

## CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS, ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS

[SUBMIT HERE: AF2023 Submission Form](#)

Adaptation Futures is the flagship event of the World Adaptation Science Program (WASP). It is the premier international climate change adaptation conference series where practitioners, policymakers, researchers and academics from across the world gather to network, collaborate, learn and inspire! The next Adaptation Futures conference is being held from 2-6 October 2023, organized by Ouranos, in partnership with the Government of Canada.

Adaptation Futures 2023 is significant as it is being held for the first time in a hybrid format<sup>1</sup>, potentially including a multi-hub format to acknowledge our responsibility as a climate community to “walk the talk” on climate action. It also seeks to attract more Global South delegates than ever before to the conference and forefront developing country adaptation contexts. Adaptation Futures 2023 emphasizes:

- Learning from Indigenous, local knowledges and voices in climate change adaptation research, policies, practices and actions around the world
- Accelerating the adoption of transformative adaptation for long-term resilience
- Bringing marginalized voices, especially from the Global South to the forefront of climate conferencing in pursuit of climate justice, equity, diversity and inclusion
- Accelerating momentum towards the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake and building on action to implement effective adaptation

<sup>1</sup>To ensure that this 2023 edition is inclusive, engaging, equitable, and sustainable, McGill’s Faculty of Education and Ouranos are collaborating on a 2-year design-based research project aiming to catalogue lessons on the move to hybrid conferencing from across the academic landscape. For more information about this study, please see: <https://www.learn2sustain.ca/project/631f354f0764ad27db775de4>.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

Cutting-edge knowledge and experience, of many forms, are needed to drive evidence-based decisions for adaptation in the years ahead. The overarching themes of this conference encourage discussion on frontier issues that contain knowledge gaps, transboundary perspectives for adaptation, actionable solutions and connection with development goals. In all themes, there are two cross-cutting elements: Integrated systems perspectives, and indigenous knowledges and expertise. Furthermore, all themes relate to larger efforts toward climate-resilient development pathways, including enabling conditions needed for climate resilience in diverse contexts. The themes are intentionally phrased to embody cross-sectoral perspectives and to stimulate debate about the progress on the global goal of adaptation. They are relevant to all sectors, e.g., water, food systems, health, the built environment and beyond.

### Theme summaries

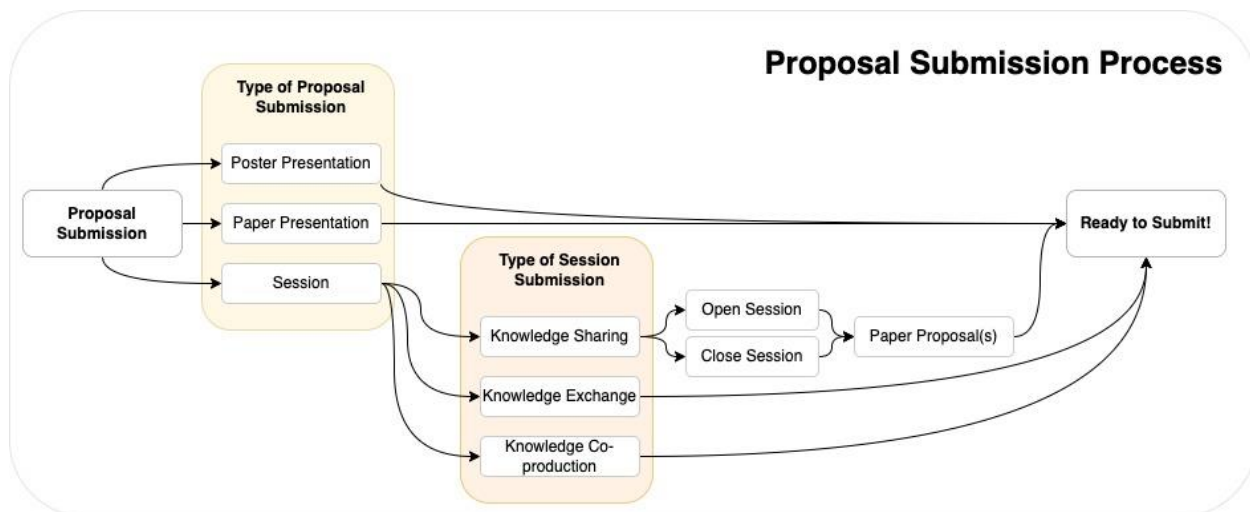
[\(click here to read the full descriptions\)](#)

<p>1. Learning from Indigenous and local peoples' knowledges and expertise in adaptation</p>	<p>Indigenous Peoples have been stewards of the lands, waters and oceans for thousands of years, anticipating and responding to climate variability and change. How do we integrate Indigenous knowledges and other knowledge holders' experiences for long-term resilience?</p>
<p>2. Dealing with multiple risks: Compound, cascading, cross-border climate change risks.</p>	<p>People deal with many challenges at the same time, and climate change is only one of the stressors. How to account for the complexity and the interactions among multiple drivers of climate risk and vulnerabilities when identifying and implementing actions?</p>
<p>3. Making adaptation choices: managing trade-offs and seeking effective adaptation</p>	<p>Integrated perspectives are crucial to promoting adaptation choices that value diversity and reduce maladaptation. How do we enable integrated assessment for systemic and transformational adaptation and sustaining long-term resilience?</p>
<p>4. When we can no longer adapt</p>	<p>Adaptation (and mitigation) efforts will not be sufficient to address the complexity of all climate risks and vulnerabilities. So, what should we do when adaptive capacity is no longer enough to deal with climate challenges and to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?</p>

<p>5. Who wins, who loses, who decides: Equity &amp; justice in adaptation</p>	<p>The impacts of climate change are disproportionately experienced by marginalized and vulnerable groups. Efforts to support adaptation must therefore grapple with profound questions of ethics, equity and justice.</p>
<p>6. The power of nature for climate action</p>	<p>Human and natural systems are deeply interconnected. More effort is needed to fully unpack the climate-nature-society nexus, and to understand the enabling potential of nature-centered approaches to support adaptation.</p>
<p>7. Teaching and learning adaptation in a changing climate</p>	<p>Education systems must support effective learning about adaptation in a world where climate change is a reality for many. How can teaching and learning inspire hope, embrace a plurality of knowledge, and balance the realities (and grief) of the climate crisis?</p>
<p>8. Inclusive adaptation governance and finance: how do we get there?</p>	<p>Suitable governance mechanisms, effective and inclusive decision-making processes, enabling institutional context and finance are critical for implementing, accelerating and sustaining climate responses and Climate Resilient Development. How do we get there?</p>

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

We value diversity and inclusivity so the conference would like to invite submissions from a large range of specialists: climate change adaptation researchers, practitioners, early career researchers, community representatives, policymakers, industry representatives, etc. As indicated below, you can choose to submit a virtual poster presentation, a paper presentation or a session.



To promote equity and broader participation in Adaptation Futures 2023 (AF2023), an individual can only serve as a lead author for one Paper/Poster Presentation Proposal and one Session Proposal.

### A. Proposal for Traditional Paper and Poster Presentations

- **Virtual Poster Presentation:** Posters combine a visual summary of the findings of a paper/study with the opportunity for individualized and informal discussion of the presenter's work. Online presenters will be offered asynchronous sessions with e-poster and/or video as your presentation. Please be noted that no synchronous presentations will take place, as they will be available during the entire conference period. Submissions for poster sessions include an abstract of up to 300 words. Submission Requirements: Introduction, objectives, method, findings, significance of the work for policy and practice.

- **Traditional Paper Presentation:** The proposals for traditional paper presentations are submitted by individuals (with one or more authors). They are reviewed based on rigor and contribution to scholarship and/or practice. At AF2023, the paper presentations are formed into a thematic session by conference organizers. Submissions for a traditional paper presentation include an abstract of up to 800 words. Submission Requirements: Introduction, objectives, method, findings, significance of the work for policy and practice.

## **B. Proposal for Sessions**

To promote knowledge exchange and co-learning for actionable solutions, we encourage other submission formats other than traditional paper and poster presentations. Three types of sessions will be offered at the Adaptation Futures 2023 conference:

1. **Knowledge sharing** sessions ('one way'): To disseminate information through a one-way process of sharing knowledge. These sessions are presentation-based to translate and communicate knowledge and ideas that help people make sense of and apply information.
2. **Knowledge exchange** sessions ('two way'): To disseminate information through a two-way process of sharing knowledge. These sessions are discussion-based to focus on translate and communicate knowledge and ideas that help people make sense of and apply information; To facilitate informal dialogues, collective learning, and innovation for system-level change.
3. **Knowledge co-production** sessions (building new knowledge together): To improve knowledge use in decision-making through more of a two-way process; To engage in negotiating, networking, collaborating and managing relationships and processes; To foster action and change through a co-production approach to making use of the existing stock of knowledge.

Submissions for a session include a proposal of up to 500 words (summary, description of session format, and anticipated outcomes). Session organizers will also be asked how their session takes into account the gender, equity, and social inclusion considerations. Please note that reviewers may suggest organizers to change the types of sessions proposed, based on what they deem appropriate for the proposal at hand.

Knowledge sharing session proposal can be submitted as either an open or closed session.

- **Open Sessions:** The session organizers define the topic and format of the session and invite one or more presenters to moderate/chair the session. The conference Scientific Committee will select the contributors to the session from the pool of submitted 'Paper Presentation' abstracts. All contributions for an open session will need to be submitted via the conference abstract submission process.
- **Closed Sessions:** The session organisers define the topic and format of the session and invites all speakers/contributors in the session. Closed sessions therefore require the session proposal to include details of all the speakers/contributors and include the abstract of the included paper presentations. See template below for additional details.

*Given that there is no 'Paper Presentation' abstracts associated with Knowledge exchange and Knowledge co-production sessions, the option between open or closed is not applicable.*

#### **Format Examples of Each Session Type:**

1. Knowledge Sharing Sessions are open to those wishing to present scientific and practice-based findings and solutions relevant to climate change adaptation through a presentation-based, one-way process of sharing knowledge. Session organizers can consider the following format examples:
  - **Paper Presentation:** Presentations focus on a single topic or program, typically including a talk or media presentation followed by a short discussion.
  - **Panel Discussion:** Panel discussions focus on presenting different - perspectives on a topic or question related to the conference themes. Panels must include a moderator, a discussant, and a minimum of three panelists representing different organizations, ideas, or experiences.
  - **Lightning Talk:** Lightning Talks are bite-sized bits of presentations that showcase the essence of research, share best practice, highlight innovative programs and partnerships, and more. The format may be narrated PowerPoint presentations (such as PechaKucha) or still images (such as posters) accompanied by a recorded introduction. All individual Lightning Talks must be pre-recorded and are limited to a maximum of 5 minutes.
  - **Creative Presentation:** Non-traditional poster presentations related to the conference themes are invited. Formats are flexible and can be disseminated via digital platforms (e.g. pre-recorded videos or audios, photography) or physical display (e.g. exhibits, live performance). The goal is to push the boundaries of the status-quo model of

presentations by sharing knowledge through creative means to reach wider audiences. Creative presentations are available for viewing at leisure throughout the conference. There is also one time block during which all presenters share their ‘knowledge products’ with conference participants. Some inspiring examples: [cartoons](#) and [poets](#) at Rise Africa 2021, [learning journeys](#) at AF2018, [digital storytelling](#), virtual field trips, visual art exhibit, etc.

- **Masterclasses:** Masterclasses are in-depth lectures that seek to develop participants’ knowledge and skills in a particular topic. These sessions can be designed for academic, decision-makers, and/or practitioners.
2. Knowledge Exchange Sessions are open to those wishing to share information through more of a discussion-based, two-way process. Presenters of these sessions should focus on translating and communicating knowledge and ideas that help people make sense of and apply information. Sessions that facilitate informal dialogues, collective learning, and innovation for system-level change are particularly welcome. Session organizers can consider the following format examples:
- **Roundtable Discussion:** Roundtable emphasizes spirited discussion about a central question between the presenter(s) and session attendees. Presenters briefly introduce the baseline idea or question they wish to explore and then open the discussion for input and exchange of ideas. Examples and interactive materials are welcome, but this format does not lend itself to formal presentations, and PowerPoints are discouraged except to introduce the topic.
  - **Interactive Presentation:** This format encourages presenters to share a concrete climate adaptation experience in an interactive format and provide the audience with an opportunity to think about adaptation science and/or practices in a lateral manner, outside of pure academics. This format includes submissions of theater, art and design installations or other such projects.
  - **Workshop:** Workshops are in-depth sessions that actively develop specific professional competencies and have widespread potential for implementation. These are sessions that provide participants with an opportunity to engage in hands-on activities and interactive discussions about a particular topic.
3. Knowledge Co-Production Sessions are open to those wishing to foster concrete action and change through a co-production approach to making use of the existing stock of knowledge. Presenters of these sessions should focus on engaging audiences in negotiating, networking, collaborating and managing relationships and processes. Session organizers can consider the following format examples:

- **Knowledge Café:** Knowledge Café sessions focus on generating collective action by bringing people together to share experiences, learn from each other, and explore possibilities for ways forward. This format begins with the first of two or more rounds of discussion for groups of 4-6 seated around a table. Each round is prefaced with a question. At the end of every 15-20 minute round, each member of the group moves to a different table. They may or may not choose to leave one person as the “table host” for the next round, who welcomes the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round. Once all rounds have been completed, key points from each table are presented to the whole group for a final collective discussion about potential action.
- **Agora:** This format focuses on dialogues that include diverse voices, epistemologies, and worldviews on a particular issue. Some inspiring examples: [Community Kraal](#) at AF2018, virtual campfire sessions, [Inkundlas](#) at SRI 2022, etc.
- **Coworking Sessions:** This format provides dedicated spaces and time slots for working together. Attendees are more autonomous in this approach, yet still focused on session goals, and given more opportunity to network and share knowledge informally. Some inspiring examples: [Edit-a-thon](#), [Provocations](#) at 2021 Rise Africa, etc.



## SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Our main criteria for selection will be quality, relevance, diversity and inclusivity. We particularly welcome sessions that:

- Consider gender, equity, accessibility, and social inclusion concerns
- Facilitate dialogue between research and government, practitioners, civil society, private sector, international organizations and foundations
- Contribute to a diverse and balanced program that focuses on solutions and innovations
- Consider the inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge in adaptation processes
- Make adaptation a core element of sustainable development, investment and planning.
- Contribute to a conference program with a wide range of topics, stakeholders, scales and regions
- Showcase examples (case studies, tools, good practices and why they matter, etc.) or research that are internationally applicable
- Involve a partner organization from two or more different countries, organizations or adaptation community.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All submissions must be submitted in accordance with the guidelines below:

- Submissions must be completed by January 23, 2023.
- All abstracts must be submitted through [the online form](#).
- Abstracts may be submitted in English or French. The submission must be made in the language of presentation at the conference.
- Submitter must be the lead presenter of the abstract or chair of the session.
- Abstracts must follow the official template in Word format, per submission type (see Abstract Templates below).
- Submissions must be in Arial font, size 11.
- Submissions may include up to 1 image or table (maximum 10MB)
- Please only use standard abbreviations or define them in full.
- Accuracy is the responsibility of the author. Abstracts will be published as submitted. *Please ensure that all abstracts are carefully proofread before upload.*

## SUBMISSION TEMPLATES

- [Traditional Paper Presentation](#)
- [Virtual Poster Presentation](#)
- [Proposed Session](#)

## FUNDING OPTIONS

Limited financial support grants will be available, but we cannot give any guarantee at this stage. Please do not submit a proposal if you are not prepared to register to the conference.

## CONTACT

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