <p>Nothing for the moment.</p>