



THE WAY FORWARD

Strategy 2021–2022



BACKGROUND

RegionsAdapt is the first global initiative to inspire and support regional governments to take concrete action, collaborate and report efforts on climate change adaptation. After five years since its launch at COP21, RegionsAdapt has gathered over 70 signatory members who jointly form an ambitious group of regional governments pioneering in climate adaptation.

The challenges resulting from climate change and the solutions to it must be addressed not only at the global and national level but must also include the subnational and local perspective. In this regard, subnational governments develop and implement policies that are coherent with the global and national level but clearly consider their own characteristics and circumstances.

The Paris Agreement and its accompanying decisions acknowledge the importance of involving all levels of government, as well as other non-State actors for its implementation. It further confirms that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, and international dimensions.

RegionsAdapt has worked since its launch at COP21 to support its members to raise the bar and boost climate adaptation action through cooperation, knowledge exchange and capacity building. Due to the continuous changes in the national and international contexts, and the increasing pressure to accelerate ambition and action to tackle the climate emergency, RegionsAdapt has undergone a reinforcement collaborative process to become a strengthened initiative that better supports its members in driving climate adaptation ambition and act as the official voice of regions in the climate adaptation agenda.

INTRODUCTION

The current proposal builds on the work developed by RegionsAdapt since its launch at COP21, the results of the survey conducted in 2020 among RegionsAdapt members to assess our achievements and lessons learned, shaping the future of the initiative through a collective process. Moreover, the proposal considers the climate action objectives defined in the Regions4 Strategic Plan 2030 of enhancing international visibility, political engagement and solid collaboration and, more specifically, the objectives set in Regions4 Plan of Action 2021-2022 to increase attention to adaptation in the UNFCCC's processes and raising ambitions on adaptation.

After a collaborative consultation process and taking into account members feedback from the RegionsAdapt Strategy Meeting in April 2021, the Regions4 Secretariat proposes the following four pillars for a reinforced initiative strategy to transform RegionsAdapt from a community of Members to a boosted initiative offering concrete services to support international visibility, implementation and cooperation amongst regions in collaboration with our partner BC3.

Towards a reinforced initiative, more useful for Members, through increased visibility and targeted support to implementation and cooperation amongst regions.



The new strategy builds on the aforementioned work and commitments regions take upon joining the initiative:



Commitment n.º 1

Prioritize and plan, adopting and/or developing a climate adaptation plan or programme (mainstreaming adaptation into other sectoral policies) within the first two years of joining.



Commitment n.º 2

To implement at least one concrete adaptation action in one of the priority working areas (see list at the end of the document).



Commitment n.º 3

To report annually on your adaptation progress through CDP States and Regions Platform.

And has the following specific objectives:

- To position RegionsAdapt as the landmark initiative for regional governments in climate adaptation, highlighting their relevance, key role, and added value;
- To become an example of a useful initiative/platform to increase regional ambition towards COP26 and beyond;
- To transform into a more useful initiative for members; and
- A more attractive initiative for new members and partners

The overall goal is to reinforce RegionsAdapt, showcasing the fundamental role played by subnational governments in the climate agenda and promoting a more integrated and balanced approach between adaptation and mitigation actions.

AREAS OF WORK

ADVOCACY

Objective: Promote multilevel governance, increased ambition and action on climate adaptation and resilience, positioning regional governments as key actors and RegionsAdapt as the official platform for regions in the UNFCCC processes and international agenda through:

- Creation of a Climate Advocacy Working Group.*
- Increased collaboration within the Marrakesh Partnership as part of the Resilience Working Group.
- Increased collaboration and advocacy for adaptation through the LGMA Constituency and the Multilevel Governance CoP26 Working Group.
- ·RegionsVoice campaign:
The #RegionsVoice for climate is Regions4 own campaign which aims to bring the voice of regional governments to the global processes and major events in sustainable development within the UN. This campaign will be the go-to place for gathering Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members' messages, policy briefs, and best practices. It will be both a communication and advocacy campaign that will feed into other key relevant campaigns of the COP such as:
 - Race to Resilience
 - #WhatsAtState (in collaboration with Under2 Coalition)
- ·Continuous participation at UNFCCC COPs.
- ·Development of a policy brief for COP26: "Raising ambitions on climate adaptation: lessons learned and contributions of regional governments".
In collaboration with BC3.

How: Regions4 Climate Advocacy Officer + creation of Climate Action Advocacy WG.

POLICY

Objective: To comply with RegionsAdapt commitment n°1, “Adopt and/or develop a climate adaptation plan or programme (mainstreaming adaptation)”

- RegionsAdapt continues to offer tools, resources, and capacity building to support members in developing their adaptation plans/programmes through the new RegionsAdapt Community of Practice and in collaboration with BC3.
- Mainstreaming adaptation into sectoral policies through peer-to-peer learning and capacity building:
 - reinforcing synergies with the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (nature-based solutions for adaptation and disaster risk reduction),
 - and Agenda 2030 (focusing on governance and inclusiveness).
 - Ensuring coherence between policies (avoiding maladaptation practices).
 - Increasing efficiency in light of limited resources to achieve the global agendas.
 - Enhancing effectiveness as achieving the goals of one development agenda brings progress towards others.

How: Developed under partnership between Regions4 and BC3.

IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: To comply with commitment n°2 “Implement at least one concrete action in one priority area” through:

01. Good practices & Knowledge Hub

- Showcase implemented actions reported by Members through RegionsAdapt annual reporting in partnership with CDP.
- Identify leading regions in different geographical areas (with a special focus on regions from Africa, Asia and Latin America).
- Focus on governance and elevating ambition of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Determined Contributions (NDCs): identify challenges and success stories on how regions have managed to develop and implement adaptation plans, enabling governance factors; inclusive adaptation plans: gender, youth, local, indigenous knowledge, social innovation, etc.
- Stories of change: qualitative information/case studies.
- Mapping and informing on adaptation finance opportunities.

Good practices feed advocacy processes and Community of Practice.

02. RegionsAdapt Community of Practice

- Support subnational governments in their effective implementation of adaptation plans and increasing resilience through peer-to-peer learning and exchange of experiences.
- Develop an annual calendar of webinars to organize learning sessions, case clinics, and debates on previously identified topics based on the current international agenda and members' demand, inspired by good practices. The demand of topics would be assessed through an open survey with all RegionsAdapt members.
- Establish a learning experience and facilitate bilateral cooperation among members.
- Produce through collected data collective key messages, policy papers, guidelines, tool kits, and reports to feed advocacy processes.

How: Regions4 to create Community of Practice facilitated by Project Officer.

03. Regions4 Cooperation Programmes

Regions4 to support climate action projects and initiatives through its Visiting Experts and Call4Projects schemes. Selection of candidates would be done through a match-making process to connect interested regions and allocation of funds would be done depending on fundraising opportunities.

Please note in order to operate these programmes, mapping and applications for fundraising opportunities will be developed through 2021 to start a new call for applications in 2022. Interested members in supporting cooperation among regions with voluntary contributions are also welcomed. Please contact: nuribe@regions4.org

Visiting Experts

Fosters bilateral cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge transfer among Regions4 members. The objective is to improve the knowledge and capacity of technical experts to help them address their professional and often common challenges. The program fosters decentralized cooperation (North-South and South-South) by providing a stipend that allows visiting experts to cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

The participating experts would then share acquired knowledge through the RegionsAdapt Community of Practice.

Call4Projects

Co-funds pilot projects, demonstration projects, and dissemination projects with a duration of 12 to 24 months. The awarded projects are co-funded by Regions4 with a maximum of 60% of the total eligible costs of the project establishing at each call the allocated amount to be provided by Regions4.

Outcomes of the awarded projects would be shared through the RegionsAdapt Community of Practices, Knowledge Hub, and Regions4 communications channels.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Objective: To comply with commitment n°3 “Report annually on your adaptation progress through CDP’s States and Regions Platform”

- Reporting for learning: use CDP’s disclosure process to increase and showcase ambition and to identify challenges that could be addressed through the Community of Practice.
- Supporting in the development of the Race to Resilience Human Metrics, a framework that will enable partner initiatives of the Race to Resilience to transparently assess the impact of resilience measures.
- Review and contrast RegionsAdapt annual reporting with Race to Resilience metrics to understand how they feed into each other and use it as a base for R2R reporting.

*To be developed in the upcoming years based on capacity and priorities:

- Evaluate progress in implementation: Formulate evaluation process indicators, focusing on governance process.
- Monitor impact: co-benefits of adaptation (synergies with other sectors/agendas).

How: Working in collaboration with partners CDP and BC3.

WAYS OF WORKING



- Strategic partnership with BC3 to work on capacity building on mainstreaming adaptation into other sectors, adaptation finance opportunities, development of the policy brief for COP26, and support to the Community of Practice through technical expertise.
- More fluent communication through monthly mailouts with updates and current opportunities, better knowledge of Members' work, more demand-based, targeted exchanges, and cooperation facilitated by the RegionsAdapt Community of Practice and Project Officer.
- Extending collaboration with new regions from Africa, Asia, and Latin America in preparation for COP27.
- Development of a members' engagement and adhesion plan to join RegionsAdapt and Race to Resilience.
- Collective positioning and participation in strategic events through the Advocacy Working Group facilitated by the Climate Action Advocacy Officer*
- Access to cooperation programmes through Regions4*

*Please note these added-value services are offered for Regions4 members. We encourage RegionsAdapt members who wish to further showcase and enhance their efforts and ambitions in climate action but also in biodiversity and sustainable development to contact us at nuribe@regions4.org

PRIORITY WORKING AREAS

One of the commitments undertaken by the regions upon joining the RegionsAdapt initiative is to implement at least one concrete adaptation action in one or more of the following working areas:



01. Water resources and management



02. Resilience and disaster risk reduction



03. Agriculture and zootechnics



04. Forestry, protected areas and biodiversity



05. Infrastructure (including transport and energy) and territorial planning



06. Economic impacts and opportunities



07. Social adaptation and impacts



A flagship initiative of



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