

A CLIMATE RESILIENT, ZERO-CARBON FUTURE: UNDP'S VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PARIS AGREEMENT



The adoption of the historic, global agreement on climate change in December 2015, provided a unique opportunity to deliver sustainable development. Building on its 20-plus years of support in mitigation and adaptation in over 140 countries, UNDP is already supporting countries to accelerate the pace and scale up their work, delivering concrete action to meet the aspirations of their national climate pledges and development goals. With sustained and dedicated experience working at the country level, as well as detailed knowledge of national and local priorities, UNDP has developed an exceptional understanding of the challenges developing countries face from our changing climate, and the solutions needed for them to implement the Paris Agreement, within the context of their development goals.

UNDP's vision is a zero-carbon path that delivers climate-resilient, sustainable development. Our mission is to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to realize that vision.

OUR SHARED CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

In the time since the Paris Agreement was made and then ratified, the challenges and opportunities for action on climate have become even more starkly obvious.

By 2060, the size of our world economy is expected to triple. More than two-thirds of the growth is expected to come from

developing countries. At the same time, the world's population is projected to rise by 3 billion people over the same period. As the result of this population growth and economic development, energy demand is set to increase considerably, which can further boost greenhouse gas emissions. The energy sector already contributes two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions (the rest being attributed to land use, forestry and other industrial processes).

The changing climate meanwhile continues to disrupt the economy and lives of millions, if not billions. If we do not act, the consequences could be even more severe. Climate change could displace up to 150 – 250 million people within the next decades, lead to declines in crop and livestock production (critically threatening food security in many regions), render large tracks of coastal areas uninhabitable through sea level rise, and put infrastructure, livelihoods and lives at risk in ever-expanding cities around the world.

It is clear, however, that while climate change affects everyone, everywhere, its impact is not spread equally. Just as the risks and impacts of climate change-induced hazards vary between countries, so do the capacities of countries to address them. Developing countries often have less capacity and resources to reduce emissions, adapt to climate impacts, and manage the uncertainty of climate risk, whilst they are confronted with pressing development challenges.

We must scale up action now in order for countries to deliver zero-carbon economic growth and and climate-resilient development for all.

This is an absolutely critical moment, the opportunity to accelerate action to both tackle climate change and spur development that supports thriving people, communities and environments everywhere.

FROM PARIS TO MARRAKESH AND BEYOND

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, attention has now turned toward helping countries achieve the goals and targets they have pledged. UNDP's commitment to support countries and communities is based on three lessons:

1. CLIMATE ACTION IS DEVELOPMENT ACTION

Sustainable development is only possible when we consider the current and potential impacts of a changing climate, and how choices can affect, for better or worse, climate itself. The implementation of the Paris Agreement is therefore, not only about achieving affordable clean energy (SDG #7) and climate action (SDG #13), but also about economic development and decent employment, eliminating poverty, ending hunger, advancing gender equality, delivering basic health and education services, and protecting the environment. UNDP firmly believes that the achievement of climate-resilient, zero-carbon development will also protect populations from increasing displacement, migration and conflict exacerbated by climate change.

2. LEADERSHIP IS PARAMOUNT

The agreement made in Paris was a unique moment and delivered a strong and united signal of global commitment. Central to its success was that it was built upon individual contributions from each and every country, national leadership transforming into global change. Achieving the ambition of the agreement, however, requires increased efforts and continued leadership to ensure that climate action is implemented at an accelerated pace and at scale.

This includes strengthening the capacity of national, sub-national, and local institutions to integrate climate change provisions in development planning and prepare for implementation of Nationally

Determined Contributions (NDCs). As past experiences have shown, each country is best suited to take the lead in identifying and implementing their respective climate solutions, as it builds on the technical and financial support provided by the international community.

Increasingly climate action is not only about governments but rather about all actors, with leadership having been shown at and since Paris by youth groups and academia, individual communities and large-scale private sector entities. Climate action has become a commitment for all and UNDP works with all to deliver on that commitment.

3. PARTNERSHIP IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

UNDP has long realized that partnership is central to delivering on climate change and sustainable development. As an impartial actor, UNDP helps bring diverse partners together to address the great challenge of our changing climate, harnessing the knowledge, expertise and leadership of international, national and local partners, public and private, working together to develop capacity, craft policy, advance thought leadership, build up evidence, implement joint programmes, and much more. In order to deliver inclusive zero-carbon, climate-resilient development at the needed scale and with the urgency required, robust and meaningful partnership must underpin all our work.

THE COMMITMENT IN PRACTICE

FOR WHOM?

UNDP is already supporting 140 countries across all regions to take action on climate change, in collaboration with bilateral and multilateral partners and with support from global funds such as the Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund. UNDP is committed to deepening and expanding this support.

FOR WHAT?

UNDP’s work helps countries to deliver on commitments to the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, including dedicated adaptation assistance for countries that are the most vulnerable, and expanded support for all to move toward climate-resilient, zero-carbon development.

HOW?

UNDP’s commitment is articulated through two pillars that support developing countries to achieve inclusive development through reducing emissions, while also adapting to the changing climate and managing climate risk, both as part of long-term sustainable development.

BY WHEN?

UNDP supports countries to meet their commitments made from now through to 2030, by accelerating readiness, scaling up implementation of NDCs, tackling climate risk and impact, enhancing ambition, and delivering integrated action that contributes to both SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

THE UNDP COMMITMENT

UNDP reconfirms its commitment to providing long-term support to the Paris Agreement, to significantly scale up climate change action, build resilience, and pursue zero-carbon, sustainable and inclusive development in partner countries, helping them meet their climate commitments as well as deliver sustainable development.

PILLAR ONE: ZERO-CARBON GROWTH

UNDP helps countries meet and scale up their post-Paris ambitions by supporting a transition towards zero-carbon development.

- **Implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).** Helping countries turn national targets into concrete actions. This work includes the planning and delivery of climate change initiatives, as including a range of activities supported under the vertical funds and the UNFCCC, such as formulating and implementing NAMAs and LEDs.
- **Integrating Zero-Carbon Development.** Supporting developing countries to integrate climate change into development planning across all sectors at the national and sub-national levels.
- **Delivering Sustainable Energy.** This includes closing the energy access gap, including through on and off grid electricity access, promoting energy efficiency and conservation, and increasing the global share of renewable energy. The creation of an environment conducive to private sector investment, through energy market transformation and de-risking investment, underpin these efforts.
- **Reducing Emissions through Protecting Forests.** UNDP supports efforts to protect against deforestation and forest degradation while also reducing emissions and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

UNDP’S VISION:
ZERO-CARBON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ZERO-CARBON GROWTH

- Implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Integrating Zero-Carbon Development
- Delivering Sustainable Energy
- Reducing Emissions through Protecting Forests

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

- Strengthening Integrated Adaptation Policies, Plans and Strategies
- Advancing Adaptation Action
- Addressing Climate and Disaster Risks
- Instilling Risk-Informed Disaster Recovery

STRENGTHENED
CAPACITIES

CATALYZING
CLIMATE FINANCE

PARTNERSHIPS
FOR DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL INCLUSION
AND GENDER

UNDERPINNING COMPONENTS

- **Strengthened Capacities:** Recognizing that many developing countries require strengthened national capacity to deliver their climate and development objectives, UNDP supports countries to strengthen individual, institutional and system capacities to scale up climate action, pursue zero-carbon goals, and build both national and local resilience.
- **Catalyzing Climate Finance:** UNDP is a significant partner for developing countries, helping them plan for, access, combine, deliver and measure climate finance. This includes funding through vertical funds and other multilateral and bilateral sources, policy support such as de-risking private sector finance for renewable energy, promoting finance readiness

and budgeting for climate change policies and programmes.

- **Partnership for Development:** Strong development initiatives are a collaborative effort. UNDP brings together national government, private sector, civil society and other partners to deliver support to developing countries. In addition, it draws upon its international and regional networks to support effective action, match climate action with private sector investment, South-South collaboration, and learning and evidence.
- **Social Inclusion and Gender.** All UNDP’s work in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement is built upon support to integrate gender equality and social inclusion into national and sub-national action.

PILLAR TWO: ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

UNDP supports countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and increase their resilience to both sudden shocks and long-term effects, with particular attention to the poorest and most vulnerable.

- **Strengthening Integrated Adaptation Policies, Plans and Strategies.** Strengthening adaptation and development with the support of the tools of the UNFCCC, including National Adaptation Plans. This also includes strengthening adaptation actions which contribute to NDC implementation.
- **Advancing Cross-Sectoral Adaptation Action.** Scaling-up climate resilient livelihoods for the poor and vulnerable, supporting small and medium enterprises to reduce exposure to climate risks, improving climate information and early warning systems, expanding ecosystem based adaptation solutions and resilient infrastructure.
- **Addressing Climate and Disaster Risks:** Identifying and incorporating the management of climate risks with disaster risk reduction (DRR) into all governance, planning, implementation and monitoring.
- **Instilling Risk-Informed Disaster Recovery.** Integrating climate change into disaster recovery efforts, and using this as an opportunity to build back better and more resilient.

WHY UNDP

A COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO DELIVER

UNDP's 20-year experience supporting over 140 countries to deliver climate action gives us the tools, resources and expertise to support Paris implementation, while delivering sustainable development.

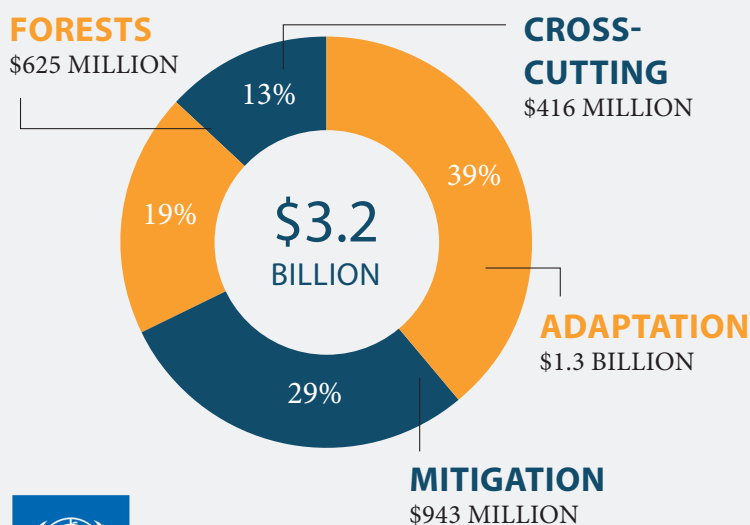
- **Bridging Climate and Development:** Ensuring development is zero-carbon and risk-informed is the only way to deliver long-term sustainability. As the UN development agency, with a \$3.2 billion portfolio in climate action and deep familiarity with national and local contexts, development priorities and challenges, UNDP is well-placed to support countries to integrate climate concerns into development. UNDP works actively to align NDC and SDG implementation processes, ensuring climate and development go hand in hand.
- **Extensive Organizational Infrastructure:** A network of 170 Country Offices, Regional Hubs, and Policy Centers work with UNDP Headquarters to help countries develop policies, programmes and approaches to tackle climate change and undertake sustainable development. This ensures advice and support that delivers appropriate and contextualized action.
- **Partnerships and Innovation:** UNDP works with an extensive network of partners from the UN system, development banks, civil society and the private sector, bringing together best expertise to support countries to meet their development aspirations. Through partnership, joint implementation and innovation, UNDP works with partners to find new ways to tackle a changing climate.

- **Brokering Climate Finance and Investment:** UNDP has had significant success in helping countries secure access to finance for climate action, based on its considerable partnerships with the GEF and GCF, multilateral funds such as UN-REDD, and bilateral partners. We are also upscaling our engagement with the private sector, working through partnership to see how private investment can help countries deliver on their climate commitments.
- **Support to NDCs:** UNDP's NDC Support Programme provides financial and technical support to 27 countries on NDC implementation in the context of the Paris Agreement and national development priorities. It strengthens capacities of actors in climate governance, NDC implementation plans, mitigation actions, low-emission development strategies, monitoring systems, finance, and gender mainstreaming. Since 2014, UNDP has also hosted 15 regional dialogues to strengthen capacities and exchange national experiences in the preparation and implementation of NDCs.
- **Empowering the Vulnerable:** UNDP has a track record of supporting countries most vulnerable to climate change. Our extensive adaptation portfolio, work under UN-REDD, and support to the Climate Vulnerable Forum are a few examples of work that helps the most vulnerable lead within and beyond national borders. Central to UNDP's work is ensuring that everyone, vulnerable or otherwise, has a voice and are able to participate in climate action.

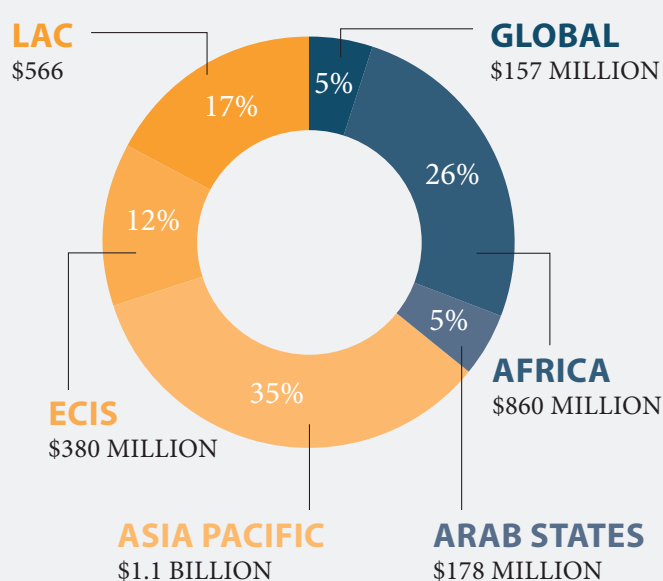
THE SCALE AND SCOPE TO BUILD UPON

Since 2008, UNDP has supported more than 140 countries to access more than US\$ 3.2 billion in grant finance to develop and implement climate change initiatives.

WHAT IT'S SPENT ON



WHERE IT'S SPENT



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

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