Principles for Locally Led Adaptation Action

Commitment Form

Name of Organization or Government: World Resources Institute (WRI)

Type of Organization or Government: Global Research Not-for-Profit Organization

Name of Responsible Official: Manish Bapna

Email of Responsible Official: *to be completed*

Telephone of Responsible Official: *to be completed*

Date of Commitment: *to be completed*

Short Commitment Statement:

Please specify how your organization intends to implement, use, or deliver on the Principles for Locally led adaptation in 100 words or less. Note this text may be listed on webpage.

WRI is committed to doing our part to ensure that the people and communities facing climate risks and directly affected by climate interventions have agency in decisions that impact their lives and livelihoods. Building on WRI's work on the Global Commission on Adaptation's Locally Led Action Track, we are proud to endorse the Principles of Locally Led Adaptation. WRI will work to advance the Locally led Adaptation agenda through our research and programs, and by embedding these Principles into how we operate institutionally.

Detailed Commitment Narrative

Please describe in more detail what changes will be made or current practices strengthened to better incentivize or support adaptation that is driven by local stakeholders, to deliver on these principles. Please add rows and additional pages if needed. Note this is voluntary, but highly encouraged!

Overarching actions:

WRI will work to integrate the Principles of Locally led Adaptation to the following areas that cut across all our work, including but not limited to our adaptation and resilience work:

1. ***What we prioritize:*** We will build the Principles of Locally led Adaptation into WRI's next strategic plan, and will make Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) a strategic priority of our Climate Resilience Practice, including through a dedicated initiative on Locally Led Adaptation to continue the work catalyzed by the Global Commission on Adaptation's Locally Led Action Track. Through our work we will contribute to advancing the Locally Led Adaptation agenda and building the evidence base around the outcomes and impacts of locally led processes. WRI will seek opportunities to embed the Principles into relevant new partnerships and lines of work moving forward.

2. ***Who we partner with and how***: We will strive to partner with more local organizations in our research and convening work as appropriate, and will review our grants and finance practices to identify opportunities to facilitate partnerships with local institutions. We will also strive to enable local partners to lead efforts and seek opportunities to support them as they adopt new roles.

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3. ***How we communicate***: We will use WRI's platform, including our blog and events, to amplify diverse and local voices. We will take care to use language that recognizes the knowledge and expertise of local actors. WRI will be sensitive of institutions' differentiated capacity and will strategize with local partners to ensure sufficient lead time so they may contribute to our shared work at a pace that works for both parties and creates value for our local partners.

Principle Number	Detail of Implementation
1	**Devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level:** Giving local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented, how progress is monitored, and how success is evaluated. **WRI Action**: In approaching new relevant work, we will strive to be intentional about asking who will be affected by the work, and if the program team is incorporating representatives of these groups into the process of developing a concept, proposal or research approach. To encourage our program teams to ask these important questions about the appropriate level of decision-making, we look for opportunities to incorporate them into our proposal and research design processes.
2	**Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, disabled, and excluded ethnic groups:** Integrating gender-based, economic, and political inequalities that are root causes of vulnerability, into the core of adaptation action and encouraging vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions. **WRI Action**: Following the recommendations of WRI's internal Equity Task Force and supported by our Governance Center, we will develop a roadmap that lays out major steps to be taken over the following years to advance the poverty and equity agenda across WRI. This roadmap will include allocating institutional flexible funding to support efforts to implement the roadmap, and a commitment to regularly review progress of implementation of the roadmap. WRI also intends to build our portfolio of work oriented around social equity, and ensure equity is integrated into grant proposals. We will do this by leveraging our internal proposal review process, proactively engaging with donors to integrate equity into new programs where appropriate and dedicating more internal flexible funding to projects that have a strong and explicit focus on inclusion and equity. In addition, we will look for opportunities to apply our analytical tools in a way that will reduce inequality and poverty, and to support our partners to do the same. We will

	build internal capacity to integrate social equity issues into our work, including to conduct gender and social equity assessments more frequently. As WRI continues to strengthen our program and project MEL, we will include indicators related to structural inequality to help us understand how our work can better advance equity
3	**Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily:** Supporting long-term development of local governance processes, capacity, and institutions through simpler access modalities and longer term and more predictable funding horizons, to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions. **WRI Action:** In an effort to diversify our partnerships, we commit to reviewing our internal sub-granting and finance policies to understand how they could be more conducive to supporting partnerships with smaller, local organizations and issuing small grants. By enhancing the use of subgrants to local partners, we can strengthen WRI's role as an intermediary. We will also build capacity of WRI staff to understand finance and operations requirements and mechanisms for partnering with different types of local organizations, starting by developing guidance for staff on good practice. Through our Governance Center, WRI will also continue working with donors, funds and intermediaries to enhance, track and report the quality of finance, so that more funding to the local level is patient, predictable and accessible, and supports decision-making at the lowest appropriate level.
4	**Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy:** Improving the capabilities of local institutions to ensure they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, generate solutions, and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding. **WRI Action:** We will expand our existing efforts to work with potential local partners in a more hands-on way, where appropriate, to build their capacity and walk them through finance and operations processes, especially where WRI already has a local presence such as through our network of International Offices. We will also seek to partner with intermediaries who can help us reach more local groups. We will ensure that when WRI partners with local groups and stakeholders on projects we circle back to them with findings and tools developed in order to help build their capacity to engage in the future.
5	**Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty:** Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local and scientific l knowledge that can enable resilience under a range of future climate scenarios. **WRI Action:** We will strengthen WRI's research on climate risk and uncertainty, for example, our Climate Resilience Practice will support integration of climate risk into relevant programs where suitable, and will seek to support vulnerability assessments

	that are locally informed and driven by local priorities, and integrate indigenous and local knowledge. WRI will elevate local knowledge and expertise in our own research, and broaden the scope of what type of data, information and knowledge we base our work on. This may include turning to indigenous knowledge, locally driven lessons learned, and local feedback and perspectives to inform our own research and the policies we put forward. We will also seek opportunities to make our research more accessible to diverse audiences and tailored to local contexts as appropriate.
6	**Flexible programming and learning:** Enabling adaptive management to address the inherent uncertainty in adaptation, especially through robust monitoring and learning systems, flexible finance, and flexible programming. **WRI Action:** We will undertake a stock-taking and reflection exercise, reviewing relevant efforts to align with the Principles across WRI to-date, including from our Cities, Energy, Forests and Governance programs, focusing on lessons learned and failures, to understand and learn from challenges. WRI will also apply as many of the recommendations of the Locally Led Action Track's working paper on MEL for locally led adaptation as possible in our work. These include understanding and responding to how power dynamics affect the MEL process and whose objectives it serves and ensuring different worldviews and definitions of resilience are equally valued; using locally appropriate and context-specific indicator frameworks and adaptation metrics; and adopting MEL systems to support adaptive management, experimentation, and learning from failure.
7	**Ensuring transparency and accountability**: Making processes of financing, designing, and delivering programs more transparent and accountable downward to local stakeholders. **WRI Action:** We will aim to build in metrics that promote downward accountability into our MEL where feasible and appropriate, including by consulting local partners about their definitions of success and taking their recommendations for what are useful indicators. We will also review opportunities to enhance budget transparency, for example sharing budget split with partners and ensuring it is proportional to the role each partner is playing. WRI will hold ourselves accountable to our commitments to support locally led action by developing an action plan including set of targets and indicators.

8	**Collaborative action and investment:** Collaboration across sectors, initiatives and across levels to ensure that different initiatives, and different sources of funding (humanitarian assistance, development, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds, etc.) support each other, and their activities avoid duplication, to enhance efficiencies and good practice. **WRI Action:** We will leverage our convening power and networks to proactively promote collaboration among diverse partners and across governance levels, and bring in local groups and representatives where feasible and where doing so supports their interests as well, scaling efforts initiated through our Cities and Governance programs. We will aim to diversify our networks to enable collaboration with a broader range of partners, including local partners. WRI's International Offices have an important role to play in strengthening in-country partnerships.

Authorization

By submitting this form, my organization agrees to have its logo publicly listed as endorsing the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation and commits to being part of a learning community of practice on locally led adaptation action. I certify that I am authorized to make this commitment on behalf of my organization.

Signature:

Please send this form and a hi-resolution logo in .ai or .eps format to locallyledadaptation@wri.org