

The **Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE)**ⁱ research framework is pleased to offer this submission to the Research Dialogue as a mandated event under the UNFCCC. The Dialogue provides an opportunity to provide updates on international research programmes, scientific advances, and research gaps. For this year, FCCC/SBSTA/2025 makes mention of advances in knowledge and methods related to adaptation action in developing countries.

Adaptation remains a central focus of the work under the UNFCCC and would be well placed as a key theme of the dialogue given the growing need for evidence that catalyses, sustains and supports effective adaptation action particularly in developing countries. The 18th Research Dialogue presents an opportunity to identify emerging research to support adaptation implementation.

Recent advances in adaptation research highlight important entry points for discussion, the most urgent being how to catalyse adaptation that is systemic, sustainable and inclusive. Particularly, advances from the CLARE model can demonstrate how to achieve transformational change through bottom-up, inclusive approaches, technical innovation and behavioural science, all of this contributing to increasing resilience as well as meeting wider society goals of growth and development.

*Our view is that a possible theme for the 18th Research Dialogue is **evidence to catalyse sustained, inclusive and systemic adaptation action**.* Such a session could draw on CLARE researchers and a broader range of experts to present the latest evidence on how to achieve transformational and systemic change in practice. Our team could contribute in various ways ranging from facilitating a dedicated 1.5-hour session, to a shorter presentation, poster, and as a participant during SBSTA 64.

Background

CLARE is a UK-Canada framework research programme on Climate Adaptation 1.5-hourlience, aiming to enable socially inclusive and sustainable action to build resilience to climate change and natural hazards in Africa and Asia-Pacific. Through partnerships and needs-driven, action-focused research, CLARE has bridged critical gaps between science and action: developing new tools and supporting partner governments, communities, and the private sector to use evidence and innovation to drive effective solutions to the climate challenge, whilst building the capacity of both those carrying out the research and those using the resulting evidence.

During [2025](#), CLARE was one of the most prominent climate adaptation research programmes in the world. This community includes over 170 partners in 36 countries, who have already supported 51 solutions in 20 countries — 17 of which have already been adopted. Together we have influenced 20 plans, policies and strategies, provided capacity strengthening for 11,000 individuals in 45 countries, and published 35 peer-reviewed papers. More than 180 members of this community came together at the [CLARExchange](#) forum in Lusaka, Zambia in May 2025, advancing collaboration on key cross-cutting issues. The forum provided a dynamic space for peer learning, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among diverse individuals and institutions across Africa and Asia-Pacific.

During 2026, CLARE will consolidate learning and results achieved over five years across a range of themes and topics. A number of insights are already publicly available through open access briefs. Those relevant to the proposed discussion include



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- **Research for achieving evidence-based, inclusive adaptation action** - Achieving research impact requires novel and inclusive approaches that can lead to transformational impact. Co-creation labs bring together a range of stakeholder to co-create solutions, building trust and learning across a variety of viewpoints and lived experiences. Climate risk narratives are stories of change told from the future describing a changed climate with associated impacts. Visual storytelling makes data and knowledge more easily understood by using art, photography or animation. Citizen science involves communities in collecting and interpreting data, engaging in participatory mapping, and other techniques.
- **How adaptation drives development and growth** - climate adaptation is more than a protective measure – it is a catalyst for inclusive and resilient growth. Nature-based activities tailored to how informal economies in Kenya function can strengthen productivity and reduce exposure to climate risks. Remittance incomes are used by communities in ways that drive economic development, job creation, and national prosperity. Adaptation measures have co-benefits for fiscal stability and human capital in Rwanda, with reduced strain on public budgets and a stronger workforce. Measures which strengthen the climate resilience of pastoralist communities ensure that productivity is sustained despite changes in climate. Fishing communities can protect resources vital for their livelihoods and ensure sustainable economic growth in Indonesia and the Philippines.
- **Behavioural research for adaptation action** - Combining behavioural research with systems thinking helps to identify root causes, leverage points and potential intervention outcomes. Integrating behavioural research with human-centred design emphasizes a thorough diagnosis of problems, co-creation with affected communities and context-specific adaptable solutions. Applying behavioural research both as a tool for intervention design and an analytical lens, and moving beyond nudging, opens up space for integration with critical social sciences. This integration can enhance the effectiveness and fairness of interventions for more inclusive water outcomes.

The CLARE community is a source of findings on various topics at 18th Research Dialogue as well as offering experience delivering on the COP26/Glasgow climate pact call *“upon the research community to further the understanding of global, regional and local impacts of climate change, response options and adaptation needs.”* [Our team would be pleased to contribute to SBSTA 64 through a session, presentation, poster or as participant.](#)

Sincerely,

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on behalf of CLARE programme

ⁱ As observer to UNFCCC, SouthSouthNorth (SSN) offers this submission on behalf of the CLARE research programme