

**Kia ora koutou and warm Pacific Greetings!**

This month's [ground-breaking ruling](#) by the International Court of Justice has far-reaching implications for adaptation including expectations on states to use their “best possible efforts” to develop adaptation planning, enhance climate adaptation, strengthen resilience and reduce climate vulnerability “based on the best possible science”.

UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) described the ruling as “a victory for our planet, for climate justice and for the power of young people to make a difference”.

We are delighted to announce an opening keynote speaker for AF2025 is **Cynthia Houniuihi, assistant lecturer in law at USP** and the President of Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change. While Cynthia is at pains to stress this historic ruling was a collective effort, her leadership and insight was pivotal in launching the court case. We are honoured to host Cynthia and members of PISFCC, and to support talanoa opportunities for young Pacific leaders throughout the AF2025 proceedings.



Watch out for future news of our other esteemed keynotes and opening speakers but meanwhile we know the Adaptation Futures community joins the Science Committee in thanking Cynthia and the PISFCC very profoundly for their vision and impact.

As AF2025 presenter Dalila Gharbaoui, an adjunct research fellow at the University of Canterbury says, the ruling highlights adaptation as well as mitigation. It should be a “turning point” for action, Gharbaoui said, as the advisory “unequivocally states that adaptation is a legal obligation under international law”.

We hope the ruling will provide much food for thought for the breaks and networking sessions. Remember to sign up to the [post-conference events](#).

And it's not too late to join us. [Register Now!](#)

Visa Reminder

If you need to apply for a visa to visit Aotearoa New Zealand, please submit your application as soon as you can. We'd hate for anyone to miss out due to processing delays.

If you're from a visa waiver country, please note that New Zealand has recently introduced [an electronic travel authority requirement](#), which must be approved before you fly. These can take up to 72 hours to process.

Please check whether you need a visa or travel authority [here](#).

The momentum is building – we can't wait to kick things off!

Bronwyn Hayward and Steven Ratuva
for the Adaptation Futures 2025 Steering Committee

Living Labs spotlight

On day four, the exciting programme shifts to Ōtautahi Christchurch's beautiful Town Hall – and also offers a chance for you to go into the field, with [our range of Living Lab events](#).

In the weeks leading up to AF2025, we'll showcase a selection of these. First up is "How Do We Get Mass Behavioural Change For Transformational Climate Adaptation", hosted by BECA.

BECA's business director of climate risk & resilience Cushla Loomb will co-host the workshop. It's a hands-on event: with participatory tools, co-design challenges, and creative storytelling. You will walk away with new insights into how to communicate, collaborate, and create change.



We asked Cushla a few questions:

How has climate change shaped your career?

I have always been passionate about how our environment is changing and what this means for communities. In 2007, I worked with the Marshall Island communities and got to see first-hand the challenges they face from climate change on a daily basis – and what they have overcome. From that point, I have focused on working with communities, organisations and government authorities on the steps we can take to address the impacts arising from a changing climate.

Art is a key focus of your workshop. Does a person need artistic talent to join?

Not at all! Art is not necessarily about the skill of painting or drawing. We will explore art through an Indigenous lens, and in particular a Māori lens – where art is manifest in multiples ways from games through to [kapa haka](#) and include things like weaving, carving and storytelling. There is no pressure to participate. In many cases, participants may just observe and feel the wairua (spirit and sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves) and be inspired by that alone.

What do you hope participants take away from the day?

Ideally, people will leave with a fresh perspective, unexpected insights and a renewed sense of purpose and hope. Beyond practical ideas, we want everyone to make valuable connections – with peers, mentors, and industry professionals that spark ongoing conversations and future collaborations. Ultimately, our aim is for participants to feel inspired, empowered, and equipped to drive positive change within their own communities and organisations.

Date: Thursday, October 16

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Cost: \$45

Details: Depart Town Hall at 9.30am for a short drive to University of Canterbury. You will return by 4.30pm. A packed lunch will be provided.

Leaders: Cushla Loomb and Tania Hyde, Beca Limited

Support from the Ministry for the Environment is enabling the Living Lab programme of events. We are so grateful for this tautāwhi.

If you want to add a Living Lab to your registration, please email af2025@adaptationfutures2025.com.

Media passes

AF2025 will welcome national and international journalists. There are a limited number of complimentary media passes available, for reporters working for news media organisations. To be considered, please complete [this form](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to AF2025. We'll be in touch again soon!

In the meantime, visit www.adaptationfutures2025.com for more information, including the programme for AF2025.

If you know a colleague or friend who would benefit from attending, here's how you can tell them more:

- Forward this newsletter to them, or point them towards [previous editions](#)
- Ask them to sign up for our [mailing list](#)
- Follow us on [Bluesky](#)
- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

Adaptation Futures, the flagship event of the United Nations World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP), is the world's premier climate change adaptation conference. It enables leading practitioners, policy makers, researchers, thought leaders and academics from across the globe to gather to collaborate and inspire urgent efforts to accelerate adaptation for a more resilient climate and fairer future.

The 2025 event is co-hosted by WASP and Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury New Zealand. It is supported by New Zealand government agencies, national and international research organisations and businesses, and foundation sponsor The Adaptation Fund. The event will be held in Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand, this October.

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