

**Submission by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

In response to the call from Parties and observers regarding views on the subsequent workshops, including on general considerations, the topics for discussion under the themes identified in the compilation and synthesis of submissions, areas of work, expected outcomes, examples, case studies and modalities, for each workshop to be conducted in 2022

23 September 2022

A. Background

1. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission regarding views on the workshops of the [Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation](#) (decision 7/CMA.3) and potential UNEP’s contribution to GGA work programme on methodologies, indicators, data and metrics, monitoring and evaluation.
2. The SB 56 requested the secretariat, under the guidance of their Chairs, to compile and synthesise, by August 2022, indicators, approaches, targets and metrics that could be relevant for reviewing overall progress towards achieving the GGA, building on the 2021 technical paper by the Adaptation Committee, while also taking into account other relevant reports, communications and plans under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, UNEP, IPCC, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) and the Sendai Framework, relevant multilateral frameworks and mechanisms, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, and the discussions at the first workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme. As such, the UNEP aims to contribute to the GGA’s work programme, through technical input, building on its adaptation practice, SDG processes and various other intergovernmental processes.
3. In line with the Work Programme on GGA, UNEP’s [Medium-Term Strategy](#) and climate change sub-programme prioritises support to government and partners to ensure that actions are compatible with the long-term mitigation and resilience goals of the Paris Agreement. UNEP supports member states on climate change adaptation, mitigation, environmental monitoring, and SDG reporting which can be vital contributions and inputs to the GGA. UNEP has developed publications and tools that build on UNEP’s adaptation portfolio to share best practices, case studies, modalities and metrics/indicators related to building resilience against the adverse effects of climate change.

B. Key Considerations for the third Workshop on GGA

4. UNEP acknowledges the compilation and synthesis of submissions on the Glasgow– Sharm el-Sheikh work programme prepared by the Secretariat, stating that “many Parties called on sharing experiences to identify adaptation options and needs as well as best practices for scalable and replicable adaptation actions, including nature-based solutions, at the local, regional and national levels, with a view to incentivizing and further inspiring adaptation actions around the globe.”

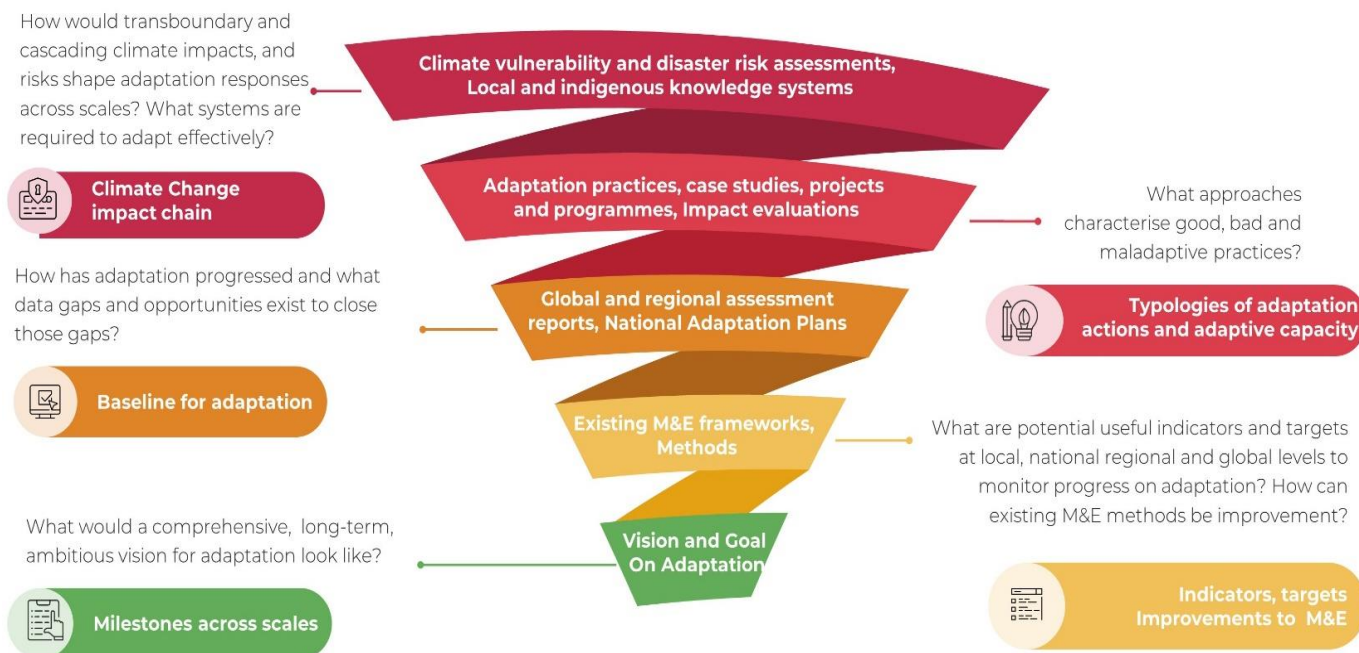
5. Regarding the role of nature in the impact chain, 60% of ecosystem services and up to 70% of regulating services are being degraded or used unsustainably¹ and measuring and maintaining natural capital stocks as they form the basis for current and future climate resilience would be crucial. As evidence from IPCC (2022) suggests, climate change has already altered terrestrial, freshwater and ocean ecosystems at global scale, with multiple impacts evident at regional and local scales. Impacts are evident on ecosystem structure, species geographic ranges and timing of seasonal life cycles. As such, the GGA should reinforce goals and that enables the basis for future adaptation investments by halting substantial climate change (impacts, damages, and increasingly irreversible losses) to terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal and open ocean marine ecosystems that would prevent tipping points of some critical and sensitive ecosystems.
6. Existing M&E systems for adaptation is complex, poorly developed, context-specific, and variable due to the non-linearity of climate risks and change pathways. UNEP's Adaptation Gap (2021) report shows that progress in development of national M&E systems are mixed – 36% of countries are in the process of developing a system and only 8% of countries have evaluated their adaptation plans. This means that the GGA should capture this complexity of setting up national M&E systems, while ensuring workshop dialogues also identify lessons from countries in developing such systems, and how financial, human, and technical resources can be driven to inform what M&E (and learning) approaches are needed.
7. UNEP is the custodian for SDG indicators² across SDG Goals 6, 8, 12, 14, 15 and 17 that cover topics related to resource management and protection of fresh water, marine and terrestrial ecosystems; circular economy, including the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; and environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste. Many adaptation processes could be measured through existing SDG indicators covering a range of ecosystems, national policy processes and existing SDG monitoring systems can be adjusted to better account for adaptation in the GGA.
8. Building on from experience from SDG and environmental monitoring processes, UNEP would suggest that the third GGA workshop on "*Methodologies, indicators, data and metrics, monitoring and evaluation*" focuses on the following topics for discussion:
 - Understanding of climate change impacts across value chains, role of nature in the impact chain and which adaptation strategies to adopt to reduce impacts and risks
 - Ways to measure natural capital stocks as they form the basis for current and future climate resilience
 - Thematic indicators for vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water, forests, oceans, cities across global, regional, national, and local scales, building on the monitoring frameworks developed by countries under National Adaptation Plans.
 - Disaggregated and context-specific indicators related to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and finance, where a pool of indicators and metrics can be drawn from existing indicator frameworks that bring together nature and development, for example SDGs, Global Biodiversity Framework, and UN Decades on Ecosystem Restoration and Ocean Science for Sustainability. Progress on reducing impact to climate change should be measured against the climate baseline in each country.
 - Ways to bring in National Statistical Offices to measure macro-level adaptation progress using adapted data gathering methodologies;
 - Developing research frameworks to carry out deep dive analyses on progress on reducing exposure and vulnerability to climate change;
 - Process to develop metrics and indicators for assessing outcome, impact, and progress towards GGA with an emphasis on NbS and locally led adaptation solutions.

¹ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. Island Press, Washington, DC

² Available: <https://wesr.unep.org/article/sustainable-development-goals-0>

9. Figure 1 provides an overview of how the learning process from current and past adaptation practices can be used to inform the development of a monitoring framework on adaptation at the country and global levels.

Figure 1. Ways to guide and inform the framing of key questions on indicators, targets, and metrics.



10. Possible examples of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to draw on to for the workshop may include:

- The SDG Monitoring Frameworks of 16 goals and indicators that are either directly or indirectly tied to climate change impacts and adaptation; these are relevant methods, targets, and indicators that GGA could build on the existing SDG.
- The UNEP adaptation gap report that provides a framework to assess progress in planning, implementing and financing adaptation, and assess the extent to which such investments will sufficiently reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- [System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Ecosystem Accounting](#) that is being implemented by 37 countries
- [The global set of climate change statistics and indicators](#), which was adopted by the Statistical Commission in March 2022. It provides a comprehensive statistical framework with statistics, indicators and metadata designed to support countries in preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators according to their individual concerns, priorities, and resources.

11. Prior to and after GGA workshop, UNEP would be pleased to provide best-practices and lessons learned of implementation of nature-based solutions, drawn from more than 75 UNEP’s adaptation projects and other UNEP initiatives related to monitoring and evaluation, including UNEP’s SDG monitoring work on environmental practices and training and capacity development tools for countries’ SDG reporting.

12. A key resource in this context of the workshop and GGA is a report entitled “*Measuring Progress Environment and the SDGs*”³, developed by UNEP SDG and Environmental Statistics Unit. The report,

³ Available: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/measuring-progress-environment-and-sdgs>

based on data from the SDG Global Indicators Database, also gives a general analysis of progress made based on the 92 SDG indicators which are most relevant to the environmental dimension of the SDGs and a regional analysis of the progress in each region.

13. UNEP produced the annual Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) in the run-up to the UNFCCC COP. This spotlight report series informs the parties to the UNFCCC and the broader UNFCCC constituency, of the status and trends with regards to progress towards climate adaptation at global and regional levels as well as progress and action to bridge the gap between pledges and action to reach the Climate Change Adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement. The AGR series provides a set of science-based assessments for policy- and decision-makers to increase ambition in adapting to climate change across key climate-sensitive sectors. In this way, the series addresses the climate crisis and directly contributes to UNEP's Climate Action outcomes.
14. UNEP hosts the Secretariat of the UN-wide World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP), an initiative that focuses on filling knowledge gaps on climate adaptation science to inform evidence-based policies, solutions and actions for successful adaptation to changing climate conditions. The WASP's priority is to address the knowledge needs in vulnerable developing countries and to provide policy-relevant science for decision-makers. The WASP is a joint initiative of UNEP, WMO, UNFCCC, IPCC, UNU, GEF and GCF.
15. The UNEP convened [Global Adaptation Network](#) (GAN) has generated a worldwide platform to support exchange of climate change knowledge in a variety of ways. Of relevance, would be the regional networks and partners hosted by the GAN, each of which brokers knowledge services in respective regions to enable early action on loss and damage, feeding into UNFCCC processes. GAN has developed regional nodes that could be useful to building an awareness on the GGA, such as the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Food Security in Africa Assembly (EBAFOSA).

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