

# Promoting Local Innovations (PLI): A Tool for Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Mountains

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Throughout their history mountain communities have had to adapt to changing environmental and socio-economic conditions. They have developed strategies and specialized knowledge to sustain their livelihoods in a context of adverse climatic events and constant change. As negotiations and discussions on climate change adaptation emphasize the importance of locally relevant and community owned strategies, there is a need for tools and processes to capitalize on this local knowledge and endogenous potential for innovation. The toolkit Promoting Local Innovations (PLI) was designed by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) to facilitate a participatory social learning process which identifies locally available innovations that can be implemented for community development. The tool was developed in the Andean region in 2004, and later used in climate change adaptation projects in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Chile by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These experiences showed that PLI can be used to involve all relevant stakeholders in establishing strategies and actions needed for rural communities to adapt to climate change impacts, while building on locally available solutions and promoting local ownership.



## Aim of the PLI workshop

To identify key present and future climate change vulnerabilities faced by local communities and establish locally relevant responses, especially those based on local potentialities.

## Learning objectives

- To raise awareness of present and future climate change vulnerabilities amongst local actors.
- To raise awareness of existing local innovations with regard to institutional, social, cultural, economic and ecological issues that can be used for climate change adaptation.
- To support social learning processes among different stakeholder groups based on local knowledge, experience, and skills.
- To initiate new ways of cooperation that lead to a critical review of current ways of working.

## Approach and methodology

The PLI workshop is based on interactive pedagogy and joint learning among different stakeholders in the local context. By using creative exercises and discussions, participants are led into a process of mutual learning and knowledge exchange aimed at identifying and promoting local adaptation capacities in the form of innovations. Preliminary applications of PLI, combined with common vulnerability assessment methods, demonstrate its potential as an effective mechanism for identifying and operationalizing locally relevant adaptation responses.

## Participants

The workshop aims to convene a diversity of participants who represent different stakeholder groups that are relevant for the climate change adaptation in the area. This includes representatives of private and public actors from the local area as well from outside, such as men and women from local communities, representatives from local and regional governments, community based organizations, development and conservation practitioners, and researchers. The optimal number of participants is between 18 and 25 (including 2-3 facilitators), ideally composed by half local and half external actors.

## Expected outputs

1. Action plans for implementing innovations for adaptation to climate change, including priorities, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and resources required;
2. Social, economic, environmental and cultural risks associated with each identified innovation;
3. Improved capacities to communicate reflect and interact deliberatively between members of the local communities, local administration authorities, local government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

## Content and schedule

