



## **Adapt 2 Live: A Call for Bold, Just, and African-Led Climate Adaptation**

**We, the undersigned organizations and allies, unite under the Adapt 2 Live campaign to demand a just, adequately-financed, and people-centered climate adaptation and resilience agenda for Africa.**

Adaptation is not a privilege, it is a life-and-death imperative. As the climate crisis intensifies, millions across the continent are dying, losing their homes, health, water, food systems, and cultural heritage. Yet, adaptation continues to be underfunded, misunderstood, and deprioritized not only in global but also national plans and implementation.

Africa is at a turning point-for good. A diversity of solutions already exist across the continent, emerging from community action, local innovation, indigenous knowledge, nature-based strategies, and scientific advancement. Now is the time to scale up and finance these context-specific solutions with urgency, inclusion, and integrity to ensure the well-being and dignity of all.

### **Why We Must Act**

Africa contributes less than 4% of global emissions but suffers disproportionately from climate change. From prolonged droughts and rising temperatures to deadly floods and disease outbreaks, the continent faces cascading impacts on food sovereignty, water access, and public health. Livelihoods predominantly drawn from nature including pastoralism, crop farming and natural water sources are all decimated. Climate shocks deepen existing inequalities, displace communities, and threaten peace and development across the continent.

Adaptation that moves beyond just mere survival into prosperity is essential, not as a secondary pillar to mitigation, but as a central, justice-oriented agenda that protects people, builds resilience, and ensures the right to thrive in the face of climate disruption.

### **Our Demands**

We call on African governments, regional bodies, global financial institutions, and climate actors to take urgent action in the following areas:

### 1. Scale Up Quality Adaptation Finance Now

- Close the adaptation finance gap by ensuring **predictable, accessible, and grant-based funding** that is truly additional and reaches the most vulnerable communities.
- Prioritize investments in **food sovereignty, water access, and climate-resilient public health systems**.
- Fulfil and increase pledges for **Loss and Damage**, and ensure African countries are not trapped in debt-based financing.
- Increase the flow of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to support long-term resilience programs in Africa.

### 2. Support Locally-led and Indigenous Solutions

- Recognize and fund **traditional knowledge systems, community-based practices, and local innovations** that are proven, context-specific, and deeply sustainable.
- Value, document, and **integrate Indigenous knowledge systems and practices** alongside mainstream scientific frameworks, recognizing them as a source of climate innovation and solutions.
- Ensure adaptation policies and programs **center the knowledge, rights, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples**, women, and frontline communities.

### 3. Foster the Intersection of Traditional Knowledge, Science, and Technology

- Facilitate **technology co-development and domestication** to enhance and complement existing local knowledge, while ensuring co- or local ownership so that rights are not undermined in the process
- Invest in **hybrid models** that combine digital early warning systems, scientific data, nature-based approaches, and ancestral practices for scalable, community-owned adaptation responses.

### 4. Protect People, Nature, and Land

- Safeguard and restore **ecosystems and biodiversity** as critical buffers to communities and human settlements against climate risks.

- Implement **land tenure reforms that uphold Indigenous rights** to prevent loss of livelihoods, displacement and exploitation in the name of adaptation projects while recognizing rights of women and youth to land ownership.
- Enforce **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes** and embed social and environmental safeguards in all adaptation programs.

## 5. Ensure Inclusive Adaptation Governance

- Mainstream **gender equity, disability inclusion, and youth leadership** across the full adaptation policy cycle process.
- Guarantee **meaningful participation** of communities at all levels—from local adaptation plans to national and global frameworks.
- Strengthen transparency, accountability, and African ownership in climate decision-making spaces.

## What We Stand For

The Adapt 2 Live campaign is built on three pillars:

- **Food Sovereignty:** The campaign supports agroecology, regenerative farming, and farmer-managed seed and food systems that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and community self-reliance. It advocates for food systems that are nutritious, affordable, locally appropriate, and led by smallholder farmers, especially women and youth.
- **Water Security:** Adapt 2 Live promotes community-centred water governance and climate-resilient water infrastructure, including rainwater harvesting, wetland restoration, and nature-based storage. The campaign also champions equitable access to safe water, particularly for rural, informal, and marginalised communities.
- **Health and Climate Resilience:** The campaign calls for investment in local health systems to prepare for and respond to climate-induced health risks such as heatwaves, vector-borne diseases, and trauma. This includes mental health services, mobile health units, and integrating health into national adaptation plans.
- **Land, People and Settlements:** The campaign emphasizes the centrality of progressive land governance reforms that foster socially viable and sustainable land-based livelihoods, enabling minimal or no risk settlement of people even as the global population grows exponentially.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities

Adapt 2 Live is grounded in a set of cross-cutting priorities that must be embedded in all climate adaptation efforts. These include:

- **Community-based early warning systems and disaster preparedness** that empower vulnerable communities with the tools and knowledge to anticipate and respond to climate shocks.
- **Ecosystem and biodiversity protection**, ensuring that adaptation works in harmony with nature and strengthens the planet's natural defense systems.
- **Gender, equity, and social inclusion**, recognizing that adaptation must challenge systemic inequalities and uplift the leadership of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.
- **Land and Indigenous rights**, which are essential for just and lasting adaptation. Secure land tenure and respect for traditional governance structures ensure communities can steward their resources and protect their futures.
- **Adaptation Sovereignty**, which centres on adaptation measures and pathways being designed, implemented and led by African communities and countries, with full sovereignty over food systems, land, water and other natural resources.

### **A Just Adaptation Future is Possible**

We reject top-down, extractive, or tokenistic approaches to adaptation that perpetuate harm and colonial legacies, deepen debt, or silence the very communities most affected. We affirm that adaptation in Africa must be **African-led, feminist, Indigenous-rooted, and community-driven**.

This is our call to action: **adaptation that protects, uplifts, and empowers. Adaptation that allows us not just to survive, but to live, and to live with dignity, sovereignty, and justice.**

### **Join Us**

We urge governments, financial institutions, research bodies, civil society organizations, and community leaders to endorse and act on the principles of Adapt 2 Live. Let us build a future in which **Africa adapts on its own terms**, guided by its people, its cultures, and its power.

**Sign on. Stand up. Adapt 2 Live.**

**Sign on Link:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyWA23ar0HR244olU9V3ZEbID6-2J8YbG4FEK9LC2S6doJkA/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=102997255604713067863>



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