

**We act, we connect,
we transform.**



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Created by regions. Led by regions. Regions4 connects governments worldwide to shape global agendas and turn climate, biodiversity and SDG ambition into territorial action. We act. We connect. We transform

Cover:

©Christian Lamontagne, 2009, "Building Differently with the Nubian Vault: for Low-Carbon, Climate-Adapted Buildings and a Green Economy". The photo won the Regions4 Just Resilience Photo Contest "Regions in Action", submitted by the Government of Québec, which supported the sub-Saharan Africa project through its International Climate Cooperation Program (2017–2020).

Dear Friends,

In 2025, Regions4 continued to strengthen its role as a global network of subnational governments committed to sustainable development. Across the continents, regions have asserted their collective leadership, contributed to international agendas on climate and biodiversity, advanced the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and translated global ambitions into concrete actions on the ground.

For the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra Region, holding the position of Vice-President for Africa at Regions4 was both an honour and a responsibility. **I have very fond memories of the General Assembly held in Rabat in 2022, to mark the network's 20th anniversary.** This event marked an important step in strengthening cooperation between regions and affirming the growing contribution of African regions within this international community.

Throughout this term, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra has sought to focus on issues that are essential for many regions: **strengthening climate resilience and facilitating access to funding to implement concrete projects in the regions.**

In this spirit, several initiatives led by Regions4 have enabled tangible progress to be made, notably **RegionsAdapt and the Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP)**, which strengthen cooperation between regions and support access to funding for the territories most exposed to climate impacts. With partners such as the AIRF and the International Organisation of La Francophonie, we have also worked with several regions in West Africa to build local capacity and develop territorial resilience projects, where **biodiversity becomes a driver of local development and green jobs.**

Regions4 has also continued to expand its membership and partnerships. **Strengthening the participation of African regions and peer-to-peer exchanges has been at the heart of our priorities. The membership of the Association of Moroccan Regions, representing its 12 regions,** is a great example of this momentum.

As this vice-presidency term draws to a close, I am delighted with the progress made and the growing collective momentum, confirming the **role of regions as true drivers of transformation for climate, biodiversity and sustainable development.**

Mr. Rachid El Abdi

**President of the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra Regional Council
Regions4 Vice-President for Africa**





Political Leadership & Governance

Board of Chairs

4 high-level political leaders representing Scotland, Lombardy, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra and Rio de Janeiro

Steering Committee

12 regions shaping strategic orientations of the network

General Assembly

+60 regional representatives defining joint strategy and positioning

Growing Secretariat

9 professionals and 3 seconded experts from member governments

Growing membership



56 members

24 countries

171 subnational governments

430 million people reached

Global Influence & Advocacy

Local Leaders Forum

- Regions4 was an official partner and co-organiser of the first Global States & Regions Summit, leading the high-level segment on adaptation and resilient territories
- Regions4 Board of Chairs endorsed the Forum's Joint Statement, calling for stronger collaboration with subnational governments ahead of COP30
- The Scottish Government (Regions4 Presidency), received the Bloomberg Philanthropies Award in the "Power of Partnership" category for its Woodland Carbon Code and Restoration project

Climate COP30

- 70+ delegates from 20 regions mobilized
 - 8 led and co-led events and other 14 supported, bringing territorial perspectives into global climate discussions
 - 37 interventions of members facilitated, influencing global adaptation and finance agendas
- 3 strategic launches:**
- Just Resilience Action Platform
 - RegionsAdapt Finance Report
 - Just Resilience Policy Brief

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

- 6 members mobilized
- Regions4 and Flanders launched the Regions4SDGs Framework with 7 founding partners
- 6 members good practices considered in "The Road to Seville"

UN Ocean Conference

- 12 regions mobilized
 - Members' roundtable convened by Regions4 Presidency
 - Regions4 partnered in the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition Summit, with members contributing to advancing coastal resilience and ocean action
- Regions4 joined the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition
- Steering Committee and 2 regions endorsed the Coalition Charter

Learning & Scaling Solutions

- 20 regional solutions included in the UN Climate Champions Granary of Solutions
- 11 case studies from members documenting governance processes, enabling conditions, impacts and lessons learned
- 18 best practices amplified through the RegionsVoice campaign
- 11 member regions featured in the "From Paris to Belém" campaign, highlighting a decade of climate action
- 6 training sessions focusing on finance, resilience and governance

Funding & Resource Mobilisation

Member contributions to flagship initiatives (€350,000 total), including:

- Québec → RegionsAdapt
- Scotland & CONGOPE → JRAP
- Basque Country, Gauteng, Wales (+ Flanders, Rio, Lombardy in-kind) → Regions4SDGs

Leveraging partnerships:

- Under2 Coalition → (supported by Scotland)
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership (MCAP) → (supported by Catalonia)

EU projects and external funding:

- MAIA and Pathways2Resilience → supporting capacity-building, knowledge and policy impact
- COOP'R → Promoting Interregional Cooperation for Protected Areas with the International Association of Francophone Regions (AIRF)

Supporting Climate, Biodiversity and SDG Action

- 85 regions advancing climate adaptation through RegionsAdapt
- 2 EU Mission Adaptation projects translating knowledge into policy and supporting 100 European regions in advancing climate adaptation
- 15 regions in West Africa empowered for biodiversity and climate resilience
- Just Resilience Photo Contest rewarded Québec (winner), and Campeche, Wales and Yucatán (honourable mentions)
- Regions4SDGs framework established to guide localisation of Agenda 2030, co-developed with Founding Partners

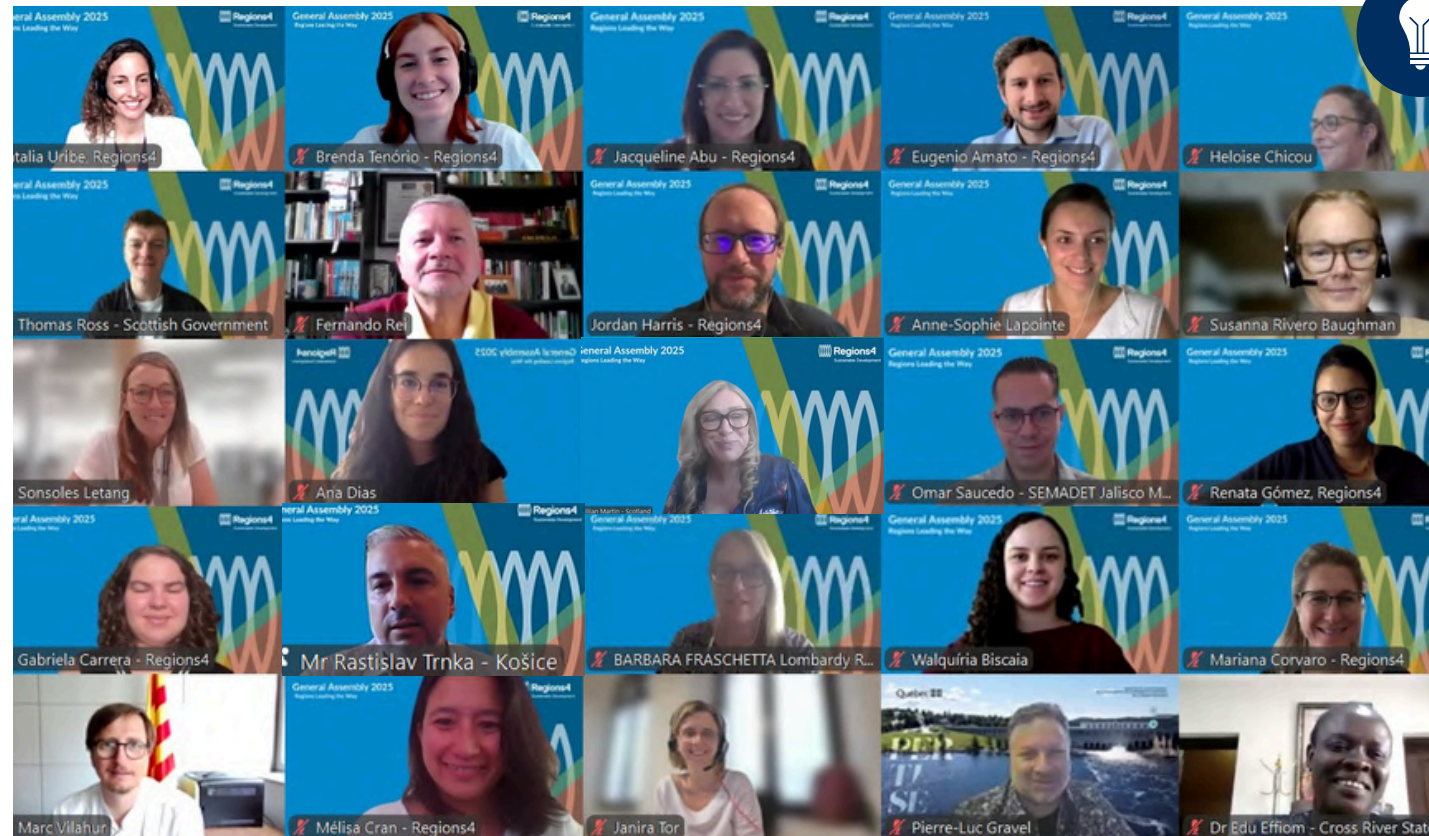


Our impact

Growing our unique network of regional leaders

Welcome to Regions4

Regions4 brings together 56 members across 24 countries, including 6 associations of regions, collectively representing 171 subnational governments reaching over 430 million people. This year, we welcomed four new regions to our network: the **Association of Regions of Morocco (ARM)**, representing all 12 Moroccan regions and over 38 million inhabitants; **Île-de-France**, who [announced joining](#) at the First Lead Author Meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); **Košice**, recognized for its [growing role](#) in promoting green initiatives and the **West Cameroon** Regional Council, leading regional efforts in restoration and conservation. Their membership reflects a shared commitment to advance sustainable development, protect biodiversity, and accelerate climate action at the subnational level.



Regions4 General Assembly 2025

Strengthening our global community of regions

The Regions4 global community gathered virtually on 19 June for the General Assembly, under the theme “Regions Leading the Way: Unlocking Finance & Advancing Just Resilience.” Bringing together over 60 participants from +55 regions, the Assembly provided a key moment to reflect on shared achievements, align priorities, prepare for major international milestones, and amplify regional leadership. Regions4 Board of Chairs set out a clear vision for the year, reinforcing shared commitments to achieving the 2030 Agenda and accelerating territorial action for just resilience.

[Read the report](#)

Workshop on Indigenous Economy and Just Resilience

Just Resilience Action Platform launched first pilot in Ecuador

The [Workshop on Indigenous Economy and Just Resilience](#) (Ecuador, January) laid the groundwork for the first pilot of the Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP) in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Co-organised by Regions4, Nature4Climate and Wiñak, it brought together Amazonian provincial governments, Indigenous communities, NGOs and international partners to operationalise a pilot on Indigenous-led economic models for climate and biodiversity resilience, highlighting the role of subnational governments. It enabled exchanges between provincial leaders and Indigenous Peoples on deforestation, illegal mining and infrastructure gaps, including practical capacity building such as the use of drones to monitor deforestation, linking technological tools with traditional knowledge. JRAP's first pilot led to [The Guardians of the Amazon](#). A second pilot in Ecuador has been launched in Azuay, focused on participatory wetland restoration to strengthen climate resilience and support local livelihoods.

[Read the Report](#) 



2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC)

From Good Practices to Real Solutions: Launching the Ocean Rise Coalition to protect the oceans

At the UN Ocean Conference (Nice, June), [Regions4 mobilised its members](#) to participate across a range of strategic events, ensuring subnational governments were recognised as key actors in ocean governance and coastal strategies. A highlight was the launch of the 'Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition', bringing together 200 regions and coastal cities to implement strategies addressing sea level rise. Regions4 joined as a member of its Steering Committee, working with the Governments of Québec and Flanders, signatories of the Coalition Charter, to formalise a shared commitment to resilient coastal communities and the protection of oceans. Regions4 facilitated a 'Members Gathering and Roundtable', convened by the Scottish Government Presidency and hosted by the Vice-Presidency for the Americas (Rio de Janeiro), bringing together 10 members and 25 participants to exchange priorities, challenges and opportunities for action.

[Read the Article](#) 

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Supporting regions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

At the [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#) (New York, July), Regions4 advanced the [Regions4SDGs initiative with UN-Habitat](#) and founding partners to support regions in localising the SDGs and accessing finance. Discussions focused on co-creating a shared framework for regional action, informed by subnational governments, technical partners, the private sector, and the financial community. These exchanges helped finalise the Regions4SDGs Framework and its strategic direction. The Basque Country, Gauteng, Lombardy, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, and Wales joined as Founding Partners. Regions4 also mobilised and channelled member expertise on SDG localisation and financing through the 'Road to Seville – Local2030 process', providing targeted inputs in preparation for the UN Financing for Development Conference, in coordination with the Local2030 Coalition.



New York Climate Week (NYC)

Advancing Regional Climate Leadership, Finance, and Collaboration on the road to COP30

At New York Climate Week (New York, September), Regions4 facilitated member participation in key events, showcasing subnational climate leadership. The Government of Catalonia co-hosted a session on [regional carbon budgets](#) and led a discussion on [financing the transition](#) with partners such as the Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership (MCAP). The Scottish Government launched a [case study on multi-level climate governance](#). Regions4 members also met with the Scottish Government as Regions4 Presidency, to discuss regional solutions towards COP30 and progress on the Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP), while participating in ministerial dialogues of Under2 Coalition, reinforcing the collaboration between the two networks. A trilateral meeting between Regions4, the Under2Coalition, and the Scottish Government also reviewed progress in strengthening the partnership.



Local Leaders Forum (LLF)

Elevating Subnational Leadership ahead of COP30

At the Pre-COP30 Local Leaders Forum (Rio de Janeiro, November), Regions4 participated as an official partner supporting states, provinces and regions. As partner of the first Global States and Regions Summit, it co-led the session “Resilient Territories: Infrastructure, Water, and Climate Adaptation,” highlighting subnational leadership in Africa and Latin America. The Forum concluded with a [Joint Statement endorsed by Regions4 leadership](#), calling for stronger collaboration with subnational governments and better alignment between ambition and implementation ahead of COP30. During the Forum, Regions4 Presidency, the Scottish Government, received the 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Award in the “Power of Partnership” category for its Woodland Carbon Code and Restoration project. Regional leadership was further highlighted with six member video testimonies and the participation of Regions4 in the First Global Innovation Forum organized by UNFCCC and the State of Rio de Janeiro.

[Read the Report](#)



2025 UN Climate Change Conference

Subnational Leadership Driving Climate Action at COP30

At COP30 (Belém, November), Regions4 promoted subnational leadership by facilitating member participation in high-level events and enabling them to share priorities on adaptation, just transition, climate finance, and nature. It also contributed to shaping subnational inputs to the ‘Global Goal on Adaptation’ through the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency, in its role as co-lead of the Adaptation Working Group, and represented regions at the LGMA press conference via Scotland’s Presidency. Key launches included the of the [RegionsAdapt Report 2025](#), focusing on subnational adaptation finance, as well as the [Just Resilience Action Platform \(JRAP\)](#) and its [Policy Brief](#). Regions4 further convened leaders through a high-level roundtable to highlight the role of states, provinces, and regions in implementing national climate and biodiversity goals, and co-organized two high-level events with the Government of Catalonia and the Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership (MCAP) on [innovative climate action](#) and [resilience in Mediterranean regions](#).

[Read the Report](#)



Strengthening Our Team for Bigger Impact

In 2025, Regions4 grew its team by welcoming one secondment official and four new interns across the Biodiversity, Climate, and Communications Departments. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building a diverse, dynamic team that drives collaboration and advances our mission.



Mr Eugenio Amato

Sustainable Development Officer, Lombardy Foundation4 Environment

Our Secondment Scheme

Our Secondment Scheme enables regional governments to place a staff member within Regions4, fostering deeper cooperation, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives. This year, we were joined by a secondment official from the Government of Paraná, through its Environmental Technology and Monitoring System (Simepar), to advance collaboration on Climate, Biodiversity, and the SDGs.

Currently, Regions4 has three secondments: Eugenio Amato from the Government of Lombardy, Agatha Tommasi from the Rio de Janeiro State Government, and Walquiria de Andrade from the Government of Paraná. [Watch Eugenio's testimony](#) to discover how the scheme strengthens inter-regional cooperation.

[Join our Secondment Scheme](#)



Our Flagship Initiatives and Collaborative Projects

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📍 Isla Arena,
Calkini,
Mexico.
©Government
of the State
of Campeche,
2023

Our Flagship Initiatives

During 2025, Regions4 advanced its flagship initiatives to support subnational governments in driving climate resilience, sustainable development, and just, people-centered solutions. Through the Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP), RegionsAdapt, and Regions4SDGs, Regions4 continues to strengthen partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and innovative approaches that connect regional action with global impact.

RegionsAdapt

Mobilizing Ambition and Action on Climate Adaptation

A key partner of the UN Race to Resilience, [RegionsAdapt](#) continued to drive climate resilience through building commitment, collaboration and knowledge-sharing. In 2025, RegionsAdapt welcomed three new regions: Gauteng (South Africa), Béliér (Ivory Coast) and West Cameroon, growing its community to 85 regions. This year, thanks to the support of the Government of Québec, RegionsAdapt launched the [Spotlight Series](#), offering a deep dive into how regional governments are planning and implementing climate adaptation on the ground, expanded the Knowledge Hub and Case Study Database, and produced targeted Briefs for Action on key topics such as private sector engagement and National Adaptation Plan processes, while strengthening peer learning through the Communities of Practice. RegionsAdapt also contributed to the [Race to Resilience 5-year impact](#) report and [Yearbook of Climate Action](#). At the same time, it brought subnational experiences into global accountability frameworks and COP processes, being recognised as a key partner representing states and regions and contributing concrete solutions to global adaptation agendas.

[Read more](#)



Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP)

A Global Matchmaker linking Climate and Nature projects with Donors

The Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP), is a global initiative led by Regions4, supported by the Scottish Government, CONGOPE, Nature4Climate, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), and Race to Resilience, to help subnational governments build just and people-centered climate resilience. **JRAP acts as a global matchmaker linking climate and nature projects with donors, technical partners, and networks to support implementation.** Projects range from mangrove restoration in Senegal to rewarding Indigenous peoples and small farmers in Brazil, positioning subnational territories as key investment vehicles for adaptation. It received an initial £100,000 contribution from the Scottish Government. JRAP's first pilot project in the Ecuadorian Amazon led to [The Guardians of the Amazon](#), a flagship effort of just resilience in action. In 2025 a new pilot was launched in Azuay, Ecuador, focused on a participatory restoration of wetlands.

[Read more](#)



Regions4SDGs

Driving Regional SDG Impact and Financing

The Regions4SDGs initiative, led by Regions4 in collaboration with UN-Habitat, advanced key steps to empower subnational governments in achieving the SDGs and accessing financing opportunities. The initiative follows three phases: establishing a framework, providing technical assistance, and supporting access to finance. In 2025, Regions4 began onboarding its first pilot regions - Gauteng (South Africa) and Saint-Louis (Senegal), laying the groundwork for local SDG implementation. The initiative was recognized as a valuable contribution to the 'Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs', launched by UN-Habitat and Italy, with Saint-Louis set to play a central role in a broader project supporting Senegal's national SDG framework. Several governments joined as Founding Partners, including the Flemish and Basque Governments, Gauteng, Lombardy, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, and Wales, strengthening collaboration and regional impact.

[Read more](#)



Case Study Database

Documenting Regional Success Stories

In 2025, the Case Study Database published 11 new case studies in Spanish, French, and English, showcasing subnational success stories and providing replicable solutions for governments and stakeholders facing similar challenges. These include five case studies on Just Resilience led by subnational governments from Paraná, Morona Santiago, Pastaza, Zamora Chinchipe and Napo supported by the Scottish Government, four case studies highlighting Indigenous and community models that build resilience through economic practices, supported by CONGOPE, and two new case studies on climate finance, from Andalusia and Québec, which were featured at COP30's Granary of Solutions. Since its launch, the initiative counts with over 24.000 total downloads.

[Read more](#)

Our Collaborative Projects

Over the past year, Regions4 has strengthened its collaborative projects with regional and European partners to advance climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development. Regions4 is actively engaged in two EU Mission Adaptation projects - MAIA and Pathways2Resilience - working alongside a broad network of European partners to support regional governments in adaptation planning, investment strategies, and policy-science integration. In Africa, initiatives like COOP'R promote inter-regional cooperation on climate and biodiversity, fostering knowledge-sharing and capacity-building that connect local action with broader policy and investment opportunities.



Pathways2Resilience – Flagship project of the EU Mission on Adaptation

A program supporting the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

In 2025, the Pathways2Resilience (P2R) project, funded under Horizon Europe (2023–2027), supported 38 regions and communities to create transformative climate resilience strategies through an ambitious learning programme. During the year, participating regions had access to a wide range of [resources, tools and activities](#) to go through and create climate resilience strategies, action plans, and investment plans. Regions4, as part of the P2R consortium, continued to support the implementation of the project by delivering capacity-building sessions, co-leading the deep dive sessions with climate experts, providing project resources, participating in the 2nd call for grants, supporting knowledge publications' dissemination, and organising events like the 'Innovation Practice Groups' around key enabling conditions, involving Regions4 members.

Regional cooperation for climate and biodiversity in West Africa

In 2025, the [project COOP'R – Promoting inter-regional cooperation to advance economic and social development in French-speaking territories](#) (2023–2025) came to an end. The project supported collaboration across French-speaking regions to strengthen biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable development in protected areas. Funded by the French Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities and led by the Association internationale des Régions francophones (AIRF), with support from the Fédération nationale des Parcs naturels régionaux and Regions4, in 2025, the project included a peer-learning visit in West Cameroon on sustainable eco-tourism and virtual capacity-building webinars on climate change and biodiversity, including a session co-organized by Regions4 on financing adaptation, forest management, and carbon credits. With technical support from Regions4, AIRF also contributed to COP30 discussions, [organizing an event to present the project's outcomes](#) and [launching a video](#) documenting the project's key activities and results.

Read more



MAIA EU Project

A Lasting Legacy of Climate Knowledge: Improving Impact and Accessibility of European Climate Research

In 2025, the MAIA project, funded under Horizon Europe (2022–2025) came to an end. As a key partner, Regions4 supported MAIA in building a lasting legacy of knowledge tools and services. Regions4 led the [MAIA Knowledge Toolkit](#), a user-friendly guide that supports decision-makers and researchers to cut through complexity, access trusted resources, and move from knowledge to action. Regions4 also supported MAIA by building a [repository](#) with all the knowledge tools, access to climate stakeholders' networks, and drafted three policy briefs (at the European, national and regional level) with key takeaways from the policy outreach events organized over the three years of the project.



Strengthening our Members' Expertise and Visibility

Uganda, 2024.
©Michael
Woniata/ Mount
Elgon Tree
Growing
Enterprise/
The Welsh
Government

Driving Implementation through Knowledge and Learning

Over the past year, Regions4 has provided valuable learning and knowledge exchange opportunities to strengthen our members' expertise in climate resilience, adaptation, governance and advocacy in global discussions through its Biodiversity Learning Platform, Regions4SDGs initiative and RegionsAdapt Community of Practice.



Cross Programme:

- In 2025, Regions4 began the year with a joint, cross-programme workshop on Just Resilience (March), bringing together members from across Regions4 and RegionsAdapt's climate, biodiversity and SDG communities.

Biodiversity:

- In the context of the UN Ocean Conference, Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform and partners organized the [virtual](#) webinar "[Ocean Solutions at Scale: Empowering Subnational Action for Restoring the Health of Marine Ecosystems](#)" (12 June), which spotlighted the crucial role of subnational governments and coastal communities in implementing integrated solutions for ocean health.
- Under the Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform, Regions4 and ICLEI co-organized the session "[From Regional Action to Global Impact: Positioning Subnational Leaders for COP17 Global Review Process,](#)" (18 September), held in the context of the RegionsWithNature launch. [The event](#) brought together subnational governments, CBD representatives, and international partners to highlight the strategic role of regions in the first global review of the GBF at COP17. Participants explored how tools like the Regions4 Biodiversity Learning Platform, RegionsWithNature, and the Case Study Database enable reporting, showcase solutions, and ensure subnational contributions are recognized in national reports and global processes.

Climate Action:

- In 2025, RegionsAdapt launched the first 'RegionsAdapt Spotlight Series', a new format that zooms in on one region's adaptation journey to uncover practical insights for all with [insights from Scotland's Third Adaptation Plan](#).
- RegionsAdapt led a Communities of Practices on loss and damage (April) co-organised with the Scottish Government, support to Pathways2Resilience learning sessions, and a COOP'R webinar on adaptation finance, with a focus on forest management.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Regions4 organized the [Community of Practices 'Localizing Finance, Accelerating Change: Regions Driving Finance for the SDGs'](#), to bring consolidated messages from subnational actors to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville, 30 June). The messages helped inform the "Road to Seville: the Local Way" Strategy, led by the Local2030 Coalition.

Strengthening our Members' Visibility

Over the past year, Regions4 strengthened the visibility of its members, highlighting their leadership, innovation, and impact in climate action and sustainable development at regional and global levels, through a wide range of initiatives.

Amplifying regional voices globally with CHAMP

As part of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), Regions4 joined the “From Paris to Belém” campaign highlighting a decade of climate action from Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members since the Paris Agreement. [Ahead of the Local Leaders Forum](#) and [ahead of COP30](#), the campaign shared stories from 11 members showing multilevel climate action on biodiversity, finance, adaptation, and resilience. The campaign helped elevate the role of regions in delivering solutions that benefit people and nature.

Collaborating with Climate High-Level Champions

Through engagement with the High-Level Climate Champions, Regions4 increased the visibility of RegionsAdapt members across key global climate action initiatives. [Twenty member initiatives](#) were selected for the [COP30 Granary of Solutions](#), developed by the COP30 Presidency and the Climate Champions, showcasing high-impact subnational solutions. In partnership with the High-Level Climate Champions, [seven RegionsAdapt members were featured in a Race to Resilience story](#) highlighting how Indigenous knowledge is shaping regional climate responses.

18 stories and best practices shared

[#RegionsVoice](#) shared 18 inspiring stories and 11 videos from regions on biodiversity conservation, climate action and the SDGs, reaching over 27,473 people online. The campaign played a key role in positioning regions as key players on climate implementation ahead of key international events.



Yucatán, Mexico.
©Secretariat of Sustainable Development of the State of Yucatán

Regions4 Just Resilience Photo Contest

Regions4 launched the [2025 Just Resilience Photo Contest](#) under the theme “Regions in Action”, inviting members to submit photographs showing what Just Resilience looks like in their regions. Québec was awarded for best photo and Campeche, Wales and Yucatán received honourable recognitions. The winning photo is now being featured as the cover of this Annual Report.



Collective Voice and Key Publications

RegionsAdapt Report 2025: Financing adaptation where change happens

At Climate COP30, Regions4 launched the [RegionsAdapt Report 2025](#) 'Financing Adaptation Where Change Happens', highlighting why unlocking adaptation finance at the subnational level is essential to meet global climate goals. Drawing on CDP data from 41 reporting regions and insights from members, the report presents 11 subnational stories showing how strategies addressing both biodiversity and climate finance can drive effective climate action. Supported by the Government of Québec and developed with technical support from Metroeconomica, the report examines one of the most significant political and structural barriers to climate action: access to adaptation finance. Despite limited direct access to finance, [subnational governments are stepping up with concrete approaches to support the communities most affected](#). Through this work, Regions4 contributes to the global conversation on reforming finance to better support regional and local governments.

RegionsAdapt Report



Regions4's Position Paper for COP30

The UN Climate COP30 was the moment to recognize subnational governments as indispensable partners in turning ambition into action. Through its advocacy to spotlight subnational governments as key innovators, enablers of finance, and drivers of just and resilient solutions, [Regions4 launched its Position Paper](#) calling on Parties to: integrate subnational governments into climate planning and implementation; make adaptation a non-negotiable global priority; invest in nature as our most powerful ally for climate resilience; unlock direct access to climate finance for subnational action; and institutionalise subnational leadership.

Position Paper



Cultivating Just Resilience for Local Impact

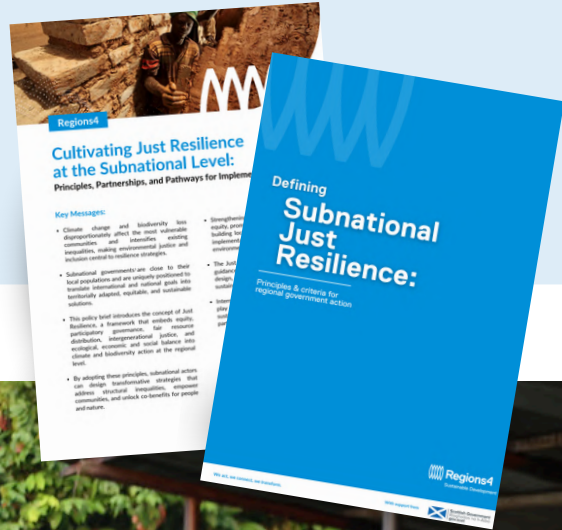
Understanding the concept of subnational just resilience is crucial to address the growing socio-environmental inequalities resulting from climate change and ecological degradation. The white paper “Defining Subnational Just Resilience: Principles and Criteria for Regional Government Action” provides a conceptual and operational framework for integrating justice, equity, and sustainability into resilience planning and governance.

White Paper 

Just Resilience for Subnational Governments: What It Means and Why It Matters

The Brief ‘Cultivating Just Resilience at the Subnational Level’, highlights the key role of subnational governments in translating global goals into equitable, locally adapted outcomes, offering practical guidance for collaborating with vulnerable communities and making the case for climate finance and partnerships that recognise territorial leadership.

Policy Brief 



RegionsAdapt: Guiding Multilevel Climate Action and Highlighting Private Sector Collaboration

In 2025, RegionsAdapt published two Briefs for Action to support subnational governments. The first, [“How Subnational Governments Can Engage in the National Adaptation \(NAP\) Process”](#), guides Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members on actively participating in NAP processes to strengthen climate resilience. The second, [“Collaboration with the Private Sector for Accelerated Climate and Nature Action”](#), features 18 examples from 13 members, showing how subnational governments work with the private sector, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to advance climate adaptation. This paper informed both the [Race to Resilience](#) and the [SME Climate Hub campaigns](#), with member stories widely shared.

New Global Partnerships

Reinforcing strategic partnerships to broaden impact and collaboration across regions

Regions4 signed four strategic partnerships with the [Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities \(ABEMA\)](#), the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy \(GCoM\)](#), [Paraná's Environmental Technology and Monitoring System Paraná-SIMEPAR](#), and [Climate-KIC](#). These partnerships position regions as influential leaders in climate governance, enabling them to implement transformative, nature-positive policies and drive a more resilient and sustainable future.



Expanding Global Alliances and Deepening Engagement

- Regions4 joined the [Fostering Investable National Planning and Implementation \(FINI\)](#), launched to mobilise USD 1 trillion for adaptation and resilience pipelines.
- Regions4 partnered with [Under2 Coalition](#) to organize the Global States and Regions Summit, co-leading the adaptation and resilience session.
- Regions4 partnered with [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#) and [C40 Cities](#) to host the COP30 Local Leaders Forum.
- Regions4 joined the [Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition](#) as a member of Steering Committee, working alongside the Governments of Québec and Flanders to formalise a shared commitment to resilient coastal communities.
- Regions4 joined the [NBSAP Accelerator Partnership](#) and the [Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance \(CCFLA\)](#), strengthening its efforts to explore resources for regional climate and biodiversity action.
- Regions4 partnered with the [High-Level Climate Champions Climate-Proofing SMEs campaign](#), looking at how subnational governments can support small and medium companies in adapting to climate change.





Stories from Our Regions

Read some of the stories that Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members brought to global events in 2025 through our campaign [#RegionsVoice](#)


#RegionsVoice

#RegionsVoice is a global campaign that brings the voice of subnational governments to the major events and negotiation processes in sustainable development within the UN. The aim of the campaign is to ensure the visibility and wider recognition of the role of regions, provinces and states in sustainable development, by elevating both individual and collective messages and engaging with a wider audience during the UN Decade of Action.



Andalusia (Spain): How the region is Aligning Public Finance with Global Sustainability Goals

Climate change is a pressing reality, affecting the environment, the economy, and society at large. Recognizing these challenges, the Andalusian Government has committed to systematically plan and monitor the climate impact of its budgetary decisions, ensuring that public spending aligns with environmental objectives. To measure how effectively the budget supports climate action, the government has developed a green budgeting methodology aligned with international standards. This approach evaluates budget indicators to understand their impact on the climate. Through this initiative, Andalusia is emerging as a pioneer in integrating sustainability into public finance.

[Read the story](#) 

Gauteng (South Africa): Turning Flood Risks into Resilient Opportunities for Vulnerable Communities

In a joint effort to address urgent climate adaptation in the Kaalspruit river, the Gauteng Department of Environment and the World Bank, launched an initiative that mobilises finance to implement flood damage interventions, early flood warning systems, and long-term community safeguarding efforts. The initiative empowers municipalities to lead practical adaptation projects, including culvert repairs, erosion control, illegal dumping prevention, wetland rehabilitation and invasive species clearing, protecting vulnerable communities and preserving this vital ecosystem. The multi-level collaboration of the initiative ensure that communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure can resist the growing pressures of climate change.

[Read the story](#)



Lombardy (Italy): Helping Small Businesses Drive Sustainable finance

The Lombardy Region is supporting its enterprises in transitioning to a more sustainable economic model. Through the 'Sustainable Finance Initiative', the Region helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) understand and meet sustainability standards, identify viable sustainable investments, and secure financing for projects that improve their environmental performance. The Initiative also provides practical assessment tools and informs regional policy. After assessing and supporting seven SMEs, a clear pattern emerged: the more companies understood sustainability, the better they could identify and implement sustainable investments aligned with regulations. In other words, knowledge and action go hand in hand.

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West Cameroon Regional Council (Cameroon) Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity Protection

The West Cameroon Regional Council launched an ecological restoration and ecotourism initiative around Mount Mbapit, a volcanic mountain recognized for its ecological significance and rich biodiversity. The initiative aims to restore the ecosystem around the mountain, protect its wildlife, and promote responsible tourism. It is led by the West Cameroon Regional Tourism Office and supported by the West Cameroon Regional Council, local municipalities and local communities. Current priorities include mapping and identifying tourist trails, conducting field studies, and mobilizing financial resources to establish Mount Mbapit as a model for sustainable ecotourism, with benefits for the environment and communities.

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Ecuador: How Subnational Governments are Advancing Just Resilience in the Amazon and beyond

Across Ecuador's Amazonian provinces, subnational governments are implementing policies and initiatives that connect biodiversity conservation with social inclusion and local development - putting in practice the concept of Just Resilience. Examples from Pastaza, Napo, Zamora Chinchipe, and Morona Santiago show that Ecuador's provinces are translating Just Resilience into concrete governance models - from Indigenous-led REDD+ plans and ancestral agroforestry certification to gender-responsive forest management. Similar approaches are emerging beyond Ecuador's borders, with Paraná, Brazil, showing how shared forest governance can drive ecosystem restoration through joint action between authorities, communities, and civil society.

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Looking ahead,

Regions4 will continue strengthening the global leadership of regional governments in addressing today's interconnected climate, nature and development challenges. Building on the momentum of 2025, the network will work with its members and partners to accelerate territorial climate adaptation through RegionsAdapt, expand regional action for nature through RegionsWithNature, and advance the Just Resilience Action Platform to help unlock finance for regional solutions.

Get Involved Today

Join us. Become a member. Support our mission. Make an impact.

Contact us: info@regions4.org

At Regions4, we act, we connect, we transform. We act by staying close to the territories we serve, embodying transformative change on the ground. We connect regions to each other and to the UN, ensuring their voices are heard in global discussions. We transform by driving real, localized progress in climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development.



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