

Strategic Plan 2025–2030

Planning to Implementation

Our Vision for 2030

By 2030, national adaptation plans (NAPs) will be the engine of resilience—shaping budgets, driving smarter investments, and delivering sustained adaptation action that leaves no one behind.

**Planning to implementation:
Three mutually reinforcing approaches**



Source: A. Hammill, NAP GN

Why the NAP Process?

Climate impacts have increased in severity, threatening irreversible losses. Adapting to these actual and expected impacts is now widely recognized as a critical component of the global response to the climate crisis. Adaptation efforts so far have typically been incremental, disjointed, and ad hoc. We need to reset our approach and prioritize long-term systemic change, which calls for good adaptation planning.

The NAP process enables countries to identify and address their medium- and long-term priorities for adapting to climate change. It involves analyzing current and

future climate change and vulnerability to its impacts, identifying and prioritizing adaptation options, implementing these options, and tracking their performance. It also means internalizing lessons around what works—and for whom—so that adaptation actions are more effective, equitable, and sustainable.

Importantly, the NAP process builds the systems and capacities needed to make this whole effort a part of regular development planning and budgeting, instead of a separate exercise.

Our Focus for the Next 5 Years: From Planning to Implementation

Over the past decade, adaptation planning has advanced significantly, with almost all developing countries now having a NAP process underway. The challenge now is turning those plans and priorities into concrete measures. Progress is uneven, with implementation lagging, some plans becoming outdated, and persistent capacity and financing gaps constraining action. Over the next 5 years, we will accelerate the shift from planning to implementation by focusing on three mutually reinforcing approaches: **building the right systems, using the right levers, and engaging the right actors.**

Our Approach ↓

1. Building the Right Systems

We will strengthen the critical foundations that are needed to accelerate and sustain adaptation action over time. These systems include

- **policy and regulatory frameworks:** establishing and reinforcing the rules that guide investment and implementation across sectors.
- **coordination mechanisms:** strengthening the institutional arrangements needed to align adaptation action across sectors and levels of government.
- **results frameworks and evidence systems:** developing systems to track progress, inform decisions, and demonstrate results to support investment readiness and accountability.

2. Using the Right Levers

We will help governments to activate and align the financial, economic, and market instruments needed to translate adaptation priorities into actionable measures, investment-ready pipelines, and delivery pathways. This process includes strengthening

- **fiscal measures:** leveraging tax policy, public expenditure, and debt strategies to mobilize resources, create incentives, and strengthen fiscal space for adaptation.
- **public procurement:** using government purchasing power and procurement standards to scale demand for adaptation goods and services and resilient infrastructure.
- **trade policy settings:** using trade to enable access to adaptation goods, services, and technologies.
- **project preparation and investment facilitation:** building investment-ready pipelines through project prioritization and economic and financial analysis, and by connecting projects with potential financiers.
- **blended finance and investment partnerships:** designing financing structures that bring together different sources of capital to mobilize investment, share risk, and deliver adaptation priorities at scale.



3. Engaging The Right Actors

Because the NAP process remains the Network's primary entry point, we will continue to work closely with national government counterparts driving these efforts. However, we recognize that shared priorities drive greater impact, and translating adaptation priorities into concrete measures is shaped by the decisions and actions of a wider set of actors. At the national level, these actors include

- **ministries of finance and planning**, which shape the allocation of public resources and the broader fiscal and economic policy environment. Their engagement is essential to integrate adaptation into budgeting, public investment management, and fiscal risk frameworks, unlocking and sustaining implementation at scale.
- **sectoral ministries**, which determine whether adaptation is reflected in sector policies, budgets, and investments. Aligning NAP priorities and sector strategies is critical to embedding adaptation and supporting implementation in key systems, such as agriculture, water, infrastructure, health, and education.

Translating NAP priorities into action also depends on engaging actors beyond central governments, including

- **subnational governments**, which are the primary interface for service delivery and translating national priorities into locally relevant actions. Their mandates, capacities, and access to finance determine whether implementation happens on the ground.
- **civil society**, particularly organizations representing marginalized groups, which play a vital role in shaping priorities, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of those most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- **the private sector**, which influences whether resilience is integrated into real-economy decisions through its investment decisions, risk management practices, and role in value chains.



What This Means in Practice ↓

At its core, the Network's work is about strengthening the human and institutional capacities needed to drive adaptation action—an objective that cuts across all three approaches and lays the groundwork for our activities over the next 5 years.



Deeper Engagement for Sustained Impact

NAP processes are complex and comprehensive, comprised of different phases and a range of actors. They are massive coordination efforts that can be challenging to sustain. After a decade of supporting countries as they navigate this, we see a need for deeper partnerships that allow us to commit to partners in a multi-year, well-resourced program of support. Responsiveness and flexibility are key features—we will continue to meet countries where they are in their NAP processes, linking them with the expertise they need, filling human resource gaps, and providing operational resources. Working with local and regional experts, the Secretariat will offer a constant technical backstopping presence.

Flexible Support for Greater Reach

While we deepen our engagement with a smaller group of countries, there are ongoing needs for shorter-term technical support to help ensure NAP processes do not stall. This on-demand support complements bigger existing technical support programs, such as those funded by the Green Climate Fund. Offering flexible resources that respond to emerging needs in partner countries enables us to continue working with a broader group of countries, helping them to fill resource gaps, maintain momentum, and turn their plans into action.

Embedding Technical Capacity for Lasting Change

NAP processes are often coordinated by very small teams of dedicated experts, and human resource gaps are a significant constraint to progress. Embedding technical capacity in government institutions can shift the focus from relying on external—often international—consultants to building lasting national expertise and institutional ownership. This approach strengthens national skills and knowledge and ensures long-term operational support. As more countries express an interest in embedding technical officers in government ministries or departments leading the NAP process, we aim to ramp up this model of technical support.

Laying the Groundwork for Inclusive Decision Making

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a critical role in influencing policy decisions, providing services that build resilience and facilitating collective action to manage climate risks, particularly at the local level. However, civil society actors may lack access to adaptation decision-making spaces, meaning that important perspectives are excluded from NAP processes. Recent experience has shown that the NAP Global Network can play a useful role in connecting CSOs with the NAP process. Through demand-driven support and a collaborative approach, we can provide much-needed technical and financial resources that strengthen CSO capacities to engage meaningfully in NAP processes.

Connecting Peers to Accelerate Progress

South–South peer learning creates opportunities for policy-makers and practitioners to draw inspiration from other countries and build relationships they can rely on as they navigate the complexity of NAP processes. Participants can speak openly about what has worked in their context, what has not, and what they would do differently, offering invaluable insights and guidance for decision-makers facing similar challenges. We will build on our success in this area through dedicated geographic cohorts that sustain relationships and continued exchange over time, alongside smaller peer exchanges focused on shared challenges and practical implementation experience.

Translating Learning for Effective Action

We are the leading, go-to knowledge platform and resource on NAPs. With more than a decade of experience working with over 90 countries, we have a unique understanding of how NAP processes evolve, emerging issues, and common challenges. Over the next 5 years, we will continue to synthesize learning and track trends while working with NAP teams and other partners to co-produce knowledge, train adaptation actors, and communicate insights. The Network will also continue to advocate for NAPs in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and other spaces because we believe there is a pressing need to shift toward a more systemic, anticipatory approach to managing increasing climate impacts. We need to see that urgency reflected in global policy discussions.

Responding to the Most Vulnerable Contexts

The OECD estimates that 25% of the world's current population live in contexts experiencing high or extreme fragility, including 72% of the people living in extreme poverty¹. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the number of people forced to flee their homes, without crossing state borders due to conflict and disasters has more than doubled since 2018 and reached a record high of 83.4 million at the end of 2024. This is all occurring against a backdrop of growing wealth inequality².

These contexts shape not only what adaptation priorities are identified, but also how they are translated into concrete measures. The Network will give particular attention to the needs of least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, where progress is being made but capacity and financing constraints persist. Demand is also growing for conflict-sensitive approaches to adaptation planning, as more governments recognize the links between climate change impacts and instability, the role that adaptation can play in promoting peace, and the unique challenges of addressing climate change in contexts of violence. The Network will expand its work in this area, supporting governments in conflict-affected contexts to better connect adaptation and peacebuilding by identifying shared drivers of risk, integrating solutions, aligning policy priorities, and reinforcing coherence across planning processes.

¹ https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2025/02/states-of-fragility-2025_c9080496/full-report/the-state-of-fragility-in-2025_7cb5662b.html

² <https://wir2026.wid.world/>

Who We Are ↓

EXPERTS. Founded in 2014, the NAP Global Network is a global authority on national adaptation planning processes. Hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Secretariat is a multi-disciplinary team of experts, researchers, and practitioners with decades of experience working in climate change adaptation planning.

TRUSTED PARTNERS. We are trusted by the countries we work with because we are reliable, consistent, and our support is demand-led. Instead of quick wins, we focus on the hard work that can take time but bring about lasting change. That means prioritizing relationships and inclusivity and strengthening long-term capacities to transform the governance systems that underpin adaptation action.

CONNECTORS. We draw on our expertise working with 90+ different national governments, in a range of different political contexts, to provide co-designed support tailored to each country's needs and goals while, critically, connecting and convening countries that might be facing similar challenges.



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