PACAR

PAN AFRICAN COALITION FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

THIRD ANNUAL WORKSHOP REPORT

6 - 9 May 2025 • The Indaba Hotel, South Africa


NDIVILE
MOKOENA

Executive Summary

The Pan African Coalition for Adaptation and Resilience (PACAR) Annual Workshop 2025, held from May 6th to 9th in Johannesburg, South Africa, was a pivotal event aimed at advancing Africa's adaptation agenda. Hosted by Power Shift Africa in collaboration with GenderCC Southern Africa - Women for Climate Justice, the workshop provided a strategic platform for in-depth co-creation of ideas to ensure a unified and evidence-driven position ahead of COP30.

Key Discussions and Outcomes

The workshop featured thematic sessions, stakeholder engagements, storytelling panels, field visits, and roundtable debates. Key outcomes included:

- **Adaptation Priorities:** Emphasis on climate resilience through sustainable practices, governance, financing, and inclusivity.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Mainstreaming adaptation into national plans, enhancing stakeholder coordination, robust monitoring, and advocating for international climate finance.
- **Evidence-Based Policymaking:** Investing in research, conducting needs assessments, leveraging traditional knowledge, and enhancing data analysis capacity.
- **Strategic Advocacy:** Forming alliances, engaging with media, participating in international forums, and lobbying for policy changes.
- **Actions for COP30:** Collaborating with UNFCCC focal points, negotiators, and civil society to develop a unified adaptation agenda and prepare evidence-based reports.
- **Continued Engagement:** Holding regular information sessions, capacity-building activities, and networking to maintain momentum for adaptation beyond SB62 and COP30.

Delegates emphasized the importance of elevating Africa's adaptation priorities and needs up the political agenda to rebalance adaptation and mitigation efforts. They also stressed the urgency of framing transformational adaptation globally, integrating principles of equity, effectiveness, and justice. The PACAR Annual Workshop 2025 was a pivotal step in fostering partnerships and driving evidence-based advocacy for climate resilience across the continent. Together, we can transform Africa's adaptation landscape and secure a sustainable, resilient future.

Key Messages

- **Elevate Adaptation Priorities:** Africa must be at the forefront of the global adaptation agenda, rebalancing global climate action by elevating adaptation as a political, financial, and strategic priority—on par with mitigation.
- **Embrace Transformational Adaptation:** While there are concerns regarding Transformational Adaptation (TA), if Africa is to adopt TA, it must align with principles of systemic, long-term, and community-driven solutions that dismantle structural inequalities, integrate Indigenous knowledge, and reimagine development through resilience lenses.
- **Ensure Equitable Adaptation Finance:** Adaptation finance must be predictable, equitable, and accessible. Africa demands a dedicated sub-goal within the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) to scale up adaptation finance flows. Current financing remains insufficient and often inaccessible to the communities most in need.
- **Reflect African Realities in GGA:** The Global Goal on Adaptation must include Means of Implementation (MOI) indicators, while balancing global and locally relevant metrics to create robust and meaningful tracking systems that accurately reflect African adaptation needs.
- **Champion Locally Led Adaptation:** Effective adaptation must be rooted in local contexts. Initiatives such as the Gardens of Grace Agroecology Gardens in Newlands and the Alexandra Water Warriors demonstrate the power of community agency, traditional knowledge, and grassroots innovation in driving sustainable change.
- **Promote a Just Transition for Adaptation:** Climate adaptation in Africa must address historical and structural injustices. A just transition includes recognitional, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice ensuring fair resource allocation, inclusive governance, and respect for local voices and ecosystems.
- **Ensure Policy Coherence and Multi-Level Governance:** National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) must align with local realities, national development goals, and NDCs. Effective governance requires coordinated action across sectors and levels, backed by clear policies, stakeholder participation, and consistent monitoring frameworks.
- **Shape COP30 and Beyond:** As the Glasgow Pledge deadline approaches and COP30 finalizes adaptation indicators, Africa must seize the moment to reshape global adaptation finance, governance, and implementation. Strong, unified, and evidence-based advocacy is essential.

Acknowledgements

The Pan African Coalition for Adaptation and Resilience (PACAR) Annual Meeting 2025 was made possible through the dedication and collaboration of numerous individuals and organizations. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the PACAR Secretariat, the organizing committee, GenderCC – Southern Africa and the Indaba Hotel for their support. We also thank the distinguished speakers, panelists, and moderators, as well as the administrative and logistical teams. Special thanks to the Gardens of Grace Agroecology Garden in Newlands and the Alexandra Water Warriors for hosting field visits.

We also acknowledge the individual participation and contributions of Dr. Antwi Boasiako Amoah, Mr. Tlou Ramaru and Ms. Lina Adil. Appreciation to all PACAR organizations that despite not being physically present at the workshop shared their goodwill and embrace the outcomes of the Workshop.

We sincerely appreciate the following organizations that were represented by delegates:

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

Your collective efforts have significantly contributed to advancing Africa's adaptation agenda and fostering a resilient future for the continent. Thank you for your commitment to climate resilience and adaptation.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary **3**
- Key Discussions and Outcomes 3
- Key Messages 4

Acknowledgements **5**

Introduction **8**
- Background & Context 8
- Workshop Overview 8
- Workshop Objectives & Expected Outcomes 10
- Workshop Structure 11

COP29 Outcomes and Current Status **12**

Strategic Priorities for SB62 and COP30 ..... **12**

Transformational Adaptation **14**
- Context and Divisiveness of Transformational Adaptation 14
- Defining Transformational Adaptation for Africa 14
- Potential Opportunities and Synergies 15
- Strategic Actions for Transformational Adaptation in Africa 15

Financing Adaptation for Africa **17**
- Status of Adaptation Finance Accessibility 17
- Roadmap for Securing Inclusive and Equitable Adaptation Finance 18

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) & Policy Integration **18**
- Regional Reflections on Adaptation Governance 18
- Need for Localized Adaptation Frameworks and Stakeholder Inclusion 18
- Policy Alignment and Opportunities for Cross-Sector Collaboration 18

Africa's Climate Narrative and Policy Influence **19**
- Storytelling for Policy Advocacy 19
- Strengthening Africa's Global Adaptation Presence 19

A Just Transition for Adaptation in Africa **19**

Strategic Advocacy Steps for PACAR Members Post-Workshop **21**

Field Visits - Community-Led Adaptation Initiatives **24**
- Newlands Agroecology Gardens: Advancing Sustainable Agriculture 24
- Alexandra Water Warriors: Nature-Based Solutions in Action 25

Conclusion **26**

Appendices **27**
- Workshop Concept Note 27
- Workshop Agenda 28


EXIT

Introduction

Background & Context

Africa is severely impacted by the climate crisis, facing extreme weather events that threaten livelihoods, food security, and economic stability.[1] Despite contributing less than 4% of global emissions, Africa bears a disproportionate burden of climate impacts, with millions displaced annually.[2] The continent's heightened vulnerability is linked to rising adaptation costs, insufficient adaptation finance, dependence on climate-vulnerable sectors, weak institutional frameworks, and systemic inequalities in global climate governance.[3] By 2030, Africa will need $215 to $387 billion annually for adaptation, yet only receives $30 billion each year, primarily as loans, which increases debt burdens.[4]

The year 2025 marks a pivotal moment for adaptation efforts in Africa due to several key factors. Mounting risks to finance, including wars, debt crises, and shrinking aid budgets; all of which threaten to push adaptation finance off the agenda once again. Despite South Africa's bold climate agenda -G20 traction, especially on finance—faces obstacles due to US resistance and weakened multilateralism. COP30 will be a defining milestone with the finalization of indicators to track achievement of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) targets. Additionally, the Glasgow Pledge to double adaptation finance by 2025 expires, making it crucial to set a new, more ambitious public finance goal aligned with developing country needs. These factors underscore the urgency of elevating Africa's adaptation priorities and needs up the political agenda, rebalancing adaptation and mitigation efforts, and framing transformational adaptation globally with a focus on equity, effectiveness, and justice.

The Pan African Coalition for Adaptation and Resilience (PACAR) was established to amplify Africa's voice in global climate negotiations and elevate adaptation as a political and development priority. By uniting stakeholders across sectors and regions, PACAR aims to center frontline communities in adaptation policy, transforming adaptation from a future concern into an urgent, intergenerational issue. The platform fosters the sharing of learnings and practices, co-creates a unified Pan-African adaptation strategy, and drives adaptation up the global political agenda.

Workshop Overview

Power Shift Africa, in collaboration with GenderCC Southern Africa - Women for Climate Justice, hosted the third annual PACAR workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, from May 6th to 9th, 2025. The PACAR Annual Workshop 2025 provided a strategic platform for in-depth co-creation of ideas for Africa's adaptation agenda, ensuring a unified and evidence-driven position ahead of COP30. Convened with a clear understanding that adaptation has typically been sidelined to mitigation issues and finance, the workshop emphasized that Africa's adaptation needs are a lifeline that depend upon practical, timely, and adequately resourced adaptation action anchored on the needs of vulnerable people.

1 State of the Climate in Africa 2024
2 Addressing Inequalities in Climate Action in Africa
3 Climate Finance in Africa (African Union Report)
4 Landscape of Climate Finance in Africa







The workshop aimed to:

- **Enhance the consolidation of Africa's adaptation priorities** for SB62 and COP30, refining key policy positions related to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), adaptation finance, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and Sharm-el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.
- **Co-create Africa's advocacy position** for equitable access to scaled adaptation finance, advocating for increased grant-based and highly concessional financing, while addressing the systemic barriers African nations face.
- **Shape Africa's strategy on transformational adaptation**, integrating lived adaptation realities across the continent, Indigenous knowledge systems and practices, nature-based solutions, community-led resilience, and sustainable finance models to ensure long-term impact.

The workshop brought together policymakers, climate finance experts, civil society representatives, negotiators, researchers, and international partners to consolidate adaptation priorities, address climate finance gaps, and explore transformative adaptation.

Workshop Objectives & Expected Outcomes

The workshop served as a strategic platform to co-create ideas for Africa's adaptation agenda ahead of COP30. The 2025 PACAR Annual Meeting focused on refining adaptation priorities, addressing financial gaps, and shaping a unified strategy for how Africa engages on the topic of transformational adaptation. The meeting featured interactive formats to ensure dynamic participation and pragmatic outcomes, aiming to drive Africa's adaptation agenda forward with strategic clarity and stronger momentum.

Recognizing the perennial low prioritization of adaptation, the workshop emphasized the need for well-planned, practical, timely, and well-resourced adaptation actions focused on vulnerable populations. Key objectives included:

1. **Assessing COP29 Outcomes:** Evaluating the outcomes of COP29 and the current state of key adaptation issues.
2. **Defining African Priorities for COP30:** Identifying and defining African adaptation priorities ahead of SB62, the African Climate Summit, and COP30.
3. **Just Transition for Adaptation:** Receiving input on the just transition for adaptation research through discussion and exploration.
4. **Strengthening PACAR:** Exploring ways to strengthen the Pan African Coalition for Climate Adaptation and Resilience (PACAR).

Expected outcomes included a cohesive strategy for COP30, strengthened advocacy campaigns, and expanded partnerships for coordinated resource mobilization and collective action.



Workshop Structure

The PACAR Annual Workshop featured a dynamic agenda designed to foster effective engagement, co-creation of ideas, and knowledge sharing. Key components included:

- **Panel Discussions:** Provided technical input and status updates on key adaptation issues, focusing on adaptation priorities and coalition-building for significant moments like SB62 and COP30.
- **Thematic Group Discussions:** Engaged participants in focused discussions on climate governance, adaptation finance, agriculture, and resilience strategies. Breakout discussions were structured around key adaptation negotiation items such as the Global Goal on Adaptation, UAE-Belém Work Programme, National Adaptation Plans, Adaptation Finance, and Agriculture and Food.
- **Storytelling Panels:** Highlighted local solutions and African perspectives on climate advocacy through compelling narratives.
- **Field Visits:** Connected policy discussions to local action by visiting women-led agroecology farms in Newlands and the Alexander Water Warriors initiative, which has restored the formerly degraded Jukskei River.
- **Dialogue Circles & Plenary Discussions:** Strengthened knowledge-sharing, refined adaptation narratives, and solidified Africa's climate adaptation advocacy position. Group discussions specifically addressed transformational adaptation and a just transition for adaptation.

This integrated approach aimed to drive Africa's adaptation agenda forward with strategic clarity and collective momentum.



COP29 outcomes and current status

COP29 marked a pivotal moment for Africa's adaptation agenda, particularly in advancing the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Key achievements under the GGA included providing further guidance to experts on their work to develop indicators to track the GGA targets, directive to include means of implementation indicators, the establishment of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR) and the Baku High-Level Dialogue on Adaptation (HLDA). However, progress in refining GGA indicators has been slow, with thematic expert groups struggling to identify, refine, or develop suitable Means of Implementation (MOI) indicators.

A panel discussion featuring key speakers, including Tlou Ramaru (DFFE, SA), Dr. Luckson Zvobgo (ACDI), Dr. Nana Antwi-Boasiako Amoah (EPA, Ghana), Saada Mohamed (PSA), and Ndivile Mokoena (GenderCC), provided technical input and status updates on these issues. From their presentations, along with group discussions, the following key issues emerged:

- **Matters Relating to the Global Goal on Adaptation:** Technical experts are refining GGA indicators ahead of SB62, aiming to strike a balance between scientific rigor and political feasibility. However, cross-thematic experts' coordination and inclusion of MOI indicators remain slow.
- **Finance:** Africa advocated for a dedicated adaptation finance sub-goal within the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). Only the $300 billion annual finance target was secured with no sub-goals allocated to adaptation or Loss and Damage. With a far from adequate finance goal, concerns about the allocation, specificity, and accessibility of adaptation finance persist.
- **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):** The Global Stocktake (GST) outcome urges Parties to establish their NAPs by 2025. However, financing NAPs formulation and comprehensive assessments remain challenging, with negotiations around the NAPs assessment at COP29 stalled.
- **Agriculture and Food Systems:** The Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture (SJWA) focused on moving from dialogue to implementation, building on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA). Key outcomes included the establishment of an online portal for sharing information on agricultural projects, a draft template for submissions, and directives to seek funding or collaboration for agricultural projects. The Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers aimed to empower farmers, particularly women and youth, to adapt to climate change. A key takeaway was the need to scale up finance and reform policies to ensure smallholder farmers and frontline communities get better access to funding for a just food systems transformation.

Strategic Priorities for SB62 and COP30

Africa's engagement in SB62 and COP30 must be guided by a clear, evidence-based strategy that enhances adaptation finance, governance, and implementation. The continent's priorities should reflect both immediate needs and long-term resilience objectives. From the group-based thematic discussions, plenary sessions, and stakeholder input from the workshop, several key issues and priorities emerged:

Priority	Key Actions
Strengthening Adaptation Finance Commitments	▸ Securing a dedicated adaptation finance sub-goal within the NCQG framework. ▸ Enhancing transparency in climate finance reporting ▸ Mobilizing public finance and attracting non-debt-trapping private sector investment. ▸ Galvanizing multilateral funding to support readiness financing for developing countries.
Refining Adaptation Indicators for Measurable Progress	▸ Balanced representation of MOI indicators across adaptation targets. ▸ Coherence among expert groups to streamline adaptation metrics. ▸ Integrating vulnerability assessments into adaptation tracking mechanisms.
Enhancing Coherence in Adaptation Governance	▸ Aligning adaptation policies with national development priorities. ▸ Fostering cross-sector partnerships. ▸ Leveraging regional platforms for collective action and knowledge sharing.
Resolving the Climate Adaptation and Development Dichotomy	▸ Acknowledging the socio-economic context of at-risk populations. ▸ Ensuring climate resilience through supported infrastructural, social, and economic safeguards.
Framing Transformational Adaptation	▸ Scaling up locally led adaptation initiatives. ▸ Integrating traditional knowledge into adaptation frameworks. ▸ Reforming governance structures to eliminate inequalities.
Enhancing Policy Coherence for Integrated Adaptation Strategies	▸ Anchoring NAPs on actual country development policies and linking them to the next generation of NDCs. ▸ Ensuring NAP formulation and implementation are led by adequately trained experts. ▸ Leveraging regional adaptation platforms for collective action and policy coherence.

Transformational Adaptation

COP29 deferred discussions on transformational and incremental adaptation to SB62. The decision text recognizes both paradigms as essential for protecting the well-being of people and the planet. Further work must consider their respective conceptual remits and practical implications, especially for developing countries.

Context and Divisiveness of Transformational Adaptation

During the workshop sessions, participants highlighted the divisiveness of transformational adaptation (TA). While TA involves fundamental shifts in social-ecological systems to address climate change impacts, it also raises significant concerns. Unlike incremental adaptation, which focuses on adjustments within existing structures, TA reconfigures governance, policies, and economic systems to enhance resilience. Key concerns raised include:

- **Political resistance:** Governments may resist TA due to economic interests tied to existing systems.
- **Land rights:** Ensuring that TA does not infringe on the land rights of local and Indigenous communities.
- **Indigenous knowledge:** Integrating traditional knowledge systems with scientific research to ensure locally relevant and practical strategies.
- **Local communities:** Ensuring that TA empowers local actors and respects cultural contexts.
- **Financing constraints:** Long-term adaptation and structural changes require stable governance and sustained investment, which many African nations struggle with. Additionally, the current framing of TA could impose finance conditionalities, limiting access to adaptation finance for countries unable to meet these requirements.
- **Institutional capacity:** Many African nations face technical and financial constraints, requiring enhanced capacity-building efforts.

Defining Transformational Adaptation for Africa

Workshop participants identified where transformational adaptation could support fundamental shifts in social-ecological systems, especially in the African context, to address climate impacts. Key elements identified include:

- **Community-led adaptation:** Empowering local actors to drive change, ensuring culturally relevant and sustainable solutions.
- **Systems thinking:** Reforming policies and institutions to dismantle inequalities and address structural barriers to resilience.
- **Long-term resilience strategies:** Transitioning from short-term coping mechanisms to sustainable adaptation pathways.
- **Integration with Africa's climate targets:** Ensuring alignment with Africa's National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs, prioritizing adaptation as a core component of climate action.

Potential Opportunities and Synergies

Despite the concerns, workshop discussions also highlighted potential opportunities and synergies from transformational adaptation:

- Enhanced resilience: By reconfiguring governance and economic systems, TA can create more resilient communities.
- Sustainable development: Aligning TA with national development goals can foster sustainable growth.
- Global collaboration: Leveraging international frameworks and partnerships can provide resources and support for TA initiatives.

Strategic Actions for Transformational Adaptation in Africa

To drive transformational adaptation in Africa, workshop participants recommended the following actions:

Action	Details
Develop Africa-specific adaptation pathways	‣ **Grounded in local realities:** Ensure strategies are contextually appropriate by incorporating local knowledge and practices. ‣ **Community engagement:** Involve local communities in design, planning and implementation to ensure culturally relevant solutions.
Strengthen policy coherence	‣ **Align with national development goals:** Foster cross-sector collaboration to integrate adaptation strategies with broader development objectives. ‣ **Policy reform:** Advocate for policies supporting long-term resilience and addressing structural barriers.
Enhance monitoring frameworks	‣ **Track adaptation effectiveness:** Implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems to measure progress and ensure accountability. ‣ **Data-driven decision-making:** Utilize data and evidence to inform strategies and improve outcomes.
Leverage global adaptation frameworks	‣ **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA):** Ensure Africa's priorities are reflected in international climate negotiations. ‣ **International collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships with global organizations to access resources and support transformational initiatives.

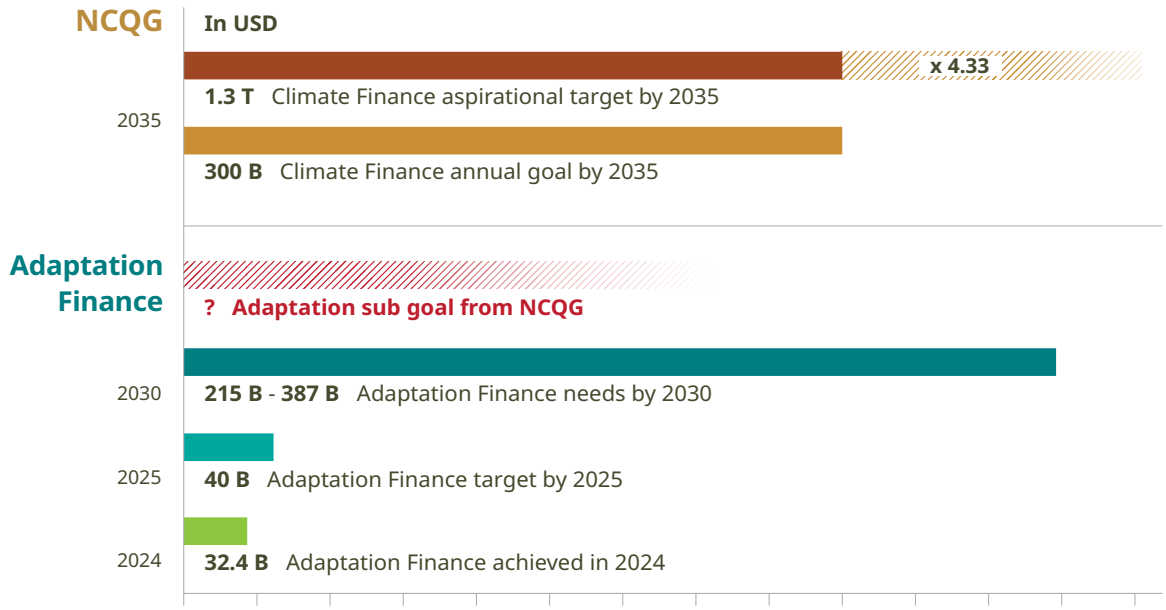


Financing Adaptation for Africa

Status of Adaptation Finance Accessibility

Workshop discussions revealed that Africa faces significant barriers in accessing adaptation finance, with stringent conditions limiting funding availability. The adaptation finance gap remains substantial, exacerbated by declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) and shifting geopolitical priorities. Although global commitments have been made to increase adaptation finance, the quality and accessibility of these funds remain critical concerns.

The workshop highlighted key advocacy efforts by Africa related to adaptation, including the call for a dedicated sub-goal for adaptation finance within the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance. However, the NCQG of at least USD300 billion annually by 2035 secured in Baku, failed to integrate a specific component of public finance for adaptation, despite the outcome recognizing the need to bridge the growing finance gap while considering the GGA targets. Moreover, the Glasgow Pact on doubling adaptation finance to at least USD 40 billion by 2025 was reported to achieve USD 32.4 billion in 2024 demonstrating the widening gap between ambition and current adaptation finance gap of USD 215 billion to USD 387 billion by 2030. On the other hand, the Baku-to-Belem Roadmap provides a pathway for scaling finance from all sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion by 2035, although the implementation mechanism remains unclear.



Workshop participants emphasized the importance of equitable distribution and accessibility of adaptation finance for the most affected communities. Key priorities include advocating for dedicated financing mechanisms that do not compromise adaptation funding, ensuring equitable distribution of funds to reach vulnerable communities, and prioritizing those most affected by climate change. Additionally, participants stressed the need to strengthen negotiating positions to secure substantial commitments that align with Africa's needs and to create enabling environments to ensure adaptation finance reaches local communities.

Roadmap for Securing Inclusive and Equitable Adaptation Finance

To ensure inclusive and equitable adaptation financing, workshop participants recommended several strategies with an emphasis on enhancing financial sustainability and transparency. This includes tracking climate finance to foster accountability and clarify financing gaps versus needs. Participants emphasized the need to secure an adaptation goal that triples finance, ensuring it is quality and grant-based. Leveraging regional and global funding opportunities are crucial to fostering tailored de-risking mechanisms that unlock institutional capital. Strengthening Africa's role in global governance is essential to ensure commitments are predictable, accessible, and based on needs. Additionally, leveraging the COP30 Circle of Finance Ministers can accelerate the implementation of the NCQG and promote international cooperation and support.

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) & Policy Integration

Regional Reflections on Adaptation Governance

Workshop deliberations emphasized that NAPs are crucial for Africa's adaptation strategy, but implementation is fragmented. COP29 discussions highlighted the need for comprehensive assessments to evaluate progress beyond documentation, urging Parties to establish their NAPs by 2025. Key developments include the COP26 Glasgow Decision calling for actionable strategies, COP29's emphasis on implementation mechanisms, and countries like Ghana and South Africa have established sectoral and sub-national NAPs, aligning adaptation strategies with national planning cycles.

Need for Localized Adaptation Frameworks and Stakeholder Inclusion

Participants stressed the importance of localized adaptation frameworks and stakeholder inclusion. Priorities for enhancing adaptation governance include strengthening sub-national planning to ensure strategies are locally relevant, integrating indigenous knowledge in climate resilience, fostering stakeholder engagement, aligning governance with climate targets, and incorporating cross-cutting MoI indicators into the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

Policy Alignment and Opportunities for Cross-Sector Collaboration

Effective implementation of Africa's adaptation policies requires alignment across all levels. Key actions identified include aligning NAPs with national development priorities and countries next Nationally Determined Contributions, fostering cross-sector partnerships, leveraging regional platforms like PACAR for collective action, strengthening Africa's role in global adaptation governance, and developing a glossary of climate adaptation terminology for consistency in communications.

Africa's Climate Narrative and Policy Influence

Storytelling for Policy Advocacy

The workshop emphasized storytelling as a tool to shed light on just transition narratives and opportunities for Africa's adaptation. A panel featured key success stories:

- **South Africa's Industrial Decarbonization:** Leanne Govindsamy outlined strategies for a transition in the steel industry, integrating technology transfer and community support.
- **Agroecology and Sustainable Livelihoods in Central Africa:** Ewi Lamma highlighted locally led adaptation strategies, including bee farming and inclusive climate leadership training.
- **East African Landscape Restoration:** Edith Santyian described initiatives in pastoralism, climate-resilient livestock breeding, and women-led income-generating activities.
- **Supporting Nomadic Communities in North Africa:** Hajar Eddine examined the impact of water scarcity on nomadic lifestyles and the role of solar-powered water solutions in addressing this issue.

Strengthening Africa's Global Adaptation Presence

To elevate Africa's adaptation priorities in global discussions, the coalition explored key strategic approaches as follows:

- **Amplifying Local Voices:** Enhancing representation of community perspectives in international climate forums.
- **Leveraging Media and Communication:** Utilizing digital platforms to share success stories and foster global recognition.
- **Policy Integration and Advocacy:** Aligning grassroots initiatives with national and regional policies for greater impact.
- **Building Cross-Regional Alliances:** Strengthening networks for collective advocacy on adaptation financing and support.
- **Advancing Equity Through a Just Transition Framework:** Ensuring adaptation efforts are inclusive, effective, and socially just.

A Just Transition for Adaptation in Africa

Power Shift Africa and German watch are collaborating on research concerning a just transition for climate adaptation, focusing on key justice dimensions. The ongoing research, presented in the workshop, identifies critical aspects such as recognitional justice (acknowledging structural and historical injustices), procedural justice (ensuring fair participatory decision-making processes), distributive justice (equitably allocating resources), and restorative justice (addressing past injustices and providing compensation). The workshop facilitated rich discussions, providing deeper insights from the African perspective to further refine and enhance the approach.

A just transition for adaptation in Africa requires a holistic approach that integrates equity, effectiveness, and justice into the fully adaptation policy cycle, from risk assessments to planning and implementation aspects. By prioritizing the needs of vulnerable communities, leveraging local knowledge, and ensuring inclusive decision-making, Africa can build resilience and achieve sustainable development in the face of climate change. This vision encompasses recognizing and addressing past injustices, ensuring fair distribution of resources, and empowering communities through education, capacity building, and sustainable local and global financing.

During the workshop, delegates discussed and envisioned a just transition for adaptation pathway from an African perspective. The traditional concept of just transition has primarily focused on energy transitions, neglecting the reality that climate adaptation inherently has justice and equity imperatives that must be identified and addressed. The delegates identified and highlighted various core elements essential for achieving this vision. The core elements of just transition for adaptation as identified in the workshop - from an African perspective - include:

Core Element	Description
Equity & Inclusivity	Climate adaptation must identify and prioritize the needs of marginalized communities, including indigenous peoples, women, and youth. Removing barriers to accessing resources—funding, technology, and knowledge—ensures adaptation efforts benefit all.
Effective Adaptation Strategies	Strengthening community-led initiatives, such as agroecology, sustainable water management, and nature-based solutions (NbS), fosters resilience. Projects like the Alexandra Water Warriors' River Restoration exemplify how ecological conservation advances adaptation goals.
Policy & Advocacy	Embedding the just transition principles within national development frameworks and international agreements enhances equity for Africa's climate adaptation agenda.
Capacity Building	Investing in education, technical training, and leadership development strengthens local adaptation expertise, while fostering research and innovation ensures the development of sustainable, region-specific solutions.
Sustainable Financing	Climate adaptation requires adequate, accessible, and high-quality funding, leveraging international climate finance, private-sector investments, and innovative funding mechanisms.
Monitoring & Accountability	Robust evaluation frameworks ensure transparency, track progress, and optimize adaptation strategies to maximize long-term resilience.

Strategic Advocacy Steps for PACAR Members Post-Workshop

To strengthen Africa's climate voice and ensure the momentum from the workshop translates into impactful actions, PACAR members should undertake the following strategic advocacy steps. These steps are designed to build on the insights gained during the workshop and align with the overarching goals of PACAR.

Category	Actions
Enhance Visibility and Communication	▸ **Develop a Dedicated Website:** Enhance visibility through a dedicated website that showcases the coalition's work and achievements. ▸ **Knowledge Platform:** The coalition will work through a knowledge platform to share resources, best practices, and success stories. ▸ **Strengthening Communication Strategies:** Implement robust communication strategies before, during, and after key events to maintain momentum and visibility.
Foster Collaboration and Learning	▸ **Multinational Projects:** Co-plan and deliver multinational projects through the coalition to address common challenges and leverage shared resources. ▸ **Cross-Sharing and Learning:** Encourage cross-sharing and learning among members through regular meetings and exchange programs. ▸ **Decentralized Engagements:** Organize national-level engagements and invite partners to help push the adaptation agenda locally.
Increase Member Engagement and Capacity	▸ **Frequent Meetings:** Increase the frequency of meetings and engagements with members, including online information-sharing sessions and biennial larger audience engagements. ▸ **Engage Members in Planning:** Involve most members in preparations and planning to distribute roles and reduce the burden on PSA. ▸ **Train Trainers of Trainers (TOT):** Train trainers to decentralize the adaptation agenda, build local awareness, and strengthen grassroots engagements.
Resource Mobilization and Sustainability	▸ **Joint Resource Mobilization:** Mobilize resources for sustainability and ensure long-term funding for adaptation initiatives. ▸ **Formalize Membership:** Legitimize and document membership with clear criteria to formalize the coalition and ensure commitment.

Advocacy and Policy Influence	‣ **Form Alliances:** Build coalitions with other regions and countries to amplify Africa's adaptation narrative and advocate for increased support. ‣ **Engage with Media:** Utilize media platforms to share success stories and best practices, creating a positive narrative around Africa's adaptation efforts. ‣ **Participating in International Forums:** Ensure active participation in global climate negotiations, presenting evidence-backed arguments and highlighting Africa's unique challenges and solutions. ‣ **Lobby for Policy Changes:** Advocate for policy changes at national and regional levels that support adaptation efforts and ensure equitable distribution of resources.
Strengthen Grassroots and Regional Representation	‣ **Showcase Local Adaptations:** Strengthen grassroots engagement and highlight community-driven solutions through local adaptation efforts. ‣ **Regional Representatives:** Recruit and retain a greater number of regional representatives to ensure diverse and inclusive representation within the coalition.
Continuous Engagement and Commitment	‣ **Year-Round Engagement:** Maintain member engagement throughout the year with regular monthly meetings and ongoing information sharing. ‣ **Rotational Leadership:** Support members in leading monthly engagements on a rotational basis, enhancing their capacity to engage with media and stakeholders. ‣ **Campaign and Advocacy:** Provide advice on strategic meetings at regional and global levels, leveraging PSA's strong communication and advocacy power.



Field Visits - Community-Led Adaptation Initiatives

PACAR believes in a holist, whole-of-society approach to climate adaptation. While the coalition invests in knowledge generation, thought leadership, advocacy, and communication, on-the-ground implementation of adaptation action remains a key strand. For the coalition, only well-informed actions that are adequately resourced and financed have the potential to create long-term resilience and prosperity for the people. Therefore, translating co-created knowledge and policies into actual actions within communities that face adverse climate impacts is imperative.

Driven by the need to get firsthand experience of what communities and organized groups in South Africa are already doing to build resilience against climate change, the coalition members at the workshop took a trip to two sites in Johannesburg: Newlands Agroecology Gardens and Alexandra Water Warriors' Jukskei River Restoration Project.

Newlands Agroecology Gardens: Advancing Sustainable Agriculture

The visit to Newlands Agroecology Gardens, also known as the Garden of Grace, provided valuable insights into community-driven agricultural adaptation. Key observations included:

- **Diversified Crop Systems:** Crop diversity and companion planting enhances food security while reducing vulnerability to pests and diseases.
- **Innovative Water Management:** Techniques such as rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation optimize water use, supporting productivity amid increasing water scarcity.
- **Community Participation:** The active involvement of residents fosters long-term sustainability, particularly with women and youth playing central roles.
- **Capacity Building:** The gardens host educational programs that equip communities with sustainable farming skills, thereby strengthening their climate resilience.





Alexandra Water Warriors: Nature-Based Solutions in Action

The Alexandra Water Warriors initiative showcased effective Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation, particularly in urban flood management and ecosystem restoration. Core initiatives observed included:

- **Restoring River Ecosystems:** Community-led efforts have significantly improved the health of the Jukskei River through pollution reduction, the planting of native vegetation, and the control of erosion.
- **Flood Risk Mitigation:** Restored riverbanks and natural flood management approaches help protect infrastructure and recharge groundwater.
- **Collaborative Conservation:** Partnerships with upstream and downstream initiatives ensure a holistic approach to waterway restoration.
- **Community Empowerment:** Skill development and employment opportunities linked to conservation enhance local resilience.
- **Urban Greening Efforts:** The creation of green corridors helps mitigate heat islands and supports urban biodiversity, while also providing recreational spaces.







Conclusion

The 2025 PACAR Annual Workshop marked a transformative moment for Africa's climate adaptation agenda. It underscored the critical need for a unified, evidence-based approach to elevate Africa's adaptation priorities on the global stage. Through dynamic discussions, field visits, and strategic sessions, stakeholders reaffirmed that Africa's adaptation efforts must be community-led, informed by lived realities, and supported by robust international collaboration.

As COP30 approaches, the momentum generated by this workshop must be harnessed to advocate for equitable, predictable, and accessible adaptation finance, and to ensure that Africa's voice shapes global adaptation policies. The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to action, resilience, and justice, driven by African solutions to African challenges. Together, we can transform Africa's adaptation landscape and secure a sustainable, resilient future for the continent.







Appendices

Concept Note for the 2025 Annual PACAR Workshop

Theme: Coordinating African peoples' voices for effective Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Africa faces an escalating climate crisis, marked by increasing vulnerability, rising death tolls, and significant losses and damages. Climate adaptation is not a choice but a necessity for the continent.

Despite the urgent need for action, adaptation finance remains far from adequate. Africa requires an estimated $215 to $387 billion annually for adaptation by 2030. Yes, as of 2022, only $32.4 billion had been mobilized, with two-thirds provided as loans and more than half being non-concessional. The slow translation of adaptation planning into implementation, combined with biased finance flows favoring mitigation, exacerbates this gap. Urgent and coordinated action is needed to accelerate adaptation planning, implementation and finance efforts to drive tangible progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation and bolster resilience against climate risks. This requires a significant scale-up of public grant-based and highly concessional adaptation finance to ensure fair and sustained support for African-led solutions.

About PACAR:

The Pan African Coalition for Adaptation and Resilience (PACAR) was established to address the need for a unified, multi-stakeholder approach to advancing climate adaptation up the political agenda. It serves as a platform to elevate African perspectives in global climate processes, advocating for equity, climate justice, and locally driven solutions. PACAR aims to enhance civil society engagement in national to global processes, foster collaboration, and push for increased adaptation finance. The 2025 PACAR coalition meeting will build on past efforts to strengthen adaptation advocacy, refine strategies, and enhance coalition impact.

Objectives of the PACAR workshop:

1. Reflection on 2024 Outcomes and Strategic Prioritizations for 2025

- Assess key outcomes from COP 29 in 2024, focusing on adaptation, agriculture, and loss and damage.
- Define 2025 priorities including Means of Implementation (MoIs), to co-create African positions on adaptation ahead of SBs 62, African climate summit and COP30.
- Develop advocacy strategies to elevate adaptation efforts and financing from an African perspective through key moments, the Adapt2live Campaign, papers, communications pieces, Convenings etc.

2. Strengthening PACAR

- Revisit PACAR's mission, principles, milestones, challenges and impacts.
- Training PACAR membership on the UNFCCC/Rio conventions negotiations
- Explore ways to strengthen PACAR's structure, operations, resources, and;
- Expand partnerships, including Global North collaborations coalitions, to foster allegiances and amplify African voices in global platforms.

3. Inputs to the Research on Just Transition for Adaptation

- Present and refine preliminary findings from Just Transition research.
- Identify policy and technical interventions for equitable adaptation pathways.



AGENDA

Time	Activity	Speakers/Panelists	Moderators/ Facilitators
Arrival Day: Monday, 5th May 2025			
15:00	Participants Arrival and check in		All participants, hotel management, PSA (Amy, Fred & Juma)
18:00	Welcome Dinner		
Day 1: Tuesday, 6th May 2025			
Time	**Activity**	**Speakers/Panelists**	**Moderators/ Facilitators**
07:00 - 08:30	Breakfast		
08:30 - 09:00	Participants registration		Fredrick Otieno Ndivile Mokoena
09:00 - 09:30	**Opening:** Welcome, Ground rules, Icebreaker	Amy Giliam Thorp (Power Shift Africa)	Amy Giliam Thorp (Power Shift Africa)
09:30 - 10:00	**Keynote address:** What Africa needs at COP30 / adaptation	Mohamed Adow (Director & Founder Power Shift Africa)	
10:00 - 10:15	**Storytelling:** Ground Realities – South Africa's Climate Struggles + Community Solutions	Ndivile Mokoena (Gender CC)	
10:15 - 11:15	**Presentation Series:** Adaptation Outcomes at COP29, the Current State of Play, and African Priorities for SB62 and COP30	Tlou Ramaru (DFFE, SA) – GGA + MoI Dr. Luckson Zvobgo (ACDI) – GGA indicators progress (online) Dr. Nana Antwi-Boasiako Amoah (EPA, Ghana) – NAPs + finance Saada Mohamed (PSA) - Adaptation finance Ndivile Mokoena (GenderCC) - Agriculture + Food, Gender	
11:15 - 11:30	**Coffee Break**		
11:30 - 12:30	Q&A and Participant Reflections on both panels		Juma Ignatius Maiyah (Power Shift Africa)
12:30 - 12:45 / 13:00	**Africa's Adaptation State of Play:** Needs, Gaps and Risks	Amy Giliam Thorp Fredrick Otieno (Power Shift Africa)	

13:00 - 14:00	**Lunch Break**		
14:00 - 15:00	**Breakout Strategy Labs – Session I** Drafting Africa's core priorities **Thematic Groups:** GGA + UAE-Belem WP + Baku Adaptation Roadmap NAPs Adaptation finance Agriculture	N/A	Breakout group leads
15:00 - 15:30	**Report Back**: Each group shares key proposals and points of convergence / divergence		
15:30 - 15:50	**Energizer + Coffee Break**		
15:50 –1 6:30	**Reflection Circle:** Group reflection- How can African CSOs be more impactful in UNFCCC adaptation negotiations?	All	Patience Agyekum (SYND)

Day 2: Wednesday, 7th May 2025

Time	Activity	Speakers/Panelists	Moderators/ Facilitators
07:00 - 08:30	**Breakfast**		
08:30 - 09:00	Participants registration		Fredrick Otieno Ndivile Mokoena
09:00 - 09:30	**Energizer + Storytelling:** 5-minute recap of day 1 Screening PSA documentaries or any other from coalition members Story from Patience	Fred James Kahongeh + Saverio Mungoni (Power Shift Africa) Patience Agyekum (SYND)	Fredrick Otieno (Power Shift Africa)
09:30 - 10:00	**Dialogue Circles:** **In group:** What does transformational adaptation mean to us?		
10:00 - 10:20	**Short Presentation:** Transformational vs Incremental Adaptation	Dr. Luckson Zvobgo (GGA expert / ACDI) - online	
10:20 - 11:00	**Group debate:** Incremental vs transformational adaptation - what does Africa need?		
11:00 - 11:20	**Coffee Break**		
11:20 - 12:00	**Wrap Up:** Co-Create Africa's Narrative for Transformational Adaptation		Juma Ignatius Maiyah (Power Shift Africa)
12:00 - 13:00	**Presentation + Plenary Discussion:** **Stories that move policy:** How to communicate Africa's Adaptation Agenda **Reflection Circle:** Group reflection- How can African CSOs be more impactful in UNFCCC adaptation negotiations + advancing adaptation outcomes?	James Kahongeh (Power Shift Africa)	Patience Agyekum

13:00 - 14:00	**Lunch Break**		
14:00 - 15:00	Breakout Strategy Labs II – Draft positions + Messaging GGA + UAE-Belem WP + Baku Adaptation Roadmap Adaptation Finance NAPs Food and Agriculture	Breakout leads	Amy Giliam Thorp (Power Shift Africa)
15:00 - 15:10	**Coffee Break**		
15:10 - 16:30	**World Cafe / Marketplace of Ideas:** Groups rotate to each other + share ideas		Amy Giliam Thorp (Power Shift Africa)

Day 3: Thursday, 8th May 2025

Time	Activity	Speakers/Panelists	Moderators/ Facilitators
07:00 - 08:30	**Breakfast served + registration**		
08:30 - 08:40	Energizer Summary of day 2	Leonida Odongo	
08:40 - 09:10	**Short Presentations:** Draft African civil society + African priorities for SB62 + COP30	PSA team (Fred, Juma, Amy) - civil society priorities Soha Benchekroun - African GGA priorities	Patience Agyekum (SYND)
09:10 - 09:50	**Group discussion:** Refining and aligning civil society priorities for SB62 + COP30		Juma Ignatius Maiyah (Power Shift Africa)
09:50 - 10:00	**Coffee Break**		
10:00 - 10:30	Field Trip to + Exploring Newlands' Agro-ecological gardens of Gender CC		Ndivile Mokoena (Gender CC)
10:30 - 11:30			
11:30 - 12:00	Journey from Newlands to Alexander + Exploring the Nature Based solutions (NbS)		
12:00 - 13:00			
13:00 - 13:30	Journey from Alexander back to Indaba Hotel and Conference		
13:30 - 14:15	**Lunch Break**		

14:15 - 14:30	**Storytelling Panel:** Just Adaptation in Practice Short Stories from 4 Speakers	Leanne Govindsamy (Southern Transitions, S. Africa) Ewi Lamma (Pan African Centre for Policy, C. Africa) Edith Santiyan (Nalala Tree Foundation, E. Africa) Hajar Eddine (IMAL Initiative, N. Africa)	Lina Adil (Germanwatch)
14:30 - 15:00	Envisioning a Just Transition for Adaptation	All	
15:00 - 15:20	**Light Research Presentation:** Just Transition Research + discussion questions	Lina Adil (Germanwatch) Amy Giliam Thorp (Power Shift Africa)	
15:20 - 15:30	**Coffee + Reflection break**		
15:30 - 16:15	Just Adaptation Carousel Discussion		Lina Adil (Germanwatch)
16:15 - 16:30	**Closing Reflection:** Plenary One Word Harvest		

Day 4: Friday, 9th May 2025

Time	Activity	Speakers/Panelists	Moderators/ Facilitators
07:00 - 08:30	**Breakfast**		
08:30 - 09:00	**Energizer:** Recap of day 3 Icebreaker	Leomn	Juma Ignatius Maiyah (Power Shift Africa)
09:00 - 10.30	Introduction to Rio Conventions + Adaptation Landscape training Overview of core functions, structure, and entry points for engagement Adaptation Landscape within UNFCCC Facilitated Question and Reflection discussion	Presentation by the trainers (Xolisa Ngwadla + Juma Ignatius Maiyah) Testimonies by trainees	
10:30 - 11:00	**Lessons in Practice:** Past trainees share insights Team exercise	Ndivile Mokoena (Gender CC) Patience Agyekum (SYND) Sunday Geofrey (SUHUCAM) Juma Ignatius Maiyah (PSA)	
11:00 - 11:20	**Coffee Break**		
11:20 - 12:35	PACAR's journey: Guiding principles and goals of the coalition		Juma Ignatius Maiyah (Power Shift Africa)
12:35 - 13:15	**Mapping 2025 + 2026:** Key Opportunities & Moments for Impact		
13:15 - 13:30	**Closing remarks**		
16:15 - 16:30	**Afternoon Coffee Break**		

Day 5: Saturday, 10th May 2025

07.00	**Breakfast, checkout and Farewell**

For more information contact:
info@powershiftafrica.org

