



THE WAY FORWARD

Strategy 2023-2025

*Empowering Regional Governments for
a Resilient Future and Global Accountability*

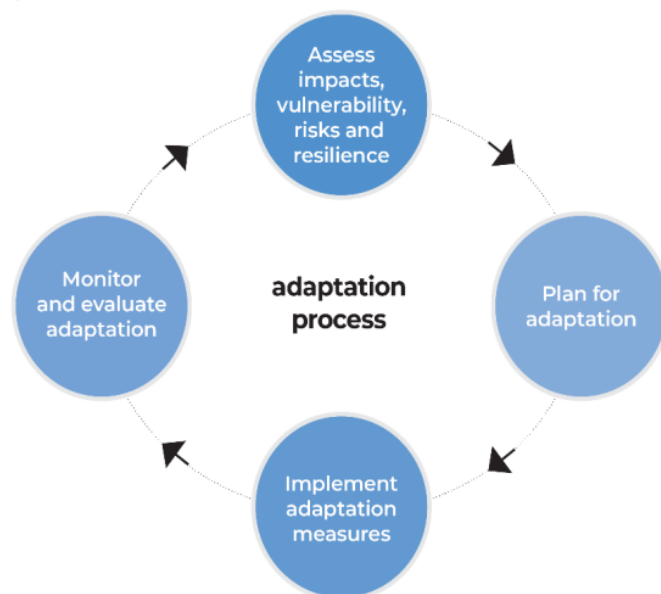


BACKGROUND

Adaptation is a critical component of the long-term global response to climate change aimed at protecting people, livelihoods and ecosystems. While adaptation has not achieved the same level of prominence as mitigation in the UNFCCC process, the Paris Agreement's inclusion of adaptation and subsequent COP meetings have increasingly recognized its importance, thus marking a significant progress in the global climate regime.

As the first Global Stocktake reminds us¹, adaptation is the responsibility of all governments at all levels, and each has a role to play in promoting approaches to develop and use climate information relevant to local conditions to enable adaptation action in their jurisdictions. When adaptation is informed and driven by local contexts, populations and priorities, both the adequacy and the effectiveness of adaptation action and support are enhanced, and this can also promote transformational adaptation.

Adaptation planning is the first step in an iterative cycle, enabling a swift transition from understanding risks to more ambitious and effective adaptation action and support. The implementation of these actions must now be accelerated to increase adaptive capacity, support greater resilience gains and reduce vulnerability. To put in place durable, long-term reforms, the UNFCCC calls for implementing an adaptation cycle² that can be broken down into the following steps:



Source: [UNFCCC](#)

To inspire and support regional governments in implementing the various steps of the adaptation cycle, Regions4 launched the RegionsAdapt initiative at COP21 (2015). This platform, the first of its kind at the subnational level (states, provinces and regions), has since garnered over 70 signatory organizations who collectively represent a group of ambitious regional governments pioneering in climate adaptation planning and actions. The RegionsAdapt initiative invites regional governments to commit to the four steps of the adaptation cycle.

¹ [Technical dialogue of the first global stocktake. Synthesis report by the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue \(unfccc.int\)](#)

² [Introduction | UNFCCC, GST.TD .2023.SummaryReport2 31March2023.pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#)

Since 2021, RegionsAdapt is a partner initiative of the Race to Resilience, driving the participation of regional governments in the UNFCCC Climate Champions campaign, to catalyze a step-change in global ambition, to accelerate the investment and implementation of adaptation solutions, and to put people and nature first in pursuit of a resilient world. The goal of the Race to Resilience is to increase the resilience of **four billion people living in urban, rural and coastal vulnerable communities, in collaboration with partner organizations from around the world.**

As partner of the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Action, RegionsAdapt also aims to contribute to the [Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#). Launched by the COP27 presidency, it serves as aspirational Agenda for global adaptation action towards 2030 from state and non-state actors, and portrays a total of 30 global adaptation outcome targets by 2030 to accelerate transformation across five impact systems: food and agriculture, water and nature, coastal and oceans, human settlements, and infrastructure, and including enabling solutions for planning and finance. The main Outcome that RegionsAdapt will contribute to is to support in **Reaching at least 100 regions by 2030 with evidence-based, actionable adaptation plans**. RegionsAdapt will also track and showcase actions of States and Regions on other outcomes in different impact systems.

However, as the Global Stocktake alerts, while there is increasing ambition in plans and commitments for adaptation action and support, most observed adaptation efforts are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions. This is why RegionsAdapt's mission to accelerate adaptation planning and actions at a regional level remains highly relevant, even 8 years after its launch.

Progress is being made, but accelerated and enhanced action is needed to fully implement adaptation processes. That's why in the upcoming years, the RegionsAdapt 2023-2025 strategy will focus on strengthening support for regional governments and increasing collaboration with the Marrakech Partnership and Race to Resilience, and other partners.

The RegionsAdapt 2023-2025 strategy serves a dual purpose: providing enhanced support and concrete services to regional governments for effective adaptation planning and actions, including information, peer-to-peer learning, and guidance throughout their adaptation journey. Additionally, it involves tracking and showcasing the progress and actions of states and regions on the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda. Transparency and accountability to international organizations and the global community are of paramount importance. If additional resources become available, there will be a concerted effort to expand the initiative's global reach.

JOINING REGIONSADAPT AND RACE TO RESILIENCE

RegionsAdapt Participants

● AFRICA

Ahafo
Centre Nord
Communes du Zou
Cross River State
Dakhla-Oued Ed Dahab
Fatick
Fès-Meknes
Gossas
Hauts-Bassins
Kaffrine
KwaZulu-Natal
Rabat-Salé-Kénitra
Saint-Louis
Sud Comoe
Tombouctou
Council of Governors of Kenya

● ASIA

Gujarat
Maharashtra
North Sumatra
Western Province

● OCEANIA

Australian Capital Territory
South Australia

● EUROPE

Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes
Basque Country
Brittany
Canary Islands
Catalonia
Flanders
La Rioja
Lombardy
Navarra
Scotland
Wales
La Réunion
Yucatan

● NORTH AMERICA

Alberta
British Columbia
California
Campeche
Guanajuato
Jalisco
Prince Edward Island
Quebec
Vermont

● SOUTH AMERICA

Amambay
Araucania
Azuay
Baja California Sur
Bolivar
Ceará
Cerro Largo
Chaco Tarijeño
Cordillera
Cusco
Departamento Central
El Oro
Esmeraldas
Goias
Imbabura
Manabí
Mancomunidad Regional de los Andes
Minas Gerais
Misiones
Morona Santiago
Napo
O'Higgins
Orellana
Paraná
Pastaza
Pichincha

Región Administrativa y de Planificación Pacífico - RAP
Pacífico
Rio de Janeiro
Rio Grande do Sul
Risaralda
Rivera
Roraima
Santa Elena
Santander
Sao Paulo
Tocantins
Tucumán
Zamora Chinchipe
AJUDEPA - Asociación de Juntas Departamentales del Paraguay
ANCORE - Asociación Nacional de Consejeros Regionales de Chile
ANGR - Asamblea Nacional de Gobiernos Regionales de Peru
CONGOPE - Consorcio de Gobiernos Autonomos Provinciales del Ecuador

The full list of participants is regularly updated and available [online](#).

How to join?

- The RegionsAdapt platform is **open to all governments situated between the local and national levels**, at the level of regional government around the globe (states, provinces and regions).
- Interested regions should visit the Regions Race to Resilience [webpage](#) and sign the online adhesion form. Joining RegionsAdapt and therefore the Regions Race to Resilience does **not entail associated costs**.
- To join RegionsAdapt, governments are required to **commit to the four specific pledges** outlined below.

RegionsAdapt Commitments

To be part of the initiatives, regional governments must pledge to the four following commitments³:



ASSESS

climate change impacts
through vulnerability assessments that include all vulnerable communities



PLAN

prioritize and adopt and ambitious plan and/or programme (mainstreaming adaptation in other sectoral policies), including the most vulnerable, with interim targets and long-term goals



ACT

by implementing concrete actions on adaptation in key identified priority areas



REPORT

regularly on their progress through RegionsAdapt/CDP reporting platform to inform and improve policies and actions

RegionsAdapt Priority Areas

Upon joining RegionsAdapt, regions make a firm commitment to implementing tangible actions aimed at enhancing the resilience of their communities in key priority areas.

To effectively communicate the priorities of the UNFCCC Marrakech Partnership and Race to Resilience, the priority working areas of RegionsAdapt have been revised and now encompass the following key impact systems:

Water Systems

Human Settlements

Food Security and Agriculture

Infrastructure (including transport and energy)

Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Forestry

Cross cutting: Planning

Coastal and Ocean

Cross cutting: Finance

³ The 4 commitments to join RegionsAdapt have been updated for further coherence with the UNFCCC Adaptation Cycle and the Race to Resilience's pledges.

KEY OBJECTIVES



As an initiative that aims to facilitate regional government's implementation of the adaptation cycle and contribution to the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, the RegionsAdapt 2023-2025 strategy aims to increase RegionsAdapt secretariat's capacity to reach the following key objectives:

1. Expand RegionsAdapt community and its participation in international climate processes and including, notably the Race to Resilience, amongst others, by seeking out leading regional governments that have demonstrated commitments to adaptation resilience planning and actions

2. Support regional governments in their effective implementation of RegionsAdapt commitments (Assess, Plan, Act, Report). As recognized by the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report [AR6 WGII], international cooperation can help share experience in realizing opportunities and overcoming barriers and challenges to implementation of adaptation plans and promote learning from good practices across various contexts. RegionsAdapt, through capacity building, knowledge exchange, compilation and dissemination of good practices, and cooperation amongst peers, aims to support regional governments in their adaptation policy cycle.

3. Showcase the impacts and contributions of States and Regions to Climate Change Adaptation, for transparency and accountability to international instances and community.

AREAS OF WORK



OBJECTIVE 1: Expand RegionsAdapt Community

KEY ACTIVITIES*

EXPAND THE OUTREACH OF REGIONSADAPT AND THE RACE TO RESILIENCE

To reach the outcomes set by the 2030 Sharm-El-Sheikh Agenda, it is essential to bring in more regions in RegionsAdapt and the Race to Resilience while reinforcing support to current regional governments for a step change towards implementation.

- Welcome participants into RegionsAdapt and the Race to Resilience
- Invite current participating regions to act as ambassadors of the Race to Resilience.
- Identify leading regions in different geographical areas (with special focus on regions from Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America).
- Subject to availability of additional resources, a campaign could be developed to galvanize greater state and regional participation in the Race to Resilience and amplify the recruitment process new participants. This would allow a strong acceleration towards the Sharm-El-Sheikh outcome of “reaching 100 regions by 2030 with evidence-based, actionable adaptation plan”.

RACE TO IMPLEMENTATION

In 2022, RegionsAdapt and the Under2Coalition signed a joint MoU that recognizes the need for regions to speak with a common voice on the full range of climate issues – from mitigation through to adaptation. Notably, the MoU acknowledges a collaboration on engaging regional governments to be part of both the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience.

Currently, each organization provides opportunities for exchange on best practices, strategic messaging to the Climate Champions, and annual reporting on progress to the Races. As limited resources significantly constrain the potential to frequently reach out to new regions and demonstrate progress at the subnational level, discussions are under way to raise joint fundraising to increase capacity for the Race partners to expand the global reach of the campaigns, foster greater capacity for action implementation, and strengthen the visibility and positioning of subnational leadership as a driving force for transformational change.

OBJECTIVE 2: Support regional governments in their effective implementation of adaptation planning and actions

KEY ACTIVITIES*

PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND GOOD PRACTICES

RegionsAdapt will provide information, capacity building and peer-to-peer exchange to allow regional governments to deliver their commitments of developing risk assessments, ambitious planning, effective actions and monitoring-evaluation-reporting

- Host 2 to 3 RegionsAdapt Community of Practice webinars per year to facilitate peer-to-peer learning on identified topics/themes and knowledge sharing among participants to foster greater capacity for action implementation. These webinars are available in 3 languages (depending on available resources). If possible, identify a pool of experts to share knowledge with our platform.
- Publish Briefs for Action reports, Policy Brief and Learning Notes to capture key recommendations arising from the Community of Practice sessions and literature reviews on subjects of interest to our platform.
- Expand Regions4's Case Study Database with cases on climate adaptation, to increase the collection of cases that documents regional success stories with the objective of making them replicable and accessible to other regional governments with similar challenges.
- Channel and share information, including learning opportunities and publications, that are pertinent to our participant's work, particularly through regular Climate newsletters.
- Increase synergies between Regions4 Biodiversity, Climate and SDG programmes to ensure more alignments between the Paris Agreement objectives with the Kunming-Montreal Framework and Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and cross learning opportunities between programs
- Facilitate bilateral learning cooperation amongst participants, based on participant's demand.

POSSIBLE FOCUS FOR REGIONSADAPT'S WORK

- Regional Adaptation Finance
- Climate-Biodiversity Integration
- Adaptation and the SDGs
- Amplifying Southern Voices for Global Equity
- Incorporating Risks Assessments
- Resilient pathways
- Science-based Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)
- Loss and Damage Strategies
- Inclusive and Just transitions
- Effective Climate Communication
- Multi-level governance for Climate Policies (NAPs, NDCs)

OBJECTIVE °3: Capture and showcase the contributions of States and Regions to Climate Change Adaptation, for transparency and accountability to international instances and community

KEY ACTIVITIES*

DRIVE REGIONS TO SHOW MORE ACCOUNTABILITY BY REPORTING ANNUALLY ON THEIR PROGRESS AND ACTIONS

RegionsAdapt will facilitate a collective reporting exercise through annual reporting, to showcase progress and actions of regional governments on adaptation and resilience

- Increase the number of RegionsAdapt participants who report annually on climate risks and adaptation actions in their jurisdictions through the CDP standardized disclosure platform for states and regions.
- Give greater visibility to participating regions' adaptation-related CDP data, by showcasing it in a more visually appealing and easily accessible way on Regions4 website, notably through the Knowledge hub.
- Collaborate with BC3 and Master Students to capture qualitative data through interviews to enrich the RegionsAdapt Annual report.
- Publish RegionsAdapt annual report, analyzing inputs from CDP data and BC3 interviews, to identify progress, trends and best practices of regional governments on climate adaptation.
- Report these data and findings to inform the UNFCCC Recognition and Accountability Framework (I.e. the Global Action Climate Portal), the Marrakesh Partnership, the Race to Resilience, the EU mission on adaptation on adaptation and resilience, amongst others.
- Continue the alignment of RegionsAdapt reporting mechanisms with the Race to Resilience Metrics. This comprehensive framework aims to measure and assess the effectiveness of adaptation actions in enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems by quantify the impact and progress made by various stakeholders, including regional governments, in their efforts to build resilience and address climate-related risks and vulnerabilities.

STRENGTHEN THE REGIONS4 KNOWLEDGE HUB ON CLIMATE

RegionsAdapt will improve Regions4's Knowledge Hub and Case study database on climate to provide greater visibility of adaptation journeys and actions

- Update and review all climate adaptation content on the Regions4 website to raise the profile of adaptation and showcase best practices.
- Improve the current knowledge hub to allow for a mapping out regional government actions, focusing on participants' expertise and strengths. Create summary sheets for each participant, providing links to their key adaptation documents (risks assessments, adaptation plans or strategy) and tracking progress of each participant's commitments upon joining RegionsAdapt.

- Assess the relevance of a Member Area library offering key documents on adaptation at the regional level.
- Evaluate relevant tools that can effectively reflect our members' adaptation journey, such as the Resilience Maturity Curve, CDP Scoring Mechanism, ADAQA index, and others.
- Produce toolkit and guidelines to support subnational regional in implementing RegionsAdapt commitments – *if funding allows*.

INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS DURING UNFCCC PROCESSES AND HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS

RegionsAdapt will continue to highlight the strategic role of States and Regions in climate adaptation within the UNFCCC processes, as multilevel governance enhances the effectiveness of global climate efforts.

- Participate at UNFCCC Climate Conventions and other relevant international events to position regional governments as key actors on climate adaptation and resilience, and influence the key aspects and inputs of the negotiations (GGA, GST).
- Develop joint messages, policy papers and declarations to position and strengthen the strategic role of regions in the global climate processes.
- Widely disseminate the RegionsAdapt annual report to showcase progress, impacts and best practices of regional governments' actions on adaptation.
- Stories of change: promote the impact of our participating regions in key publications from our partners, such as the High-Level Climate Champions, Race to Resilience Story Hub, Climate Chance, We Adapt, UNFCCC Adaptation Knowledge Portal ...

ENABLE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A DEDICATED SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO STRENGTHEN THE VISIBILITY AND POSITIONING OF SUBNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE.

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 governments' messages and best practices.

- Capture RegionsAdapt participating governments' stories and best practices through the #RegionsVoice for Climate campaign, especially during key thematic UN days like World Water Day or World Agriculture Day. This campaign will act as both a communication and advocacy platform, contributing to other important COP campaigns such as the Race to Resilience, Resilience hub, and the LGMA pavilion at COPs.

* Depending on available resources

ENHANCED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN REGIONS4 NETWORK

RegionsAdapt, the flagship climate initiative led by Regions4, is dedicated to addressing climate adaptation at the subnational level. However, it is part of the broader global network of Regions4. Regions4 is an international organization with over two decades of experience, dedicated to supporting regional governments in addressing environmental and sustainability issues, with a particular focus on climate change, biodiversity, and the 2030 Agenda.

For RegionsAdapt members considering joining the Regions4 network, a diverse range of complimentary services is available, as listed below. Membership within Regions4 is determined based on a region's GDP and population. For additional information on becoming a Regions4 member, please contact info@regions4.org.

Increased access to advocacy and networking opportunities within the UN System and international climate events,

- Follow-up and engagement facilitation in global negotiations by accessing decision-making processes; Input in consultations or joint messages on climate, notably through increased collaboration and advocacy for adaptation through the LGMA Constituency in collaboration with the European Committee of the Regions (COR)
- Obtain accreditations to international events and UN Conferences; Participate in exclusive meetings with UN leaders and heads of governments, and other financial, international initiatives opportunities ; Participate in Regions4 Member networking events and bilateral meetings amongst Members at international conferences
- Access financial support for attendance, when possible, in the case of regions from the Global South

Access to Regions4 Biodiversity and SDG Programmes

- Through our Biodiversity Programme, join the Advisory Committee on Regional governments to the CBD, access the Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform, and showcase your leadership through RegionsWithNature
- Through our SDG Programme, participate in our Regions4SDGs Community of Practice and events, empowering regions to ensure territorial approaches of the 2030 Agenda, and input through the Global Taskforce (GTF) in High-Level SDG events such as High Level Political Forums, Summit of the Futures ...

Participation in Regions4 network governance

- Decide on strategic orientations of the network, Participate in Regions4 General Assembly (In-person and virtually) with political and technical representatives of regions worldwide
- Be part of Regions4 Steering Committee to shape strategy and decision-making
- Become a political leader of the network by joining the Board of Chairs

Support for implementation – when funding allows

- Access to financing and cooperation opportunities and Resilient Futures cooperation programme
- Increase participation in multi-stakeholder projects in conjunction with other partners (AIRF, Horizon Europe, etc), benefitting from learning experiences, peer-exchanges and financial opportunities
- Identify and connect members to funding opportunities for regional-level adaptation efforts, to help regional governments carry out their implementation of RegionsAdapt commitments
- Matchmaking to create cooperation opportunities, establish a learning experience and facilitate bilateral cooperation among members.

WAYS OF WORK



Opportunities to engage

At RegionsAdapt, we call for active engagement and open communication from participating regions. We believe that meaningful progress in addressing global challenges like climate change and sustainable development relies on transparent and collective action. We encourage our participating regions to interact with us and take their reporting duties seriously. Open dialogue and timely reporting are crucial for building trust, sharing success stories, and identifying areas where collaboration is needed. Together, we work towards resilient regions and a sustainable future

As a platform dedicated to fostering resilience and adaptation at the regional level, we place a strong emphasis on the active engagement and involvement of our participating regions. Here is how regional governments can actively participate in our platform:

Introductory calls: When joining RegionsAdapt, new organizations are welcomed with introductory calls with our secretariat, providing an opportunity to share their current journey in climate adaptation.

Respond to Climate Newsletters: RegionsAdapt newsletters share upcoming opportunities for regional governments to contribute to advocacy messages, participate in community practices, access funding opportunities, and submit best practices. Interested regions are encouraged to reach out to the secretariat to get involved. Additionally, the newsletters inform the RegionsAdapt community about yearly interviews for our annual progress report and calls for updates.

Share your expertise in our Community of Practices: RegionsAdapt's Community of Practice is a platform for regional governments to showcase their expertise and learn from peers. Invited speakers are invited to share their experience in a 10-minutes presentation. In each community of practice, a space is created to allow spontaneous sharing of priorities and ongoing work from regional governments participating in the audience.

Participate in RegionsAdapt Delegations: We encourage participating regions to inform us about the key events your regional government plans to participate in. This enables us to identify speaking opportunities and enhance your engagement. For major events, Regions4 secretariat also provides a Delegation briefing and toolkit to assist its community in the preparation of their trips, ensuring that your voice is effectively represented and your goals are achieved.

Participate in Preparatory meetings for COP: Regional governments are encouraged to prepare for the UNFCCC COP by attending our COP preparation meetings and informing Regions4 about their delegation's plans and projects via a survey.

Contribute to Regions4's Knowledge Hub and #RegionsVoice campaign: We invite regional governments to share their climate adaptation news, updates, and success stories. Participate in our #RegionsVoice campaign to amplify your voice.

CDP States and Regions Questionnaire: Each year, participating regions are asked to respond to the States and Regions online questionnaire by July 25th. The information shared will be included in the RegionsAdapt progress report and reported to the UNFCCC. This is important because it allows us to understand better your priorities and actions, and allows to identify best practices and speaker opportunities.

Punctual Surveys: When necessary, we consult RegionsAdapt's participating regions through online surveys to gather their input on our platform's strategy. Your active engagement is vital in our collective effort to enhance regional resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Partners



**European Committee
of the Regions**



**CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS**



A flagship initiative of



 www.regions4.org

 info@regions4.org

 [@Regions4SD](https://twitter.com/Regions4SD)

 [@Regions4](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Regions4)

#Regions4Climate #RegionsAdapt #RegionsVoice