

National Adaptation Plans



The UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) will take place in Belém, Brazil, from November 10-21. Key expectations include the presentation of new national climate action plans (NDCs), progress on finance from COP29, and discussions on scaling innovative climate finance mechanisms. The conference will also feature the COP30 Action Agenda, a program to engage businesses, civil society, and various levels of government in practical climate solutions.

Background

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) approach was established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) in 2010 at COP16 to help countries embed adaptation in development decision making and to move away from short-term, project-based adaptation efforts towards more strategic longer-term climate-resilient development.

The importance of NAPs was further emphasized in the Paris Agreement's Articles 7.9 and 7.10, which call on Parties to formulate NAPs and highlight the importance of providing support to developing countries with their NAP process.

The development of a NAP is widely viewed as the action plan for financing and implementing the adaptation components of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It identifies clear vulnerabilities, priority sectors, and the appropriate adaptation actions.

Key messages

NAPs can form the basis of an investment plan for a country to encourage climate-resilient development, based on the latest science-based climate scenarios and risk assessments.

The earlier that adaptation planning can take place, the more cost-effective the action will be. Directing domestic budget flows and adaptation finance towards systemic resilience building is still a challenge, for which NAP processes are critical.

Planning for adaptation is a continuous, progressive and iterative process, based on the latest science. It should be country driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and fully transparent, considering vulnerable groups and ecosystems.

International funding to develop NAPs should be both accessible and simplified.

The Global Goal on Adaptation Indicator Framework will provide a helpful guide and resource for countries to develop country-level adaptation monitoring frameworks.

NAPs can provide data, information and analysis relevant to NDCs.

Key data

When basing estimates on the needs expressed in Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, the **adaptation finance needed** for developing countries by 2035 is US\$365 billion per year (UNEP 2025).

67 developing countries have **submitted their NAPs** to UNFCCC – including 14 Small Island Developing States and 23 Least Developed Countries (UNFCCC 2025).

Among the 25 developing countries without a national adaptation plan, strategy or policy, 21 **have started developing** one (UNEP 2025).

172 countries now have **at least one national adaptation planning instrument**. However, 36 of these countries possess instruments that are outdated or have not been updated in at least a decade (UNEP 2025).

What happened at COP29?

At COP26 in 2021, Parties agreed to **assess global progress in formulating and implementing** NAPs, with recommendations to be considered for a Decision at COP29. The Secretariat prepared an Informal Note summarising this work (44 paragraphs over seven pages). However, Parties were unable to reach agreement at COP29, and no Decision was adopted. The draft Decision text remained heavily bracketed, including issues previously addressed in earlier Decisions.

The main area of disagreement concerned the **source of finance to implement NAP priorities**, particularly the tension between the UNFCCC principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the need to mainstream adaptation across broader planning and investment frameworks.

Progress on the NAP agenda items is closely linked to ongoing **negotiations and outcomes on climate finance**.

What to expect at COP30

Negotiations to **finalise the NAP stocktake** are expected to continue, with the aim of reaching a Decision. Draft decision text currently contains material on the limited progress on NAP and the degree to which developing countries are supported internationally to implement the NAPs.

COP30 is expected to emphasize the importance of accelerating support for NAP implementation, including capacity-building for developing countries, especially **Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States**, helping them access funding and technical expertise to advance the preparation and implementation of NAPs.

What is UNEP doing?

Country Support Programmes: In partnership with the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, UNEP is assisting more than 25 countries on a one-to-one basis to develop NAPs—by providing technical assistance and access to funding. For more information on what these NAP projects have achieved so far, [see here](#).

Capacity Building: Building capacity for systemic adaptation planning and policy, including through a NAP Community of Practice, online training courses, and the development of knowledge products and policy briefs such as [National Adaptation Planning: Emerging Lessons Learned From UNEP Projects](#).

Advocating for Nature: Promoting the upscaling of ecosystem-based adaptation through its integration into NAPs. This includes, for example, UNEP's [Guidelines for Integrating Ecosystem-based Adaptation Into National Adaptation Plans](#). A brand-new [online course](#), released last year, trains participants on how to incorporate ecosystem-based adaptation into NAPs.

Closing Knowledge Gaps: UNEP works with the [UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme](#) to strengthen the knowledge base that countries need to design and implement effective NAPs. A key part of this collaboration is the [Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative](#)—a joint effort by UNEP and the UNFCCC that helps close knowledge gaps identified by countries and regional institutions.

Further reading

Adaptation Gap Report 2025

UNEP's work on National Adaptation Plans

National Adaptation Planning: Emerging Lessons Learned From UNEP Projects

Online Course: Bringing Nature Into National Adaptation Planning

NAP Trends - NAP Global Network

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