



9th ASIA-PACIFIC
**CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION FORUM**

Resilience for all:
Catalyzing transformational adaptation



Programme Book

29 Sept - 3 Oct 2025

UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Organized by



Co-hosted by



Supported by



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Ministry of the Environment



PROGRAMME BOOK

9th ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FORUM

RESILIENCE FOR ALL: CATALYZING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

29 September to 3 October 2025

United Nations Conference Centre

Bangkok, Thailand

E-mail: apan.secreteriat@un.org

Websites:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1019400/>

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/9th-asia-pacific-climate-change-adaptation-apan-forum>

<https://adb.eventsair.com/apanforum2025/>



The elephant and the orchid are powerful symbols of Thailand, embodying the nation's cultural heritage, natural beauty, and resilience. Chosen as the theme for the 9th APAN Forum in Bangkok, they reflect strength, adaptability, and harmony—qualities essential for addressing the challenges of climate change.

Elephant is a symbol of strength, wisdom, and loyalty in Thai culture, the elephant is deeply tied to Thailand's history and identity. Known for their intelligence and adaptability to diverse environments, elephants inspire us to approach climate adaptation with resilience and collaborative wisdom, ensuring sustainable solutions for a changing world.

Orchid is renowned for their delicate beauty and incredible diversity—they represent elegance and Thailand's rich biodiversity. With over 1,000 species thriving in varied ecosystems, orchids symbolize the creativity and adaptability needed to innovate and protect our natural world in the face of climate challenges.

9th ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FORUM

RESILIENCE FOR ALL: CATALYZING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

ORGANIZED BY



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SYSTEM LEADS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SYSTEMS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

LAND, WATER ECOSYSTEM
AND BIODIVERSITY



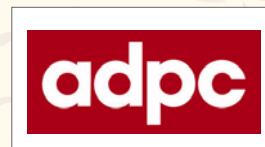
CITIES, INFRASTRUCTURES
AND INDUSTRIES



HEALTH, LIVELIHOODS
AND SOCIETIES



TECHNICAL SESSION PARTNERS



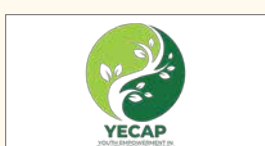


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1. ABOUT THE APAN FORUM

BACKGROUND

The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) is a regional program established by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2009 to enhance climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region. Its core activities include managing and applying adaptation knowledge, building capacity for climate resilience, and fostering collaboration among governments, organizations, and other key actors. APAN serves as a knowledge platform and networking opportunity, supporting countries in designing and implementing adaptation measures to build more sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies.

The Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) organizes the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum), which has become a flagship adaptation event and the largest gathering of adaptation practitioners specifically for the Asia and Pacific region. It provides a platform to meet, share learning and experiences, and work together toward the pertinent adaptation outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change. The theme and focus of the APAN Forum consider emerging adaptation issues of the time that require better knowledge and understanding to advance adaptation actions at different scales. It also provides unique opportunities to brainstorm, share thoughts, craft a set of recommendations highlighting needs and priorities, and communicate with different actors at various levels, including global and regional decision-making processes.

Since 2010, the APAN Forum has consistently drawn a diverse audience of adaptation practitioners from regional, national, and sub-national levels. Over time, the APAN Forum has grown into a comprehensive platform for practitioners from scientific organizations, financing institutions, youth, civil societies, international organizations, the private sector, and government from more than fifty countries to meet, deliberate, and build partnerships for adaptation action.

After the first two Forums were organized in Bangkok, Thailand in 2010 and 2012, requests were made by several stakeholders to host the Forum, and hosting rotation was encouraged. Since then, the Forum has been hosted by the Government of Korea in 2013 and 2023, the Government of Malaysia in 2014, the Government of Sri Lanka in 2016, the Government of the Philippines, Palau, and ADB in 2018, and the Ministry of the Environment Japan in 2021 (online event due to the pandemic).

The theme of 8th APAN Forum was “**Resilience for All: Enabling transformative implementation**”. It produced a set of key messages among which “**From Incremental Adjustment to Transformation**” was one. It highlighted, among several other important messages that enabling transformational adaptation requires moving away from a sectoral approach, adopting whole of society and a systems perspective that considers sectoral, spatial, and temporal interconnectedness. Building on the recommendations of the 8th APAN Forum and recognising the current context, the 9th APAN Forum will focus on catalysing the transition from incremental to transformational adaptation by exploring the pathways, enablers and systemic shifts needed to build long-term resilience across critical systems.

The 9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (9th APAN Forum) will take place from Monday, 29 September, to Friday, 3 October 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) will co-host the Forum. It will be supported by the APAN Secretariat, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

OBJECTIVES

The 9th APAN Forum will build on the key messages and recommendations made during 8th APAN Forum and advance discussions on transformational adaptation. It will aim to:

- a. **Enhance knowledge and understanding of transformational adaptation** including how it differs from incremental approaches and the continuum of two in practice.
- b. **Explore innovative policies, technologies, practices, and financial instruments and modalities**, and changes needed to catalyze and support transformational adaptation.
- c. **Identify strategic entry points and ideas for multi-stakeholder collaboration** to drive coordinated, large-scale systemic changes to support transition and strengthen resilience across interconnected systems.
- d. **Identify opportunities for integrating elements of transformational adaptation into national and regional development agendas** to ensure inclusive and sustainable outcomes.
- e. **Draw elements from successful adaptation practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches** applied which are likely to support transition towards a transformational adaptation.

THEME

RESILIENCE FOR ALL: CATALYZING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

Climate change is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, disproportionately affecting countries and vulnerable communities globally. Traditional adaptation measures are proving insufficient in addressing the systemic and long-term impacts of climate change. Parties to the Climate Change Convention recognize that efforts towards reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change should be strengthened including long-term transformational adaptation. This requires a fundamental shift in policies, practices, and mindsets to create resilient societies and sustainable development pathways. Transformational adaptation also goes beyond incremental responses, focusing on large-scale systemic changes that reshape economic, social, and governance structures to withstand climate shocks and stressors.

The UNFCCC Technical Paper (FCCC/TP/2024/8) refers transformational adaptation as adaptation that changes the fundamental attributes of a system in anticipation of climate change and its impacts. Such adaptation actions can a) result in significant changes in the structure or function of the system that go beyond adjusting existing practices, b) be adopted at a large scale, lead to new strategies in a region or resource system, transform places and potentially shift locations, and c) lead to deep and long-term societal changes that influence sustainable development (including values and world views. It emphasizes on how a systems thinking approach is essential to understanding and navigating **transformational adaptation and also highlights how transformational adaptation is a non-linear process shaped by dynamic interactions and evolving contexts.**

The 9th APAN Forum will consider **focusing on five priority systems critical to achieving a just and climate-resilient future: food and agricultural systems; land and water ecosystems and biodiversity; infrastructure, cities and industries; and health, livelihoods and societies.** Transition pathways of these systems will be explored through the lens of five interlinked enablers as catalysts:

- a. **Rethinking Adaptation Policies, Planning and Governance** which will support transition towards changes including enhancement of institutional frameworks and capacity.
- b. **Fostering Innovation, Technologies and Practices** that support transition towards transformation of systems such as social, economic and ecosystems, support integrated approaches to harness benefits and enhance resilience and adaptation.
- c. **Advancing Science, Evidence and Knowledge systems** to advance the generation and use of scientific, local and indigenous knowledge to inform decisions, track progress and design adaptation pathways.
- d. **Strengthening Financial Systems, Financing Instruments and Modalities for Scaling up Investments** that support transformational adaptation actions.
- e. **Enabling Social capital, Empowerment and Equity** through inclusive adaptation processes to foster agency, strengthen social cohesion and uphold justice.

2. THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

The 9th APAN Forum will continue to uphold resilience as its unifying theme, building on the legacy from the past forums. This year, the Forum will emphasize on four critical pathways for systems resilience, which reflect regional priorities, as well as, the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) frameworks and IPCC's recommendations for a just and climate-resilient future. These pathways focus on: (1) **Food and Agricultural Systems**, (2) **Land and Water Ecosystems and Biodiversity**, (3) **Infrastructure, Cities and Industries**, and (4) **Health, Livelihoods and Societies**.

Through this framing, the discussions will be structured on five enablers through which transformation will be realized, maintained and strengthened, identified as (a) **Policies, planning and governance**, (b) **Science and knowledge systems** (c) **Innovation, technologies and transformative practices** (d) **Financial systems, instruments and modalities** and (e) **Social capital, equity and empowerment**.

PATHWAYS FOR SYSTEMS RESILIENCE



PATHWAYS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

This pathway continues from last year's focus and remains an important topic given its critical relevance to Asia-Pacific. Climate change presents significant risks to food production, availability, and access—with extreme weather events and shifting climate patterns increasingly disrupting agriculture, leading to crop failures and rising food insecurity. Governments across the region through the UN Food Systems Summit and other commitments are prioritizing the transformation of food and agricultural systems with co-benefits for nutrition, public health, nature conservation, sustainable consumption, livelihoods and inclusive economies.

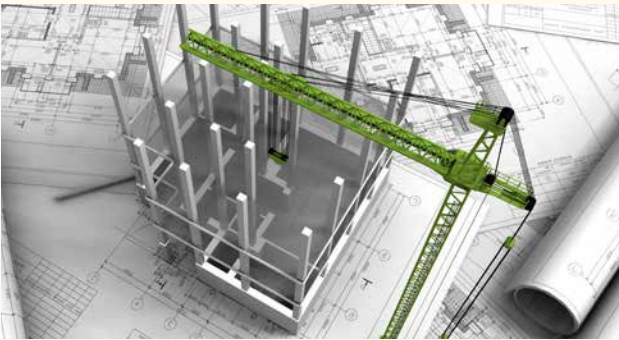
This pathway will explore regenerative production and sustainable agriculture to equitable food access, nutrition, and distribution. Technical discussions will explore both the supply-side (e.g. agroecological practices, nature-based solutions, climate-resilient farming) and the demand-side (e.g. access to adequate and nutritious food, equitable food systems), while aligning with the GGA targets on food security. Emphasis will be placed on how food systems can transform to support rural livelihoods, address land-use challenges and contribute to long-term resilience.



PATHWAYS FOR LAND AND WATER ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

This pathway reflects an expanded and integrated focus for the 9th Forum, combining terrestrial, inland water, marine, coastal as well as mountain ecosystems. Building on the focus of the previous Forum, which highlighted the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services as essential for human well-being and planetary health, this year's approach acknowledges the **deep interlinkages between ecosystems and water systems**. Ecosystems regulate water flows, while water availability and quality shape the health of ecosystems, thus a combined focus is imperative for proper adaptation efforts.

Hence, the Forum will revisit and advance the discussions on ecosystem-based adaptation while also promoting integrated strategies for disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation. It will also emphasize on forest and coastal ecosystems and explore land-to-sea systems thinking, addressing topics like coastal resilience, wetlands, watershed management and biodiversity protection. The pathway aligns with the GGA target to reduce water-related climate risks and conserve biodiversity, while promoting climate-resilient sanitation and water supply systems.



PATHWAYS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, CITIES AND INDUSTRIES

This pathway focuses on harnessing the opportunities presented by rapid urbanisation in the Asia-Pacific region to advance climate-resilient development. Urban and industrial systems concentrate both people and assets, making them highly vulnerable to climate risks—but also strategic entry points for transformational adaptation. This year's Forum will explore how **integrated and inclusive planning** across urban design, land use and infrastructure investment can enhance adaptive capacity in diverse contexts, from informal rural settlements to large metropolitan hubs.

It also builds on discussions from previous forums, technical sessions will examine how to shift from siloed approaches to **holistic strategies** that incorporate ecological and social dimensions—reducing the risk of maladaptation and leveraging co-benefits for health, equity. Attention will also be given to the urban heat island effect, which is intensifying due to climate change. The Forum will explore **climate-resilient housing, urban transport and energy infrastructure, digital and smart city innovations**, and the role of public and private finance in retrofitting existing systems for resilience. It aligns with **GGA** target to increase the resilience of infrastructure and human settlements.



PATHWAYS FOR HEALTH, LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIETIES

This pathway centers on **human resilience and social systems**, realizing that societal well-being is shaped by the interconnected dimensions of health, identity, culture and livelihoods. It aligns with the GGA targets to reduce climate-related morbidity and mortality, protect livelihoods, and safeguard cultural heritage—particularly for the most vulnerable communities.

Technical discussions will explore integrated approaches that link **climate-resilient health services, poverty eradication, indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage preservation, and inclusive social safety nets**. The stream will also highlight the **systemic interconnectedness** between human well-being and broader social, economic, and institutional systems—emphasizing the need for multisectoral collaboration to foster long-term resilience.

Importantly, all the systems pathways are inherently connected to each other. The Forum will explore these interlinkages, recognizing that building resilience requires cross-sectoral thinking and coordinated action across systems.

ENABLERS

Enablers for this year's Forum have been chosen carefully as means to support the deep shifts needed to make key systems resilient and catalyze transformational adaptation. Each enabler is linked to a set of functions that it supports, helping create the conditions for transformational change across sectors and scales.



POLICY, PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

Strong and forward-looking policies, planning, and governance systems are foundational to enabling transformational adaptation. Many countries still face challenges in aligning climate adaptation with broader development goals due to fragmented institutional responsibilities, short-term planning horizons lack of inclusion of vulnerable voices. Strengthening this enabler involves establishing coherent policy frameworks like NAPs, NDCs, and local adaptation planning tools—that are aligned across sectors and levels of government. Cross-sectoral and cross-scale coordination must be institutionalized through arrangements that enable both vertical (national to local) and horizontal (across ministries and sectors) integration.



SCIENCE, EVIDENCE & KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

This enabler focuses on data, climate risk assessments and access to timely, context-specific information. In many cases, scientific knowledge is not translated into actionable insights for planners and communities. Strengthening this enabler involves investing in climate science, co-producing knowledge with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and ensuring that risk assessments are inclusive and dynamic. It also requires developing early warning systems, scenario planning tools, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks that support adaptive learning.



INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGIES & TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES

Achieving transformational adaptation requires bold shifts in the way systems are designed and operate. This enabler focuses on the development and scaling of frontier technologies, regenerative models, and experimental approaches that challenge business-as-usual thinking.



FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INSTRUMENTS AND MODALITIES

One of the biggest barriers to adaptation is the lack of predictable, long-term, and accessible finance. Many adaptation measures—particularly at the local level—remain underfunded, while existing financial flows often favour short-term or reactive responses. This enabler focuses on strengthening financial systems to support proactive and sustained investment in adaptation. Key areas include the development of innovative instruments such as climate risk insurance, blended finance, private-sector finance; improved costing of adaptation actions to support budget allocation and prioritization; and the integration of adaptation considerations into financial regulation and planning. Mobilizing private capital and aligning public funding mechanisms with national adaptation priorities will be essential to closing the adaptation finance gap and realizing transformational adaptation.



SOCIAL CAPITAL, EMPOWERMENT AND EQUITY

Communities are at the frontline of climate impacts, but often lack the voice, resources or influence to shape adaptation agendas. This enabler recognises the central role of social cohesion, inclusion and empowerment in driving resilience. It focuses on building local ownership, recognising Indigenous and traditional knowledge, locally-led adaptation, community-based adaptation and fostering inclusive participation in decision-making.

In addition, gender and social inclusion will be considered throughout the resilience streams and enablers as cross-cutting issues.

Importantly, the Forum sessions will explore how the interplay between enablers— policy planning, governance, science, finance, knowledge systems and technological innovation—can unlock transformational adaptation. Likewise, the interdependencies across systems such as food, water, health, and infrastructure will be examined to identify synergistic opportunities. The sessions will also align with the emerging focus of the GGA targets, particularly in translating global targets into context-specific outcomes that guide and accelerate transformative pathways.

Specifically, the Forum will facilitate:

- i. Identification of cross-cutting and systemic barriers—including fragmented governance, siloed planning and financing—that impede synergistic transitions towards transformational adaptation;
- ii. Regional priorities that reflect diverse vulnerabilities, capacities, and development contexts;
- iii. Showcasing integrated and scalable innovations—spanning financial, technological, institutional, and social domains
- iv. Exploration of regional cooperation opportunities that leverage shared knowledge, transboundary ecosystems, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to co-create solutions aligned with the GGA.

A MATRIX APPROACH TO REALIZE TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

Like previous forums, the 9th APAN Forum adopted a matrix approach that connects critical systems pathways with the enablers necessary to build, maintain and strengthen resilience across scales.

This systems × enablers matrix framework was used to identify where transformational adaptation is already taking place and where further efforts are needed.

The call for proposals for the 9th APAN Forum were organized around this matrix—inviting session ideas that examined how specific enablers can catalyze resilience-building and transformational shifts within each priority system. This approach also aimed to surface synergies, interdependencies, and opportunities for integrated adaptation pathways.

SYSTEMS ENABLERS	PATHWAYS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS	PATHWAYS FOR LAND & AGRICULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY	PATHWAYS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, CITIES AND INDUSTRIES	PATHWAYS FOR HEALTH, LIVEIHOODS AND SOCIOITIES
POLICY PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE				
SCIENCE, EVIDENCE, KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS				
INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGIES & TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES	Gender and social inclusion will be considered throughout the systems and enablers as a cross-cutting issue			
FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INSTRUMENTS & MODALITIES				
SOCIAL CAPITAL, EMPOWERMENT & EQUALITY				

3. FORUM PROGRAMME

Programme of **the APAN 9th Adaptation Forum** will focus on **four priority systems** critical to achieving a just and climate-resilient future for all. These systems are a) food and agricultural systems; b) land and water ecosystems and biodiversity; c) infrastructure, cities and industries; and d) health, livelihoods and societies. Transition pathways of these systems will be explored through the lens of **five interlinked enablers** as catalysts which are a) **Rethinking Adaptation Policies, Planning and Governance**; b) **Fostering Innovation, Technologies and Practices**; c) **Advancing Science, Evidence and Knowledge**; d) **Strengthening Financial Systems, Financing Instruments and Modalities**; and e) **Enabling Social capital, Empowerment and Equity**.

APAN 9th Adaptation Forum will organize deep-dive sessions on 29 - 30 September 2025. Opening, Closing, Ministerial Roundtable, Plenary and Technical Sessions will be held on 01 - 03 October 2025.



Resilience for all:
Catalyzing transformational adaptation

APAN FORUM DEEP-DIVE SESSIONS MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

REGISTRATION

[8:00 – 11:00 and 13:00 – 15:00]

UNCC LOBBY

D1.DS.1 Peer Learning Cohort Event
on Monitoring, Evaluation and
Learning (MEL) for NAP Processes

9:00 – 17:00 : MEETING ROOM (MR) G

Organizers: NAP Global Network &
the Government of Thailand

(Closed)

D1.DS.2 Regional workshop on
developing a blueprint for upscaling
Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) built
on Indigenous/traditional and local
knowledge system in the Asia-Pacific

9:00 – 17:00 : MR H

Organizers: IGES and APN

(Closed)

D1.DS.3 Financing Transformational
Adaptation: Catalyzing Equitable
and Scalable Action in Asia-Pacific

9:00 – 12:30 : MR F

Organizers: INECC, Germanwatch
e.V., ICSC, GHUB, LAYA, IRID and
Asia Haus Foundation

(Open)

AGENDA

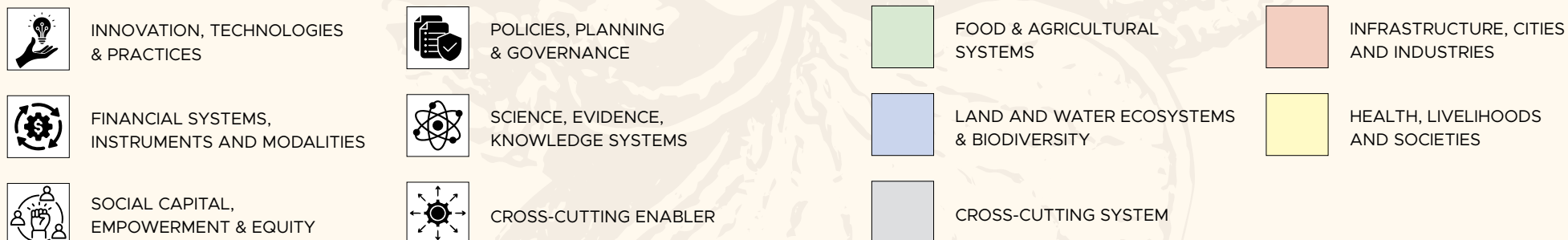
APAN FORUM DEEP-DIVE SESSIONS TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

REGISTRATION















[8:00 – 11:00 and 13:00 – 15:00]











UNCC LOBBY

<p>D2.DS.1 Peer Learning Cohort Event on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) for NAP Processes</p> <p>9:00 – 17:00 : MEETING ROOM (MR) G</p> <p>Organizers: NAP Global Network & the Government of Thailand</p> <p>(Closed)</p>	<p>D2.DS.2 Regional workshop on developing a blueprint for upscaling Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) built on Indigenous/traditional and local knowledge system the Asia-Pacific</p> <p>9:00 - 12:30 : MR H</p> <p>Organizers: IGES and APN</p> <p>(Open)</p>	<p>D2.DS.3 Co-creating transformative and gender-responsive climate adaptation in Asia – A multistakeholder dialogue</p> <p>9:00 – 17:00 : MR AP FOYER</p> <p>Organizers: ARROW, UN Women, ICIMOD, UNEP</p> <p>(Closed)</p>	<p>D2.DS.4 Transformational Strategies for Scaling up Extreme Heat Adaptation: Regulations, Finance and Capacities for Integrating Sustainable Cooling</p> <p>9:30 – 12:30 : MR A</p> <p>Organizer: UNEP</p> <p>(Open)</p>		
	<p>D2.DS.5 FRAME-ECO: Contextualization of Framework for Assessing Climate and Disaster-Induced Losses of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Asia-Pacific</p> <p>13:30 – 16:30 : MR H</p> <p>Organizers: UNEP, UNDRR, UNU-EHS</p> <p>(Open)</p>		<p>D2.DS.6 Private Sector and Adaptation at the Local Level</p> <p>13:00 – 16:00 – MR F</p> <p>Organizer: ADB</p> <p>(Closed)</p>	<p>D2.DS.7 Unlocking collaboration: Scaling adaptation through partnerships</p> <p>14:00 – 15:30 : MR A</p> <p>Organizers: APN, AIT, AP-PLAT, RRC.AP, SAFE, SPREP, others</p> <p>(Open)</p>	<p>D2.DS.8 Speakers debriefing</p> <p>16:30 – 18:00 : MR A</p>



APAN FORUM MAIN SESSIONS WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2025					
8:00 – 9:00	REGISTRATION UNCC LOBBY				
9:15 – 10:30	D3.PS.1 OPENING & KEYNOTE WHAT IS TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION? ESCAP HALL				
9:00 – 17:00	COFFEE BREAK				
11:00 – 12:30	D3.PS.2 MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ESCAP HALL				
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH				
14:00 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS	D3.TS.1 Cities on the Frontline: Insights from India and the region on long-term mitigation of extreme heat in cities ESCAP HALL Organizers: UNEP Cool Coalition, NIUA	D3.TS.2 Integrating top-down and bottom-up approaches for climate adaptation planning and resilient water management CONFERENCE ROOM 3 Organizers: CWCA, AIT	D3.TS.3 Nature-based Solutions and Standardization for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure CONFERENCE ROOM 4 Organizers: Ministry of the Environment, Japan and ADB	D3.TS.4 Financing Transformational Adaptation from the Ground Up MEETING ROOM A Organizers: CPI, Equal Right org, IDRC/CLARE, UNDP, UNEP, UN WOMEN	D3.TS.5 From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation MEETING ROOM H Organizer: WWF, UNEP-WCMC and SEACAR
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK				
16:00 – 17:30	D3.PS.3 PLENARY 1 DIVERSITIES AND SYNERGISTIC SHIFTS ACROSS SYSTEMS ESCAP HALL				
18:00 – 20:00	RECEPTION in front of ESCAP HALL				

APAN FORUM MAIN SESSIONS THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2025					
9:00 – 10:30	D4.PS.1 PLENARY 2 MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: ADVANCING GGA FROM FRAMEWORK TO IMPLEMENTATION ESCAP HALL				
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK				
11:00 – 12:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS	D4.TS.1 Policy Action Towards Resilient Agrifood Systems: The Road to COP30 ESCAP HALL Organizer: FAO 	D4.TS.2 From knowledge gaps to transformational adaptation: Catalyzing actions through regional knowledge networks CONFERENCE ROOM 3 Organizers: ICIMOD, UNEP, UNFCCC, IUCN 	D4.TS.3 Galvanizing APAC Youth Innovations in Food Systems for Better Climate Adaptation: Technology, Foresight & Strategy CONFERENCE ROOM 4 Organizers: GYCC Youth Lab, UV Society 	D4.TS.4 Bridging the Gap: Upscaling Climate Inclusive Cities MEETING ROOM A Organizer: NIUA & YUVA 	D4.TS.5 From data to decisions: strengthening MEL for NAP processes for transformational adaptation MEETING ROOM H Organizers: NAP Global Network, IISD 
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH				
14:00 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS	D4.TS.6 From Fragmentation to Convergence: Indigenous & Local Action for Climate-Resilient, Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems ESCAP HALL Organizers: UNFS Coordination Hub & Adaptation Research Alliance 	D4.TS.7 Mainstreaming Locally Led Climate Action for Health & Wellbeing: Unlocking Social Capital & Finance CONFERENCE ROOM 3 Organizers: CEEW, Dasra, PATH, IIED, UNDP 	D4.TS.8 From Risk to Resilience: Financing Climate-Proof Cities CONFERENCE ROOM 4 Organizers: CEEW, British High Commission, Delhi 	D4.TS.9 Enabling Adaptation Pathways: Policy and Partnerships for Climate Resilience in the Asia-Pacific MEETING ROOM A Organizers: Ministry of Environment, Japan and IGES 	D4.TS.10 Transformative Adaptation in Asia-Pacific: From Water & Food Systems to 30x30 Resilience Pathways MEETING ROOM H Organizers: UNEP, IUCN-ARO, Green Climate Fund 
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK				
16:00 – 17:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS	D4.TS.11 Regional Youth Adaptation Dialogue: Strengthening Youth Engagement for Climate Resilience in Asia-Pacific MEETING ROOM A Organizers: UNFCCC RCC, YECAP, UNDP, UN Women 	D4.TS.13 Harnessing Adaptation Tools, Early Warning Systems, and Public-Private Partnerships to Unlock Climate Finance and Build Resilience CONFERENCE ROOM 4 Organizers: AIT RRC.AP, Pacific Consultants, ADPC 	D4.TS.14 Transformative Adaptation Finance: From Strategy to Scaled Investment ESCAP HALL Organizers: UNDP, BCG 	D4.TS.15 Water Governance for Climate Resilience: Priorities for Investments for Transboundary River Basins MEETING ROOM H Organizers: ADPC, Oxfam 	

APAN FORUM MAIN SESSIONS FRIDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2025					
9:00 – 10:30	D5.PS.1 PLENARY 3 INTERPLAY OF ENABLERS ESCAP HALL				
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK				
11:00 – 12:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS	D5.TS.1 Scaling Climate Justice: Gender and Inclusive Data for Transformational Adaptation ESCAP HALL Organizers: UN Women, ACE, ARROW, Baithak Challenging Taboos, SPC, UNEP 	D5.TS.2 Scaling up Implementation of NAPs to Ensure Transformational Adaptation CONFERENCE ROOM 3 Organizers: UNFCCC RCC ASIA PACIFIC 	D5.TS.3 Building Coastal and Community Resilience: From Nature-based Solutions to Inclusive Fisheries CONFERENCE ROOM 4 Organizers: Oxfam and COBSEA 	D5.TS.4 From Evidence to Action: Enabling Transformational Adaptation in Agrifood Systems MEETING ROOM A Organizer: FAO, UNDP 	D5.TS.5 Protecting People, Protecting Systems: Transformational Adaptation to Rising Heat MEETING ROOM H Organizers: IUCN, University of Thessaly, ADPC, others 
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH				
14:00 – 15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS	D5.TS.6 Enablers and barriers to transformational adaptation: Lessons from CLARE projects in Asia ESCAP HALL Organizers: PlanAdapt, CLARE Partners in Asia 	D5.TS.7 Strengthening Urban Adaptation & Resilience: Climate Change, Extreme heat and Health Systems CONFERENCE ROOM 3 Organizers: CarbonCare InnoLab (CCIL), CEEW, UNDP 	D5.TS.8 Sustainable and inclusive NAPs: leveraging the nexus/connections between adaptation, finance and nature MEETING ROOM H Organizers: UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC RCC, ICIMOD 	D5.TS.9 Resilience Gateways: Embedding Adaptation Across the Infrastructure Lifecycle CONFERENCE ROOM 4 Organizers: P4I, DFA, ADB 	D5.TS.10 Power in Many Forms: Inclusive & Intergenerational Leadership for Transformational Adaptation & Scalable NbS MEETING ROOM A Organizers: ARROW, ASB, Civic Exchange, Helpage International, IUCN, Seneca Impact, UNEP, UN Women 
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK				
16:00 – 17:00	CLOSING CEREMONY ESCAP HALL				

APAN FORUM DEEP DIVE SESSIONS

Partners of APAN 9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum will organize deep-dive sessions during 29 and 30 September 2025. These sessions will allow participants to delve into specific topics and practices to climate change adaptation with special emphasis on Forum theme which is “Resilience for all: catalyzing transformational adaptation.

DAY ONE 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

D1.DS.1

09:00 - 17:00

PEER LEARNING COHORT EVENT ON MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) FOR NAP PROCESSES (CLOSED)

The second peer learning event of the NAP Global Network’s Asia-Pacific Peer Learning Cohort on designing and implementing MEL systems for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes will take place on 29–30 September 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Co-hosted by the NAP Global Network and the Government of Thailand, this event will be held as part of the Partners’ Segment the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Forum, providing a timely opportunity to align peer learning with broader regional discussions on climate adaptation and resilience.

Objectives:

- Deepen knowledge of MEL components for NAP processes.
- Share experiences and challenges to improve MEL systems.
- Address common barriers with practical strategies.
- Connect peer learning to Asia-Pacific adaptation priorities.
- Equip participants with tools to strengthen NAP MEL systems.

In this session, participants will gain practical knowledge and skills to design and implement effective MEL systems for NAPs.

Organizers:

NAP Global Network and the Government of Thailand

D1.DS.2

09:00 - 17:00

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING A BLUEPRINT FOR UPSCALING
LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION (LLA) BUILT ON INDIGENOUS/TRADITIONAL AND
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM THE ASIA-PACIFIC (CLOSED)**

This regional workshop marks the final synthesis of the project activities, findings and lessons of a IGES and APN project on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). The workshop will intensively discuss the project outcomes, discuss on LLA blueprint, and a way forward for upscaling LLA in the Asia-Pacific region. First day (by invitation only) of the workshop will be dedicated to discussing and reviewing project findings, outcomes and lessons as well as for planning future actions. Second day, which will be an open session for all APAN Forum Participants, will be devoted to knowledge sharing as well as to gain expert feedback on upscaling LLA through regional collaboration, including AP-PLAT.

Objectives:

- Discuss and analyze project findings, outcomes, and lessons from model sites.
- Intensive dialogue on creating a scalable blueprint for LLA actions and practices.
- Identify ways forward for upscaling LLA through regional collaboration, including AP-PLAT.

In this session, participants will gain a synthesized blueprint for upscaling LLA, enhanced regional collaboration, and actionable plans for integrating local knowledge into Asia-Pacific adaptation strategies

Organizers:

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN).

D1.DS.3

09:00 - 12:30

FINANCING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION: CATALYZING EQUITABLE AND SCALABLE ACTION IN ASIA-PACIFIC (OPEN)

The session will bring together civil society actors, public institutions, and private finance stakeholders to co-examine what transformational adaptation looks like across contexts, and how funding gaps could be addressed. It will also explore the structural and perception- related barriers that constrain adaptation finance flows, including why certain institutions remain hesitant to support long-term transformative measures. By fostering honest exchange and shared analysis, the session aims to shift the conversation from silos and short-term projects to collaborative strategies for unlocking finance that delivers resilience, justice, and structural change.

Drawing from case studies, regional experience, and cross-sector collaboration, the deep dive will examine what enables or obstructs the flow of adaptation finance, from multilateral pledges to village-level priorities.

Objectives:

- Analyze regional adaptation finance flows and define transformational adaptation.
- Explore innovative financing mechanisms like blended finance and resilience bonds.
- Identify governance and access barriers through evidence-based discussions.
- Co-create principles for inclusive, scalable finance systems linked to COP30.

Outcomes:

Participants will gain insights into finance barriers, a portfolio of innovative mechanisms, a strengthened cross-sector network, and actionable recommendations for COP30 and regional adaptation finance strategies.

Organizer:

Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), Germanwatch e.V., Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Greenovation Hub (GHUB), LAYA, Indonesia Research Institute for Decarbonization (IRID), Asia Haus Foundation

DAY TWO
30 SEPTEMBER 2025

D2.DS.1

09:00 - 17:00

**PEER LEARNING COHORT EVENT ON MONITORING, EVALUATION AND
LEARNING (MEL) FOR NAP PROCESSES (CLOSED)**

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Objectives:

- Deepen knowledge of MEL components for NAP processes.
- Share experiences and challenges to improve MEL systems.
- Address common barriers with practical strategies.
- Connect peer learning to Asia-Pacific adaptation priorities.
- Equip participants with tools to strengthen NAP MEL systems.

In this session, participants will gain practical knowledge and skills to design and implement effective MEL systems for NAPs.

Organizer:

NAP Global Network and the Government of Thailand

D2.DS.2

09:00 - 12:30

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING A BLUEPRINT FOR UPSCALING
LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION (LLA) BUILT ON INDIGENOUS/TRADITIONAL AND
LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC (OPEN)**

This regional workshop marks the final synthesis of the project activities, findings and lessons of a IGES and APN project on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). The workshop will intensively discuss the project outcomes, discuss on LLA blueprint, and a way forward for upscaling LLA in the Asia-Pacific region. First day (by invitation only) of the workshop will be dedicated to discussing and reviewing project findings, outcomes and lessons as well as for planning future actions. Second day, which will be an open session for all APAN Forum Participants, will be devoted to knowledge sharing as well as to gain expert feedback on upscaling LLA through regional collaboration, including AP-PLAT.

Objectives:

- Discuss and analyze project findings, outcomes, and lessons from model sites.
- Intensive dialogue on creating a scalable blueprint for LLA actions and practices.
- Identify ways forward for upscaling LLA through regional collaboration, including AP-PLAT.

In this session, participants will gain a synthesized blueprint for upscaling LLA, enhanced regional collaboration, and actionable plans for integrating local knowledge into Asia-Pacific adaptation strategies.

Organizers:

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

D2.DS.3

09:00 - 17:00

CO-CREATING TRANSFORMATIVE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN ASIA – A MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE (OPEN)

This multi-stakeholder dialogue will enable discussions on gender-responsive, innovative climate financing modalities, exchange knowledge and understanding of women and youth leadership in transformational adaptation and finally discuss data systems that contribute to transformational adaptation in the region. The dialogue will also review the current Gender Action Plan and discuss adaptation elements that should be integrated in the development of new Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Objectives:

- Discuss gender-responsive, innovative climate financing modalities to support transformational adaptation.
- Exchange knowledge on women and youth leadership in driving systemic adaptation solutions.
- Explore data systems that enable gender-responsive monitoring for transformational adaptation.
- Review the current Gender Action Plan (GAP) and propose adaptation elements for the new GAP.
- Develop constituency-led action maps and institutional commitments for post-APAN follow-up.

Outcomes:

Participants will co-create actionable recommendations for gender-responsive adaptation finance, leadership, data systems, and the new GAP, to be presented at APAN, COP30, and other policymaking spaces, strengthening inclusive adaptation governance.

Organizers:

ARROW, UN Women, ICIMOD, UNEP

D2.DS.4

09:00 - 12:30

TRANSFORMATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SCALING UP EXTREME HEAT ADAPTATION: REGULATIONS, FINANCE AND CAPACITIES FOR INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE COOLING (OPEN)

United Nations Environment Programme with partner countries aims to showcase pragmatic and replicable solutions for extreme heat adaptation. Participating countries and experts will spotlight enabling regulatory frameworks, financing mechanisms and governance capabilities. It is an opportunity to understand evolving challenges of APAN countries stemming from gaps in policies, finances and capacities. UNEP-NDMA sessions will also facilitate knowledge building, assessment of technical assistance needs and opportunities for collaboration in APAN countries. UNEP will channel the inputs from participants and experts into the APAN's concluding statement, providing a foundation for country-level action plans and donor-supported investment pipelines that advance the UN SG's 2024 Call to Action on Extreme Heat.

Objectives:

- Highlight extreme heat risks and vulnerabilities in the Asia-Pacific.
- Showcase sustainable cooling solutions (passive, nature-based) for cities and food systems.
- Promote scalable regulatory and policy frameworks for systemic heat adaptation.
- Identify self-sustaining financing mechanisms and strategies for accessing climate finance.
- Strengthen institutional capacity for heat adaptation through knowledge exchange.

Outcomes:

Participants will co-develop actionable recommendations for heat adaptation policies, financing, and capacity-building, contributing to APAN's concluding statement, country-level action plans, and donor-supported investment pipelines for sustainable cooling.

Organizer:

UNEP

D2.DS.5

13:30 - 16:30

FRAME-ECO: CONTEXTUALIZATION OF FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING CLIMATE AND DISASTER-INDUCED LOSSES OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN ASIA-PACIFIC (OPEN)

Despite growing recognition of the severe impacts of climate and disaster events on biodiversity and ecosystem services, there remains no standardized framework to assess, monitor, and track such losses. From the Loss and Damage plenary discussions at the 8th APAN Forum, similar concerns were raised, and UNEP was asked to consider developing a Framework to assess biodiversity and ecosystem services. FRAME-ECO, as a collaborative effort by UNEP, UNDRR, and UNU-EHS, responds to this request by proposing a multi-dimensional framework for assessing the diverse values of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This framework builds on global standards such as SEEA EA and IPBES values, and aims to inform national CCA and DRR systems, climate finance, and operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. The FRAME-ECO provide a methodological basis as well to understand non-economic ecosystem related losses within the Disaster Tracking System (DTS) developed by UNDRR in partnership with UNDP and WMO. The APAN Forum provides a strategic platform to socialize the framework, gain feedback from stakeholders across the region, and identify countries ready to champion piloting efforts that could inform global Loss and Damage discourse.

Objectives:

- Validate the FRAME-ECO draft framework with Asia-Pacific stakeholders for regional biodiversity and ecosystem relevance.
- Develop a roadmap for piloting FRAME-ECO in selected countries, identifying entry points and partnerships.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange on assessing non-economic ecosystem losses within DRR and adaptation systems.
- Co-create recommendations for refining FRAME-ECO and integrating it into national climate and DRR strategies.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration to support innovative loss tracking and biodiversity integration.

Outcomes:

Participants will validate FRAME-ECO's applicability, co-develop a roadmap for regional piloting, and produce an outcome document with insights, methodological refinements, and commitments to advance collaborative experimentation, informing APAN and global Loss and Damage efforts.

Organizers:

UNEP, UNDRR, UNU-EHS

D2.DS.6

13:00 - 16:00

PRIVATE SECTOR AND ADAPTATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL (CLOSED)

The purpose of this structured discussion is to develop an initial framework for understanding how investments in local level adaptation result in private sector and markets creation, involvement, or mobilization, and inform further development of the Community Resilience Partnership Program, its activities, and portfolio.

This could include defining “private sector” in context of local level adaptation, defining scope of the framework, identifying follow-on evidence needs, methodological approaches, and timelines.

Objectives:

- Define “private sector” in the context of local-level adaptation, including relevant actors and roles.
- Establish the scope and key components of a framework linking local adaptation investments to private sector mobilization.
- Identify evidence gaps and methodological approaches needed to assess private sector engagement in adaptation.
- Propose timelines and follow-on actions to refine and implement the framework within the CRPP.
- Foster collaboration among stakeholders to integrate community-driven adaptation with private sector opportunities.

Outcomes:

Participants will produce a draft framework outlining private sector roles in local adaptation, identify evidence needs and methodologies, and define a timeline for CRPP integration, enhancing community resilience and market-driven adaptation solutions.

Organizer:

ADB

D2.DS.7

14:00 - 15:30

UNLOCKING COLLABORATION: SCALING ADAPTATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS (OPEN)

APN will convene a 90-minute session bringing together scientists, policymakers, regional organisations, and finance actors to explore collaboration opportunities. Through case presentations and targeted discussions, the session will identify pathways to reduce duplication, scale impact, and foster joint initiatives that advance climate adaptation and build resilience across local, national and regional levels.

Organizers:

APN, AIT, AP-PLAT, RRC.AP, SAFE, SPREP, UNFCCC, ESCAP, UNEP-ROAP

APAN FORUM MAIN SESSIONS

DAY THREE 1 OCTOBER 2025

Opening of the 9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation will be held on the third day of the Forum. A ministerial roundtable along with 5 technical sessions will be also held this day.

D3.PS.1

09:00 - 10:30

APAN 9TH FORUM OPENING

The opening session will set an overall tone of the 9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum and highlights the importance of forum theme “Resilience for all: catalyzing transformational adaptation”. A keynote presentation will on transformation adaptation will set the stage of understanding of transformational adaptation within the adaptation continuum.

The session will deliver a shared understanding of what transformational adaptation entails in practice and why it is critical for the Asia-Pacific region’s future resilience. By the end of the session, participants will leave with clarity on the pathways and enablers for scaling adaptation across the region.

D3.PS.2

11:00 - 12:30

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE - LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND COOPERATIONS

The gathering of ministerial-level representatives at the roundtable will provide excellent opportunities to share views and thoughts of the minister and hold discussion on innovative adaptation approaches and feasible collaboration. It will be marked as a significant step towards sharing political will and accelerating adaptation actions across the entire region.

The session will build a shared understanding of the value of partnerships, highlight successful models, and identify actionable pathways and commitments to scale inclusive, cross-sector adaptation.

The roundtable will reaffirm regional political commitment, strengthen cooperation between national and global agendas, endorse inclusive and innovative approaches, and agree on collective next steps for transformational adaptation.

Organizer:

APAN Secretariat

D3.TS.1

14:00 - 15:30

CITIES ON THE FRONTLINE: INSIGHTS FROM INDIA AND THE REGION ON LONG-TERM MITIGATION OF EXTREME HEAT IN CITIES

Extreme heat is a critical climate risk in Asia and the Pacific, threatening lives, livelihoods, and sustainable urban development. As climate change intensifies, urban areas face escalating challenges from heatwaves and the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, with global temperatures up 1.1°C since pre-industrial times (IPCC AR6, 2023). Countries in the region are adopting Heat Action Plans (HAPs) and integrating UHI mitigation and sustainable cooling strategies, yet face barriers to scaling long-term implementation.

This technical session will showcase India's multi-level approach to heat resilience, highlighting NDMA's model for scaling HAPs, NIUA's City Climate Action Plans with the Global Covenant of Mayors, and community-driven UHI mitigation linked to the SDGs. It will facilitate peer learning with APAN countries, identifying opportunities for regional collaboration and resource mobilization to advance urban heat adaptation.

Organizers:

UNEP Cool Coalition, & National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)

Co-organizers:

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

D3.TS.2

14:00 - 15:30

INTEGRATING TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP APPROACHES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING AND RESILIENT WATER MANAGEMENT

Adaptation planning across the Asia-Pacific has often relied on top-down approaches that use climate projections as a starting point and prioritize largescale infrastructures. While these approaches provide a broad strategic outlook, they are constrained by large uncertainties and limited resonance with local contexts. In contrast, bottom-up approaches, exemplified by the Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA), start with stakeholder-defined vulnerabilities and performance thresholds, providing robust and flexible solutions at local scales.

This session builds on the growing recognition that neither approach alone is sufficient to ensure success. Instead, integrating bottom-up and top-down approaches allows for bridging science with practice, uncertainty and diversity with decision-making, and global knowledge with local realities and social complexities.

Organizers:

Centre for Water and Climate Adaptation (CWCA), Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand; India Water Foundation

D3.TS.3

14:00 - 15:30

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND STANDARDIZATION FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

In Japan, the Green Infrastructure Promotion Strategy is advancing NbS-based infrastructure across rivers, coasts, and cities. Similar initiatives worldwide are integrating NbS to boost climate adaptation and resilience, while also delivering co-benefits such as disaster risk reduction, ecosystem conservation, and socio-economic protection. Although infrastructure and NbS have distinct technical and institutional bases, combining them creates synergies that support disaster prevention, environmental protection, and broader social gains. These efforts mark an important step toward transformational adaptation, reshaping how communities, economies, and ecosystems are managed.

Objectives:

- Identify challenges, lessons, and opportunities for NbS and Green Infrastructure through cross-country case studies.
- Examine evaluation approaches for capturing benefits such as adaptation, risk reduction, biodiversity, and socio-economic protection.
- Highlight international standardization efforts and their role in scaling climate-resilient infrastructure in Asia-Pacific.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange among policymakers, international organizations, and developing countries to inform practical approaches and policy guidance.

Organizers:

Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Asian Development Bank

D3.TS.4

14:00 - 15:30

FINANCING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION FROM THE GROUND UP

Transformational adaptation in Asia-Pacific requires climate finance that reaches those most at risk. Emerging pathways—such as MSMEs, adaptive financial resilience, and social protection—demonstrate how inclusive models can expand access. Backed by data, community experiences, government partnerships, and proven financial instruments, this session will examine approaches that improve finance access for women and vulnerable groups, and the systemic conditions that enable scale and sustainability.

The discussion will focus on three sets of lessons:

- Successful examples that should be sustained.
 - Innovations that can be scaled.
 - Unfunded areas where finance has yet to reach grassroots actors.
-
- Understand whole-of-government approaches to climate adaptation.
 - Explore financial instruments and delivery models that strengthen household and SME resilience.
 - Identify institutional and financial conditions that improve women's access to finance.

Objectives:

Organizers:

UNDP, Climate Policy Initiative, Equal Right, IDRC, UNEP, UN Women

D3.TS.5

14:00 - 15:30

FROM BARRIERS TO BREAKTHROUGHS: ENHANCING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The world is not adapting to climate change fast enough, and nature's role in reducing vulnerability remains underutilized. Despite its potential, integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into adaptation strategies faces barriers such as fragmented governance, weak policies, and limited technical and financial capacity. Emerging technologies like AI offer opportunities to strengthen the case for NbS and support their global uptake.

This session—hosted by WWF, SEACAR, and UNEP-WCMC—will explore how NbS can be better embedded in adaptation strategies to deliver benefits for people and biodiversity. The session will also preview the SEACAR 2.0 report, showcasing grassroots initiatives across Southeast Asia.

Targeting decision-makers, funders, and practitioners, the session will unpack policy, financing, and governance barriers while highlighting enabling conditions. Three speakers will share lessons from different regions, followed by an interactive dialogue on what works, why, and under what conditions.

Objectives:

- Identify systemic barriers to scaling NbS.
- Share enabling conditions and successful approaches across regions.
- Gather input to shape a practitioner-informed global support platform.
- Showcase how AI and data can strengthen the case for NbS.

Organizers:

WWF

D3.PS.3

16:00 - 17:30

PLENARY 1: DIVERSITIES AND SYNERGIES ACROSS SYSTEMS

Climate change continues to present complex and accelerating risks to the Asia-Pacific region, from tropical cyclones and floods to droughts, sea level rise, biodiversity loss, and food and water insecurity. These impacts threaten lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and economic growth. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have underscored the urgency of transformational adaptation - structural, systemic, and strategic shifts needed to address climate risks that cannot be managed through existing approaches.

Unlocking the synergies between systems is critical to realizing transformational adaptation, as emphasized by both the IPCC and the UNFCCC. Resilient futures depend on understanding how systems—such as health, agriculture, water, land, and ecosystems—interconnect and influence one another. Strengthening one system can generate cascading benefits across others, while neglecting these linkages risks reinforcing vulnerabilities. This session will examine the interconnectedness of systems, identify the pathways and systemic shifts needed to build resilience, and explore how regional cooperation and knowledge exchange can accelerate adaptation tailored to the diverse contexts of the Asia-Pacific region.

Objective:

Examine the interconnectedness of key systems in the Asia-Pacific region and explore pathways and systemic shifts needed to strengthen resilience. The session will also identify opportunities for regional cooperation and knowledge exchange to accelerate resilience-building tailored to diverse regional contexts in AP.

DAY FOUR
2 OCTOBER 2025

D4.PS.1

09:00 - 10:30

PLENARY 2: MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), established under the Paris Agreement, aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change in the context of sustainable development. With the adoption of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, attention is now turning to translating the agreed framework, targets, and indicators into actionable pathways for countries.

The Asia-Pacific region, home to diverse contexts including LDCs, SIDS, and large emerging economies, faces significant capacity and institutional challenges in aligning national systems with GGA monitoring and reporting requirements. While many countries have made progress through their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), and sectoral monitoring mechanisms, critical gaps remain. These include the institutional capacity to track progress, the alignment of global indicators with existing national data systems, and the integration of theory of change approaches to measure transformational adaptation. This session will provide a platform for governments, experts, and institutions to discuss the practicalities of operationalizing GGA at national level. It will unpack the interlinkages between GGA indicators and national planning processes, highlight opportunities to leverage existing statistical and monitoring mechanisms, and explore how differentiated contexts—particularly in SIDS and LDCs—can be supported to implement GGA in a meaningful and inclusive manner.

Objectives:

- Examine institutional and technical capacities needed to implement and report on GGA indicators across different country contexts.
- Discuss how existing national monitoring systems (eg statistics departments, planning ministries) can be leveraged and strengthened rather than creating new structures.
- Explore alignment between NAPs and GGA targets, including the importance of embedding theory of change approaches to track transformational adaptation.
- Identify strategies for building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability in ways that are measurable, comparable, and context-sensitive.
- Provide policy guidance and recommendations for countries to effectively operationalize GGA in line with their national priorities and capabilities.

D4.TS.1

11:00 - 12:30

POLICY ACTION TOWARDS RESILIENT AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS: THE ROAD TO COP30

COP30 offers an important opportunity to elevate agriculture and mobilize support, including in discussions around the follow up to the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, the Standing Committee on Finance, and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. NDCs and NAPs remain the core instruments for tracking ambition and progress, underscoring the need to assess how Asia-Pacific countries are embedding agriculture within these frameworks.

The GGA, advanced at COP28, reinforces this agenda. Agriculture can contribute through sector-specific indicators (e.g. resilient yields, soil health, climate-smart technology adoption), farmer participation in technical dialogues, alignment of national targets with global objectives, and advocacy for agriculture-focused finance. Embedding agriculture in GGA processes will help secure recognition, resources, and technical support for scaling adaptation.

Objectives:

- Identify opportunities to advance transformational adaptation in agriculture at COP30.
- Showcase how agriculture can influence and benefit from the GGA, Loss and Damage and other agenda items.
- Explore pathways for engaging farmers' organizations in UNFCCC and national frameworks.
- Identify potential finance sources to scale adaptation in agriculture.
- Examine the alignment of Asia-Pacific NDCs and NAPs with transformational adaptation goals.

Organizer:

FAO

D4.TS.2

11:00 - 12:30

**FROM KNOWLEDGE GAPS TO TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION:
CATALYSING ACTIONS THROUGH REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS**

Transformational adaptation requires more than advancing single enablers or isolated solutions—it demands systems-based approaches that turn global ambitions into equitable, context-specific action. This session explores how knowledge brokers working across fragile ecosystems (mountains, islands, biodiversity hotspots) can bridge science with practice, integrate indigenous and scientific knowledge, and co-create timely, actionable insights. Drawing on initiatives such as the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, the session highlights the critical role of knowledge organizations as intermediaries in complex, interdependent climate risks.

Objectives:

- Show how knowledge institutions connect global frameworks with local contexts.
- Share lessons from co-creating knowledge tailored to diverse ecosystems.
- Enable cross-ecosystem dialogue on common challenges and scalable resilience approaches.
- Highlight inclusive methods integrating indigenous/local knowledge, South-South cooperation, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Draw comparative lessons from the Hindu Kush Himalaya, SIDS, and biodiversity-rich regions to identify transferable solutions.

Organizers:

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), UNEP, UNFCCC, IUCN

D4.TS.3

11:00 - 12:30

GALVANIZING ASIA-PACIFIC YOUTH INNOVATIONS IN FOOD SYSTEMS FOR BETTER CLIMATE ADAPTATION: TECHNOLOGY, FORESIGHT AND STRATEGY

Asia-Pacific young people in food systems continue to face insecure jobs, limited skills-building opportunities and barriers to formal employment, discouraging them from pursuing long-term careers in agriculture. Hence, scaling up commitment, investment, and enhancing the productivity and livelihood of young people working in food systems are fundamental. While circular practices and the growing plant-based industry offer potential green jobs, informal sectors still limit youth participation, let alone underrepresented groups from Global Majority.

This session will bring about forward-looking discussions for decent work, the role of technology in transforming food systems, and youth-led innovations.

By featuring a panel and interactive foresight exercises. It is expected that the discussion is expected to gather inputs, exchange youth-led innovation best practices, necessary investments and resources needed, understanding current and future challenges, dismantle siloed perspectives, and build common understanding on how the technological transformation and systems approach could enhance the future of young people in agri-food systems.

Objectives:

- Amplify public awareness of talent drain in developing economies, the importance of farmers in linking climate action with biodiversity, and technology as a key enabler of climate adaptation in agri-food systems.
- Devise key discussions and actionable insights on promoting just transition, sustainable, and youth-responsive in sustainable food systems transformation in advancing climate change adaptation in food systems.
- Showcase youth-led innovation in promoting climate change adaptation in the agriculture and food systems sector.
- Promote successful practices on strategic partnerships, reinvigorate the global cooperation for resilient agrifood systems (Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security), and highlight the interconnection between the food-water-energy nexus and all ecosystems in policymaking and investment processes of transforming agrifood systems.

Organizers:

Global Youth Climate Challenges (GYCC) Youth Lab, Universal Versatile Society (UVS or UV Society)

D4.TS.4

11:00 - 12:30

BRIDGING THE GAP: UPSCALING CLIMATE INCLUSIVE CITIES

This session will explore participatory and transformational approaches to urban challenges, emphasizing gender inclusion, youth-led action, and amplifying voices from the informal sector to build inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable climate-resilient cities.

Promoting Gender Inclusion

With urban populations projected to reach 70% by 2050, cities must integrate gender-inclusive planning into resilience and development strategies. Women's perspectives enhance effectiveness, unlock economic potential, and create safer, equitable cities.

The segment will focus on

- Localized resilience solutions – women's leadership in community planning and infrastructure,
- Municipal finance – advancing gender-responsive budgeting for fairer resource allocation, and
- Digital transformation – bridging gender gaps in access and literacy to ensure participation.

Transformational Climate Adaptations in Informal Settlements and Cities

Over one billion people live in informal settlements, largely in climate-vulnerable cities of the Global South. These communities face heightened risks yet hold vital potential for innovation. Youth, often the most affected, are also key change agents.

The segment will focus on

- Why adaptation in informal settlements must be central to city agenda
- How youth-driven initiatives create innovative, grounded, and scalable responses,
- Advocating for community voices through formal governance & accountability frameworks,
- Moving beyond short-term projects to embed justice and equity in urban adaptation.

Organizers:

NIUA & YUVA

D4.TS.5

11:00 - 12:30

FROM DATA TO DECISIONS: STRENGTHENING MEL FOR NAP PROCESSES FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

This 90-minute session will explore how countries can move from collecting data to making decisions by strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes. It will highlight practical approaches for designing robust MEL frameworks that support transformational adaptation: going beyond incremental progress to achieve deep, systemic shifts.

Organizers:

NAP Global Network, IISD

D4.TS.6

14:00 - 15:30

FROM FRAGMENTATION TO CONVERGENCE: INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT, NUTRITION-SENSITIVE FOOD SYSTEMS

Countries are integrating agriculture into NDCs, NAPs, and food system transformation pathways, but fragmented approaches across ministries continue to limit impact. At UNFSS+4 and the 2025 Regional Food and Sustainability Summit, participants underscored accountability, enabling policies, and smallholder support through robust data and monitoring frameworks. IPLCs reaffirmed their role as stewards of resilient, nature-based food systems critical for biodiversity, nutrition, cultural heritage, and the right to food.

Aligned with the Forum theme, “Resilience for All: Catalyzing Transformational Adaptation,” this session will explore how food systems transformation can drive inclusive adaptation—especially for smallholders, women, and Indigenous Peoples.

Key areas include:

- Positioning food systems at the center of climate action.
- Advancing nutrition security as a resilience cornerstone.
- Strengthening cross-sectoral linkages (agriculture, water, health, nutrition, social protection).
- Promoting policy coherence across governance levels and sectors.
- Fostering inclusive, multi-stakeholder platforms that integrate Indigenous knowledge and community-led solutions.

Organizers:

UNFS Coordination Hub and Adaptation Research Alliance/Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

D4.TS.7

14:00 - 15:30

**MAINSTREAMING LOCALLY LED CLIMATE ACTION FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING:
UNLOCKING SOCIAL CAPITAL & FINANCE FOR STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE**

The session will explore how community participation and social capital form the backbone of systemic resilience in the context of climate-health action in Asia, and the policy and finance that enable this work. It will emphasise the importance of localised action planning for climate-resilient health and social systems.

Building resilience requires trust, networks, and inclusive decision-making that transcend individual projects. Experiences across South Asia show that when community institutions, such as women's groups, indigenous communities, or youth collectives, are empowered, they enable coordination across sectors, bridge knowledge gaps, and sustain long-term resilience efforts.

This session will unpack practical lessons on:

- How social cohesion and collective agency allow communities to address interlinked risks (from climate extremes to public health outcomes and economic shocks).
- How community networks, self-help groups, and women's collectives act as frontline resilience actors.
- How these climate stressors exacerbate the impacts on the health of vulnerable communities in the Asia-Pacific.
- Identify barriers/opportunities for scaling locally led equity-driven adaptation.
- What conditions allow community voices to influence and align with policy and finance systems?
- The role of philanthropy and innovative finance in scaling community-driven adaptation, reaching community networks and bringing down structural barriers to climate finance.
- Barriers and enabling conditions for embedding equity and empowerment in national and subnational adaptation frameworks.

Organizers:

CEEW, Dasra, PATH, IIED, UNDP

D4.TS.8

14:00 - 15:30

FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: FINANCING CLIMATE-PROOF CITIES

Cities in the Asia-Pacific face intensifying climate shocks that threaten infrastructure services and fiscal stability. Bridging the adaptation finance gap requires moving beyond ad-hoc projects to systems-level, finance-ready pipelines that can attract capital from various sources. This session—at the intersection of Infrastructure, Cities and Industries and Financial Systems, Instruments and Modalities—unpacks what works, why, and under what conditions to finance climate-resilient urban infrastructure at scale.

Objectives:

- Examine the adaptation finance gap in Asian cities and the need to shift from fragmented projects toward system-level, finance-ready investment pipelines.
- Showcase innovative financial instruments—such as blended finance, municipal bonds, pooled facilities, and parametric insurance—and assess their effectiveness, scalability, and equity implications.
- Surface enabling policies, fiscal reforms, and measurement frameworks that improve creditworthiness, bankability, and accountability for climate-resilient infrastructure.
- Facilitate peer learning through real-world case studies and interactive dialogue, enabling practitioners to adapt proven financial models to their local urban contexts.

Organizers:

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), British High Commission, New Delhi

D4.TS.9

14:00 - 15:30

ENABLING ADAPTATION PATHWAYS: POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Collaboration among organizations across the Asia-Pacific region is a crucial step toward achieving transformational adaptation. Regional cooperation can strengthen national measures, foster cross-country learning, and accelerate adaptive action at the community level. The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) serves as a hub that provides tools, information, and capacity development programs while promoting partner collaboration. In 2024, AP-PLAT introduced a Three-Year Action Plan to support adaptation efforts in the region, particularly, support for the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) implementation. This session will particularly examine pathways for NAP implementation through exploring how effective partnerships and governance mechanisms can support developing countries to enhance adaptation actions. The session seeks to identify lessons and opportunities for scaling transformational adaptation across diverse contexts in the Asia-Pacific.

The session will:

- Explore how partnerships and policy frameworks can enhance the implementation of NAP.
- Discuss regional experiences in integrating NAP priorities into governance systems.
- Identify enabling conditions for effective cross-country collaboration and scaling adaptation in different sectors.

Organizers:

Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

D4.TS.10

14:00 - 15:30

TRANSFORMATIVE ADAPTATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC: FROM WATER & FOOD SYSTEMS TO 30X30 RESILIENCE PATHWAYS

Transformational adaptation is increasingly recognized as essential for climate and biodiversity resilience, yet there is limited clarity on how to operationalize it in practice. This joint session brings together three complementary perspectives:

- UNEP will present its framework for project-level transformational adaptation, drawing from lessons in ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) projects in Asia and beyond.
- GCF's Independent Evaluation Unit will share evidence from evaluations of adaptation projects in water, food, and health systems, highlighting what works, what doesn't, and the importance of empowerment and equity for sustained change.
- IUCN-ARO and partners will showcase how Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (“30x30”) is being advanced through innovative governance, Indigenous leadership, youth engagement, and regional coalitions.

By integrating these approaches, the session will highlight how water and food systems, biodiversity, and community empowerment can converge to catalyze resilience for all. Participants will gain actionable insights on entry points for transformation across on the management, governance and coalition models, and strategies for scaling innovation across Asia-Pacific. Embedding these into national policies, financing frameworks, and regional cooperation platforms so that transformative practices deliver impact at larger ecological and societal scales.

Objectives:

- Present evidence, frameworks, and lessons learned on transformational adaptation, drawn from projects implemented on the ground.
- Showcase innovative governance and coalition models that link adaptation and water, food and biodiversity and IPLC and youth-led innovations for resilience.
- Identify enabling conditions, barriers, opportunities and practical recommendations (incl. project level entry points) for scaling adaptation.
- Provide actionable recommendations for strengthening and building linkages between NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and biodiversity strategies.

Organizers:

UNEP, IUCN-ARO, Green Climate Fund (GCF Independent Evaluation Unit)

D4.TS.11

16:00 - 17:30

REGIONAL YOUTH ADAPTATION DIALOGUE: STRENGTHENING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN ASIA-PACIFIC

In Asia-Pacific, over a billion children are growing up on the frontlines of climate change, inequality, and crisis. Yet their voices remain largely absent from the decisions shaping their future. Building on the momentum of the Global Youth Dialogue at NAP Expo 2025 in Africa, the Regional Youth Adaptation Dialogue aims to elevate children and youth perspectives from across Asia-Pacific on their role in resilience building at local, national, regional, and global levels.

This session will take a deep dive into children and youth engagement in climate policy and plan formulation, particularly in NAPs, as well as in implementing practical and innovative adaptation solutions. The session aims to gather youth narratives on adaptation and generate a list of strategies to further strengthen meaningful engagement of children and youth in NAPs, incorporating inputs from governments, civil society, and other partners and stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Elevate children's and youth voices in climate adaptation by showcasing their role in resilience building at local, national, regional, and global levels.
- Examine how youth are—or can be—meaningfully engaged in the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other policy frameworks.
- Facilitate intergenerational and multi-stakeholder dialogue, ensuring intersectional representation (children, Indigenous youth, young women, rural and low-income youth).
- Identify barriers, opportunities, and strategies to strengthen institutional support, access to finance, knowledge, and capacity for youth-led adaptation.

Organizers:

UNFCCC RCC Asia Pacific, Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) and UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, UN Women (EMPOWER Project), Child Fund International

D5.TS.8

16:00 - 17:30

SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE NAPS: LEVERAGING THE NEXUS/CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ADAPTATION, FINANCE AND NATURE

This session convenes UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and ICIMOD to discuss the vital roles of ecosystems and financial systems in scaling up effective adaptation. These discussions will focus on tools and approaches to translate global frameworks into local actions through regional cooperation and implementing interventions that are tailored to local contexts. Together, these perspectives will illuminate ways to strengthen inclusive, resilient, locally appropriate and regionally responsive adaptation finance systems that take nature into account. The session will encourage dialogue on how to develop and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and associated financing strategies to support transformative adaptation.

Objectives:

- Discuss recent developments and experiences on adaptation planning, implementation and learning, including on integrating nature into NAPs.
- Share actionable strategies, tools and guidelines for communities, practitioners, and policymakers on incorporating nature and innovative adaptation finance to develop strategies that catalyze transformational adaptation.
- Explore regional opportunities and challenges in finance mobilization and adaptation investment planning for the climate vulnerable.
- Identify needed support for countries on policy, capacity and enabling environment.
- Develop recommendations to advance nature-based solutions and climate resilient social inclusion in resource mobilization and investment planning.

Organizers:

UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Climate Change Division UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Asia Pacific), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

D4.TS.13

16:00 - 17:30

HARNESSING ADAPTATION TOOLS, EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS, AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO UNLOCK CLIMATE FINANCE AND BUILD RESILIENCE

Early Warning Systems (EWS) are central to this transformation. When combined with adaptation planning tools, they not only strengthen the climate rationale of project proposals but also provide governments, technical agencies, and local actors with actionable data for decision-making. Public-private partnerships further enhance this potential by bringing innovation, technology, and financial sustainability to EWS, moving beyond reliance on traditional aid models.

This session will explore how adaptation tools and innovative EWS approaches can be harnessed together to unlock climate finance, strengthen national and local adaptation planning, and ensure early warnings translate into resilience outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate how adaptation tools strengthen the climate rationale of GCF concept notes and project pipelines.
- Introduce MoEJ's Initiative to promote the development of Early Warning Systems through Public Private Partnership.
- Identify enabling governance arrangements and institutional roles that ensure sustainability of EWS in developing countries.
- Share solutions to effectively deliver EWS to vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and local communities, translating forecasts into concrete resilience-building actions.
- Promote regional cooperation and cross-sector collaboration to scale adaptation tools and EWS across Asia-Pacific.

Organizers:

AIT RRC.AP, Pacific Consultants Co., Ltd. (with Ministry of the Environment, Japan), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

D4.TS.14

16:00 - 17:30

TRANSFORMATIVE ADAPTATION FINANCE FOR CITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND INDUSTRY: UNLOCKING INCLUSIVE INVESTMENT PATHWAYS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

The session will draw on the strategic foundations for transformative adaptation finance in urban contexts. Based on four key approaches that bring in practical experiences and existing business models for crafting inclusive climate risk-informed financing strategies and investment plans, this session will demonstrate why planning and investing in system-wide initiatives at the urban level benefits not just the climate vulnerable but also economic and environmental stakeholders, optimizing budgets and capital. The session will explore approaches on how public and private resources can be mobilized through multi-governance level policy processes, tested financial instruments, and sub-national engagement and highlight that beyond the financing gap, designing and implementing a transformative adaptation finance approach can yield more inclusive impact.

The participants will gain appreciation of the following:

- The importance of system-wide planning and investments in cities and on urban infrastructure for the triple dividend that is crucial for inclusive adaptation finance.
- The importance of anchoring climate finance with adaptation policy processes and the role of national frameworks for sub-national access to resources and implementation.
- The complementarity between an adaptation financing strategy and investment plan, and how both facilitate mobilization of resources and utility of innovative financing instruments supported by the public and private sectors
- Real world examples of challenges and lessons on transformative adaptation finance at the city and regional levels from developed and developing countries.

Organizers:

UNDP, World Resources Institute, Paul Watkiss Associates, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

D4.TS.15

16:00 - 17:30

WATER GOVERNANCE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE: PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENTS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS

This session will identify climate adaptation and finance investment priorities for improved multilateral transboundary cooperation and knowledge exchange advocating inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach to benefit communities. The session will highlight examples of challenges, priorities and best practices from the River Basins in South Asia and South East Asia regions.

Objectives:

- Highlight the transboundary water governance priorities to strengthen adaptation planning for riparian communities in South Asia and South East Asia regions.
- Discuss ways to enhance access of communities to local-level climate finance investments across transboundary basins.
- Identify the way forward to enhance, promote and scale multilateral transboundary dialogue and identify ways to integrate local-level institutions, communities, leaders to build resilience among river basin communities. and countries.

Organizers:

ADPC Bangkok, Oxfam in Asia

DAY FIVE
3 OCTOBER 2025

Day 5 consists of a plenary session, 10 technical sessions and the closing of the 9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum.

D5.PS.1

09:00 - 12:30

PLENARY 3: INTERPLAY OF ENABLERS

Climate change continues to present complex and accelerating risks to the Asia-Pacific region, from tropical cyclones and floods to droughts, sea level rise, biodiversity loss, and food and water insecurity. These impacts threaten lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and economic growth. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have underscored the urgency of transformational adaptation - structural, systemic, and strategic shifts needed to address climate risks that cannot be managed through existing approaches.

Transformational adaptation requires dynamic interaction among multiple enablers. Policy frameworks, governance mechanisms, financial systems, science and knowledge, innovative technologies, and social capital each play a distinct role. Yet, these enablers do not function in isolation: strengthening one can unlock or accelerate progress in others, while tensions and gaps between them can reinforce vulnerability. Understanding these interdependencies is critical to building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable futures in the region.

This session will unpack the interlinkages between enablers, explore the barriers and opportunities at their intersections, and reflect on practical pathways to catalyze systemic resilience.

Objective:

To examine the interdependencies, synergies, and tensions among enablers of transformational adaptation, and to identify how strengthening one enabler can unlock cascading benefits across others, accelerating adaptation outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region.

D5.TS.1

11:00 - 12:30

SCALING CLIMATE JUSTICE: GENDER AND INCLUSIVE DATA FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

Many countries across the Asia-Pacific region face challenges in inclusively assessing baseline and progress towards adaptation, particularly using indicators disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, and geography. In tandem, communities are at the frontline of climate impacts, yet their knowledge and coping strategies remain undervalued. Gender-responsive, data-driven adaptation planning and progress monitoring are essential to ensure sustainable actions that leave no one behind. Conversely, ensuring community knowledge feeds into policies processes is also critical for sustainable adaptation. Building upon the APAN-8 session and intersessional webinars, the event will delve into opportunities for strengthening gender responsive, climate science-driven approaches to adaptation planning and implementation while boosting the integration of community data into adaptation policy processes.

Objectives:

- Emphasize strategies for scaling up collective knowledge creation from communities which have successfully enhanced their adaptation resilience in crisis contexts.
- Share existing gender indicators and policy tools that support informed decision-making and progress tracking for transformative adaptation across all 4 critical systems.
- Explore the use of gender and adaptation indicators by governments for assessing, monitoring and implementing National Adaptation Plans aligned with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

Organizers:

UN Women, ACE, ARROW, Baithak Challenging Taboos, SPC, UNEP

D5.TS.2

11:00 - 12:30

SCALING UP IMPLEMENTATION OF NAPS TO ENSURE TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

At the recent NAP Expo 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia, the LEG presented the latest version of the updated NAP technical guidelines, highlighting use cases based on each country's progress in their NAP process and its key developments.

This session aims to share the updated NAP technical guidelines with Asia-Pacific countries, targeting government/ministry representatives (national and subnational levels) and stakeholders actively involved in national and local adaptation planning, formulation and implementation.

Additionally, this session will be conducted under the Food and Agricultural Systems theme, which is aligned with the GGA thematic target: Sustainable food and nutrition security for all. Recognizing that this system is commonly addressed in the NAP submissions by Asia-Pacific countries, this session will serve as a platform to discuss areas where support is needed within the sector, such as identifying and implementing sectoral targets and adaptation priorities, among other relevant and practical insights from countries.

Objectives:

- To present a comprehensive overview of the updated NAP technical guidelines.
- To demonstrate how NAPs can be used to achieve the GGA targets, such as on sustainable food and nutrition security among other thematic targets, and how the updated guidelines inform the development of resource mobilization and implementation strategies.
- To introduce use cases in applying the guidelines to advance formulation, updating and implementation of NAPs.
- To identify areas where countries require additional support in NAP formulation and implementation, including per sector, such as in food and agricultural systems.

Organizers:

UNFCCC RCC ASIA PACIFIC

D5.TS.3

11:00 - 12:30

BUILDING COASTAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: FROM NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO INCLUSIVE FISHERIES

This session explores climate adaptation to support livelihoods and marine and coastal ecosystems.

On one side, it will focus on small-scale fishers in South Asia, who face disproportionate risks due to climate impacts, unsafe conditions, and depletion of resources. The session will highlight the need for inclusive policies, safety nets, gender equity, and recognition of indigenous knowledge.

On the other, it will showcase how Blue Carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs) act as transformational pathways for climate adaptation and mitigation, highlighting cases from Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines. These ecosystems not only sequester carbon but also protect coastlines and sustain local livelihoods.

Objectives:

- Explore inclusive approaches to strengthen resilience for small-scale fishers in South Asia, addressing climate risks, safety nets, gender equity, and indigenous knowledge.
- Highlight the role of Blue Carbon ecosystems—mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs—as transformational pathways for climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Facilitate dialogue on balancing conservation, human rights, and development priorities in coastal and marine adaptation.
- Showcase community-driven solutions, financing mechanisms, and regional coordination efforts to advance sustainable adaptation practices.

Organizers:

Oxfam and COBSEA

D5.TS.4

11:00 - 12:30

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION: ENABLING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

Co-organized by FAO and UNDP, this session will bring together different countries and development partners to exchange knowledge on opportunities and barriers for scaling up transformational adaptation in agrifood systems. Building on recent analyses of climate-related risks and greenhouse gas hotspots, as well as adaptation actions reflected in NDCs and NAPs, the session will highlight how evidence can inform decision-making.

Objectives:

- Facilitate cross-country learning on how evidence can inspire replication and scaling of successful practices.
- Identify lessons on translating climate risk analyses into policy and practice for transformational adaptation in agriculture.
- Examine barriers and enabling conditions for scaling evidence-based approaches across diverse country contexts.
- Strengthen partnerships that connect science, policy, and practice for more effective transformational adaptation in agrifood systems.

Organizers:

FAO, UNDP

PROTECTING PEOPLE, PROTECTING SYSTEMS: TRANSFORMATIONAL

D5.TS.5

11:00 - 12:30

ADAPTATION TO RISING HEAT

Heat stress is not only a public health crisis but also a systemic challenge that exacerbates vulnerabilities across agriculture, water, urban systems, and biodiversity. It is an economic and social justice issue. Protecting workers means protecting food systems, infrastructure, and economies themselves. Traditional incremental adaptation is proving insufficient; the urgency now is for transformational adaptation, rethinking systems, policies, and governance to drive long-term resilience.

This session will explore innovative approaches and partnerships to scale transformational adaptation that addresses heat stress while safeguarding ecosystems and communities.

Objectives:

- To advance regional dialogue on transformational adaptation approaches to heat stress.
- To highlight the role of nature-based solutions in tackling heat stress as an interconnected challenge of climate change, biodiversity loss, and disaster risk.
- To provide a platform for sharing lessons, innovations, and cross-sectoral collaboration opportunities.

Organizers:

IUCN, University of Thessaly, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Alluvium Group, Thailand Environment Institute, Asian Development Bank

D5.TS.6

14:00 - 15:30

ENABLERS AND BARRIERS TO TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION: LESSONS FROM CLARE PROJECTS IN ASIA

This session brings together representatives from several CLARE projects to explore both the enablers and barriers to transformational adaptation across diverse contexts in Asia. Drawing on lessons from CLARE projects in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines and India, speakers will share practical experiences in advancing climate adaptation.

Discussions will highlight community-based co-management in reef ecosystems, the rights and challenges of displaced populations in planned relocation, innovative facilitation and capacity-building for adaptation, and the importance of co-creating solutions with local communities and governments in water governance and agriculture systems. The session aims to offer actionable insights on how integrated approaches, inclusive engagement, and cross-sector collaboration can overcome obstacles and drive meaningful adaptation outcomes in the region.

Organizers:

PlanAdapt, CLARE Partners in Asia

D5.TS.7

14:00 - 15:30

STRENGTHENING URBAN ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE: CLIMATE CHANGE, EXTREME HEAT AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

With 2024 witnessing new record high temperatures globally, extreme urban heat has become an urgent climate crisis for cities across the Asia-Pacific. Exacerbated by the urban heat island effect, this phenomenon poses a significant threat to public health and social equity. This session will examine how adaptation pathways can address not only urban heat but also the broader implications of climate change on health in urban systems. Moving beyond incremental solutions, the discussion will explore systems-wide shifts, including establishing climate risk identification and measurement tools, mainstreaming climate resilience into city planning, and embedding climate-informed health thresholds into public policy.

Drawing on lessons from diverse urban landscapes across Asia, the conversation will highlight enablers such as policy, planning, governance, community empowerment, and innovative financing.

Objectives:

- Foster knowledge sharing among urban practitioners, city-level decision-makers, and local implementers;
- Enhance insights on actionable interventions;
- Identify key areas for future research and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Organizer:

CarbonCare InnoLab (CCIL) & Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
UNDP

D5.TS.9

14:00 - 15:30

D5.TS.9 RESILIENCE GATEWAYS: EMBEDDING ADAPTATION ACROSS THE INFRASTRUCTURE LIFECYCLE

When planning infrastructure investments, we must use systems thinking to embed climate adaptation and disaster resilience into infrastructure projects because infrastructure must perform reliably over long lifecycles in a world of interconnected risks and accelerating climate impacts.

There are substantial benefits from embedding adaptation and resilience in the early stage of infrastructure planning: low upfront resilience and adaptation premiums compared to the price of inaction and recovery; reliable service delivery that reduces the loss of life and livelihoods during shocks and stresses; increasing awareness of climate resilience from investors, insurers, operators and regulators; economic productivity and competitiveness from reliable infrastructure services that underpins supply chains, jobs, and investment; and, improved social and environmental outcomes.

This session will discuss how to incorporate resilience into infrastructure design and operation, from the early stage. Speakers will highlight the increasing demand for a shift towards climate-resilient infrastructure, and analytical works to inform design and choose effective adaptation measures. The session will also discuss how institutional frameworks and infrastructure standards can support the integration of climate adaptation and resilience. It will introduce some examples of integrating resilience into the lifecycle of infrastructure, such as infrastructure with nature-based solutions.

Organizers:

P4I, DFA, ADB

D5.TS.10

14:00 - 15:30

POWER IN MANY FORMS: INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP DRIVING TRANSFORMATIONAL ADAPTATION

This interactive session explores how inclusive leadership and a whole-of-society approach drive transformational adaptation across Asia and the Pacific region. It spotlights the leadership of women and girls in all their diversities, including persons with disabilities and older people, showing how their inclusion transforms both adaptation interventions and the broader systems in which they operate.

It will draw on experiences from gender-transformative leadership initiatives, nature-based solutions, and older people's stewardship of ecosystems, highlighting how women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and older people are shaping adaptation pathways in fragile systems.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate how inclusive and feminist leadership, across women, youth, older people, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities, drives transformational adaptation and strengthens systemic resilience.
- Identify enabling environments that support diverse leadership across adaptation systems, including NbS. Examine barriers and opportunities to embed intergenerational leadership, drawing on older people's ecological knowledge and stewardship.
- Showcase how inclusive leadership translates into practice through NbS, revealing pathways to scale community-driven, equitable and transformational adaptation.

Organizers:

ARROW, ASB, Civic exchange, Helpage International, IUCN, OHCHR, Seneca Impact, UNEP, UN WOMEN

D5.PS.2

16:00 - 17:30

CLOSING SESSION

The Closing Session of the 9th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum will bring together the key insights and discussions from across the week. Stream leads will present concise summaries of the main highlights and takeaways from their respective system sessions, offering participants a clear synthesis of the lessons learned, good practices shared, and emerging priorities for action. These presentations will set the stage for a consolidated reflection, where APAN Secretariat will deliver action-oriented recommendations for national, regional, and global actors so that the Forum concludes with a clear pathway for advancing transformational adaptation in practice.

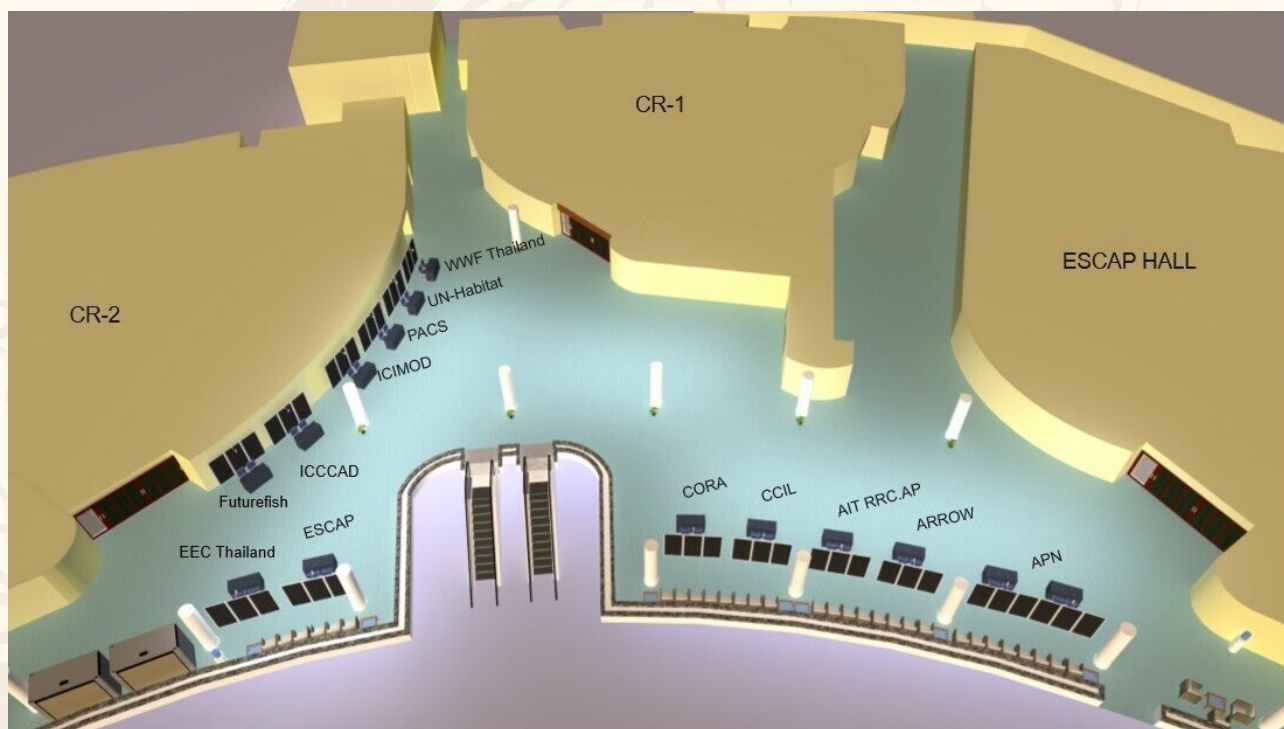
4. MARKETPLACE/ EXHIBITION

The Marketplace offers an informal space where the Member States, civil society, international organisations, private sector and other stakeholders can share best practices, publications, and product displays centered on integrated and inclusive approaches to climate change adaptation, with an emphasis on acceleration and delivery.

LAYOUT OF MARKETPLACE

9th APAN Forum, 29 Sept - 3 Oct 2025

UNCC level 2



Total: 14 booths

1. Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
2. Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
3. Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
4. Asian Institute of Technology Regional Resource Centre for Asia and Pacific (AIT RRC.AP)
5. CarbonCare InnoLab (CCIL)
6. Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA)
7. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
8. Environmental Education Centre (EEC) Thailand
9. Futurefish
10. International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
11. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
12. People of Asia for Climate Solutions (PACS)
13. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
14. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Thailand

<https://indico.un.org/event/1019400/>

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/9th-asia-pacific-climate-change-adaptation-apan-forum>

<https://adb.eventsair.com/apanforum2025/>



apan.secretariat@un.org