

# REGIONS4 CONTRIBUTIONS AND OUTCOMES AT COP28



*Key Takeaways for a regions-led  
resilient future where  
#MultilevelActionDelivers*

# REGIONS4 AT COP28 AT A GLANCE

More than ever the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities' delegation (LGMA), and Regions4, were heard and visible, with a delegation of 20 regional governments, to advocate for the recognition of their role in accelerating action on climate change.

On the 1st and 2nd of December was convened the first-ever Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS), gathering over 450 attendees from 60+ countries, including over 250 mayors and governors and allowing for more visibility and a joint call for collaboration between governments and Subnational governments to accelerate action.

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, as a unified voice of subnational governments in the UNFCCC process welcomed specific references to multi-level action by the majority of Parties in their submissions to the Global Stocktake Considerations of Outcomes, and the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-level Partnerships (CHAMP) was launched as an exemplary effort to engage local and other subnational governments in raising the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025.

The CHAMP initiative was endorsed by 70+ governments in order to enhance cooperation with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies.

The first days of COP were also successful in establishing and pledging funds for the Loss and Damage Fund that was launched in COP27 looking at direct funding and access for subnational governments.

The COP has also has shown progress regarding the integration of the twin climate and biodiversity loss crises, with a COP Joint Statement On Climate, Nature And People and the launch of relevant initiatives to support action such as channeling more than 2.5 billion USD for ecosystem-based solutions and protection of mangroves initiative (mangroves breakthrough targets).

Regions4 was able to contribute directly to the negotiations around the Global Stocktake (GST) and the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GGA), reflecting its valuable role in taking stock of the progress of regional governments on adaptation through the RegionsAdapt initiative and its RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report, and influencing the climate processes.

As a result, significant references to multilevel action in the GST and GGA outcomes, 70+ nations signing the COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP) for Climate Action, strong support for multilevel cooperation at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, and unprecedented inclusion by the COP28 Presidency in the official COP agenda including the first-ever Local Climate Action Summit, all herald a new phase of collaboration between all levels of government.

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM REGIONS4 AND LEADING REGIONS

## Delegation

- 20** Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members supported on site with **128+** delegates.
- 4** accreditations on-site.
- 14** virtual accreditations facilitated.

## Influence in Negotiations

- Contribution to the Position of the LGMA on the Global Goal on Adaptation and the GlobalStocktake.
- Contribution to the Position of the LGMA Constituency towards COP28 with keypartner organizations: Under2, COR, ICLEI, and GTF and catalyzed the endorsement of more than 71 regions and networks.

## Visibility to our Members

- In **3** relevant UN publications: [UNFCCC YEARBOOK](#), [Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda Progress Report](#), [Race to Resilience Progress Report](#) with solutions from Wales, Parana, KwaZulu-Natal, Jalisco, Cross River State, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais.
- [#RegionsVoice at COP28 Digital Campaign](#) with more than **25** best practices from **20** regions.
- **21** speaking opportunities offered to our members.

## Events

- 7** events co-organized by Regions4: 4 high-level co-organized events plus a virtual launch event, a dinner for Members and partners and a high-level networking reception.
- 7** events with Regions4 as partner or speaker.

**38+ bilateral meetings** among Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members, and partners such as CDP, ClimateChance, Climate-KIC, COR, CREAf, ICATALIST, ICLEI, IUCN, Resilience Rising, UN-Habitat, the Under2 Coalition, UNEP, Nature4Climate, Climate Champions team, GIZ and other regions such as Nouakchott, Baden Württemberg, Andalusia, among others.

## Two Reports Launched at COP28

- The [RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report on addressing climate justice in regional adaptation planning and actions](#), including **16** stories from members.
- Regions4 policy brief on [Transformative Multilevel Action: Subnational Solutions for Climate & Biodiversity](#) with the support of the Post2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support project.



# AN EXCEPTIONAL COP FOR SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

*A Growing Voice and  
Recognition of States, Local  
and Regional Governments  
Within UNFCCC Process*



LGMA family at COP28, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) (Credit: ICLEI)

From 30 November to 12 December, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Dubai, gathering nearly 200 countries and over 97,000 participants, being the biggest COP to date.

The Conference of the Parties are one of the most important moments for global climate action, and this year the two-week thematic programme of the COP28 Presidency focused on responding to the [Global Stocktake \(GST\)](#), the review of progress on mitigation commitments, and the [Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation \(GGA\)](#), closing the gaps so that we can achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

For the first time, the COP28 Presidency held an open consultation on the [thematic areas](#), inviting contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, businesses, civil society, youth and indigenous peoples.

Each day of the COP28 programme was dedicated to specific themes to support global action on climate change, including gender, youth, energy, agriculture and others, as well as four cross-cutting themes: Technology and Innovation, Inclusion, Frontline Communities and Finance.



# LGMA COP28 PRESS CONFERENCE

*A Turning Point for Cities and Regions in Climate Action Leadership*



On 30th November, at a press conference in Dubai to preview the position of cities and regions at COP28, leaders including the Deputy Secretary of International Relations for the City of São Paulo, Maria Auxiliadora Figueiredo, shared how this year's COP emphasized the importance of subnational involvement, including by the LGMA advocacy, the Local Climate Action Summit, and the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion.

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, which voices subnational governments in the UNFCCC process, presented its COP28 [position paper](#) with more than 71 endorsing entities. The paper calls for an integrated approach involving cities, regions, and local governments to limit global warming and enhance adaptation measures. The endorsers stress the urgency of translating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) into tangible local strategies, advocating for a robust multilevel governance model to facilitate this transition.

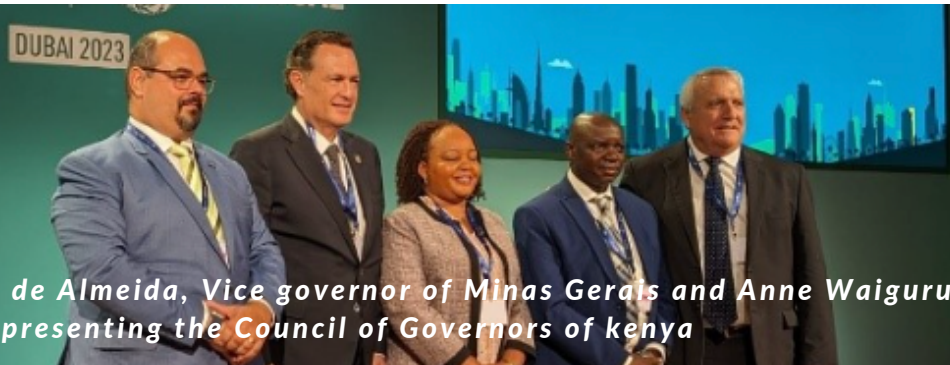
The LGMA Position Paper, co-drafted between Regions4, Under2 Coalition and the Committee of European Regions (COR) outlines a unified stance for the summit and was endorsed by 71 partner organizations and entities. Shared broadly with national parties and other negotiators in the run-up to COP28, the messages found in the paper are also reflected in the EU Council's pre-cop position, the G7 and G20 outcomes, UN-Habitat Assembly resolution and others.

***Download the complete  
LGMA press release here:***

**PDF Document**

# THE COP28 LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

*A Milestone Event for Local and Regional Climate Leadership*



*Mr. Mateus Simões de Almeida, Vice governor of Minas Gerais and Anne Waiguru representing the Council of Governors of Kenya*

[The Local Climate Action Summit \(LCAS\)](#), hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies on 1-2 December 2023, is a first-of-its-kind event recognizing the vital role of local leaders in reducing emissions, addressing climate risks, and energizing national climate efforts. The summit gathered together hundreds of climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance global action, accelerate energy transitions, and strengthen local resilience.

Support from leading networks and organizations, including the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, ICLEI UCLG, US Conference of Mayors, Under2 Coalition, and UN-Habitat, underscores this event's collaborative and global nature, aiming to accelerate progress and amplify impact both locally and globally.

Launch of the [COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships \(CHAMP\)](#): Elevating Collaboration for Ambitious Contributions. CHAMP's launch during COP28 marked a significant milestone, providing a robust platform for local and regional leaders to contribute to ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) actively. The endorsement by 70+ national governments reflects a global acknowledgement of the imperative to foster collaboration between national and subnational levels. This initiative exemplifies the growing recognition that addressing climate change requires a collective and multilevel approach.

We share below the key messages from [Regions4 President](#) around the LCAS:



“Regional governments from across the globe are at the forefront of the climate emergency, experiencing direct impacts on their communities, economies, institutions and critical infrastructure and resources. They are showing bold leadership for the necessary transformations towards resilient economies and territories, from coastal protection to sustainable water management, from nature-based solutions to community engagement. However, as the Global Stocktake and UNEP Adaptation Gap report reveal, a significant shortfall exists in financing adaptation, leaving an estimated annual gap of US\$194-366 billion per year. To drive change locally, climate finance should pivot to support subnational levels, empowering regional authorities to have direct participation and a voice of their own, thereby accelerating climate action.

*Ms. Aranza Tapia, Regions4 President, Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Country Government.*





# KEY OUTCOMES OF NEGOTIATIONS RELEVANT TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

We have been working to influence the outcome text of the COP28 negotiations so that it refers to subnational governments and multilevel governance. Consult the proposed text [here](#) as part of the LGMA COP28 position.

In particular, we have been working to influence the outcome text of the Global Stocktake (GST), and the Glasgow Sharm-el-Sheikh work program on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

Main decisions: after very difficult days of negotiations, COP28 resulted in countries delivering a [package of decisions](#).

## ***The Global Stocktake (GST)***

LGMA and Regions4 have been actively engaging with the Global Stocktake process since its commencement and supported the strong pressure for fossil fuel phase-out that dominated the negotiations. While the inclusion of a transition away from fossil fuels is a landmark step, it fails to recognize the climate emergency state that we are in.

LGMA and Regions4 welcome that some of its contributions have been reflected in the final text of the [GST decision text](#). We applaud the move away from just recognizing the role that multilevel action can play in delivering climate action but also actively seeks to apply principles of the CHAMP initiative in the text, such as in paragraph 161 that *“Urges Parties and non-Party stakeholders to join efforts to accelerate delivery through inclusive, multilevel, gender-responsive and cooperative action”*.

## ***The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and finance for adaptation***

Regions4 and the European Committee of the Regions (COR) co-led the working group on adaptation for the LGMA and have worked towards the inclusion of subnationals within the GGA throughout the year leading up to COP28, including via submissions to the Global Stocktake Technical Dialogues. The working group also inputted to four Glasgow Sharm El Sheikh workshops.

Heloise Chicou, Climate Action and Resilience Program Manager at Regions4 said, **“Up to ninety percent of the action on adaptation happens at the local and subnational level and this needs to be reflected in global goal on adaptation to allow for accelerated implementation for people and nature.”**

Leading the front with the Committee of European Regions (COR) in terms of influencing the negotiations for subnationals on adaptation, Regions4 influenced the outcomes of [the decision text on the GGA](#) as reflected in 5 paragraphs (Preamble, 9, 14,20,22) such as the recognition of adaptation as a global challenge “faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions”, and the vital role of all stakeholders, including local governments. We have called for increased ambition and support to facilitate swift action at all levels, from local to global, and the importance of guiding adaptation efforts using local knowledge systems, ecosystem-based approaches, nature-based solutions, and locally led and community-based strategies.

However, the outcome text falls short in addressing the specific financial needs required to empower local and subnational governments who are facing the impacts firsthand, along with coordinated mechanisms with national governments. Additionally, extending the timeframe through the inclusion of the language “2030, and progressively beyond” fails to recognize the climate emergency state that we are in.

Moreover, the draft needed more precise language to delineate clear implementation means, especially concerning the adaptation finance gap and concrete targets. The unresolved inclusion of the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC) principle remained a critical point of contention.

Leaders at COP28 acknowledged a significant funding gap for nationwide climate change adaptations, with estimates ranging from US\$194 billion to US\$366 billion annually, according to the [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report](#). This acknowledgment is underscored by recent evidence indicating a troubling 15% decrease in adaptation funding in 2021, totaling US\$24.6 billion.

## ***Empowering Local Resilience through Loss and Damage Operationalization***

The operationalization of the [Loss and Damage \(L&D\) Fund](#) on day one marked a historic moment, celebrating commitments from the UAE, USA, Japan, and the EU. With a commitment to direct access for subnational governments, this fund represents a tangible step toward addressing climate change's real and immediate impacts at the local level.




The agreement outlines conditions for the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, specifying that the World Bank must host the Fund in a manner that enables direct access to resources by all developing countries. This access includes subnational, national, and regional entities, as well as small grants funding for communities, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Fund's Board and relevant safeguards.

The fund is directed to actively engage with national, subnational, and local levels to enhance efficiency and achieve tangible outcomes. The Board is tasked with developing modalities for resource access, including direct access through subnational, national, and regional entities, either independently or in collaboration with accredited entities from other funds such as the GCF, GEF, and the Adaptation Fund.



## *Nature-based solutions, climate change and biodiversity protection*

The COP showed progress regarding the integration of the twin crisis between climate change and biodiversity loss with a statement from the COP presidency and parties on a [COP Joint Statement On Climate, Nature And People](#) and the launch of relevant [initiatives](#) to support action such as channeling more than 2.5 billion to drive progress against the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMGBF\)](#), including the 30x30 nature protection target. The upsurge in nature finance not only starts a self-reinforcing cycle of adaptation and resilience but also helps to unlock the potential for nature to provide a third of the needed mitigation solutions by 2030.

-  Read the full LGMA Statement on the Outcomes of COP28 [here.](#)
-  For further details on negotiations outcomes, visit the [CarbonBrief site.](#)
-  The IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin summary and analysis of COP 28 is available [here.](#)

## **The LGMA Community working together to influence outcome decisions at COP28**



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

## *Second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change*

On 6 December 2023, the COP28 Presidency, UN-Habitat and the UN Climate Change High Level Champions co-hosted the Second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change as the high-level opening for the Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment, and Transport Day.

A [joint outcome statement](#) for both the Ministerial Meeting and LCAS was released that encourages the Parties to include multilevel cooperation in achieving the Paris Agreement and including the CHAMP initiative and local stocktakes as critical mechanisms for this goal.

### *Some Key Initiatives launched at COP28*

Scottish Government and C40 Partnership: A Collaborative Endeavor for Climate Justice: The £1 million partnership between the [Scottish Government and C40 Cities](#) represents a collaborative endeavor to focus on loss and damage in marginalized communities. This commitment underscores the importance of targeted and inclusive initiatives to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations.

Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership (MCAP): Pioneering Bioregional Innovation: The partnership between Catalonia and California within the [Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership \(MCAP\)](#) stands out as an innovative approach to resilience and biodiversity action. This bioregional collaboration, involving 14 states/regions from five continents, demonstrates a shared commitment to localized climate action.

### *Key Publications and Reports Unveiled During CoP28*

Regions4 has listed over 20 publications that were launched at COP28, including the Multilevel Governance Atlas from WRI, the Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2023 from the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the Race to Resilience second progress report, and the Sharm El-Sheikh first implementation report from the Climate champions.

In particular, Regions4 was involved as a partner to the task force that launched the [Integrity Matters for Cities States and Regions report](#). This report is a follow-up to the flagship Integrity Matters report launched last year at COP27 by the High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities (HLEG). It outlines recommendations for subnational governments to ensure the credibility, accountability, and transparency of their climate and sustainability commitments while acknowledging their varied capacities and characteristics.

***Explore the initiatives and the key publications and tools on the  
[COP28 Regions4 Initiatives Tracker](#)***

*Please note that this is an ongoing document which we will be updating with the latest information available.*



# REGIONS4 ACTIVITIES AT COP28

*A Growing Voice and  
Recognition of States, Local  
and Regional Governments  
Within UNFCCC Process*

Regions4 was able to have a strong presence at COP28, thanks to a year-long solid collaboration with members and partners to develop a participatory strategy roadmap (joint preparatory webinar, delegation kit, dedicated website and newsletters, WhatsApp COP28 engagement channel) to support our collective advocacy efforts; reinforce the RegionsAdapt community and its contribution to the Race To Resilience campaign, and continue to raise regions' voice within the UNFCCC with key events and initiatives such as the [#RegionsVoice](#) campaign.

## *Regions4 Key Messages*

The overall objective of Regions4 participation at the COP28 was to promote multilevel governance for increasing ambition and effective action on climate action and resilience through the key role of regional governments.

## 4 key messages

*Achieving net-zero emissions at national and regional level is a priority*

*Accelerating regional and local efforts by including subnational governments in the review of National Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans as part of the Global Stocktake*

*Empowering subnational governments to implement resilience and adaptation measures by allocating specific and targeted financial resources*

*Lead at the sub-national level to ensure inclusive and integrated solutions among climate action, biodiversity preservation, and the SDGs that leave no one behind*



## Regions4 Delegation

Regions4 and a delegation of 20 regional representatives were present in Dubai to show what raising ambition looks like thanks to regional leadership. Regions present included: Basque Country, California, Catalonia, CONGOPE, Council of Governors Kenya, Cross River State, Flanders, Jalisco, KwaZulu-Natal, Lombardy, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Rabat Sale-Kenitra, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, South Australia, Wales and Yucatan.

- ✔ Supported 20 Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members on site and 128+ delegates.
- ✔ Facilitated 4 accreditations on-site for members of Regions4 and 14 virtual accreditations.

## Regions4 Role in Shaping Common Positions for Negotiations

Subnational governments as part of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency have co-developed key messages and recommendations to inform COP28 negotiations.

📌 The position of LGMA Constituency Towards UNFCCC COP28 is available [here](#).

In particular, we have worked hard this year to engage in the negotiations on the [Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation \(GGA\)](#) to ensure that it considers the contributions of subnational governments and looks at supporting subnational governments to accelerate action. As a result of these efforts, the UNFCCC Presidency has asked for our input.

📌 The submission of LGMA Constituency Towards the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) is available [here](#).

📌 The highlights of the Multi-level Action Pavilion and the subnational constituency can be found [here](#).

## Regions4 Campaign #RegionsVoice at COP28

The aim of the Regions Voice campaign is to ensure the visibility and wider recognition of the role of regional governments in climate action and resilience by elevating both individual and collective messages.

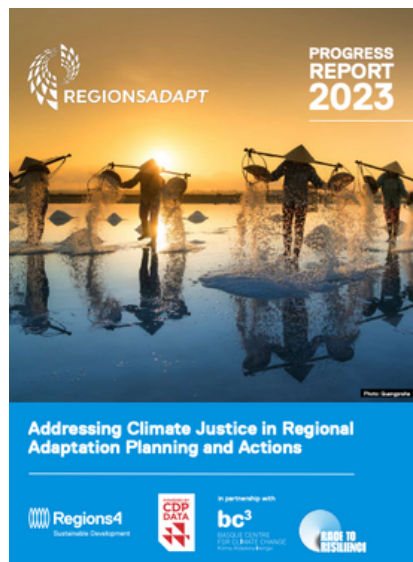
**25** stories showcasing regions' good practices were shared before and during COP through social media. Regions included Baja California Sur, Basque Country, California, Catalonia, CONGOPE, Council of Governors Kenya, Cross River State, Flanders, Jalisco, KwaZulu-Natal, Lombardy, Minas Gerais, Parana, Québec, Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Rio de Janeiro State, Sao Paulo State, Scotland, South Australia, Wales, and Yucatan.

Explore these stories on our dedicated [#RegionsVoice at COP28](#) webpage.



## Regions4 Key Publications at COP28


### **REGIONSADAPT 2023 REPORT: ADDRESSING CLIMATE JUSTICE IN REGIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING AND ACTION**



RegionsAdapt is the pioneering initiative launched in 2015 at COP21 that brings together leading regions on climate change adaptation, to foster collaboration, as well as learning and raising capacities. Annually, Regions4 releases RegionsAdapt annual reports, based on CDP data and BC3 interviews, detailing progress and actions by regional governments in adapting to climate change.

With the support and contribution of the Government of Quebec, this year's report not only continues reporting to the Race to Resilience Campaign but introduces a groundbreaking thematic exploration into climate justice. It illustrates how regional governments integrate vulnerable communities and climate justice dimensions into their climate adaptation strategies and showcases more than 16 good practices from subnational governments in the matter.

The report was officially unveiled to the global audience with a livestream on Regions4 YouTube channel on 5 December 2023, from the Resilience Hub pavilion at COP28.

 RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report and accompanying materials are available [here](#).



Jean Lemire, Climate Change Envoy for the Government of Quebec; H  lo  se Chicou, Regions4 Climate Action and Resilience Programme Manager; Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director; Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment for Quebec, at the RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report – Virtual Launch.



Jemima Gordon-Duff, Deputy Director for International Climate Change, Scottish Government; H  lo  se Chicou, Regions4 Climate Action and Resilience Programme Manager; and Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director at the RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report – Virtual Launch.



## POLICY BRIEF ON TRANSFORMATIVE MULTILEVEL ACTION: SUBNATIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY



With the support of the Post2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support project, implemented by Expertise France, and authored by Regions4 experts with support from Quebec's Advisory Committee on Climate Change, the paper addresses the importance of subnational governments as innovation laboratories for local and inclusive solutions to the dual climate and biodiversity crisis.

With the support of CREAM, Regions4 also released a video inspired on the policy brief's key messages.

 The Policy Brief is available [here](#).

 The Video is available [here](#).

## Regions4 Leading Events at COP28

At COP28, Regions4 co-organized 4 high-level events, a virtual launch event, a dinner and a networking reception.

We facilitated 21 member interventions in the 4 Regions4 leading events and 3 partners' events and Regions4 secretariat supported and participated in 7 events as partners.

We also provided our members with a comprehensive [agenda of events](#) to help them navigate the conference.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDAS AT NATIONAL LEVEL: HOW TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EFFECTIVENESS WITHIN MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

**Organisers:** Government of the Lombardy Region, Regions4, Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente, in collaboration with Under2 Coalition.

**Date:** Monday 4th of December.

**Description:** The event demonstrated the role of states, regions, cities and non-state actors in driving progress on climate change mitigation and adaptation, allowing for the integration of global agendas and highlighting experiences of multi-level governance and collaboration with national governments.

We had the honour of counting on the participation of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members: Lombardy, Scotland, KwaZulu-Natal and Sao Paulo.

[For more information, please check the press release available here.](#)



Organisers and speakers at the Italian Pavilion

## **REGIONS4 DINNER: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW: CONNECTING REGIONAL LEADERS AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION**

**Organisers:** Regions4, supported by Post2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support Project.

**Date:** Monday 4th of December.

**Description:** Reception for 50 guests, designed to foster networking, collaboration, and engagement among subnational leaders, international organizations, and climate action advocates.

This exclusive event facilitated meaningful connections and dialogue among Regions4 delegation at COP28 as well as with partners and thought leaders who champion the alignment of the international climate and biodiversity agendas.

Below is a snapshot of the reception:



Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director; David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Susanna Rivero and Marc Vilahur from the Catalonia team.





## SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP IN DRIVING NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS (NAP) AND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC) IMPLEMENTATION

**Organisers:** Regions4, the Under2 Coalition, and the European Committee of the Regions, in partnership with GIZ, the Scottish Government, the NAP Global Network.

**Date:** Wednesday 6th of December.

**Description:** This event highlighted experiences of multi-level governance and collaboration between local and regional as well as national governments on the definition and implementation of climate agendas such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The event shared experiences from Scotland, the Council of Governors of Kenya, Rio de Janeiro, and Catalonia.

[For further details on this event, read the IISD press release here.](#)



“Platforms like Regions4 are so important so that we can share our knowledge and our understanding. We will continue to be a strong international voice and an advocate for subnational governments because we see the inherent value in what we can deliver. We also know that the decisions we make today will make the difference between a planet that is inhabitable for future generations or one that isn't.”

**Mairi McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition, Scottish Government**

“

We need to strengthen the capacities of subnational governments authorities and we need to provide financing to the subnational level, both from the national and international funding mechanisms.”

**Maurico Luna Rodriguez, IISD, Lead on Vertical Integration at the NAP Global Network**



“

NDCs and NAPs need to be integrated, and achieved through multilevel governance and collaboration.”

**Carmen Vogt, Head of the Global Sections Cities at GIZ**

”

Nehmat Kaur, Head of Under2 and Subnational Governments, Climate Group; Paul Otuoma, Governor of Busia County and Chair of the Council of Governors of Kenya; Thiago Pampolha, Vice-Governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro; Apostolos Tzitzikostas, First Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions and Governor of Central Macedonia Region; Mireia Boya, DG for Environmental Quality and Climate Change, Government of Catalonia.







## CATALYSTS OF CHANGE: SUBNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

**Organisers:** Regions4 and the Basque Country, in partnership with the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency (LGMA).

**Date:** Wednesday 6th of December.

**Description:** The event explored regional leadership in the implementation of innovative Nature-based Solutions as the key to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss, presenting concrete solutions that can be replicated.

This event integrated a roundtable discussion among regional governments looking at actions that attend to both biodiversity protection and climate action. The Basque Country, Flanders, Quebec, Minas Gerais, Baja California Sur, and California discussed the enabling conditions and drivers to replicate such actions and the role regional governments play in accelerating progress.

[For a deeper insight into the event, please check the press release here.](#)

We share below some of the key messages we heard from the panel of regional experts:



**Regions4 at COP28**  
Co-organised with **EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

IUCN

" There is no longer ambiguity on what is a Nature-Based Solution (NBS) since UNEA 2022 Nairobi resolution – the next step is how do we scale up actions? NBS, complemented with phasing fossil fuels, is the best framework to coordinate Nature, People and Climate "

Mr. Charles Karangwa, Head for the NbS Management Hub of IUCN

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**Regions4 at COP28**  
Co-organised with **EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

IUCN

" We map all of our 800+ cities' vulnerability to climate change, and, in partnership with the French Government, we help the most vulnerable ones to design their plan for climate action. "

Mrs. Marilia Carvalho de Melo, Secretary of State for Environment and Sustainable Development, government of Minas Gerais, Brazil

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**Regions4 at COP28**  
Co-organised with **EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

IUCN

" Science is warning that the combined event of biodiversity loss and climate change are causing severe impacts on people and nature "

Mr. Adolfo Uriarte, Natural Heritage and Climate Change Director at the Basque Government

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**Regions4 at COP28**  
Co-organised with **EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

IUCN

" Without nature and its resource, humanity will not exist "

Mrs. Cristina Gonzalez Rubio Samvicente, Director of Climate Change, government of Baja California Sur

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**Regions4 at COP28**  
Co-organised with **EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

IUCN

" Being a leader is not deciding everything, but listening to the people, to science, to the indigenous communities and then react. "

Mr. Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change, Government of Quebec

#COP28



**Regions4 at COP28**  
Co-organised with **EUSKADI**  
BASQUE COUNTRY

IUCN

" It is not about creating something new, but rediscovering what has been done and restoring cycles where humans were in equilibrium with other species. "

Mr. Marc Vilahur, DG of Environmental Policies and the Natural heritage of the government of Catalonia

#COP28



## REGIONS4 NETWORKING EVENT: INTEGRATED ACTIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE: SHOWCASING SUBNATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN SYNERGIES BETWEEN CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY AGENDAS

**Organisers:** Regions4, supported by Post2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support Project.

**Date:** Wednesday 6th of December.

**Description:** The networking reception celebrated subnational leaders, policymakers, and environmental advocates who champion the alignment of the international climate and biodiversity agendas. Subnational governments together with their partners represent a vast array of territorial laboratories testing innovative solutions, where synergies between climate, biodiversity and development challenges translate into action, the event aimed at strengthening the community around these transformative actions.

We share below some of the best moments of our networking event with our members and partners:







## TACKLING THE TWIN CRISES OF CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS: AMBITION AND ACTION FROM REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO BUILD RESILIENCE

**Organisers:** Regions4, the European Committee of the Regions. In partnership with the Ecological and Forestry Applications Research Centre (CREAF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Supported by the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, a project financed by the EU and implemented by Expertise France.

**Date:** Monday 11th of December.

**Description:** The session aimed to showcase the essential role of subnational governments and the innovative solutions they have developed to simultaneously implement the nature-related elements of the COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with a strong look at the challenges and opportunities of a whole-of-government approach.

We had the honour of counting on the participation of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members.



Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director



*Aligning these climate and biodiversity agendas at the territorial levels is one of the most powerful tools that we have available and that can really help us move forward to a resilient world, that is also prosperous and sustainable for all, while simultaneously facing these dual crises.*







**“Where there's a will, there's a way (...) As president of COR and my region Andalusia, we see first-hand impacts, notably for water management and the protection of ecosystems in Andalusia (...) It is time to confront the dual crisis, which must be a planetary priority. There is a great need to give greater weight to local and regional governments because they must participate in achieving global goals in the fight against biodiversity loss and climate change.”**

**Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla, President of Andalusia**



**“One of Catalonia's best practices is to connect biodiversity and climate strategies at the highest levels. We monitor action by having 78 indicators for biodiversity and 58 for adaptation, where we can look at what is working and what is not, to inform policy but also to report to our society as an exercise of transparency.”**

**Leo Bejarano, Director of The Catalan Office of Climate Change, Government of Catalonia**



**“The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be successful if it is implemented with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Subnational and local authorities contribute to mainstreaming climate and biodiversity objectives across all levels of governance, across sectors, and across generations. They are taking effective action in support of both agendas, moving the Framework from agreement to action.”**

**David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity**



**“The most powerful force for change is a community of people that want to make a difference.”**

**Grethel Aguilar, Director General IUCN Government of Catalonia**

## Partners Side Events at COP28, with Regions4 Participation



### HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE: DRIVING SUBNATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

**Organisers:** Under2 Coalition, with the support of Regions4.

**Date:** Saturday 2nd of December.

**Description:** The Under2 Coalition hosted a high-level roundtable convening governors, premiers and key subnational leaders together with the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions to integrate subnational leadership towards enhancing global climate action.



Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director at the High-level roundtable: *“global reviews need to take into account subnational commitments and look at new mechanisms for support to subnational level such as financing mechanisms to help subnational governments accelerate action”.*



## TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS: RACE TO RESILIENCE IN 2023

**Organisers:** Race to Resilience, with the support of Regions4.

**Date:** Sunday 3rd of December.

**Description:** This event presented the progress made by the Campaign in 2023. For the first time, the Campaign is proudly demonstrating the conversion of pledges into tangible actions: Number of benefited people, hectares of natural systems covered, and finance being mobilized by partners' implementation efforts.

### The session:

- Presented the [second Race to Resilience Progress Report](#), taking stocktake on implementation.
- Showcased progress on pledges: Partners have committed to increasing the resilience of 3.19 billion people by 2030.
- Highlighted progress on the number of individuals benefited, hectares impacted, and finance mobilized by partners.
- Presented the Regions4 [RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report](#).



Razan Al Mubarak, COP28 High-level Climate Champion stated, *"The report highlights the collective achievement of our members, regions, stakeholders (...) these initiatives mark substantial progress and represent a significant stride towards our goals".*

**Heloise Chicou, Regions4  
Climate Action and Resilience  
Programme Manager presented  
the RegionsAdapt 2023  
Progress Report**







## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR SUBNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION: EXPERIENCES AND ADVANCES FROM CHILE AND LATIN AMERICA

**Organisers:** Ministry of Environment of Chile, co-organised with the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR)2, and Regions4.

**Date:** Wednesday, 6th of December.

**Description:** Chile is a pioneer in defining explicit guidelines, as testified by its new Climate Change Framework Law, which promotes integrated climate action at all management levels, including national sectors, regions, municipalities and even watersheds. This, however, requires important advances in capacity building, information and governance. In this context, the panel sought to show and discuss Chile's and Latin American experiences on this matter, attending to different actors linked to this process.



Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director stated, *"Leading regions and municipalities from Chile and Latin America are showcasing real solutions to climate change challenges (...) our RegionsAdapt report highlights the importance of engaging the most vulnerable communities, and how subnational governments are working together with their local communities in overcoming vulnerabilities"*.



Ricardo Tapia, Director of Bioeconomy, Morona Santiago CONGOPE (Ecuador): *"We have one of the highest rates of deforestation in Ecuador, so we are well aware that forest governance is key to moving forward. We are working together with our local and indigenous communities to develop deforestation-free value chains for coffee, cacao, milk and cattle"*.



## SCALING-UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE, NATURE AND PEOPLE

**Organisers:** ENVE Commission of the European Committee of the Regions (COR).

**Date:** Saturday 9th of December.

**Description:** This high-level event aimed at raising awareness about the increasing number of initiatives on NbS, and to identify instruments for scaling-up and increasing investment in the design and implementation of NbS. High-level speakers and panelists shared experiences and discussed opportunities and challenges, obstacles and opportunities, of investing in NbS for climate action as well as other co-benefits.

Regions4 facilitated the participation of the Prefect of the Province of Morona Santiago, Tiyua Napoleon Uyunkar Kaniras, representing CONGOPE, Ecuador.

[The recording is available here.](#)

*Prefect of the Province of Morona Santiago, Tiyua Napoleon Uyunkar Kaniras, representing CONGOPE, Ecuador.*





## COP28 NDC-NBSAP MINISTERIAL: DRIVING INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORKS FOR 2030 ACTION

**Organisers:** co-organized by the COP28 Presidency, CBD COP15 Presidency, NDC Partnership, NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, UN Climate Change High-level Champions, and the UN CBD Action Agenda Champion.

**Date:** Saturday 9th of December.

**Description:** The UNFCCC COP28 and CBD COP15 Presidencies brought together governments and leaders across society at a ministerial roundtable to discuss the importance, challenges, and opportunities in adopting a synergetic approach in the design and implementation of national climate and biodiversity plans and strategies.

The Ministerial was chaired by Razan Al Mubarak High-Level Champion, COP28 and Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Action Agenda Champion, Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Executive Secretaries of the UNFCCC and UN CBD, Inger Anderson, Executive Director, UNEP as well as key Ministers, civil society groups and others present stressed the importance of urgency and scale implementation is needed now.

[For more information on the Ministerial event, check the press release here.](#)



Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director stated, *"The COP28 joint statement on climate nature and people, bringing together the UNFCCC and CBD with an influential group of key parties, is a powerful signal that there is no pathway to a net zero and resilient future that does not pass through nature positivity. Likewise there is no path forward that does not pass through territories. At Regions4 we see clearly how subnational governments, including cities, states, and regions, are providing compelling leadership, and real solutions integrating the climate and biodiversity agendas."*





**Organisers:** Nature Positive Initiative.

**Date:** Saturday 9th of December.

**Description:** After a successful launch of the Nature Positive Initiative in New York, a whole-of-society approach and alignment among governments, businesses, financial institutions and civil society around a common definition of ‘Nature Positive’ as well as actions at different scales will be necessary to deliver the Nature Positive goal. The Nature Positive Initiative is therefore launching a diverse and inclusive Forum, with the purpose of aligning and coordinating our efforts to support a nature-positive outcome, and welcomes members from a variety of sectors, including from environment NGOs, private sector coalitions and actors, development and humanitarian organizations, and many more.



**Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director at the Nature Positive Initiative Reception stated, “There is no pathway to limiting global warming to 1.5°C without addressing nature loss and land degradation. Rather than treat the climate and biodiversity crises separately, we need integrated solutions that tackle them simultaneously. And subnational leaders are finding real solutions, but they need to give a boost to keep that exponential transformation unfolding. Their best practices in integrated approaches, transformative governance, and financing mechanisms for climate and biodiversity action make them natural and much-needed leaders in the field”.**



## WHAT SKILLS AND CAPACITIES ARE NEEDED AT SUBNATIONAL LEVELS TO IMPLEMENT NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS? LESSONS LEARNT FROM NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL ACTORS

**Organisers:** Paris Committee on Capacity-building, NAP Global Network

**Date:** Sunday 10th of December.

**Description:** This event examined the importance of sub-national and local-level engagement in national adaptation policies and plans, discussing how capacities and networks can be enhanced to enable vertical integration in decision-making and ensure inclusive and gender-responsive adaptation action.

The session highlighted good practices on how capacity building at sub-national and local levels can be scaled up at the national level. It identified country support needs to advance capacity building for vertical integration and opportunities for technical and financial support to strengthen these efforts.

**Regions4 facilitated the Participation of Ana Asti, Undersecretary on Water Resources and Sustainability**



### Global Climate Action Marrakech Partnership event

High-level champions Mahmoud Mohieldin and Razan Al Mubarak, and Heloise Chicou, Regions4 Climate and Resilience Programme Manager stated, *"It is key that the Sharm El Sheikh adaptation agenda feeds into the global goal on adaptation so as to make sure that local and regional adaptation are supported by parties"*.





## **MEET AND GREET WITH REGIONS4 AND REGIONSADAPT MEMBERS AND PARTNERS**

We share below some of the 38+ bilateral meetings we have held with Regions4 members, RegionsAdapt members, potential members and partners.



***Bilateral meeting with the Basque Country  
and Sao Paulo delegation***



***Meeting with the GIZ team at COP28***



***Bilateral with Ms Cate Hart,  
Executive Director, Department for  
Environment and Water, South  
Australia***



***Heloise Chicou, Regions4 Climate and Resilience  
Programme Manager with the Network of boundary  
organizations for adaptation***



## MEET AND GREET WITH REGIONS4 AND REGIONSADAPT MEMBERS



*Bilateral meeting with Mauricio Dosal, Governor of Yucatan; Sayda Rodriguez, Secretary of Sustainable Development Yucatan; and Silvia Llamas, GCF Country Coordinator for Mexico at COP28.*



*Bilateral meeting with Madame Fatimetou Abdel Malick, President of Nouakchott region.*



*Heloise Chicou, Regions4 Climate and Resilience Programme Manager; Anne Waiguru, Second Governor of Kirinyaga Country in Kenya; and Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director.*

## LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Parties adopted a decision ([FCCC/CP/2023/L.4](#)) accepting Azerbaijan's offer to host COP 29 from Monday, 11 November, to Friday, 22 November 2024, and Brazil's offer to host COP 30 from Monday, 10 November, to Friday, 21 November 2025.

Looking towards the future, and as a follow up of COP28, Regions4 will:

- ***Follow-up on COP28 commitments and initiatives related to regions and connecting regions with opportunities, looking notably at loss and damage.***
- ***Advocacy strategy for COP29, regular consultations, and participatory process with members for joint action and positioning.***
- ***Ensure a strong presence at COP29: side events and RegionsAdapt report, focusing on finance, as a key priority topic for the year.***
- ***Consolidation of partnerships: Climate-KIC, Under2 Coalition, Resilience Hub and Lab, WRI, GIZ, EF, NAP Global Network, IUCN, IIED and other strategic partners.***
- ***Development of partnership and project proposal with key partners such Under2Coalition: Supporting developing regions to develop adaptation plans and engage in COP29.***
- ***Reinforce RegionsAdapt community of practice learning sessions with dedicated webinars on learning from the 2023 progress report.***
- ***Support the implementation of the Climate Champions Agenda for Adaptation for regional governments.***
- ***RegionsAdapt annual reporting: alignment of RegionsAdapt reporting with Race to Resilience metrics and scoring of progress.***
- ***Continue regions recruitment for RegionsAdapt and Race to Resilience: an amplified voice to include more southern regions (Africa, Latin America, Asia).***



# MEDIA RESOURCES AND PRESS COVERAGE

To revisit the events and their outcomes please go to the [Regions4 COP28 dedicated website](#).

## REGIONS4 COP28 ASSESSMENTS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Assessment from Regions4 President, Minister Arantxa Tapia
- Key takeaways from Regions4 Secretary General, Natalia Uribe Pando
- LGMA statement on COP28 Outcomes, with contributions from Regions4


All available at the [Regions4 COP28 dedicated website](#).

## BEST PRACTICES AT A GLANCE

#RegionsVoice stories are available [here](#).

## PUBLICATIONS

 RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report launching is available [here](#).

 Transformative multilevel action: Subnational solutions for climate & biodiversity policy brief is available [here](#).

## PHOTO GALLERY

The online album on our Flickr page is available [here](#).

## COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT

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**Also, check on our social media:**



<https://twitter.com/Regions4SD>



<https://www.youtube.com/@regions4561>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/regions4>



