



Joint Principles for Adaptation

An initiative from civil society across the world to promote effective and equitable adaptation to climate change

The Joint Principles for Adaptation are a statement by civil society organisations from across the world on what they consider to be a benchmark for good adaptation planning and implementation. They are a tool for ensuring that national policies and plans meet the needs and fulfil the rights of the most vulnerable people to adapt to climate change.



About the Joint Principles for Adaptation (JPA)

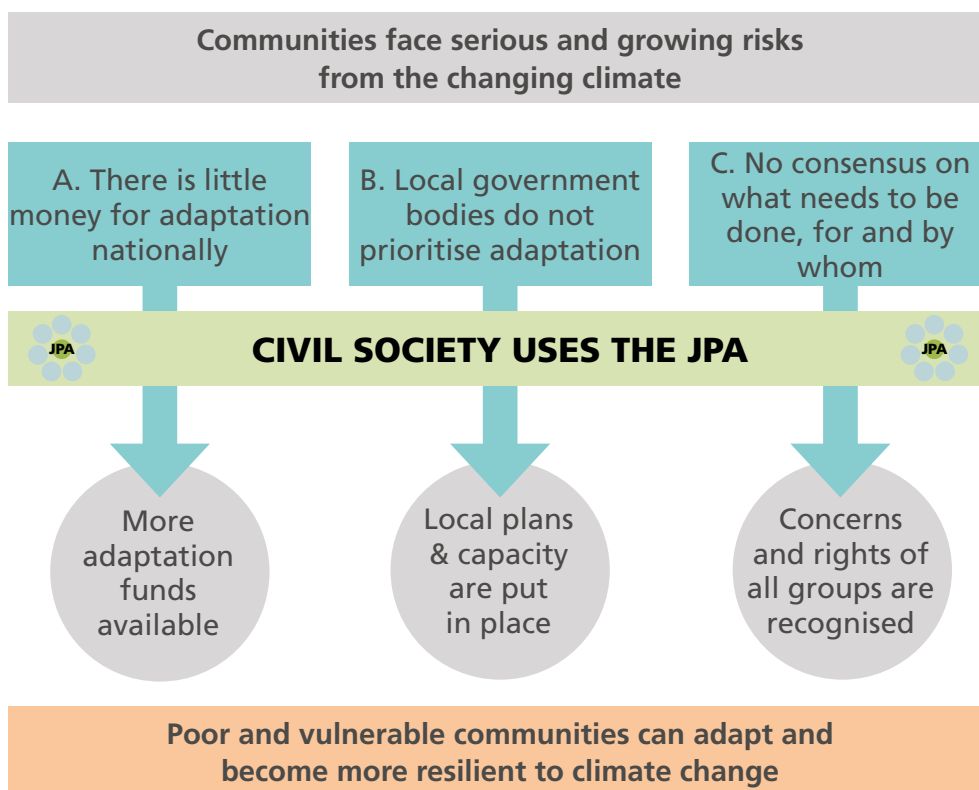
The JPA were developed over 2014 and 2015 by civil society networks working on climate change from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, under a project known as Southern Voices on Adaptation (SVA). The JPA have evolved and undergone several revisions after testing. The present version 3 was finalised in 2015 and launched at the COP21 in Paris.

Using the JPA

The experience of the SV partners has over time not only improved the content of the JPA, but also the understanding of how the JPA can be put to good use in different contexts.

The Joint Principles have been used by SV-Adapt partners to overcome three key challenges to establish equitable and pro-poor adaptation frameworks:

1. A shortage of resources by **easing national access to international adaptation finance**;
2. A lack of official support by **promoting the flow of resources** (funds, information, skills) **from national to local government levels**; and;
3. A lack of shared understanding by **ensuring that the adaptation needs of vulnerable communities receive due priority**, as depicted below:



To address the constraints and achieve the results indicated above, the JPA have been used to **influence policy processes** by informing research and advocacy strategies; to **strengthen capacity** by identifying issues for learning by civil society and other actors and; to **promote dialogue** by supplying an agenda for discussion with government and other stakeholders.

The JPA can be used to analyse existing policies and plans, and to identify gaps and focus areas for advocacy. As a companion to the JPA, Southern Voices have developed [an assessment tool](#) based on the Joint Principles and accompanying criteria, which is available on our website www.southernvoices.net

Photo front page: At the workshop in Nairobi around the CBA9 conference, the JPA were updated through discussions among participants from partner networks in 12 countries.
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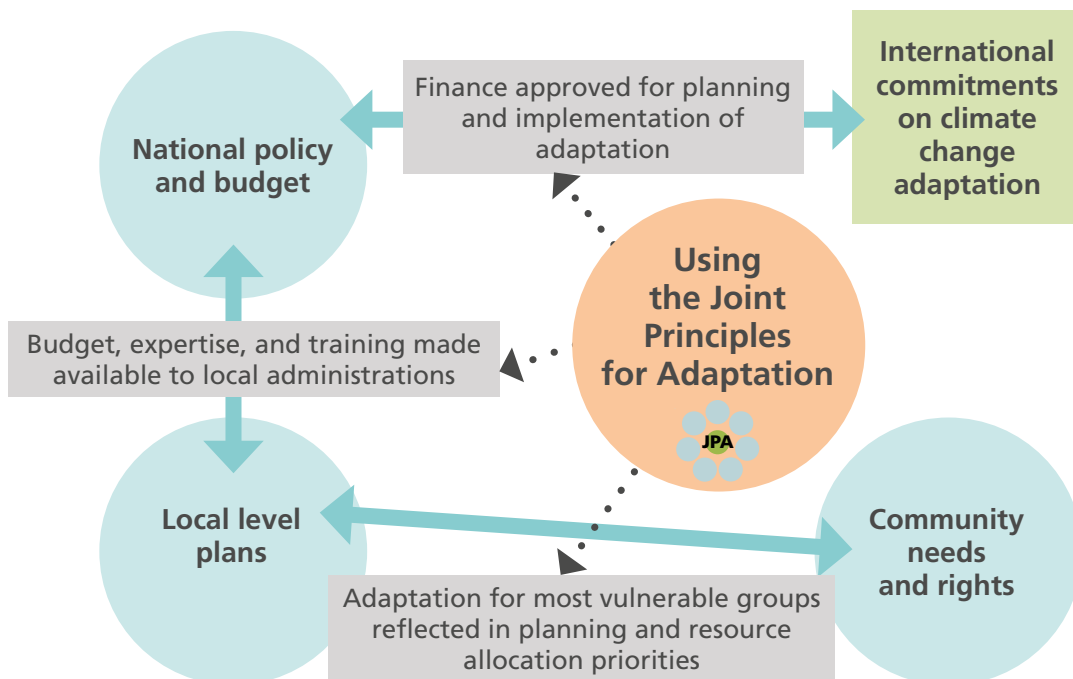
National frameworks for climate change adaptation are more equitable and more effective when

PRINCIPLES	Criteria
A. The formulation, implementation and monitoring of adaptation policies and plans is participatory and inclusive	1. Multiple stakeholders (including, but not limited to civil society, sub-national governments, research institutes, academia, private sector, and indigenous peoples) participate in defining options and priorities as well as in implementation and monitoring
	2. The knowledge and experience of local communities and indigenous peoples is incorporated
	3. Plans and policies are publicised in ways that local people can understand and engage with
B. Funds for adaptation are utilised efficiently, and managed transparently and with integrity	1. The implementation and financing of plans is periodically monitored by a body on which civil society is represented
	2. Adaptation funding is made available through a transparent process of allocation
	3. There is full and free access to information on how adaptation funds are being spent (finances and processes)
	4. There is a mechanism in place to safeguard against initiatives that might have negative impacts
	5. A secure mechanism for expressing grievances and seeking redress is available
C. All government sectors and levels of administration have defined responsibilities and appropriate resources to fulfil them	1. National adaptation plans carry the authority to enable different government sectors to work in a coordinated way
	2. Existing initiatives and sector plans are enhanced to take climate change and disaster risk into account
	3. Funding for adaptation is explicitly provided for within the national budget and respective sectorial allocations
	4. Local level adaptation plans are guided by mechanisms to ensure coherence with national adaptation policies
D. Local adaptation plans are developed through approaches that build resilience of communities and ecosystems	1. Communities affected by climate change participate in defining adaptation options and priorities
	2. Local adaptation plans are formalised and integrated into the development priorities of local administrations.
	3. Significant resources are allocated towards implementation of local adaptation plans
	4. Financing arrangements make commitments for multi-year programmes of support to vulnerable communities
E. The resilience of groups who are most vulnerable to climate change is promoted	1. Plans and policies address the issues affecting different groups of women, men, boys and girls
	2. Groups of people who are vulnerable to social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions are identified, targeted
	3. Initiatives take into account the differentiated needs and capacities of women and men in different age groups
	4. Initiatives promote social equity and cohesion while protecting people's livelihoods
F. There is appropriate investment in the building of skills and capacities for adaptation, as well as in physical infrastructure	1. Adequate resources are made available to improve the effectiveness of institutions responsible for managing climate change adaptation
	2. Adequate resources are made available for raising public awareness and education about climate change
	3. Investment plans contain targets for developing human capacities, natural capital, and physical infrastructure
	4. The capacities of local people and their structures are developed in ways that contribute to the empowerment of individuals and communities
G. Plans and policies respond to evidence of the current and future manifestations and impacts of climate change	1. Adaptation plans consider how exposure to climate-related stresses and extremes is affecting existing vulnerabilities
	2. Vulnerability, exposure and adaptation scenarios are based on the best available science and evidence from the ground
	3. Interventions are modified as new information becomes available
	4. Climate information is made accessible to enable adaptive decision making by all stakeholders

LOCAL TO GLOBAL ADVOCACY

The Joint Principles have been used by civil society networks to promote good adaptation governance in linking the Global Goal on Adaptation in the Paris Agreement with local level realities, often by influencing national adaptation frameworks and finance. For examples and lessons learned see the publication [“Promoting Pro-poor Adaptation to Climate Change”](#) from which this illustration is taken:

JPA USED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS



Southern Voices

Since COP15 in Copenhagen the Southern Voices programme has been strengthening partner networks in the Global South to advocate for climate change policies benefiting poor and vulnerable people. From 2014 the Southern Voices on Adaptation project (SV-Adapt) has supported a coalition of 14 networks from Asia, Africa, and Latin America focusing on pro-poor adaptation policies.

As the SV-Adapt project reaches its conclusion in early 2018, CARE Denmark will continue supporting the Southern Voices from its DANIDA partnership agreement – turning Southern Voices on Adaptation into a learning platform on adaptation advocacy. SVA engagement will continue in Nepal, Vietnam, Kenya, and Ghana, while welcoming new advocacy partners in Niger, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, and Mozambique, who will join CARE Denmark country programmes during first half of 2018. The platform will also be open for adaptation advocacy networks supported by SV-Adapt’s consortium partners – DanChurchAid and IbisOxfam. The SVA secretariat will move from Copenhagen to a new location in the Global South in the second half of 2018.

¹ Available from the Southern Voices website www.southernvoices.net

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