



# CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSIONS

Deadline: 15 September 2017



5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION CONFERENCE

CAPE TOWN  
SOUTH AFRICA 18–21 JUNE 2018

# ADAPTATION FUTURES

Adaptation Futures is the premiere international climate change adaptation conference where people from countries around the world go to connect, learn and inspire!

Adaptation Futures 2018 aims to progress discussion and learning within the adaptation community on how to move from problem diagnosis to successful implementation. What is the community learning about making adaptation work, at different spatial, institutional and time scales, in different geographies, and in different political and economic settings? What are we learning from mistakes, unexpected outcomes and outright failure, as well as our successes? How does adaptation support successful development, and when does it not?

Adaptation Futures is committed to producing rich, interactive sessions which engage diverse participants that align with the conference themes.

## Adaptation & Development

How can adaptation lead better development outcomes? In what ways do development processes prevent & enhance adaptation outcomes? How does adaptation contribute to the achievement of the SDGs? And what are the implications of maladaptation? How can we move adaptation discourse and practice into National Development Plans and other development processes?

## Modes of Collaboration, Knowledge Co-Production & Research Into Use

What are we learning from transdisciplinary & engaged research processes? How do we maximise the uptake of evidence from research & innovations into policy & practice? How do we "go the last mile" – from good research, good policy, great ideas to implementation on the ground that leads to real change, for many?

## South-South & South-North Knowledge and Learning

How does a Southern perspective change the global framing of adaptation & development? Are there critiques of Northern approaches to adaptation in research, funding, & practice? How do we enhance South-South collaboration; what successes point the way to do this?

## Financing of Adaptation & Climate Resilient Development

What are we learning from the new global, regional & national funding mechanisms, such as the Adaptation & Green Climate Funds? Where are the examples of "transformative" projects that the GCF seeks to fund? What might transformative adaptation look like? How do we measure adaptation?

## Interaction of Climate Adaptation with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges

How can adaptation thinking be brought into debates & practice around food, water & energy security? What are the solutions for reducing climate risks in the face of rapid urbanisation? What are the implications of migration in the context of climate change and other drivers?

## Learning from Doing

What works & has not worked at different scales, from regional, to national, to local & community? What needs to be in place (enablers) & be circumvented (barriers) to maximise the chances of success in different adaptation settings? How do we improve the way learning occurs so that acknowledgement of failure or partial success is valued? How do we implement adaptation across complex social, cultural & political-economic systems?



# GUIDELINES FOR SESSION PROPOSALS

We invite you to submit a proposal to organise a special session at the conference. As the session organiser, you define the topic and format of the special session. You also organise the smooth running of the session and provide a summary report for the conference report. We invite proposals for Open or Closed Sessions.

## OPEN SESSIONS

In an Open Session, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, invite one or more speakers to anchor the session, but advertise for and accept contributions from the wider community through their own networks and the conference website. All contributions for an open special session will need to be submitted via the conference abstract submission process. The conference SteerCom may also suggest additional contributors to the session.

In a Closed Session, the session organisers define the topic and format of the session, and invite all speakers/contributors in the session. Therefore the session proposal needs to include details of all the speakers/contributors.

## SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

The Science, Policy and Practice Review Panel will review the session proposals and the conference SteerCom will make the final decision. Our main criteria for selection will be quality, relevance and diversity and inclusivity. We particularly welcome sessions that:

- Facilitate dialogue between research and government, civil society, international agencies and business.
- Contribute to a diverse and balanced programme that focuses on solutions and innovations.
- Link adaptation action to sustainable development, investment and planning.
- Contribute to a conference programme with a wide range of topics, stakeholders, scales and regions.
- Use stimulating formats (see suggestions for session types) with plenty of opportunity for audience interaction.
- Showcase examples (case studies, best practices, tools) or research that are internationally applicable.
- Involve a partner organisation from a different country or adaptation community.
- Fit a 1h45min time slot (it is also possible to arrange for two or three linked sessions around a particular topic).

## COMPLETING THE SUBMISSION FORM: YOU WILL NEED TO

- Specify the session organiser, chair and rapporteur and any other key team members.
  - elect a theme and a format.
  - Provide a summary of the proposed session (max 500 words) including how it will be organised and moderated.
  - Provide the outcomes of the session (max 50 words).
  - Motivate if you would want an additional session.
  - Indicate partner organisation (if applicable).
  - [Click here to continue to the session submission form.](#)
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## CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

- Abstracts, presentations, photos and/ or videos may be published on the conference website and other communications materials.
- The SteerCom will decide on the date and time for the selected sessions. (Preferences for dates can be given but are not guaranteed).
- The SteerCom may ask session organisers to merge their proposed session with another session, or to include additional contributors or change the session format.
- The responsibility for covering the costs associated with registration, travel and accommodation of the session team lies with the organising institution.

## SESSION FORMATS

### Themed presentations with interactive Q&A

Based on presentations, this session provides ample time for audience interaction through Q&A. The moderator may get the audience to come up with questions before the talk. After the presentations, the audience highlights issues that were not addressed.

### Round Table

A round table session is held around a table where every participant has an equal right and opportunity to speak. The topic is chosen by the organiser and participants are invited to join in advance of the session. It is thus a closed session. The organisers facilitate the discussion and debate.

### Panel Debate

The panel debate is a live discussion about a specific topic amongst a selected group of panellists with differing perspectives. The debate can be preceded by short presentations by the panellists. The panel is typically facilitated by a "moderator" who guides the panel and the audience through the event. The panel shares facts, offers opinions and responds to audience questions either through questions curated by the moderator or taken from the audience directly.

### World Café

The World Café is a structured conversational process intended to facilitate open and intimate discussion, and link ideas within a larger group to access the "collective intelligence" in the room. A café ambience is created in order to encourage conversation. Participants move between a series of tables where they continue the discussion in response to a set of questions, which are predetermined and focused on the specific goals of the World Café. Each table has a dedicated facilitator.

### Fireside chat

A fireside chat is an informal conversation between a moderator and the guest. Fireside chats help to put a speaker at ease and a good moderator will engage the audience in the conversation, so that, in addition to sharing knowledge, the speaker is responding to delegate questions.

### Campfire session

Campfire sessions are set in a laid-back environment, simulating a campfire conversation. The facilitator introduces a topic and then drives the discussion but not the content itself. The content is created by delegates discussing the issues. This format presents an excellent place for peer-to-peer learning and sharing by delegates, and provides an opportunity for delegates to build new connections.

If you have any questions, please contact [info@adaptationfutures2018.capetown](mailto:info@adaptationfutures2018.capetown)

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