



Libraries and the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment

Climate Action through Education, Access to Information, and Public Participation
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In November 2021, the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 strengthened efforts to involve and empower all members of society to take climate action through the adoption of the [Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment](#).

This 10-year flexible framework encourages countries to strengthen [Action for Climate Empowerment](#) by creating better conditions for climate-related education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation.

Aligning library engagement in climate action with this framework can help libraries be recognised as valuable partners in the design and implementation of national strategies for climate empowerment.

This brief provides an overview of the Glasgow Work Programme, with an eye on recognising opportunities for libraries to highlight and build on the work they already do to enable their communities to take climate action.

What is Action for Climate Empowerment?

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) looks at the social aspect of climate action, strengthening the ability of all members of society to engage in climate action through its six elements:

- education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation

This term was adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and features in both the [UNFCCC](#) (Article 6) and the [Paris Agreement](#) (Article 12). This means Parties to these international agreements are compelled to act to implement ACE.

Why is ACE important?

The six elements of ACE are critical for promoting the changes in lifestyles, attitudes and behaviours that are needed to foster low-emission, climate-resilient sustainable development.

They can help countries and non-state actors, build capacity to foster:

- a relevantly skilled workforce that can support transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy
- opportunities to train and up-skill in support of just transition, with institutions that model behaviour to support a climate resilience society
- an informed voting public, equipped to evaluate climate policy decisions and participate in voicing support for climate justice
- Media that deals in reliable, science- and fact-based information on climate change, as well as consumers that are equipped with media and information literacy skills to counter the spread of climate-related disinformation.

Libraries and ACE

Libraries have a unique position as public community space. They are able to reach people of all demographics, championing universal access to information and enabling public participation. They are hubs of lifelong learning, complementing formal education systems. They likewise act as models of behaviours and lead by example.

Library and information professionals support users in finding, analysing, and using information, countering disinformation. Their collections offer insight into historic trends, inform climate research, and spark imagination that leads to innovation. National library associations and international federations like IFLA offer platforms for regional and international cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Taking stock of work already being carried out by national and local institutions as part of existing programming, then taking steps to embed these initiatives into a more coordinated national climate strategy, would be an efficient approach to Action for Climate Empowerment. This should be done within the context of the Glasgow Work Programme - see below for more information.

The Glasgow Work Programme

This flexible framework for country-driven action is designed to enhance the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment.

This should not stand alone – national governments are encouraged to integrate ACE into the development and implementation of national climate policies, plans, and actions by developing and implementing a national strategy that facilitates cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration.

Four Priority Areas

The Work Programme offers four priority areas to guide actions. Activities within each of these priority areas should address the six elements of ACE, see below for more information.

Policy coherence aims to strengthen coordination at the international and national levels. This includes, among other actions, encouraging state parties to develop and implement national strategies that cover all six ACE elements and facilitate cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration.

Libraries can be well placed to contribute to national plans, strategies, and actions as a vector through which to implement ACE.



Coordinated action aims to build partnerships that bring together diverse expertise, resources, and knowledge

Libraries offer a wealth of expertise, resources and knowledge related to the ACE elements. The involvement of library experts, practitioners and stakeholders would be beneficial in elaborating in-country coordination and institutional arrangements of programmes and activities

Tools and support calls for action to enhance access to tools and support for building capacity and raising awareness on ACE among relevant stakeholders.

At the national level, this encourages relationships between national governments and non-party stakeholders (like national institutions, associations, and civil society organisations).

Parties are encouraged to determine the most efficient and cost-effective way to implement ACE activities. It would be beneficial for the initiatives already underway in libraries to be integrated into these strategies.

This priority opens up opportunity for IFLA at the international and regional levels, as well as library associations, institutions at the regional and national levels, to get involved in capacity building activities.

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting includes strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the implementation of all six ACE elements (refer to the full list on page 2).

This calls for engagement with the general public through reporting and communicating the results of ACE implementation. It also calls on national governments to involve non-state stakeholders in monitoring, evaluating and reporting ACE activities.

This is an opportunity for libraries to amplify the work they are doing to empower their communities to take climate action. There is also scope for libraries to contribute to outreach and communication strategies to inform the public.

In 2022, countries will further elaborate on the Work Programme's priority areas by identifying immediate and time-bound activities within each priority area that address the six elements of ACE.

The Six Elements of ACE in the Work Programme

The Glasgow Work Plan further calls on state and non-state stakeholders to implement activities in support of the six elements of ACE:

Education

- Implement formal and non-formal education and training programmes focused on climate change at all levels
- National Governments are called to strengthen education, training and skills development in national institutions (like libraries) to deliver action on climate change learning
- Target women and youth in particular

Libraries should be considered as key non-formal education providers offering lifelong learning and skills development focussing on climate change.

Training

- Collaborate on, promote, facilitate, develop, and implement training programmes focused on climate change
- Target groups with a key role in climate action, such as scientific, technical and managerial personnel, journalists, teachers and community leaders
- National Governments are encouraged to develop tools and methodologies for supporting training and skills development, to build capacity among educators to integrate climate change into their curricula, and train government officials on how climate change relates to their respective areas of work



Library and information professionals could be considered as target groups, both contributing to and benefiting from the promotion, facilitation, development, and implementation of training programmes.


Public Awareness

- Promote, facilitate, develop, and implement public awareness programmes on climate change
- Encourage individuals to contribute to and take their own action to address climate change, supporting climate-friendly policies and fostering behavioural change
- National Governments are called to create communities of practice, knowledge and learning that are available and accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including women, children and youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Libraries are well-suited in their communities to offer awareness-raising activities and could be considered key stakeholders in public awareness programmes.

Public Access to Information

- Facilitate feedback, debate, and partnership in relation to climate change activities and relevant governance
- Take note of the important role of social media in information dissemination
- National Governments are called to increase the availability of copyright-free and translated material on climate change, make scientific information on climate change mitigation and adaptation freely available and accessible to the general public, and improve public access to information on climate change at the national and local level.



There is a clear role for libraries in national strategies to facilitate public access to information on climate change, and to provide the support and skills necessary to find and utilise this information.

Public Participation

- Promote public participation in addressing climate change and its effects, including by equipping the public to take part in feedback, debate, and partnership.
- Take note of the important role of social media in information dissemination
- National Governments are called to seek public participation and input, establish public–private or public–non-profit partnerships, hold frequent civil society consultations, and develop guidelines for best-practices.

Libraries contribute to building informed, democratic, and participatory societies, and so are well-suited to act as platforms and spaces for public participation to occur.

International Cooperation

- Promote regional and international cooperation on all activities
- National governments are called to identify partners and build networks with other countries, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, the private sector, local governments, and community-based organisations.

Libraries, library organisations and associations at the local, national, regional, and international levels can seek out participation within these cross-sectoral networks.



Getting Involved in ACE

A key trait of the Glasgow Work Programme is recognising the importance of engagement with a **wide range of stakeholders**, including all levels of government, educational and cultural institutions, the private sector, international- and non-governmental organisations, and the media.

Cooperation, collaboration, and partnership are critical for successful ACE implementation. Given this ambition, there are ample opportunities for libraries to be involved with cross-sectoral strategies to empower citizens to take climate action.

Here are some ideas for actions that could be taken now:

1. Libraries could consider the elements of Action for Climate Empowerment while planning their institution's climate action initiatives. Designing programmes that target one or more elements of ACE through library programmes can clearly demonstrate the contribution libraries make to national ACE implementation strategies.
2. The Glasgow Work Programme calls for national governments to promote knowledge-sharing, foster local networks and enhance collaboration among all stakeholders. Libraries can establish contact with the relevant national ACE Focal Point to request more information on strategies to implement ACE, share information on their activities, and express interest in getting involved in partnerships. [Find your national ACE Focal Point here.](#)
3. Subscribe to the Action for Climate Empowerment Newsletter to stay up to date with news, opportunities, events, and knowledge products related to ACE: [subscribe here](#)
4. Libraries can raise awareness of ACE and the role they have in its implementation through storytelling and reporting. Use language related to Action for Climate Empowerment, including its six elements, in communication and reporting activities.

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