

Climate Adaptation Platforms – Realising the Value of Shared Learning

KE4CAP/Climate-ADAPT Synthesis Workshop

8 & 9 September 2021

Event report

Summary

This Synthesis Workshop was the final targeted knowledge exchange event facilitated by the KE4CAP project. Co-hosted with Climate ADAPT and focussing on “Climate Adaptation Platforms – Realising the value of shared learning”, results from all previous KE4CAP events and activities were presented. Discussions considered remaining interests and challenges, and how best to continue to inform the developing roles and capacities of CAPs in supporting policy and practice requirements and in inspiring climate action.

Deliberations during the workshop built on and demonstrated the continued enthusiasm that participants have brought to all discussions throughout the KE4CAP project. The willingness of participants to freely share with the community their insights, innovations (planned and perceived) and challenges greatly enhanced the quality and relevance of discussions. This Synthesis Workshop report is intended to capture highlights from this workshop but further analysis of these, and of outputs from all KE4CAP events and activities, will be included in the final KE4CAP Synthesis Report that will be available in December 2021.

COVID-19 restrictions have provided us with challenges and opportunities – limiting face-to-face interactions but allowing us to broaden the engagement and thereby enrich our discussions and overall knowledge exchange. Above all, these restrictions have highlighted the importance of a viable network that is able to adapt and deliver engagement using a variety of resources and activities. But the real value added has come from the connections with people. The KE4CAP team is looking forward to continuing to work with the global CAP community, particularly with the prospect of meeting in person again soon.

Introduction

This event was the last in a planned series of knowledge exchange activities facilitated by the KE4CAP project since 2019. The aim was to present findings and key messages synthesised from across all project activities, to understand the evolving policy and practice context within which CAPs are and will be operating, and to explore how knowledge exchange activities can help CAPs support the multi-level governance of adaptation action in the future.

In linked sessions over two days, the workshop brought together the international CAP community to:

- Present consolidated learning and outputs from the KE4CAP project and explore these further through considering cross-topic linkages (Session 1).

- Highlight the on-going value of CAPs as a means of informing action within the existing and emerging policy and practice landscape (Session 2).
- Consider how to support the future development of CAPs from a knowledge exchange and shared learning perspective (Session 3).

The agenda is in [Appendix 1](#). Presentations are available [here](#).

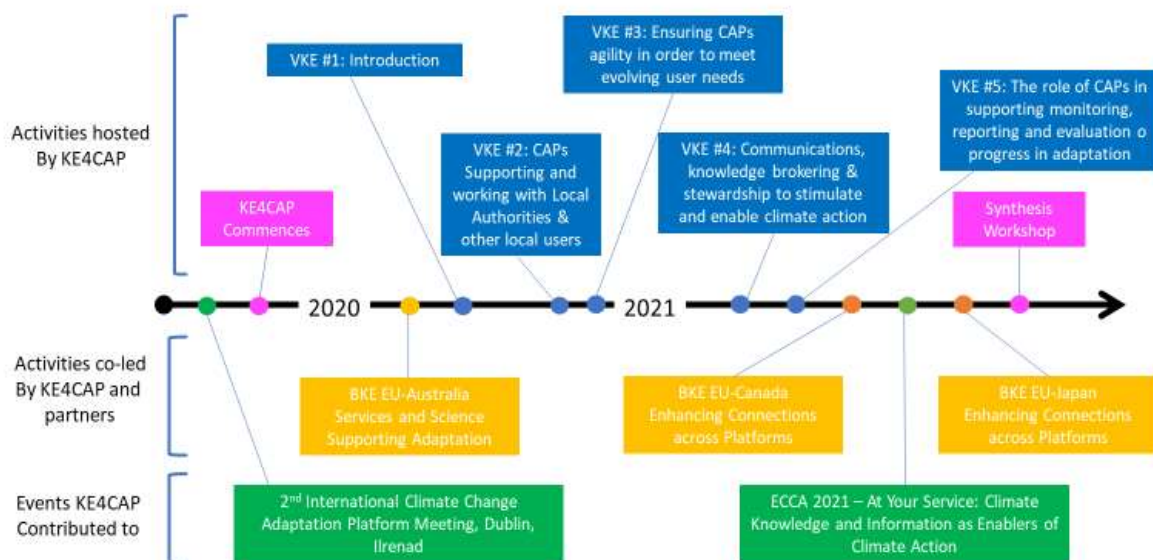
The discussions involved over 40 participants from around the world all of whom are working on adaptation platforms and similar initiatives in 18 countries and regions. A list is in [Appendix 2](#).

Session 1. The value of knowledge exchange between CAPs: Key findings and lessons from the KE4CAP project.

Session 1 provided an overview of past KE4CAP activities and outputs. In plenary, key insights from the KE4CAP project were shared and the benefits of the KE4CAP project for CAPs who have engaged with (and in some cases co-led) the project's activities were explored. Through interactive breakout groups, participants were engaged in exploring the 12 key topics examined through KE4CAP, identifying interdependencies between topics to better understand the scope of these topics and remaining challenges.

Plenary

An overview of the KE4CAP project, its scope, rationale, and the activities that have been undertaken with the international CAP community was presented together with an early preview of the KE4CAP [Synthesis Report](#) in the form of a topic-by-topic tour of key insights emerging from KE4CAP and the challenges as identified throughout the project.



The session then delved into participants' experiences of engaging within KE4CAP. This included short videos from Geoff Gooley (Australia), Lo Cheng (Canada), and Yasuaki Hijioka (Japan) on their experience of leading knowledge exchange events with the support of the KE4CAP team, a presentation of early insights from the KE4CAP Impact Report and invited interventions from the floor. Participants were also invited to share their views on Sli.do.

In their reflections on the benefits of KE4CAP participants highlighted the value of the community of practice and safe space for discussion that KE4CAP had created, emphasising the benefits of being able to connect with other actors facing similar challenges, learning from their approaches, and being able to openly discuss issues and ideas.

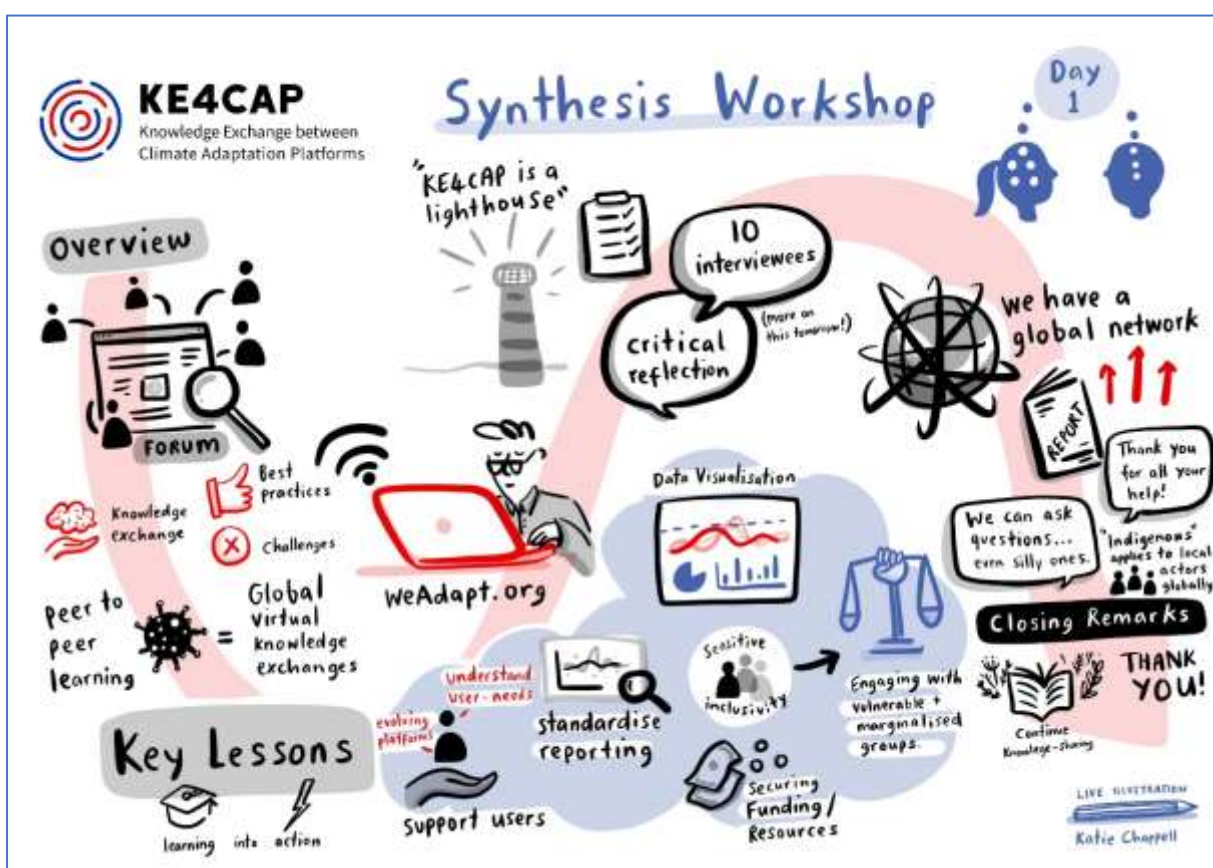
Breakout groups

Three breakout groups explored the linkages and connections between the [12 topics](#) identified within KE4CAP, and discussed their relative importance and maturity. Discussions were captured using Miro boards to develop concept maps illustrating how topics are connected. Groups chose an initial topic to start with and then built the [concept maps](#) from there.

This exercise and resulting discussions highlighted previously unidentified connections between topics, and raised interesting issues such as how work under topics can impede as well as bolster work in other topics. For example, quality assurance protocols may prevent the use of specific types of knowledge.

Overall, a high degree of connectivity between topics was identified by all groups. Some of these connections are one way, where work in one topic feeds into and supports another, but many are bidirectional with both topics influencing one another. Where achieved, discussions of topic importance identified multiple topics of high importance and where and how multiple benefits could be achieved by addressing topics with a high degree of connectivity. These topics included retaining relevance, governance, knowledge brokering and communications, quality assurance, supporting MRE and improving social justice and equity. Deliberations revealed that separating topics out as more important than others was difficult and context specific.

Overview of Session 1



Session 2. Highlighting the evolving role of CAPs in supporting policy, practice and science.

This session looked to enhance understanding of the multi-level policy and practice frameworks – the drivers – within which CAPs operate, how these are evolving and the potential implications of these in terms of enhancing the value of CAPs. Four scene-setting presentations were given looking at various external drivers that are and could shape CAPs over the next 5-10 years.

- EU Adaptation Strategy and role of CAPs. Peter Löffler, DG Clima.
- Global Stocktake and role of CAPs. Robin Hocquet, SEI.
- National level. Piotr Czarnocki, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland.
- City level. Petya Pishmisheva, Covenant of Mayors.

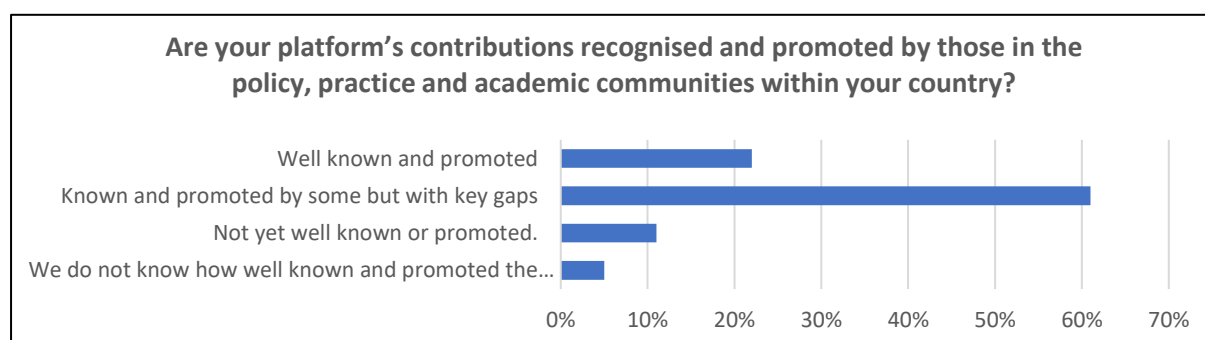
These examples provided a basis for seeking inputs and insights from participating CAPs on what they see as key external drivers, and the actions they are taking to address them.

Plenary discussion

Specific aspects of the drivers and responses highlighted during the discussion included:

- Ambitions for addressing climate change are increasing and actors at the local/city/regional level are feeling the pressure to respond to national and international policy. The importance of having community leadership engaged in CAP development was highlighted.
- Adaptation and the supporting data and resources need to be more people-centric with a move away from a focus only on hazards towards vulnerability and wellbeing. Social issues need to be addressed with actions targeted at improving the lives of citizens.
- Climate data is a first step in informing action. Increasingly looking at exposure and vulnerability means facilitating integration with other relevant data and information.
- Users require actionable evidence (making available the right information at the right time and in the right place). There is plenty of data, but it is not always informing action. Understanding how data is or could be used and being able to measure this is difficult.
- There is a need to make better use of big data including visualisation and presentation approaches that consider who is using it, how and why. Understanding what unlocks the data and information to make it useful for informing action is essential as is valuing data alongside lived experiences.

Challenges were raised regarding promoting and increasing the overall awareness of the value of platforms including how to better link platforms with different remits and how to better support and inform action. Poll results showed that while progress is being made, in many cases CAPs are aware there is still some way to go to reach the full range of policy, practice and academic communities:



Overview of Session 2



Session 3. Enhancing the future value of CAPs.

This session built on the previous discussions and considered how best to support the future development of CAPs from a knowledge exchange and shared learning perspective.

Breakout groups

In breakout groups, and reflecting on the policy and practice drivers identified in Session 2, participants discussed how CAPs will need to evolve in the future and the value of continued and enhanced knowledge exchange across the community. Two questions were posed:

1. What will CAPs have to be able to deliver by 2030 (the vision) and why (the drivers)?
2. What community support is needed to achieve this vision?

Key challenges that are likely to be of particular importance by 2030:

- Climate change will have progressed and we need to be far better equipped and able to respond – likely to require more relevant and usable data with information demanded by more people.
- In parallel, the global economy is moving towards net-zero and big organizations are changing their behaviour – again, requirements for more relevant and usable climate information that platforms need to anticipate.
- As we move further round the adaptation cycle, need more rigorous monitoring of the effectiveness of adaptation, including possible maladaptation.

- Need to include more sectors – possibly moving away from a focus on extreme events in cities to include more rural areas and the affects of gradual climate change and variability.
- Responding to the increasing role of the private sector with a requirement to understand both the information they require and also the knowledge and expertise they can offer.
- Need more adaptation scenarios and modelling (similar to approaches for mitigation).
- There is likely to be an increasing multiplicity of platforms – raising even more issues of coherence and integration.
- The move towards integrating socio-economic data with climate data needs to be strengthened especially as adaptation actions move more to a well-being and people-centric approach.

Possible CAP responses:

- Need broad multi-actor working groups addressing specific topics and taking a much deeper dive into areas.
- Enhanced work on standards, particularly with respect to e.g. adaptation modelling and scenarios and the transparency of these.
- Make clear who does what. Consider the various services available, their benefits and limitations and how best to link them.
- In many cases CAPs should be presenting information rather than generating information, particularly around MRE where platforms don't have legitimacy.
- Need to better understand and explain complex risks, and the impacts of interconnected hazards.
- Evolve to take a holistic approach, moving from Climate Adaptation Platforms to Climate Action Platforms.

Plenary

The aim of this closing session was to consider how the CAP community can be best supported through knowledge exchange activities in the future. Based on findings from all KE4CAP events and activities, and from discussions during the Synthesis Workshop itself, four options for enhancing knowledge exchange were presented:

1. Mechanism for facilitating knowledge exchange among CAPs ('horizontal network').
Providing a forum to exchange knowledge and experience among those working with CAPs.
Possible approaches:
 - Workshops, online and in person.
 - Sessions at external conferences (e.g. ECCA, Adaptation Futures).
2. Agenda setter.
Providing the network connections and knowledge that can be consulted for keeping an eye on the latest developments, being relevant for monitoring, evaluation and agenda setting purposes (e.g., EC, GCA, IPCC, GST). Possible approaches:
 - Informing national policy / funders.
 - Informing EC (e.g. European Strategy).
 - Awareness raising (e.g. emerging topics) / ways forward.

3. Collaboration and coordination enabler.

Providing the brokering experience and network connections to initiate and accelerate propositions for bilateral and multilateral projects on knowledge exchange and capacity building. Possible approaches:

- Enhancing regional coalitions and bilateral relationships.
- Honest broker / advocacy.

4. Innovation booster.

Boosting the emergence of knowledge and research on CAPs to further boost that progress and make experiences and insights widely available. Possible approaches:

- Exploring the potential of CAPs for MRE purposes.
- Exploring the potential of behavioural sciences for CAPs.
- Measuring use and uptake of information provided by CAPs.
- (Scientific) publications and reports.

Through a poll, participants were asked to indicate *which* options are of particular interest to them:



Interestingly, all options were considered of similar interest and value. The reasons for this were explored further during discussions, when participants were asked *why* the options they chose were relevant to them. This elicited a wide array of interesting arguments and reasoning that will be incorporated into the final Synthesis Report for the KE4CAP project.

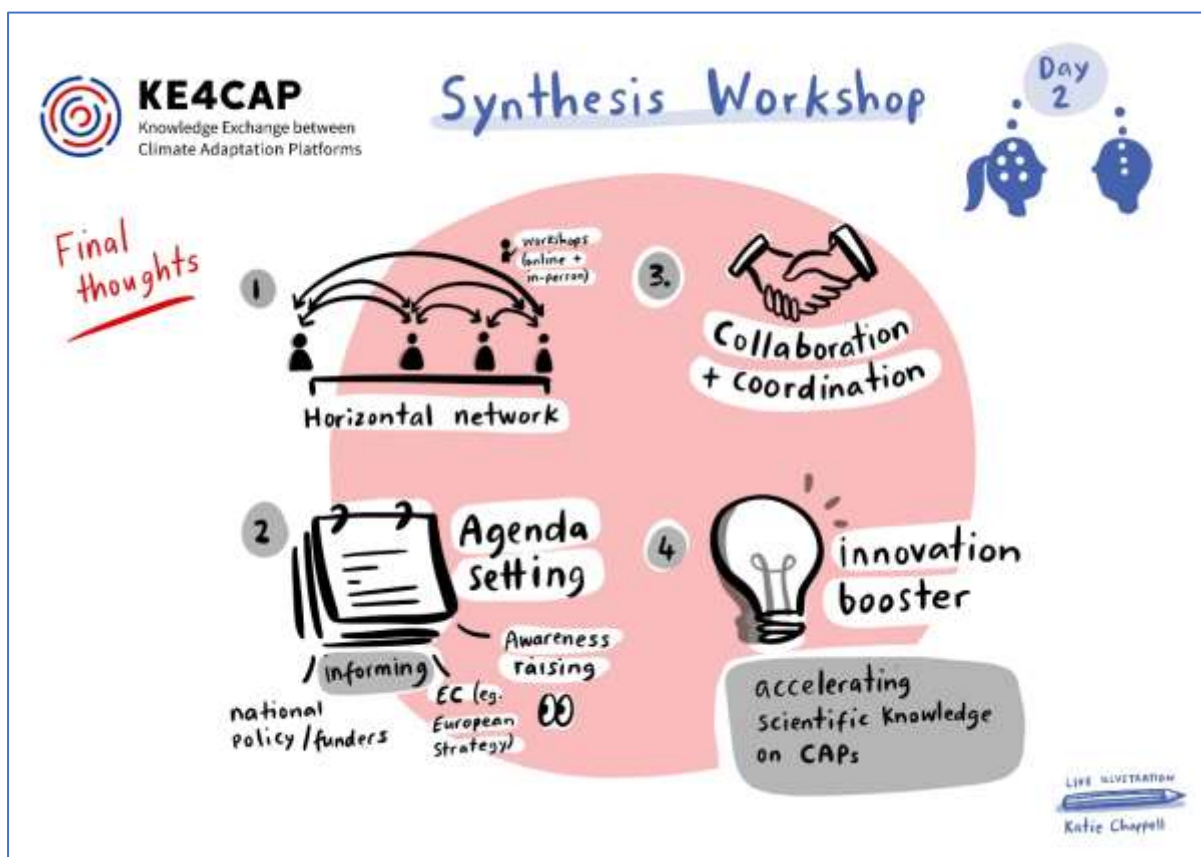
One general insight from the discussion was the notion that while Option 1. 'Mechanism for knowledge exchange among CAPs might seem the obvious foundation of the network, it is Option 4. 'Innovation booster' that really supplies the basis for new knowledge and experience to be shared and to inform the forward agenda. If it were not for that option of boosting innovation, the other options would be of lesser weight. In other words, all four options are complementary, which should be taken into account when considering the next phase of any KE4CAP-type project or programme, as should approaches to integrate such options with on-going initiatives to avoid duplication and to ensure synergy.

The KE4CAP project finishes on 31 December 2021. However, it was agreed that the project has been both a much-needed impetus to help CAPs learn from each other and to be innovative in its approach. Participants agreed that KE4CAP should be just the beginning of this endeavour to enhance the exchange of knowledge across the international network of CAPs and all were invited to

consider playing a more active role in any project developed beyond 2021. The KE4CAP team welcomes any suggestions for possible ways moving forward.

The Covid-19 pandemic has stressed the importance of a network that is able to adapt and deliver online but the real value has always been in the connections between people. All in the CAP community are looking forward to continuing with network activities, particularly with the prospect of meeting in person again soon.

Overview of Session 3



Supported by:



This event has been organised with the financial support of the European Union's Partnership Instrument and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) in the context of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The opinions expressed are the sole responsibility of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.

Appendix 1.

Agenda

8 September 2021

Session 1. The value of knowledge exchange between CAPs - Key findings and lessons learnt from the KE4CAP project

12.00	Welcome and introduction: Roger Street, KE4CAP & Kati Mattern, Climate-ADAPT. CET
12.10	<p>KE4CAP and lessons learnt on how CAPs can inspire and support adaptation action in the global context.</p> <p>Chaired by Barry O'Dwyer & Julia Barrott.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The KE4CAP project, scope and rationale.○ Key messages from KE4CAP events.○ Capturing the learning.○ The value of being involved.
13.10	<p>KE4CAP topics, exploring linkages and connections across topics: Part 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to breakout activities.● Parallel breakout groups exploring importance and maturity of key topics contributing to CAP success and identifying deficits.
14.00	Break
14.10	<p>KE4CAP topic, exploring linkages and connections across topics: Part 2.</p> <p>Sharing findings from the breakout groups.</p> <p>Plenary discussion. Chaired by Jeremy Gault.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What have these linkages and connections revealed in terms of the scope of the original 12 topics and gaps that require attention?2. Do the topics and related interlinkages have utility as a basis for supporting the future direction and development of CAPs?
14.50	Closing remarks: Barry O'Dwyer & Julia Barrott.
15.00	End

Agenda

9 September 2021

Session 2. Highlighting the evolving role of CAPs in supporting policy, practice and science

12.00 Welcome: Roger Street, KE4CAP.

12.05 Looking to understand the multi-level policy and practice framework within which CAPs operate, how this is evolving, and the potential value of CAPs.

Chaired by Kati Mattern, Climate-ADAPT.

- EU Adaptation Strategy and role of CAPs. Peter Löffler, DG Clima.
- Global Stocktake and role of CAPs. Robin Hocquet, SEI.
- National level. Piotr Czarnocki, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland.
- City level. Petya Pishmisheva, Climate Alliance.

Plenary discussion:

1. What are you doing to make the content and functionality available on your platform more consistent with inspiring and informing climate action? What impacts do you see these having on enabling / promoting uptake?
2. What are you doing to embed your platform into the respective governance system supporting climate action? What, if any are the impacts of such on improving multi-level governance of adaptation?
3. Is there a demand from policy or practice for CAPs to better work together to support climate action? What do you see as priority focus areas to deliver such collaboration?

13.10 Break

Session 3. Enhancing the future value of climate adaptation knowledge platforms

13.20 CAP 2030: Considering how CAPs will need to evolve, and the value of continued and enhanced knowledge exchange between CAPs.

Session 3a. How and why will the drivers identified shape and influence the evolution and needs of CAP to 2030? Chaired by Jeremy Gault.

Breakout sessions:

1. What will CAPs have to be able to deliver by 2030 (the vision) and why (the drivers)?
2. What community support is needed to achieve this vision?

14.00 Session 3b. How can the CAP Community be best supported through knowledge exchange activities in the future? Chaired by Kim van Nieuwaal.

Presentation: Options for enhancing knowledge exchange across the global community to support the development of CAPs.

1. Which options are of particular interest and why?
2. How to best integrate with ongoing initiatives to avoid duplication and ensure synergy?
3. Would you consider playing a more active role beyond 2021, and, if so, what would your preferred role be?

14.55 Closing remarks: Kati Mattern & Roger Street.

15.00 End

Appendix 2. Participants

Jan-Willem	Anker	Netherlands
Julia	Barrott	SEI/KE4CAP
Anna	Beswick	Scotland
Samantha	Burgess	ECMWF/Copernicus
Joyce	Chang	Taiwan
Su Mae	Chua	SEI/KE4CAP
Valerie	Coté	Canada
Thierry	Coupeau	
Piotr	Czarnocki	Poland
Lucas	Di Pietro Paolo	Argentina
Yoshimi	Fukumura	Japan
Jeremy	Gault	Ireland/KE4CAP
Valentina	Giannini	Climate-ADAPT
Geoff	Gooley	Australia
Marit	Heinen	Netherlands
Yasuaki	Hijioka	Japan
Robin	Hocquet	SEI
Stephen	Jones	Northern Ireland
Dimitra	Konsta	Greece
Marcus	Leitner	Austria
Wilson	Lin	Taiwan
Peter	Loeffler	DGClimate
Kate	Lonsdale	UK
Sanna	Luhtala	Finland
Yoshifumi	Masago	Japan
Kati	Mattern	Climate-ADAPT
Silvia	Medri	Climate-ADAPT
Valentin	Meilinger	Germany
Frank	Mischler	GIZ
Luis	Munozcano	Mexico
Barry	O'Dwyer	Ireland/KE4CAP
Kim	Olson	Canada
Georgia	Panagopoulou	Greece
Petya	Pishmisheva	Covenant of Mayors
Andrés	Rojo	GIZ Mexico
Sandra	Schuster	GIZ
Rainer	Schwark	GIZ
Anna	Stolk	Netherlands
Roger	Street	UK/KE4CAP
Perpi	Tiongson	Philippines
Tanya	Trenkova	Bulgaria
Vanessa	Vaessen	GIZ
Kim	van Nieuwaal	Netherlands/KE4CAP
Yuki	Yoshida	Japan