

STATE OF ADAPTATION REPORT (SoAR) 2025 STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE WORKSHOP REPORT

Submitted by:

The African Research and Impact
Network (ARIN)

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(AAI)



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We are also grateful to the country representatives, experts, practitioners, and stakeholders who took part in the two-day workshop. Their evidence, perspectives, and recommendations have been instrumental in refining the report’s emerging direction, strengthening its knowledge base, and ensuring it reflects the lived realities and priorities of communities across Africa.

We further acknowledge Dr. Joanes Atela, the technical lead, as well as the authors and reviewers who continue to guide this process with expertise and dedication. Their commitment is ensuring that the SoAR25 evolves into a credible and context-driven resource for adaptation accountability and regional coherence.

This workshop report captures an important milestone in that journey. It reflects the value of collaborative, African-led processes in generating the insights and solutions needed to amplify Africa’s voice in global adaptation discourse and to advance pathways toward a climate-resilient future.

Disclaimer

This workshop report summarizes discussions from the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025 workshop in Addis Ababa. The content is the sole responsibility of the report team and workshop contributors. The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), as funder of SoAR25 and organizer of the workshop, is acknowledged for its support but is not accountable for the analyses or conclusions presented.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	iii
Disclaimer	iv
List of Figures	VIII
List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	IX
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Objectives of the Workshop	2
1.3 Expected Outcomes of the Workshop	2
2.0 Remarks from the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)	3
3.0 Background and Approaches to State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025	3
3.1 Phases of the Report	4
3.2 Outline of the Report	5
3.3 Suggestions on How to Strengthen SoAR 2025	6
3.3.1 Knowledge Gaps and Considerations	6
3.3.2 Chapter Insights	7
3.3.3 Methodology and Negotiator Perspective	7
3.3.4 Emphasis and Approaches	8
3.3.5 Stand-Alone Chapter on Climate Change Impacts	8
3.3.6 Additional Emphasis	9
4.0 Thematic and Sectoral Highlights	10
4.1 Ecosystems and Biodiversity	10
4.1.1 State of Biodiversity and Role in Adaptation	10
4.1.2 Case Studies and Regional Balance	10
4.1.3 Finance, Innovation, and Resources	10
4.1.4 Benchmarks, Indicators, and Data Harmonization	10
4.1.5 Governance and Policy Integration	11
4.1.6 Adaptation and Ecosystem Restoration	11
4.1.7 Regional and Thematic Integration	11
4.1.8 Success Factors and Opportunities	11
4.1.9 Key Messages	12
4.2 Agriculture and Food Security	12
4.2.1 Methodology and Evidence Base	12
4.2.2 Linkages to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)	12
4.2.3 Gender, Social Inclusion, and Equity	13
4.2.4 Adaptation Options and Structured Presentation	13
4.2.5 Interconnections and Nexus Approaches	13
4.2.6 Policy Implications and Success Stories	13
4.2.7 Gaps and Investments	14
4.3 Infrastructure and Human Settlement	14
4.3.1 State of Africa's Settlements and Vulnerabilities	14
4.3.2 Governance and Policy Frameworks	14

4.3.3 Climate Risks and Integrated Planning	15
4.3.4 Financing, Technology, and Innovation.....	15
4.3.5 Gender, Social Inclusion, and Equity	15
4.4 Poverty and Livelihoods	16
4.4.1 Overall Impressions	16
4.4.2 Adaptation Finance and Grants.....	16
4.4.3 Governance and Accountability	16
4.4.4 Context-Specific Solutions.....	16
4.4.5 Successful Examples.....	17
4.4.6 Strengthening the Evidence Base	17
4.4.7 Alignment with Africa’s Adaptation Narrative	17
4.5 Water Resources	17
4.5.1 Overall Improvements.....	17
4.5.2 Gaps and Vulnerabilities	18
4.5.3 Water Governance and Policy	18
4.5.4 Climate Pressures and Adaptation Needs	18
4.5.5 Case Studies and Lessons Learned.....	18
4.5.6 Data, Evidence, and Information Systems	19
4.5.7 Financing, Affordability, and Implementation	19
4.5.8 Water as a Cross-Cutting Issue	19
4.6 Health.....	19
4.6.1 Overall Quality and Style	20
4.6.2 Linkages Between Climate Change and Health	20
4.6.3 Thematic Coverage of Health Dimensions.....	20
4.6.5 Cross-Sectoral Linkages	21
4.6.6 Economics of Health and Adaptation	21
4.6.7 Adaptation Measures and Trade-offs.....	21
4.7 Cultural Heritage.....	22
4.7.1 Overall Presentation and Language	22
4.7.2 Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage.....	22
4.7.3 Regional and Case Study Accuracy	22
4.7.4 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage Loss.....	22
4.7.5 Finance, Loss and Damage, and Implementation	23
5.0 Way forward and Next steps of Action	24
5.1 Roles and Responsibilities	24
5.1.1 All Participants	24
5.1.2 African Research and Impact Network (ARIN) Team	24
5.1.3 Charles Toto	24
5.1.4 African Adaptation Initiative (AAI)	25
6.0 Key Recommendations for Strengthening the Report	26
6.1 Risk and Impact Analysis.....	26
6.2 Finance Chapter	26

6.3 Central Message and Structure 26

6.4 Evidence and Data 26

6.5 Frameworks and Coherence 27

6.6 Process and Delivery..... 27

List of Figures

Figure 1: Methodological framework of the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025.....	11
Figure 2: Outline of the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025.....	12

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAI:	Africa Adaptation Initiative
ACDI:	Africa Climate and Development Initiative
AGN:	Africa Group of Negotiators
AHRI:	Africa Health Research Institute
AI:	Artificial Intelligence
ARIN:	Africa Research and Impact Network
CIAT:	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
COP:	Conference of the Parties
EbA:	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
GIS:	Geographical Information System
GGA:	Global Goal on Adaptation
KMGBF:	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
MUBS:	Makerere University Business School
NAPs:	National Adaptation Plans
NbS:	Nature-based Solutions
NDCs:	Nationally Determined Contributions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDs:	Small Islands Developing States
SoAR:	State of Adaptation Report
STEPRI:	Science and Technology Policy Research Institute
UNEP:	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UoN:	University of Nairobi



Stakeholder Dialogue Workshop

on the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR)
2025

**THEME: SHAPING AFRICA'S ADAPTATION
FUTURE**

3-4 September 2025

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1.1 Introduction

The State of Adaptation in Africa (SoAR) Report 2025 is a flagship assessment of Africa's adaptation progress, challenges, and opportunities by the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), and coordinated by the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN).

SoAR 2025 adopts a solutions-oriented approach, exploring how Africa can leverage emerging opportunities, including the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), innovative financing mechanisms, and technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, to accelerate climate adaptation. Central to the report is a multi-stakeholder, Southern-led perspective, ensuring African realities and priorities are well reflected.

The report is structured around the GGA thematic sectors, which cover water resources, agriculture and food security, health, ecosystems and biodiversity, infrastructure and human settlements, poverty and livelihoods, and cultural heritage. It also includes a dedicated chapter on strategic opportunities and challenges.

SoAR 2025 is designed to serve as a reference document for policymakers, development partners, researchers, and practitioners. It provides evidence-based insights on adaptation implementation, tracks policy alignment with continental and global agendas, and showcases best practices and innovations in resilience building. Ultimately, the report aims to strengthen the knowledge base for adaptation finance, planning, and governance, while supporting African countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2063, and related frameworks.

As part of the report's development process, the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) convened a two-day workshop in Addis Ababa, 3–4 September 2025, during the Africa Climate Week. The workshop brought together key stakeholders to reflect on Africa's adaptation progress, validate the thematic framing and chapter directions of SoAR 2025, and co-develop pathways to strengthen the report's relevance, legitimacy, and policy impact. The outcomes of this workshop will directly inform the finalization of SoAR 2025, ensuring it remains credible, inclusive, and impactful ahead of its official launch.

1.2 Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of the workshop included:

1. Share preliminary insights and the structure of the SoAR 2025 with key adaptation stakeholders.
2. Validate the thematic focus, data framing, and strategic direction of key chapters.
3. Gather feedback and evidence from country representatives, experts, and practitioners to inform the development of the strategy.
4. Identify knowledge gaps, priority areas, and opportunities for investment and collaboration.
5. Position the SoAR 2025 as a tool for accountability, planning, and regional coherence in adaptation action.

1.3 Expected Outcomes of the Workshop

The outcomes of the workshop included:

- a. Stakeholder feedback integrated into the structure and scope of SoAR 2025 chapters, ensuring alignment with regional priorities and national adaptation strategies.
- b. Clear pathways identified for aligning national adaptation plans, NDCs, Agenda 2063, and the Global Goal on Adaptation through the SoAR 2025 framework.
- c. Concrete suggestions received on datasets, country case studies, and local knowledge sources to strengthen the evidence base of the report.
- d. Key recommendations generated on how to better reflect marginalized voices, including women, youth, Indigenous communities, and climate-vulnerable populations.

2.0 Remarks from the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)

Remarks on behalf of the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) were delivered by its Special Advisor, Kulthum Omari Mutumi. She highlighted that the meeting focused on the development of the third State of Adaptation Report for Africa, which aims to provide an authoritative assessment of climate adaptation progress and challenges across the continent. She noted that the SoAR series began in 2022, with the second edition released in 2023, and that this third edition builds on the momentum of the earlier reports.

In her remarks, she emphasized the importance of African experts taking the lead in developing the report to ensure it accurately reflects local realities and priorities. She further explained that the report is closely aligned with Agenda 2063, national adaptation plans, and the UNFCCC process, and will be structured around the Global Goal on Adaptation.

3.0 Background and Approaches to State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025

Dr. Joanes Atela, Director of the Africa Research and Impact Network (ARIN) and Technical Lead for the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025, presented the vision, objectives, and methodological approach of the report. He explained that SoAR 2025 is an Africa-led initiative intended to shape adaptation narratives under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), while building on the lessons of earlier editions.

Reflecting on previous reports, Dr. Atela noted that SoAR 2022 examined the role of technology in agriculture and coastal zone management, while SoAR 2023 expanded its focus to assess climate impacts and adaptation responses across key sectors such as agriculture, water, health, and infrastructure. The 2025 edition takes this work further by adopting a solutions-oriented approach, investigating how Africa can leverage emerging opportunities, including artificial intelligence, innovative financing mechanisms, and the GGA, to accelerate adaptation and scale action across the continent.

He further outlined four overarching objectives of the report. First, it seeks to track Africa's progress in implementing adaptation actions, policies, and investments. Second, it aims to identify gaps, challenges, and resource needs, particularly for vulnerable communities and climate-sensitive sectors. Third, the report intends to generate evidence to inform policy dialogues, ensuring adaptation efforts are both effective and context-specific. Finally, it aspires to amplify Africa's priorities and locally led solutions in global adaptation discourse, thereby ensuring the continent's voice is more visible and influential in shaping climate resilience strategies worldwide.

3.1 Phases of the Report

Dr. Atela explained that the methodological framework guiding the development of SoAR 2025 is both robust and inclusive, combining systematic literature reviews, evidence synthesis, regional case studies, and expert dialogues. This approach ensures that the report remains firmly grounded in African evidence and lived realities, while also amplifying African perspectives in global adaptation debates (Figure 1).

The phases hence included:

1. Desk reviews and inception: mapping adaptation literature, policy instruments, and knowledge gaps.
2. Synthesis and appraisal: systematic review and evidence synthesis from peer-reviewed and grey sources.
3. Empirical analysis: conducting case studies and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to assess enablers, challenges, and issues in adaptation across diverse sectors.

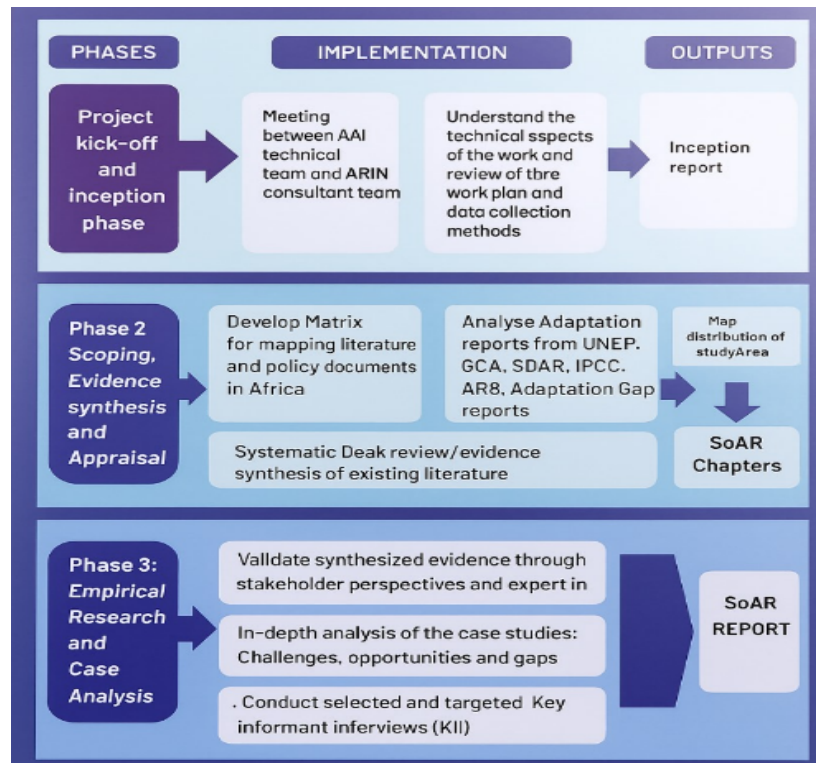


Figure 1: Methodological Framework of the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025

3.2 Outline of the Report

Highlighting the structure of SoAR 2025, Dr. Atela explained that the report is organized into three major parts comprising eleven sections (Figure 2). These are:

1. Africa in the GGA Process – situating Africa’s role in the Global Goal on Adaptation and framing the continent’s unique impacts and priorities.
2. Thematic Interventions and Innovations – addressing priority areas including water, agriculture and food security, health, ecosystems and biodiversity, infrastructure and human settlements, poverty and livelihoods, and cultural heritage.
3. Enabling Conditions – focusing on institutional arrangements, data systems, capacity development, partnerships, and resource mobilization required to scale adaptation action.



Figure 2: Outline of the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) 2025

Dr. Atela emphasised that SoAR 2025 is not merely a report but a platform for collective action. By convening policymakers, scientists, practitioners, and communities, it seeks to generate the knowledge and solutions required to strengthen Africa’s voice in global adaptation discourse and to drive tangible outcomes. He highlighted that the report’s influence will be particularly critical in the lead-up to COP30 in Brazil, where Africa’s priorities and perspectives must be clearly articulated and advanced.

3.3 Suggestions on How to Strengthen SoAR 2025

3.3.1 Knowledge Gaps and Considerations

Participants highlighted the need for the report to place greater emphasis on locally grounded and socially inclusive approaches, ensuring that adaptation strategies genuinely reflect the realities of communities across Africa. A stronger integration of traditional knowledge systems was recommended, as these remain vital in shaping context-specific and sustainable responses but tend to be overlooked in adaptation planning.

The report was also encouraged to explore the significant potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing adaptation and resilience, particularly in areas such as climate monitoring, early warning systems, and evidence-based decision-making.

Another key suggestion was to promote South–South regional cooperation, recognising the value of shared learning, resource pooling, and collective action across African countries and with other regions in the Global South.

Finally, participants stressed the importance of addressing demographic and geographic sensitivities, given Africa’s diverse social and ecological contexts. This calls for region-specific adaptation processes tailored to distinct vulnerabilities. Adaptation planning should remain comprehensive, ensuring that all sectors are addressed, rather than focusing narrowly on only a select few.

3.3.2 Chapter Insights

Participants recommended that each chapter delve more deeply into sectoral issues, moving beyond general observations to identify practical and actionable solutions. Chapters should provide a broad introduction to each sector while also reaching consensus on relevant instruments and frameworks that underpin adaptation

It was emphasized that demographic dynamics must be explicitly reflected, with particular attention to Africa’s youth and young populations, to ensure intergenerational equity. In addition, insights should be drawn from National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to align the report with ongoing national processes. Importantly, participants underscored the need to include the energy sector, often overlooked in adaptation discourse, as a core area of focus

3.3.3 Methodology and Negotiator Perspective

The report should provide a clearer articulation of its purpose, scope, and contribution to the adaptation landscape. This framing would help position SoAR 2025 not just as a technical or academic assessment, but as a strategic tool for policymakers, negotiators, and practitioners.

While the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) remains central, the report should also outline the broader policy landscape, contextualizing linkages to national and regional frameworks, and aligning with global processes such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach will strengthen the report's relevance and utility for negotiators and decision-makers.

3.3.4 Emphasis and Approaches

Participants highlighted the importance of showcasing how African governments are already taking concrete action on adaptation. Documenting progress stories and practical examples will reinforce credibility and demonstrate Africa's leadership in shaping adaptation pathways.

Equally important is adopting a bottom-up approach, prioritizing community-driven actions and local governance structures to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness. The report should also promote South–South collaboration, showing how African countries can learn from each other and build solidarity in adaptation.

A central message should be the integration of Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, ensuring that adaptation is not only scientifically sound but also socially legitimate. Furthermore, sectoral issues, particularly the energy sector, which is critical to resilience yet often neglected, must be addressed in detail.

3.3.5 Stand-Alone Chapter on Climate Change Impacts

While climate change impacts are currently referenced across thematic chapters, participants strongly recommended the inclusion of a dedicated stand-alone chapter on climate change impacts in Africa. Such a chapter would:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of observed and projected climate trends across the continent.
- Highlight cross-sectoral implications, cutting across ecosystems, food security, health, infrastructure, water, energy, and livelihoods.
- Serve as a unifying evidence base that other chapters can draw from, ensuring coherence and avoiding fragmentation of impact narratives.

- Strengthen the report's ability to communicate urgency, particularly to policymakers and financiers, by presenting the scale and interconnectedness of climate impacts in one consolidated space.

This addition would enhance SoAR 2025 by ensuring that adaptation responses are firmly situated within the broader and worsening climate context facing Africa.

3.3.6 Additional Emphasis

Finally, the report should place greater emphasis on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), clarifying its implications for Africa and articulating pathways for the continent's contribution to shaping the global agenda. A broader framing of adaptation is also needed, one that underscores its significance for sustainable development, resilience, and equity. The report should strongly highlight resilience as the overarching purpose, positioning SoAR 2025 as a driver of practical, evidence-based action. Climate trends in Africa also need to be reflected more explicitly, including requirements for infrastructure pipelines, adaptation finance, and nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Doing so will ensure that the report not only evaluates adaptation progress but also identifies what is required to scale solutions across the continent.



4.0 Thematic and Sectoral Highlights

4.1 Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Authors: Humphrey Agevi (ARIN), Joanes Atela (ARIN)

Reviewers: Funanani Muremi (Institute of Biodiversity–South Africa), Patience Dampney (AGN Adaptation Lead, Government Negotiator for Ghana at UNFCCC)

4.1.1 State of Biodiversity and Role in Adaptation

The chapter highlights biodiversity as both vulnerable to climate change and essential for resilience. Participants stressed that biodiversity should be presented not only as a sector at risk but also as a driver of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions (NbS). The narrative should capture the current state of biodiversity in Africa, outlining urgent threats, opportunities, and concrete success stories.

4.1.2 Case Studies and Regional Balance

Reviewers called for stronger geographic representation. Current examples are concentrated in a few regions, leaving deserts, wetlands, coastal systems, and SIDS underrepresented. The chapter should provide diverse case studies on ecosystem services, restoration efforts, biodiversity corridors, and biodiversity-based livelihoods to ensure balanced coverage and practical lessons

4.1.3 Finance, Innovation, and Resources

There is a significant gap in biodiversity finance. Reviewers recommended quantifying this gap, highlighting financing opportunities, and linking restoration projects to concrete funding mechanisms. Innovation, through digital tools, AI, and advanced monitoring, should be more explicitly included to strengthen biodiversity tracking and adaptive management.

4.1.4 Benchmarks, Indicators, and Data Harmonization

The chapter should establish baselines, benchmarks, and indicators to measure biodiversity status and progress, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework (KMGBF). Integration of ecological, socio-economic, and regional datasets, along with harmonization across chapters, will improve coherence, particularly in finance, species loss, and ecosystem valuation.

4.1.5 Governance and Policy Integration

A stronger focus on governance is required, including the roles of river basin authorities, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and sub-regional frameworks. Greater attention should be placed on policy coherence across biodiversity, climate, and land management, as well as the persistent gaps in implementation and enforcement.

4.1.6 Adaptation and Ecosystem Restoration

Biodiversity should be framed as a central enabler of adaptation. Expanded examples of protected areas, restoration initiatives, and EbA/NbS projects should be directly linked to adaptation policy instruments and financing. Clear evidence on costs, benefits, and enabling conditions will help inform scaling and policy uptake.

4.1.7 Regional and Thematic Integration

The chapter should map biodiversity actions across Africa's regions and integrate them into other thematic sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water, and urban ecosystems. Embedding gender, youth, and Indigenous perspectives will ensure inclusivity, legitimacy, and long-term sustainability of biodiversity responses.

4.1.8 Success Factors and Opportunities

Key enablers, including strong institutions, Indigenous knowledge, financing, and innovation, must be showcased. The chapter should highlight successful NbS and EbA initiatives, biodiversity-based livelihoods, and lessons from restoration projects. Synergies with other global conventions (climate, biodiversity, desertification) should also be emphasized to situate biodiversity within a broader international policy framework.

4.1.9 Key Messages

1. The state of biodiversity in Africa reflects urgent threats but also significant opportunities for resilience.
2. Biodiversity is central to adaptation, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.
3. Governance and finance gaps require targeted and practical responses.
4. Strong case studies and evidence are critical to demonstrating success and scaling solutions.
5. Cross-cutting integration of gender, youth, health, food security, and adaptation is essential for inclusive biodiversity action.

4.2 Agriculture and Food Security

Authors: Washington Kanyangi, Charles Tunoi

Reviewers: Lucy Njuguna (CIAT), Luckson Zvobgo (ACDI)

4.2.1 Methodology and Evidence Base

The chapter should provide a clear description of its methodological approach, explicitly linking chosen methods to findings. Drawing from extensive research and existing literature will strengthen the evidence base, presenting a comprehensive picture of Africa's agriculture and food systems. This will enhance both the credibility and usability of the report, making it a more authoritative tool for policymakers, practitioners, and negotiators

4.2.2 Linkages to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Participants stressed the need for the chapter to highlight the added value of the GGA, particularly its role in monitoring adaptation progress in agriculture. The rationale for selecting the four high-level adaptation options should be made explicit, showing how they align with GGA targets. Each finding and recommendation should consistently address the “so *what?*” question, linking outcomes to the GGA framework and demonstrating how proposed measures contribute to Africa's broader adaptation agenda.

4.2.3 Gender, Social Inclusion, and Equity

The chapter should bring out gender and social inclusion more strongly, recognizing that climate change impacts women, youth, and marginalized groups differently. Greater emphasis on gender-responsive approaches, Indigenous practices, and traditional knowledge systems will make the chapter more inclusive and reflective of Africa's agricultural realities.

4.2.4 Adaptation Options and Structured Presentation

Adaptation options need to be systematically structured within a clear framework for agricultural adaptation success. Such a framework should articulate what effective adaptation looks like and provide flexible pathways for achieving it. The following areas require strengthening:

- I. Livestock systems, which are critical but currently underrepresented.
- II. Food security and nutrition indicators, requiring more detailed coverage.
- III. Post-harvest losses, a major vulnerability that must be explicitly addressed.
- IV. Food import resilience, including strategies to reduce reliance on imports.
- V. Emerging issues and vulnerability analysis, with attention to regional, system-level, and population-level differences to inform policy and investment priorities.

4.2.5 Interconnections and Nexus Approaches

The chapter should better capture interconnections between agriculture and other sectors, particularly the Energy–Food–Ecosystem nexus. More concrete examples are needed to illustrate how integrated approaches deliver multiple benefits. Additionally, the chapter could set an agenda for systematic cross-sectoral reviews, identifying synergies and trade-offs across agriculture, biodiversity, water, and energy.

4.2.6 Policy Implications and Success Stories

For stronger impact, the chapter should distill clear key messages, particularly the policy implications of its findings. Success stories should be highlighted to show what works and

to demonstrate the potential for scaling. Examples should represent both export-oriented agriculture (e.g., Tunisia’s agricultural trade) and local value chains (e.g., community-based food systems) to capture Africa’s diversity. Linking agriculture to food sovereignty and migration pathways will also highlight the broader socio-economic significance of adaptation decisions.

4.2.7 Gaps and Investments

Participants noted a lack of proactive, priority investments in agricultural adaptation. The chapter should identify specific investment needs, opportunities, and pathways to mobilize resources. By clearly characterizing vulnerabilities and emerging issues, the report can better prioritize where investments should go, guiding both domestic and international financing toward impactful solutions.

4.3 Infrastructure and Human Settlement

Authors: Isaiah Maket (ARIN), Mohamed Gambo (Shelter Afrique), Robert Sangori (UCLG)

Reviewers: Tluo Ramaru Chief Director for Climate Change and Adaptation at South Africa’s Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

4.3.1 State of Africa’s Settlements and Vulnerabilities

The chapter should provide a comprehensive overview of Africa’s settlement patterns, capturing the unique dynamics of urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts. Informal settlements were identified as a critical issue. Reviewers recommended strengthening the narrative on how these settlements can both exacerbate vulnerabilities and serve as spaces of resilience innovation. In addition, temporary migration, often a driver of slum proliferation and informal housing, should be more explicitly addressed as a key factor shaping settlement vulnerabilities.

4.3.2 Governance and Policy Frameworks

Governance was repeatedly highlighted as central to infrastructure resilience. The chapter should more clearly profile governance narratives, showcasing both national and local

governance approaches. Policy frameworks must be explicitly included to demonstrate how they shape or constrain adaptation efforts in infrastructure. The role of municipalities and local governments deserves greater emphasis, as they are often the frontline actors in delivering resilience and enforcing standards.

4.3.3 Climate Risks and Integrated Planning

Climate risks should be more strongly integrated into discussions on infrastructure and settlement development. Key threats include sea-level rise, which disproportionately affects African coastal cities, and other climate hazards that shape settlement vulnerability. Reviewers called for greater attention to integrated spatial planning that explicitly factors in climate risks. Additionally, disaster risk management and reduction should be highlighted as core components of resilience building, linking adaptation to early warning systems, emergency response, and recovery mechanisms.

4.3.4 Financing, Technology, and Innovation

Reviewers recommended a stronger focus on financing solutions, including innovative and inclusive approaches that expand access to affordable housing and essential infrastructure services. The chapter should also present investment requirements, including estimated costs of key interventions, to strengthen its policy and practical relevance. Technology and innovation should be better integrated, with examples such as GIS mapping, digital planning tools, and climate-smart building technologies. The use of visuals, infographics, and data-driven illustrations was encouraged to make the chapter more accessible and impactful.

4.3.5 Gender, Social Inclusion, and Equity

The chapter should integrate gender and social inclusion more strongly, examining how women, youth, migrants, and other vulnerable groups experience infrastructure deficits and climate risks. Reviewers emphasized the need for inclusive approaches that ensure adaptation benefits are equitably distributed. They also noted the importance of improving

gender balance in authorship, ensuring that diverse perspectives and voices are reflected in shaping the chapter's narratives.

4.4 Poverty and Livelihoods

Authors: Euarallyah Akinyi (ARIN), Maria Nantongo (MUBs)

Reviewers: Portia Adade Williams (Research Scientist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI)-Ghana), Lucy Njuguna (CIAT)

4.4.1 Overall Impressions

The chapter was commended for its comprehensive literature review and well-developed conceptual framework. It effectively connects poverty dynamics to climate vulnerability and adaptation, positioning the chapter as a critical contribution to the State of Adaptation Report (SoAR).

4.4.2 Adaptation Finance and Grants

A central theme was the role of grants as tools for adaptation finance. While grants are important in supporting vulnerable communities, participants raised concerns about the risks of privatizing climate impacts and underscored the need for robust governance frameworks. The chapter should further assess how grants are designed, allocated, and monitored, with a focus on transparency, accountability, and community ownership.

4.4.3 Governance and Accountability

Clearer articulation of governance frameworks for adaptation finance is needed. Mechanisms that reduce risks of mismanagement and ensure resources reach those most in need should be highlighted. Particular emphasis was placed on decentralized climate finance modalities, which bring decision-making closer to communities and strengthen local ownership.

4.4.4 Context-Specific Solutions

Adaptation responses must be context-specific, reflecting Africa's diverse socio-economic and ecological realities rather than relying on uniform approaches. The chapter should

integrate case studies that demonstrate how tailored adaptation has been effective in different African settings.

4.4.5 Successful Examples

Participants highlighted examples such as decentralized climate funds, which channel resources directly to local actors, and index-based insurance schemes, which provide innovative risk management options for smallholder farmers. These cases illustrate how finance can be locally tailored while enhancing resilience.

4.4.6 Strengthening the Evidence Base

The chapter should expand its evidence base by drawing on a broader range of case studies across the continent. Incorporating more empirical evidence will enhance both credibility and policy relevance.

4.4.7 Alignment with Africa's Adaptation Narrative

Reviewers encouraged the authors to align messaging with Africa's adaptation narrative and priorities under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). The chapter should more clearly articulate the balance between social protection, livelihood diversification, and transformative adaptation pathways, ensuring coherence with continental adaptation goals.

4.5 Water Resources

Authors: Prof George Khroda (UoN), Edna Kowenje (ARIN)

Reviewers: Portia Adade Williams (Research Scientist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI)-Ghana) Luckson Zvogbo (ACDI)

4.5.1 Overall Improvements

The literature review has significantly improved compared to the previous report, presenting a stronger foundation for analysis. Infographics are now clearer and more effective, making the chapter more accessible and user-friendly. These enhancements

demonstrate progress in presenting complex water-related issues in ways that policymakers and stakeholders can readily interpret.

4.5.2 Gaps and Vulnerabilities

Despite these improvements, some key vulnerabilities remain underrepresented. Notably, the chapter should address gender-related vulnerabilities in water access and management, highlighting how women and marginalized groups are disproportionately affected. Similarly, transboundary water issues deserve more attention, given their potential to drive either regional cooperation or conflict.

4.5.3 Water Governance and Policy

Reviewers emphasized the need for a stronger discussion on governance, including how policies, institutions, and regulations can enhance resilience. The chapter should explicitly note that water remains the most limiting factor for development in many African regions. Governance considerations must also include the implications of rising water levels and the need for adaptive management frameworks at both national and regional levels.

4.5.4 Climate Pressures and Adaptation Needs

The chapter should more clearly highlight how the water sector faces intense pressure from both climate change and human activities. Adaptive planning is critical: the report should categorize different adaptation approaches (e.g., irrigation schemes, sanitation systems, water supply infrastructure, and transboundary water management) and evaluate their effectiveness. Identifying at least one approach in depth and showing how it can be scaled would add value. This is an area where AI and digital innovations could provide solutions for monitoring, forecasting, and resource allocation.

4.5.5 Case Studies and Lessons Learned

Practical examples are essential for grounding the chapter. Suggested case studies include:

1. The Okavango Delta, highlighting ecosystem-based water management and cross-border cooperation.

2. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which illustrates the complexities of transboundary water management, governance, and regional diplomacy.

These examples should be analyzed to show what worked, what challenges emerged, and what lessons can be scaled.

4.5.6 Data, Evidence, and Information Systems

The chapter should clearly outline the sources of data and information used in its analysis, addressing transparency and credibility. There is also a need to initiate processes that provide reliable and updated data sources, as water monitoring remains weak in many parts of Africa. Improved data harmonization would allow for more consistent analysis across regions.

4.5.7 Financing, Affordability, and Implementation

Water infrastructure often comes at high costs, raising questions about its affordability for communities and governments. Reviewers suggested revisiting the role of financing instruments across all SoAR chapters, asking whether existing tools are truly effective. The chapter should also explicitly address the means of implementation, including technology, innovation, and financing, with a focus on practical and scalable solutions.

4.5.8 Water as a Cross-Cutting Issue

The report should strongly emphasize that water is a central link to climate adaptation strategies, underpinning agriculture, health, energy, and livelihoods. Strategies such as encouraging water storage, especially rainwater harvesting in rural communities, should be highlighted as locally relevant, cost-effective approaches.

4.6 Health

Authors: Anne Irungu (ARIN), Collins Ihuji (AHRI), Joanes Atela (ARIN)

Reviewers: Portia Adade Williams ((Research Scientist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI)-Ghana), Patience Dampety (AGN Adaptation Lead, Government Negotiator for Ghana at UNFCCC)

4.6.1 Overall Quality and Style

The chapter is comprehensive and provides a broad overview of health and climate change. However, there is a need to ensure a uniform presentation style throughout, including consistency in formatting, terminology, and referencing. Acronyms should be introduced in full form at first mention and then applied consistently across the document.

4.6.2 Linkages Between Climate Change and Health

The chapter should build a stronger and more explicit connection between health and climate change, clearly articulating risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities for adaptation. Additional information is needed on climate-related risks and impacts that are currently underexplored, with coverage extended beyond East Africa to capture all African sub-regions.

4.6.3 Thematic Coverage of Health Dimensions

Reviewers emphasized the importance of expanding the scope to cover a wider range of health dimensions, including:

- i. Women's health, maternal health, and antenatal care
- ii. Sexual and reproductive health
- iii. Child health and nutrition
- iv. Mental health and wellness

The chapter should also integrate climate-sensitive diseases, such as:

- Heat-related illnesses and heatwave impacts, with case studies from Morocco (temperatures up to 50°C) and Botswana (average increases of 3°C), and examples of interventions such as cooling agents.
- Waterborne diseases linked to climate change.
- Health impacts of extreme weather events such as floods, storms, and droughts.

4.6.4 Evidence, Data, and Case Studies

The chapter needs to address data inconsistencies and clearly outline data sources for credibility. Case studies should be evidence-based, well-defined, and linked explicitly to

climate extremes. This includes examples of how health services are affected and adapted in response to climate shocks.

Infographics should be used more extensively to highlight facts, trends, and key messages and make the section more engaging. Evidence on disease prevalence linked to climate extremes (e.g., heat stress, malnutrition, vector-borne diseases) should be strengthened.

4.6.5 Cross-Sectoral Linkages

The health section should better capture cross-sectoral linkages, including:

Gender-health-climate interactions, showing how women and marginalized groups face disproportionate health risks.

Connections between urban infrastructure, climate, and health, highlighting how inadequate housing, sanitation, and overcrowding in African cities heighten vulnerabilities to climate impacts.

The role of urban occupation and settlement patterns in influencing health outcomes.

4.6.6 Economics of Health and Adaptation

There is a need for stronger socio-economic analysis. The chapter should assess the cost of accessing health services under climate extremes and provide an economic analysis of vulnerabilities and adaptation finance needs. This includes highlighting the additional economic burdens borne by individuals and households due to climate-related health risks and unpacking these costs to strengthen the financial and policy arguments for investment.

4.6.7 Adaptation Measures and Trade-offs

The chapter should prioritize key gaps in adaptation measures and highlight cost-benefit trade-offs to show where investments yield the highest impact. Adaptation strategies must be clearly categorized, with attention to both short-term responses (e.g., emergency medical care, cooling interventions) and long-term measures (e.g., resilient health infrastructure, disease surveillance).

4.7 Cultural Heritage

Authors: Isaiah Maket (ARIN)

Reviewers: Luckson Zvobgo (ACDI), Funanani Muremi (Institute of Biodiversity-SA)

4.7.1 Overall Presentation and Language

The chapter should adopt standardized language and consistent terminology, particularly when referring to concepts such as *enablers*, *approaches*, and *pathways*. This will enhance clarity and alignment with the rest of the report. All references must be backed by up-to-date data and credible sources. The use of outdated information (e.g., from 2011) undermines the credibility of the SoAR 2025, especially given that it is being produced in 2025.

4.7.2 Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage

The chapter should highlight both tangible cultural heritage (e.g., iconic transboundary sites such as Victoria Falls) and intangible heritage (traditions, languages, practices). Strategies should be provided on how such heritage can be protected, preserved, and strengthened under changing climate conditions. The analysis must reinforce the value of intangible heritage, which is often overlooked but critical for identity, resilience, and intergenerational continuity.

4.7.3 Regional and Case Study Accuracy

The case study on Mali and sea-level rise should be reviewed for accuracy, as Mali is a landlocked country and not directly affected by rising sea levels. Case studies should be factually correct, regionally representative, and chosen to illustrate the breadth of cultural heritage vulnerabilities and responses across Africa. Each case study should explicitly demonstrate linkages between climate extremes and cultural heritage impacts, while showcasing approaches with replication potential in other regions.

4.7.4 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage Loss

The chapter should capture how cultural heritage is being lost among Indigenous peoples, such as the Maasai and other pastoral communities, due to climate pressures,

displacement, and loss of traditional livelihoods. It should also identify practical pathways for preserving and strengthening cultural heritage in such communities. Importantly, the text must highlight that cultural heritage losses are often irreversible and can even lead to litigations and disputes at local, national, and international levels.

4.7.5 Finance, Loss and Damage, and Implementation

Cultural heritage must be explicitly linked to climate finance and loss and damage discussions. The chapter should:

- Capture how financing mechanisms for cultural heritage are currently structured.
- Expand on this using case studies that show innovative financing models or gaps.
- Highlight the economic and non-economic dimensions of heritage losses, particularly where financing or legal redress is insufficient.
- Show how loss and damage frameworks can incorporate cultural heritage considerations in a way that benefits vulnerable communities.

5.0 Way forward and Next steps of Action

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1.1 All Participants

- Provide substantive input to sharpen the report with the best available science, evidence, case studies, and data.
- Help craft clear, actionable messages to inform African processes and support African Group of Negotiators (AGN) positions.
- Identify missing elements, areas for reframing, and opportunities for greater ambition in the report.
- Highlight scalable solutions and partnerships already delivering results in adaptation.

Review and provide feedback on assigned chapters, ensuring cross-sectoral integration.

5.1.2 African Research and Impact Network (ARIN) Team

- Incorporate workshop feedback into the draft report chapters.
- Ensure coherent and coordinated synthesis across all chapters, with consistency in framing and evidence.

5.1.3 Charles Toto

- Lead development of a delivery and communication strategy for the SoAR, ensuring wide visibility and uptake.

5.1.4 African Adaptation Initiative (AAI)

- Share the Urban Resilience Report prepared with GIZ, AU Commission, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and UNEP.
- Incorporate participant feedback into the final version of the SoAR 2025 report.
Ensure the SoAR aligns with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to inform ongoing negotiations.

6.0 Key Recommendations for Strengthening the Report

6.1 Risk and Impact Analysis

- Clearly identify and analyze climate risks and their sectoral impacts, moving beyond generalities.
- Provide a clear explanation of the context of climate change in Africa: what exactly are we adapting to?

6.2 Finance Chapter

- Create a dedicated finance chapter covering:
 - Finance flows and needs.
 - Key sectoral messages.
 - Types of financial instruments and their effectiveness.
- Case studies illustrating what works in African contexts.
- Consolidate finance-related content to avoid fragmentation.

6.3 Central Message and Structure

- Define a central, overarching message of the report and ensure it is consistently applied.

Draft a clear summary at the start of the report.
- Use simple, clear, and accessible language throughout.
- Ensure the report shows both projections and the current status (“where we are at”) across sectors.

6.4 Evidence and Data

- Strengthen presentation of evidence by including:
 - How many NDCs address each sector (e.g., biodiversity, agriculture).
 - How many NAPs are currently in place across Africa.
 - Evidence-based case studies with regional balance.

6.5 Frameworks and Coherence

- Apply the GGA framework consistently across all chapters.
- Move beyond the GGA to also provide broader context, purpose, and strategy.
- Provide clear strategies for ministries, addressing risks, vulnerabilities, contributions, instruments, and case studies.
- Re-examine existing arrangements to assess their effectiveness and propose adjustments where needed.

6.6 Process and Delivery

- Set a clear timeline for online reflection and feedback after the workshop.
- Draft revisions to be produced within the next two weeks.
- Finalize and produce a workshop report to document inputs, outcomes, and next steps.

