



Adaptation Futures 2023 Side Event

Empowering the most vulnerable, women, youth, elderly, indigenous populations, and incorporating local and traditional knowledge

Friday, October 6, 2023 | Montreal, Canada

8:30-10:00AM EDT (UTC-4)

During this session Adaptation Fund (AF), National Implementing Entities (NIE), NGO representatives and AFCIA grantees will discuss lessons learned from projects and programs that benefit and empower the most vulnerable communities such as women, youth, the elderly, and indigenous populations, and incorporate local and traditional knowledge.

Overview:

The session will be moderated by AF secretariat who will set the stage from a knowledge and learning perspective and link it to climate adaptation. This will be followed by 3 NIE representatives, an NGO representative and a AFCIA grantee who will have the opportunity to speak about the importance of incorporating the knowledge of local actors in climate adaptation interventions from their own country perspective and the from their experience of implementing AF-funded projects.

The session will conclude with a broader discussion in the end, reaching back to the key questions and shared experiences from the start of the session, with the aim to reflect on the presentations and get thoughts and questions from the audience.

Target audience: Climate adaptation and development practitioners, academia, knowledge institutions, governments, etc.

Opening remarks: Mikko Ollikainen, Head, Adaptation Fund

Speakers:

- Tamara Greenstone Alefaio, Deputy Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust, Micronesia
- Laode M. Syarif, Executive Director, KEMITRAAN, Indonesia
- Marianella Feoli, Executive Director, Fundecooperacion for Sustainable Development, Costa Rica
- Zeenat Niazi, Sr Vice President and Chief Knowledge Officer, Development Alternatives, India
- Andre Luis, UNDP-AFCIA Grantee

Agenda

8:30-8:35AM | Opening and introductions

Kalterine Vrenezi, Knowledge Management Specialist, Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

8:35-8:40AM | Opening Remarks

Mikko Ollikainen, Head, Adaptation Fund

PRESENTATIONS

- **8:40-8:55AM - Tamara Greenstone Alefaio, Deputy Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust, Micronesia**
Lessons from the project *“Practical Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia”*
- **8:55-9:10AM - Laode M. Syarif, Executive Director, KEMITRAAN, Indonesia**
Lessons from the involvement of indigenous communities in the project *“Adapting to Climate Change through Sustainable Integrated Watershed Governance in Indigenous People of Ammatoa Kajang Customary Area in Bulukumba Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia”*
- **9:10 – 9:25AM - Marianella Feoli, Executive Director, Fundecooperacion for Sustainable Development, Costa Rica**
Lessons from the incorporation of traditional knowledge in the project *“Increasing the Resilience of Vulnerable Populations in Costa Rica by Scaling up Adapta2+”*
- **9:25-9:35AM - Zeenat Niazi, Senior Vice President and Chief Knowledge Officer, Development Alternatives**
Importance of empowering vulnerable communities and incorporating local and traditional knowledge in adaptation interventions – insights from the ground
- **9:35-9:45AM – Andre Luis, UNDP- AFCIA Grantee**
Lessons from the Mbya Guarani in Southern Brazil – valorizing indigenous knowledge to promote food security, land reclamation and adaptation

9:55-9:58AM | Q&A session

9:58-10:00AM | Closing remarks and Wrap-up

Bios:



Tamara Greenstone Alefaio, originally from Vancouver, Canada, Tamara joined MCT in 2016. Prior to working at MCT, Tamara lived in the Marshall Islands where she was an elementary school teacher, the director of a volunteer teaching program at the Ministry of Education, an adjunct lecturer in anthropology and psychology at the College of the Marshall Islands and most recently the Manager for Continuing and Community Education at the University of the South Pacific, Marshall Islands Campus.

She has also offered high school enrichment programs, spoken on panels and facilitated a number of workshops throughout the Pacific Islands and the mainland. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology and a Master's Degree in Education, Society, Culture and Politics.



Dr Syarif is an expert in good governance, transparency issues, particularly anti-corruption and legal and judicial reform. At present he is the Executive Director of Partnership for Governance Reform (KEMITRAAN), a leading Indonesian national organization in the issue of good governance in Indonesia.

Dr. Syarif obtained his Master's in International Environmental Law at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane and later his PhD in Law at the University of Sydney, Australia. He was recognized by the Australian Government as the recipient of "Alumni of the Year 2018" and awarded as one of the recipients Global Advance Award by Australian-based Organization Advance.Org



Marianella Feoli, Executive Director of Fundecooperacion for Sustainable Development, Costa Rican NGO with multistakeholder representation dedicated to promote and finance sustainable development projects in micro, small and medium size enterprises in the productive sector in Costa Rica.

Fundecooperacion is also the accredited National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund and is also involved in several other Climate Smart Agriculture and climate action projects.

Ms. Feoli is member of the Board of Directors of the Costa Rican Institute of Energy and Telecommunications (ICE). She has worked as international consultant and trainer. She teaches at the University of Costa Rica, Faculty of Industrial Engineering.



Zeenat Niazi, vice-president of Development Alternatives Group, has over 26 years' experience in the social and environment development sector. She is an architect and a planner by training, with a specialization in rural habitat development issues and additional training in policy analysis and advocacy. She has over two decades of experience in design and strategic action in the area of sustainable rural development. In the last decade, her work has extended to design and coordination of low carbon development strategies for the central Indian region of Bundelkhand and coordination of climate change adaptation, action and communication, knowledge management and knowledge dissemination for promoting national and global sustainable development strategies.

Her key interests lie in the area of resource efficient and people-nature centric development planning. She is a trained moderator and facilitator. She mentors the policy studies and communication, knowledge management and development action units at the Development Alternatives Group.



André Luiz Gonçalves is a professor of Agroecology at the Instituto Federal Catarinense and coordinates the NGO Centro Ecológico, in southern Brazil, where he leads several sustainable agriculture projects with family farmers. André has a PhD in Natural Resources from Cornell University, USA