



ADAPTATION INVESTMENT SUMMIT FOR AFRICA 2026

Accelerating Climate Adaptation Finance and
innovation for a **Resilient Future**

Session Title:

From Compliance to Competitiveness: Leveraging Sustainability
and Climate Reporting for African SMEs, Investors, and Ecosystem
Actors

Convened by:

Altree Capital | ShEquity Partners | PlanAdapt

Session 12 Concept Note

Title	From Compliance to Competitiveness: Leveraging Sustainability and Climate Reporting for African SMEs, Investors, and Ecosystem Actors
Brief	Moving beyond compliance to practical reporting approaches that support investment readiness, climate resilience, and business growth.
Conveners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atree Capital• ShEquity Partners• PlanAdapt
Duration	100 minutes
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jenni Chamberlain, Founder and CEO, Atree Capital• Benson Njiru, Managing Partner and CFO, ShEquity Partners (Moderator)• Martin Rokitzki, Founder and Managing Director, PlanAdapt• Christoph Jungfleisch, CEO and Founder, YAPU Solutions• Ramji Krishna, Impact & ESG Consultant, Kenya Climate Ventures• Jonathan Bamber, Co-founder, Sweetunda

Venue: Victoria 2

1. Executive Summary

The sustainability and climate reporting landscape is evolving rapidly. Emerging global standards, increasing investor expectations, climate-related disclosure requirements, and growing demand for sustainability performance data are reshaping how organizations measure, manage, and communicate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) outcomes.

For African enterprises, particularly SMEs, this shift presents both opportunities and challenges. While sustainability reporting is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for investment readiness, market access, climate finance, and participation in global value chains, many businesses continue to face significant barriers including limited reporting capacity, fragmented data systems, resource constraints, and complex reporting requirements.

At the same time, African businesses are at the forefront of addressing climate adaptation, resilience building, sustainable agriculture, nature-based solutions, and inclusive economic growth. This creates a unique opportunity to reframe sustainability and climate reporting not merely as a compliance obligation, but as a strategic tool for decision-making, resilience, competitiveness, and capital mobilization. This session will explore how reporting systems can be designed and implemented in ways that are practical, proportionate, investment-relevant, and aligned with the realities of African SMEs, investors, and ecosystem actors.

2. Session Objective

To examine how sustainability and climate reporting can evolve from a compliance-driven exercise into a strategic management, resilience-building, and capital allocation tool for African enterprises, investors, and financial institutions.

Key Discussion Question



How do we move sustainability and climate reporting from compliance to a practical tool for resilience, decision-making, and capital access?

Specific Objectives

The session will:

- Examine emerging sustainability and climate reporting frameworks and their relevance to African markets.
- Explore practical implementation challenges and opportunities facing SMEs and fund managers in the continent.
- Demonstrate how reporting can support enterprise decision-making, risk management, and climate resilience.
- Discuss approaches to simplifying sustainability reporting for SMEs while maintaining credibility and investor relevance.
- Explore the relationship between reporting, investment readiness, climate finance, blended finance, and carbon market opportunities.
- Facilitate dialogue between SMEs, investors, policymakers, and technical experts on creating reporting systems fit for African realities.

Strategic Discussion Areas

1. Why Reporting Matter

- Investor expectations
- Adaptation and resilience reporting
- Reporting as a business tool

2. What Makes Reporting Difficult

- SME realities
- Data challenges
- Capacity constraints
- Framework complexity

3. What “Good” Looks Like

- Practical examples
- Reporting for investment readiness
- Reporting for climate finance
- Reporting for portfolio management and resilience

Session Format

The session will be structured as an interactive dialogue combining:

- Brief expert framing remarks.
- Moderated panel discussion.
- SME implementation perspectives.
- Investor and fund manager insights.
- Practical case studies.
- Audience participation and interactive discussion.

The emphasis will be on practical experiences, actionable lessons, and real-world implementation challenges and opportunities.



3. Expected Outputs & Outcomes

Participants will:

- Gain a stronger understanding of the evolving sustainability and climate reporting landscape.
- Appreciate reporting as a strategic management and investment tool rather than solely a compliance requirement.
- Identify practical approaches to implementing reporting systems within SMEs and investment portfolios.
- Better understand the link between reporting, resilience, competitiveness, and access to capital.
- Gain insights into adaptation and resilience reporting approaches relevant to African contexts.
- Contribute to shaping future sustainability reporting ecosystems that are practical, scalable, and responsive to African realities.
- Session Report on Call to Action about Pathways to support SMEs to strengthen their Sustainability and Impact Reporting Capabilities.

4. Proposed Agenda

Time	Segment	Participants
	Audience Poll: What is your biggest reporting challenge? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Framework complexity • Investor requirements • Cost/capacity • Measuring adaptation outcomes 	
10 min	Opening & Scene Setting Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is changing in sustainability and adaptation reporting? (include overviews of the different frameworks) • Why does it matter? 	PlanAdapt
35 min	Practitioner Perspectives Panel Discussion themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are investors asking for? • What can SMEs realistically provide? • Where do frameworks break down? • How can reporting create business value? 	Moderator: ShEquity Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PlanAdapt • Atree • YAPU • KCV • Sweetunda
25min	Interactive Roundtable Discussions (6 participants per table) Table 1 Reporting & investment readiness	One session lead per table

	<p>Table 2 Reporting & adaptation resilience</p> <p>Table 3 SME implementation challenges</p> <p>Table 4 Data, systems, and tools</p>	
15min	<p>Report Back Each table shares:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One challenge • One recommendation • One opportunity 	One session lead per table
10min	<p>Closing Reflections</p> <p>Moderator summarizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What participants heard • What still needs solving • Potential next steps 	Moderator: ShEquity

5. Speaker Roles

Organization	Role
PlanAdapt	Adaptation reporting frameworks and landscape
YAPU	Operationalizing reporting and turning data into decisions
Altree	Fund manager perspective and reporting toolkit experience
SheEquity	Moderator + SME/investor reality check
Sweetunda	Ground truth on SME implementation challenges

6. Session Questions

Panel Discussion

Question 1 The Why: Sustainability and climate reporting is often viewed as a compliance exercise. Why is that mindset limiting, and what opportunities are organizations missing when reporting is treated only as a reporting requirement?



Question 2 The Reality Check: What is the biggest disconnect between what investors, reporting frameworks, and stakeholders ask for and what SMEs can realistically provide?

Question 3 What Good Looks Like: What does practical, useful reporting look like? How can reporting support better decisions, stronger resilience, and improved business performance?

Question 4 Looking Forward: If you could change one thing to make sustainability and climate reporting more useful, accessible, and impactful for African SMEs and investors, what would it be?

Roundtable Discussion

Instructions

Each table discusses:

- What is the biggest challenge?
- What is already working?
- What is one recommendation for the ecosystem?

At the end, each table reports:

- One challenge
- One recommendation
- One opportunity

Table 1: Reporting & Investment Readiness

Lead: Jenni; Notetaker: Sam

Questions:

- What reporting information matters most during due diligence?
- What reporting requirements create the most burden?
- How can reporting improve investment readiness?

Output: Top 3 reporting priorities investors actually need.

Table 2: Reporting & Adaptation Resilience

Lead: Martin; Notetaker: Allie

Questions:

- What adaptation outcomes are most difficult to measure?
- How should resilience be incorporated into reporting?
- What adaptation metrics are actually useful?

Output: Practical approaches to measuring adaptation and resilience.

Table 3: SME Implementation Challenges

Lead: Jonathan; Notetaker: Benson

Questions:

- What are the biggest barriers SMEs face?
- What reporting requests are most difficult?
- What support would make reporting easier?

Output: Recommendations for SME-friendly reporting.

Table 4: Data, Systems & Decision-Making

Lead: Christoph; Notetaker: Serah



Questions:

- How can organizations move from reporting to decision-making?
- What systems and processes are needed?
- How can reporting become more useful internally?

Output: Recommendations for turning reporting into management intelligence.

8. Room Configuration

Preferred format: Interactive workshop with roundtable discussions

Requirements:

- Roundtable seating arrangement with 4 discussion tables.
- Capacity for participants to move between plenary and small-group discussions.
- Central stage or presentation area for opening remarks, panel discussion, and report back.
- Wireless microphones for moderator and panelists.
- Projector and screen for presentation slides and live audience polling.
 - Internet connectivity to support Mentimeter or similar audience engagement tools.
- Flipcharts or table note-taking materials for roundtable discussions (if available).

The session is designed to prioritize participant engagement and peer learning. A traditional theatre-style setup is not recommended, as it would limit the effectiveness of the roundtable discussions and interactive components.