

# Resilience for All: Enabling Transformative Implementation

**8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**30 August - 1 September 2023  
Songdo, Republic of Korea**

**Cover photo: Mugunghwa** means “**eternal blossom that never fades.**” The flower has been an important symbol of Korean culture for centuries and an object of deep affection among Koreans. It can regrow even under the harshest conditions and even if damaged. It symbolizes hardiness, resilience and triumph. Aptly, the Mugunghwa, or the Rose of Sharon is the Republic of Korea's national flower.

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[www.asiapacificadapt.net](http://www.asiapacificadapt.net)

## Acknowledgements

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The Summary Report is an output of the 8th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, held from 30 August to 1 September 2023 in Songdo, Republic of Korea.

The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) stands as the flagship event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN). It offers a platform for regional adaptation practitioners to convene, exchange insights and experiences, and collaborate on pertinent outcomes and practical solutions essential for tackling climate change challenges. With its diverse thematic focuses, the APAN Forum has been hosted and sponsored by various governments and agencies since 2010.

Launched by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2009 under the Global Adaptation Network (GAN), APAN aims to empower adaptation actors in the region with the expertise necessary for the design and implementation of adaptation measures. It further emphasises enhancing capacities to tap into technologies and finances, while also ensuring the integration of climate change adaptation into national policies, strategies, and plans.

**Forum Lead Organisations:** The United Nations Environment Programme would like to thank the following partner organisations for their contributions to the design and delivery of the 8th APAN Forum: UNEP Nature for Climate Branch, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia Pacific, and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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# List of Acronyms

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<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>APAN</b>	Asia Pacific Adaptation Network
<b>AP-PLAT</b>	Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
<b>EW4ALL</b>	Early Warnings For ALL
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GBF</b>	Global Biodiversity Framework
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>IPCC</b>	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>ITLK</b>	Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Knowledge
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>KGAW</b>	Korean Global Adaptation Week
<b>LMAE</b>	Learning, Monitoring, Accountability, Evaluation
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring & Evaluation
<b>MoEJ</b>	Ministry of Environment Japan
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NbS</b>	Nature-based Solutions
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution



## List of Acronyms

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<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organisation
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEI</b>	Stockholm Environment Institute
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organisation
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEI</b>	Stockholm Environment Institute
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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**"The science is clear. Climate resilience development is already challenging at current global warming levels. Starting today, every action, every decision matters. Worldwide action on adaptation is more urgent than previously assessed."**

**Dr. Tae-Sung Cheong**

IPCC Coordinating Lead Author and Senior Research Engineer  
at the National Disaster Management Institute of Korea



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea

**"We could talk about adaptation for days but what I ask now is that you, the practitioners, take forward what you have learned at this forum and the adaptation week. We at UNEP will do the same."**

**Inger Andersen**

Executive Director of the UNEP

*photo with Antoinette Taus, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, along with youth representatives*



**"The global climate crisis is no longer a future spectre but a tangible reality impacting diverse sectors. Building resilience is not just a choice, it is an imperative."**

**Ms. Marlene Nilsson**

Deputy Regional Director

UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea



**"We must do our best to scale-up and speed-up our climate actions and mitigation efforts, if we want to survive, and on top of that we need to adapt ourselves to this profound and rapid change."**

**Mr. Sang-Hyup Kim**  
Co-chairperson  
Presidential Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea

**"All nations and cities must find ways to promptly strengthen cooperation to achieve climate change adaptation for the future of humankind."**

**Mr. Jeong-Bok Yoo**  
Mayor  
Incheon Metropolitan City

**"The effects of climate change are already posing a threat to human societies anywhere, everywhere. Improving adaptive capacity is key to promoting climate change adaptation across the world and it is important to share adaptation information, best practices and lessons learned."**

**Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa**  
Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs  
Ministry of the Environment of Japan



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea



# 1. KEY MESSAGES OF THE FORUM

## From Incremental Adjustment to Transformation

- Enabling transformative adaptation requires moving away from a sectoral approach to policy-making and planning. Additionally, vertical collaboration from local to sub-national and national levels is essential through various mechanisms and initiatives, including NDCs and NAPs.
- The need for continuous adaptation, which involves reframing both anticipatory (pre-event) adaptation and reactive (post-event) loss and damage, along with the integration of parallel systems at both global and national levels, is emphasised as essential for effectively addressing challenges.
- To realign with the Paris Agreement's goals, a robust and comprehensive framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation must be adopted at COP28, emphasizing the priority of people's livelihoods and ecosystems.

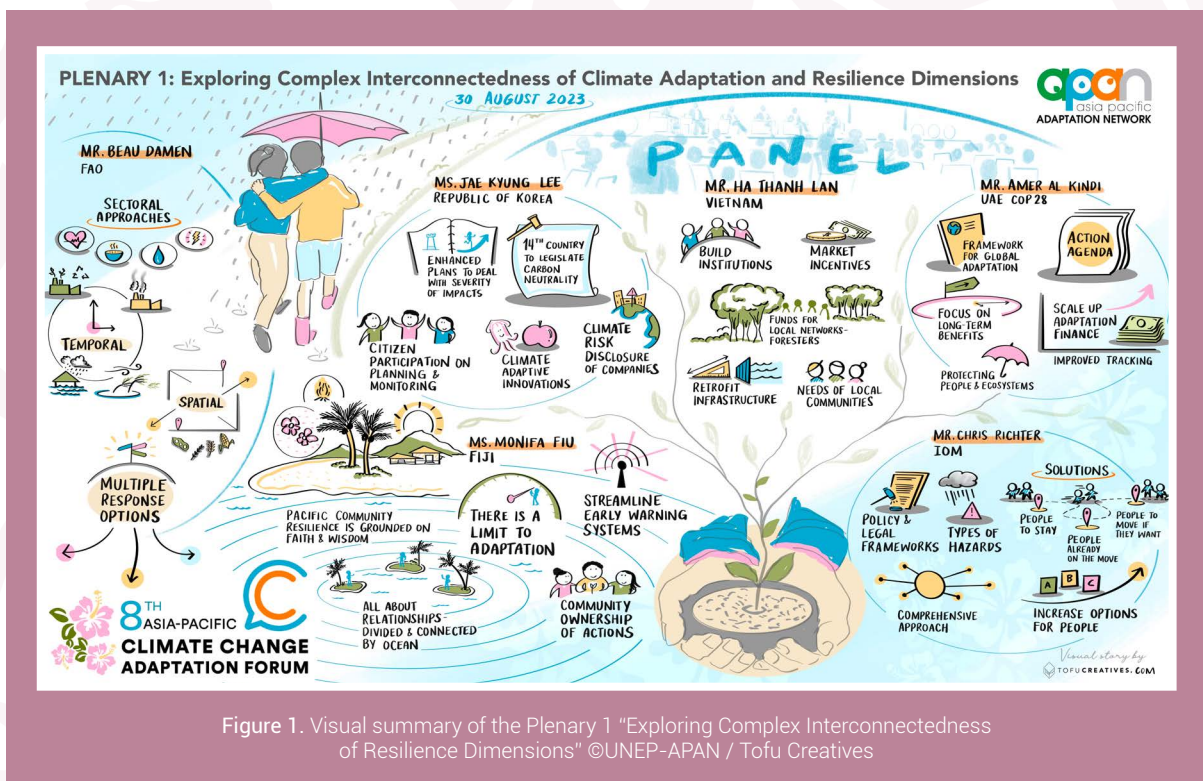


Figure 1. Visual summary of the Plenary 1 "Exploring Complex Interconnectedness of Resilience Dimensions" ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives

## Shifting to the Adaptation Implementation Phase

- Mainstreaming adaptation and enhancing coordination in public decision making require high-level political commitment and the inclusion of governance instruments such as legislation.
- Creating and implementing a convergence approach in governance is crucial. This entails coordinating the policies, practices and resources among various governmental departments and agencies to address the intertwined issues of climate change and biodiversity.
- To foster inter-ministerial collaboration and adopt a whole-of-government approach, it is essential not only to recognise interconnected resilience enablers but also to elevate their political prominence. This ensures broader engagement and buy-in for building resilience for all.
- To facilitate implementation at the sub-national and local levels, local leadership and capacity-building initiatives are essential. This ensures that local development plans are climate-proofed and that top-down and bottom-up strategies are seamlessly integrated.

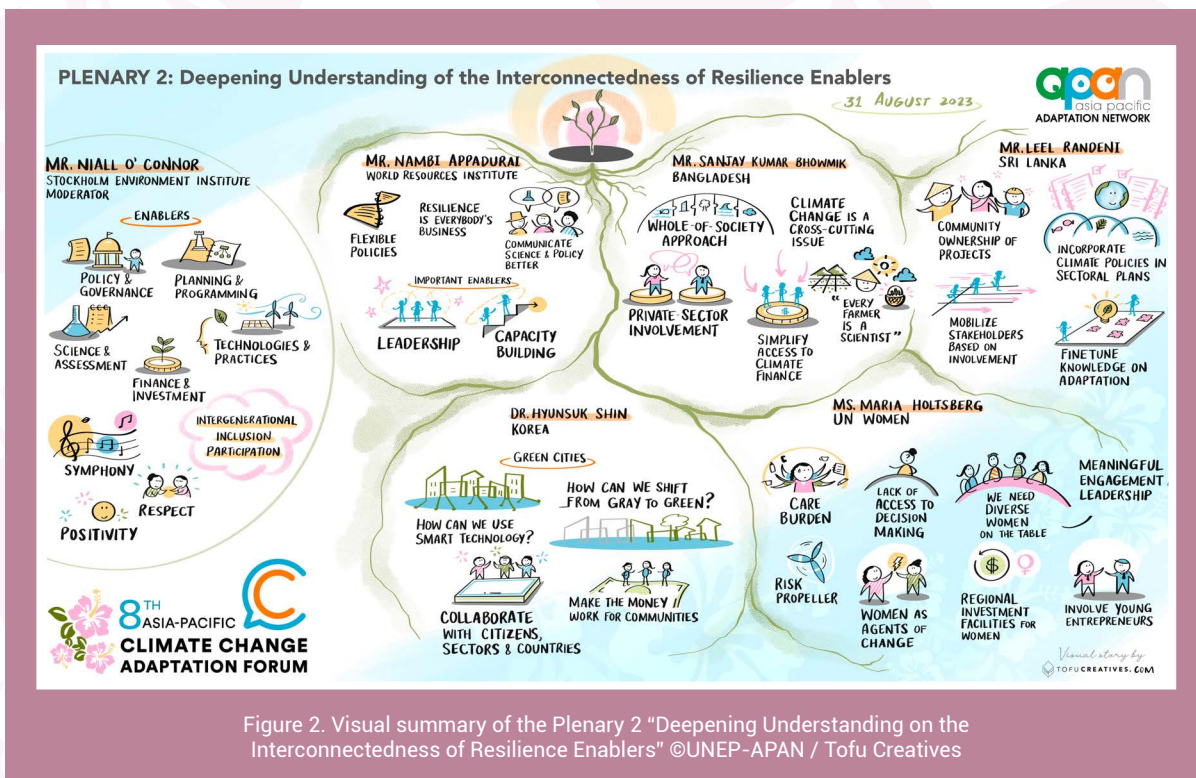


Figure 2. Visual summary of the Plenary 2 "Deepening Understanding on the Interconnectedness of Resilience Enablers" ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives



## Embrace Systems and Nexus Thinking

- Adopting a systems perspective that considers sectoral, spatial, and temporal interconnectedness is essential to avoid lock-in effects associated with certain adaptation strategies and potential maladaptation.
- Co-benefits illustrate the importance of addressing climate and biodiversity together. While harnessing the potential of nature-based solutions, other complementary measures such as climate-smart agriculture could be essential for a holistic, balanced approach tailored to specific local contexts and high-risk scenarios.
- There is a need for more integrated and inclusive dialogues between climate and biodiversity stakeholder groups. By doing so, we can simultaneously address both biodiversity and climate objectives, highlighting the advantages of combining these interrelated concerns.

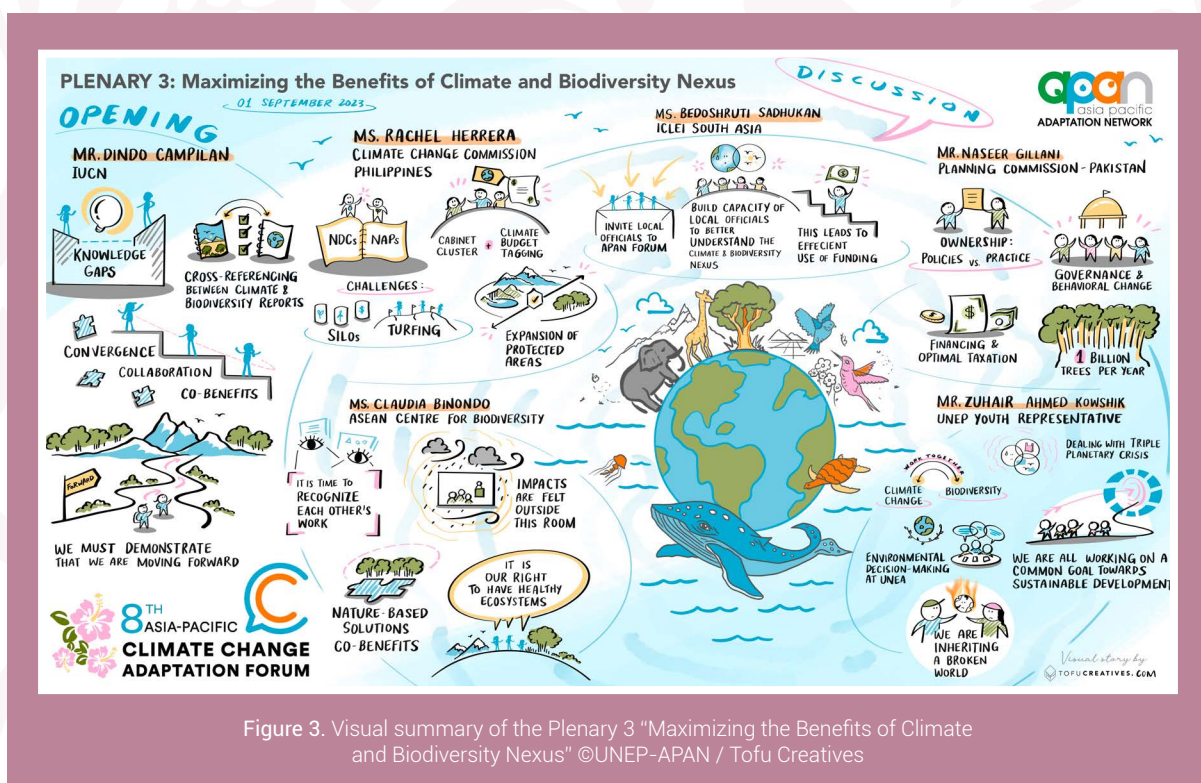


Figure 3. Visual summary of the Plenary 3 "Maximizing the Benefits of Climate and Biodiversity Nexus" ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives



## Restructure Adaptation Financing

- To scale up adaptation finance, it is essential to adopt a long-term perspective, recognizing the benefits of safeguarding people, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Additionally, it is crucial to understand how these investments align with and further Sustainable Development Goals.
- The architecture of the financial system needs to be restructured to be more client-centric and inclusive, positioning vulnerable communities at the core of financial decision-making. This entails redefining financial products and systems to be more community-oriented and gender-transformative.
- National actions on loss and damage are lagging due to limited research finance and technical support, causing unclear strategies for vulnerable countries. Experts urge the prompt establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, emphasizing its necessity to be supplementary, accessible, and aligned with country-specific needs and sustainability goals.
- To mobilise private financial flows effectively, it is crucial to recognise and harness market forces that innovate, engage, and channel investments into adaptation effort.

## Prioritise Inclusive Climate Actions

- To address persistent gaps in knowledge and capacity, the following solutions are proposed: i) Strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing data systems, ii) Bridging knowledge and policy gaps, and iii) Enhancing early warning systems and technology access.
- Improved information flow requires accessible scientific information at local levels and a strong science-policy connection and sharing and utilizing knowledge across sectors.
- Anchored in the principles of climate justice, it is imperative for the global community to amplify their contributions and re-evaluate insurance and direct funding mechanisms. Vulnerable communities, who disproportionately suffer consequences like loss of livelihoods and homes, must be at the forefront of these considerations.

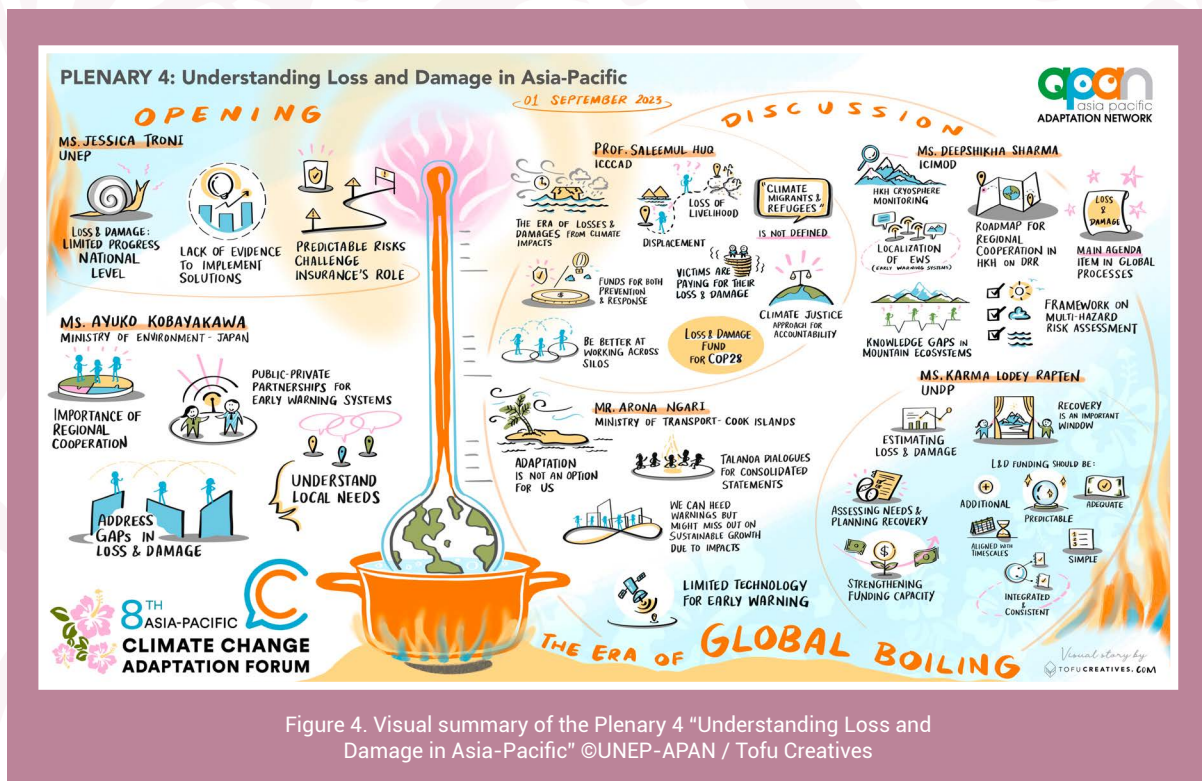


Figure 4. Visual summary of the Plenary 4 “Understanding Loss and Damage in Asia-Pacific” ©UNEP- APAN / Tofu Creatives





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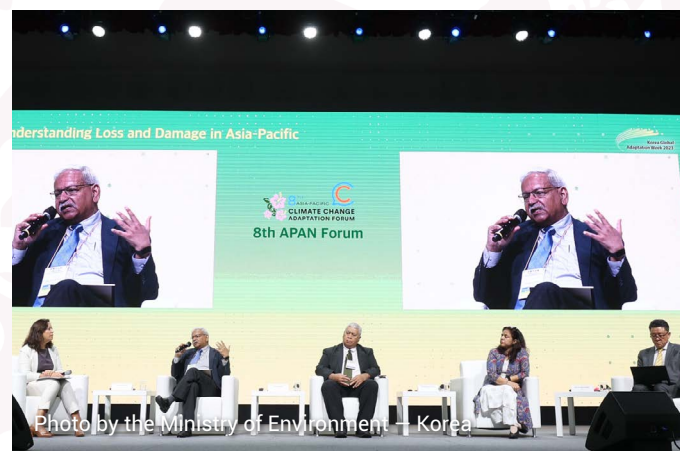


Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea

**Focus on key adaptation issues.** The 8th APAN Forum hosted four plenary sessions tackling the complex interconnectedness of climate adaptation, resilience dimensions and resilience enablers, benefits of climate and biodiversity nexus and loss and damage in the Asia and the Pacific



Photo by the Ministry of Environment – Korea

**Voices from the Pacific Islands.** Delegation from the Pacific Islands shared their experiences, insights and aspirations during the 8th APAN Forum.



## 2. ABOUT THE FORUM

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### 2.1 Overview

Recognised as the Asia-Pacific's largest and longest-standing gathering of adaptation practitioners, the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) is the biennial flagship event of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Secretariat, hosted within the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The APAN Forum stands as the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners, offering a space to convene, share knowledge, and collaboratively work towards effective outcomes and practical solutions that tackle the pressing challenges posed by climate change.

The 8th APAN Forum was held in-person as part of the Korea Global Adaptation Week (KGAW) 2023 framework at Songdo Convensia, Republic of Korea. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Korea Environment Institute – Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change, and Incheon Metropolitan City hosted the event. It was co-organised by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UNEP, facilitated by the APAN Secretariat.

The Forum featured four plenaries and 20 parallel stream sessions, exhibitions, as well as pre-forum and networking events. Over 350 participants from 60 countries attended in person, representing governments, intergovernmental and UN organisations, civil society, the private sector, youth groups, and more. Throughout the Forum's five-day span, attendees benefited from diverse experiences and perspectives, established new partnerships, and shared insights from cutting-edge scientific research and practical resilience-building solutions.

The APAN Forum aimed to:

- Enhance understanding of climate change adaptation issues, approaches, and policies for effective planning;
- Provide a comprehensive report on actions taken and progress made to address knowledge, policy, and funding gaps since the last APAN Forum;
- Serve as a platform for accelerating action and implementing adaptation knowledge and programmes, offering actionable guidelines for communities, practitioners, and policymakers;

- Formulate recommendations to expand adaptation efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, guiding contributions to COPs and other global/regional initiatives; and,
- Promote climate change adaptation and resilience through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and amplification of messages from local to global levels.

## 2.2 Forum Theme

### ***Resilience for All: Enabling transformative implementation***

Over the past two decades, Resilience has served as a unifying theme for the APAN Forums. The past years have seen significant efforts towards generating knowledge and information on climate change adaptation at the global and regional levels. However, we are still significantly off-schedule to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and the world is in a state of climate emergency. The current climate change impacts are evident and disruptive in sectors like agriculture, ecosystems, human health, urban settlements, and infrastructure.

The sub-theme is aligned with the overarching theme of KGAW 2023 – “*A New Era for Adaptation: Scaling up and transformation in adaptation*”. It is also in line with the key outcomes of COP27, further emphasising the importance of transformative approach to accelerating and enhancing adaptation efforts.

## 2.3 Forum Structure

### ***The Means to Build Resilience: A Matrix Approach***

<b>Streams Enablers</b>	<b>Resilience of Food Systems</b>	<b>Resilience of Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services</b>	<b>Resilience of Communities</b>	<b>Resilience of Cities, Infrastructure and Settlements</b>
Policy and Governance				
Planning and Programming				
Science and Assessment				
Technologies and Practices				
Finance and Investment				

**Gender and social inclusion** were considered throughout the resilience streams and enablers as a cross-cutting issue.

## Streams

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The APAN Forum is structured around the overarching theme of resilience and is structured into four thematic “streams”. Sessions under each stream seek to establish a shared understanding of the outlook on a specific dimension of resilience.



### **Resilience of Food Systems**

*led by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*

Climate change presents significant risks to food production, availability, and access, with extreme weather events and changing climate patterns disrupting agriculture leading to crop failures and food insecurity. To address these challenges, climate change adaptation focuses on implementing resilient farming practices, diversifying crops and improving water management. This approach is vital for the long-term sustainability and resilience of food systems. In addition, governments in the region are increasingly committed to transforming food systems to align with the 2030 Agenda, prioritising nutrition, health, nature conservation, climate neutrality, local adaptability, job creation and inclusive economies.

This stream explored the key aspects of climate adaptive and resilient food systems, encompassing factors that contribute to food security, mitigate climate change impacts, promote biodiversity and ecosystem health, practice sustainable resource management, protect livelihoods and enhance community resilience.



### **Resilience of Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services**

*led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Nature for Climate Branch and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office*

The rationale behind emphasising the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services lies in their fundamental role in supporting life on earth and providing vital benefits to humanity. Natural ecosystems possess the capacity to enhance human resilience through their functions and services, yet they themselves face threats from climate change and variability.



The previous forum extensively examined the effectiveness and strategies of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) as part of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), emphasising how local-scale EbA solutions can illuminate the impact of ecosystem services on human well-being. This year, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Republic of Korea's nationwide afforestation project and take advantage of the recent adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the 15th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP15), the Forum placed a particular emphasis on forest and coastal ecosystems.



### **Resilience of Communities**

*led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Asia Pacific*

The rationale for climate change adaptation efforts in relation to community resilience and human well-being lies in the need to protect highly vulnerable groups in society. These adaptation measures aim to ensure their sustainable development, mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods, and foster their overall well-being.

This stream focused broadly on how specific actions and strategies can deliver resilience benefits, emphasising the linkages between governance (institutions), policy, technology, and finance and how the resilience of human and social systems can be enhanced and built on demonstrated resilience in other areas. Important sub-themes included equitable partnerships between governments and local communities, international cooperation to advance climate-resilient development, cross-city risks and the integration of indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, health and education, migration, and conflict resolution at scales from household to region.



### **Resilience of Cities, Infrastructure and Settlements**

*led by Asian Development Bank (ADB)*

Rapid urbanisation in the region represents both concentrations of risk and opportunity to invest in climate-resilient development in diverse contexts from rural and informal settlements to large metropolitan areas. Dominant models of energy-intensive and market-led urbanisation, insufficient and misaligned finance, and a predominant focus on grey infrastructure risk missing opportunities for adaptation and locking in maladaptation. Urban climate-resilient development is observed to be more effective if it is responsive to regional and local land use development and adaptation gaps and addresses the underlying drivers of vulnerability.

Taking stock of these experiences, key aspects under this topic may include adaptation measures and their enabling conditions, i.e., inclusive governance, adequate and appropriate human and technological resources, information, capacities and finance to enhance the climate-resilient development; and retrofitting existing urban design, infrastructure and land use.

## Enablers

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**Each of these key aspects of resilience was analysed against enablers – the means by which each of these systems may be enabled, including:**



### **Policy and Governance**

This enabler emphasises the need for policies and regulations that promote adaptation to climate change. Current policies and regulatory frameworks might not be sufficient, and political instability or lack of political can also hinder the implementation of necessary measures. To address this, governments need to prioritise climate adaptation in their policies, reform regulations to support these efforts and engage in international cooperation to share successful strategies and develop cohesive policies.



### **Planning and Programming**

The absence of long-term strategic planning and programming for climate adaptation can pose a significant barrier to the implementation of adaptation actions. This can be due to an inadequate understanding of the risks or a lack of capacity to develop and implement strategic plans. Overcoming these barriers will require capacity building for strategic planning related to climate adaptation. This includes implementing risk assessment and management approaches, developing clear adaptation plans, and regularly updating these based on new information and experiences.



### **Science and Assessment**

Understanding the complex nature of climate science can be challenging due to the lack of access to accurate and up-to-date information on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies. Investment in climate science research and the development of user-friendly tools for risk and vulnerability assessment, therefore, is important to improve the communication of science and risk information to decision-makers and the general public.



### **Technologies and Practices**

A lack of technical knowledge and access to suitable technologies can hinder adaptation efforts. Traditional practices might also resist change, even when such change is beneficial or necessary. Promoting research and development of new technologies for climate adaptation and providing technical assistance and training to communities and individuals can encourage practices that are adaptive to changing climate conditions.



### **Finance and Investment**

Adaptation measures often require significant investment. Lack of investment and limited access to finance can impede the implementation of adaptation projects, particularly in developing countries. Climate adaptation finance mechanisms are evolving rapidly in response to the growing need for adaptation funding. This can include public funding, private sector investment, and innovative financing mechanisms like green bonds or climate funds. It is also important to improve the understanding of financial risks associated with climate change to motivate investment in adaptation.

In addition, gender and social inclusion were considered throughout the resilience streams and enablers as a cross-cutting issue.

## **3. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND KEY ACTORS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ADAPTATION**

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### **3.1 Transformative Climate Actions in Food Systems**

With a narrow window to achieve Paris Agreement targets and climate-resilient food systems, we must go beyond the incremental adaptation actions taken in the past to catalyse broader shifts. This requires systems-based approaches that work across organisational and geographical boundaries, addressing the limitations of traditional, fragmented strategies. Countries in the region are leading innovative and ambitious progress to transform food systems and strengthen resilience, and there are now critical opportunities to advance this work locally, regionally and globally.



Significant progress has been made in planning for what can and needs to be done to strengthen food systems resilience. There is now an urgent need to focus on implementation and to learn by doing. Moving from national plans to implementation requires stronger engagement of local communities, women, Indigenous Peoples, small holder farmers, youth and the private sector, which are key actors for implementation on the ground.

Scaling up investment and finance to transform food systems has also never been more urgent. Public climate finance is crucial to address the gap in financing resilient food systems, particularly in providing grant and concessional finance for investments that have poor risk-return profiles but broader social and environmental benefits. Blended finance can de-risk investments and build coordination between public and private investors, attract new investors to the sector, and strengthen the capacity of local financial institutions to support food systems transformation. Countries in the region are also investing in Anticipatory Action as a cost-effective approach to mitigate food systems losses before shocks occur. Further, with the COP27 decision to establish funding arrangements for Loss and Damage, it is urgent to ensure that agriculture L&D is fully accounted for.

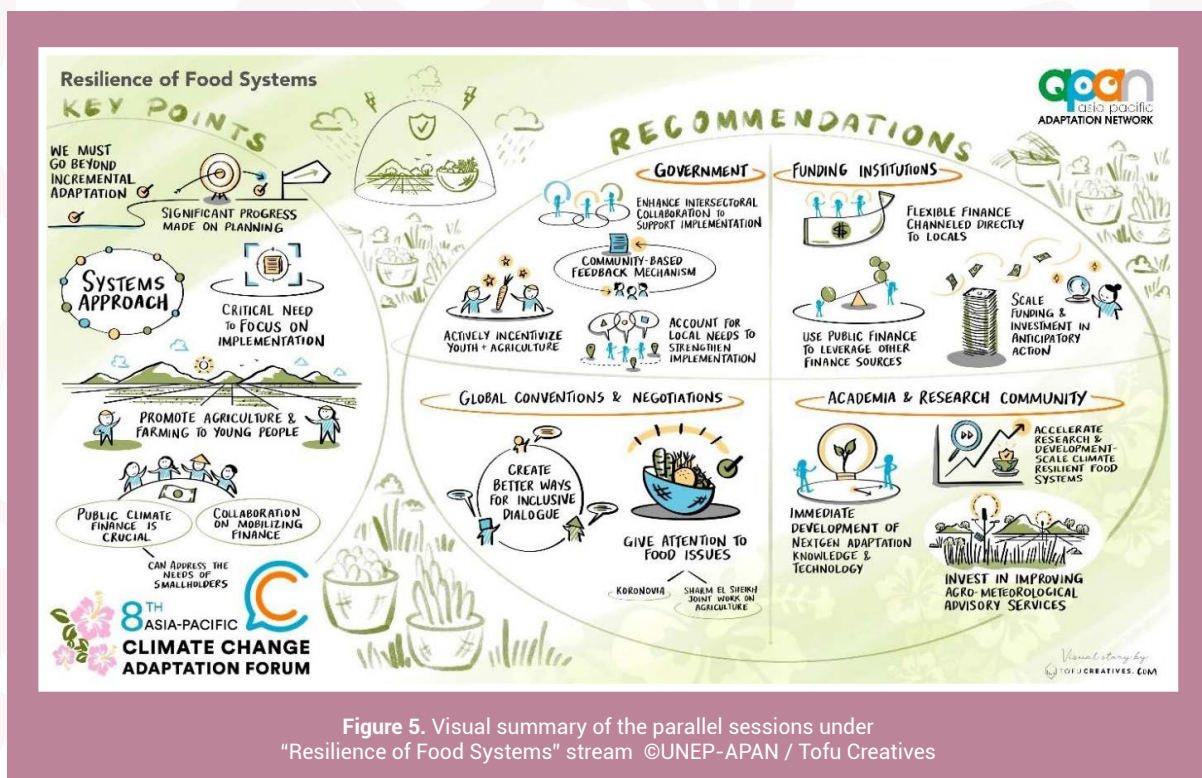


Figure 5. Visual summary of the parallel sessions under “Resilience of Food Systems” stream ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives



## **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ENABLER**

### **Government Sector**

- Enhance inter-sectoral collaboration to support implementation of policies targeting food systems transformation and resilience.
- Better account for the needs of local communities and underrepresented groups, ensuring they have a voice in implementing change, consistent with national priorities, as they are most affected by climate impacts.
- Current policy settings need to actively incentivise and enable youth movement into agriculture.

### **Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Considering the magnitude of climate risks to food security, nutrition and water resources, it is imperative that these issues continue to receive attention and recognition directly through the conventions and negotiations.
- There are substantial opportunities to advance this critical work locally, regionally and globally, aided by frameworks such as the Koronivia and Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and preparations for COP28. The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network and its ASEAN Negotiating Group for Agriculture provide a regional model for engaging in these global convenings.
- There should be better ways for key voices – including those of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, community-based organisations and the private sector – to inform negotiation priorities.



## **PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENABLER**

### **Government Sector**

- Strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration to facilitate the implementation of policies aimed at transforming and enhancing food system resilience.
- Enhance and ensure community participation, particularly from vulnerable sectors, and foster their empowerment in planning and programming across all levels.
- Engage more domestic and international stakeholders in planning and programming to enhance climate ambition related to land use and agricultural systems and to capacitate local actors for effective engagement.

**Funding Institutions (e.g. multi-lateral banks)**

- Mainstream gender and social inclusion in planning and programming to address the needs of women and men, small-scale farmers, and other vulnerable communities, ensuring that resource allocation decisions reflect these priorities.

**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Enable a 'virtuous cycle' through which NDCs and NAPs set goals and define priorities, and concurrently, are informed by ongoing plans and processes, such as the climate change action plans for agriculture in Thailand and Cambodia.

**Academia and Research Community**

- Support CSOs to effectively advocate and engage with government entities on behalf of vulnerable communities, including through farmers organisations.

**SCIENCE AND ASSESSMENT ENABLER****Government Sector**

- Institutionalizing trigger mechanisms is crucial; governments must expedite this process to ensure sustainability.
- Governments should centralise and streamline forecast trigger information from multiple agencies to enhance on-ground action.

**Funding Institutions**

- Rapid, reliable and flexible allocation of financial resources are required for Anticipatory Action to be effective.
- Funding and investment in the establishment and maintenance of Anticipatory Action should be scaled up, positioning it as a cost-effective strategy to bridge adaptation and disaster response, thereby enhancing the resilience of food systems and small-scale producers.
- Collaborative efforts are vital for efficient climate finance in EW4All initiatives to access funds from multilateral agencies like the GCF for EW4ALL objectives.



**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Coordinated efforts between agencies working on weather forecasting, early warning and anticipatory action are essential and should be an integral part of global conventions and negotiations.

**Academia and Research Community**

- Localised climate predictions and contextual analyses are crucial.
- Enhance sub-seasonal forecasting research and improve monitoring accuracy using AI and advanced technologies.
- Invest in research to elevate the proficiency of agro-meteorological advisory services for agri-food system resilience.

**TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES ENABLER****Government Sector**

- Use public finance to creatively leverage other finance sources and strategically channel finances to local communities, the key actors in achieving on-the-ground resilience and achievement of national targets.
- Existing policy settings need to actively incentivise and enable youth participation in agriculture as the next generation of farmers, fishers and herders. Technology is part of this, but not the sole solution in building the next generation of farmers.

**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Global processes should be inclusive of young changemakers, whose messages should come front and center as they will be the drivers of change.

**Academia and Research Community**

- With expectations of worsening climate change and potential systemwide impacts on food systems, there is a narrow window for action. The next generation of knowledge and technology to inform adaptation needs to be developed now.
- Improve weather data accessibility and usability to strengthen the climate resilience of small-scale farmers, fishers and herders.



## FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ENABLER

### Government Sector

- Use domestic disaster risk management (DRM) funds to support both DRM and Anticipatory Action emphasizing the synergy of adaptation and disaster response while strengthening the resilience of food systems and small-scale producers.
- Enhance collaboration and partnership between countries, including SIDS, to facilitate better access to climate finance.
- Invest in strengthening climate information services to inform adaptation strategies for resilient food systems.

### Funding Institutions

- Enable long-term programmatic approaches to provide countries with flexibility, predictability, and sustainability in accessing climate finance.
- Support and contribute to innovative blended finance instruments targeting small-scale producers, such as the Climate-Resilient Rice Landscapes finance facility and the Food Securities Fund.
- There is a need for more flexible finance sources that can be channelled directly to local communities, moving beyond traditional financial mechanisms that are based on short-term risk-return calculations.
- Direct more philanthropic funds to climate change and food systems, complementing other types of climate finance.

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## 3.2 Transformative Climate Actions in Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services

This stream's sessions focused on regional cooperation, cascading climate risks, capacity building, climate science, information and data, and climate financing.

The session discussions underscored the importance of recognizing that the impacts of climate change cross borders, creating cascading effects across regions. Yet, within this interconnectivity, opportunities for solutions emerge. Addressing transboundary and cascading risks mandates regional collaboration, and the narrative should shift from merely mitigating climate risks to harnessing opportunities.

Providing gender-sensitive capacity building programs and training to enhance the skills and knowledge of both men and women, serving as an instrument to tangibly enhance livelihoods, offering direct benefits to individuals and their communities. Community-based and community-led adaptation efforts, such as in marine protected areas and mangrove restoration, are vital to ensure community ownership, ensuring long-term success and enriching both current and future generations. Strengthening climate science, information and data and enhancing early warning systems and nature-based solutions play a crucial role in effectively addressing climate risks within communities. Building trust with communities is essential.

It was also highted that implementing best practices for enhancing forest management in the Asia Pacific can amplify global adaptation responses across tropical regions and that education cab help bridge generations, merging traditional wisdom with emerging knowledge, to support long-term climate adaptation. In addition, innovation and scalability in climate adaptation financing must place learning, accountability, ownership, and people in the centre to ensure it benefits the most vulnerable communities.

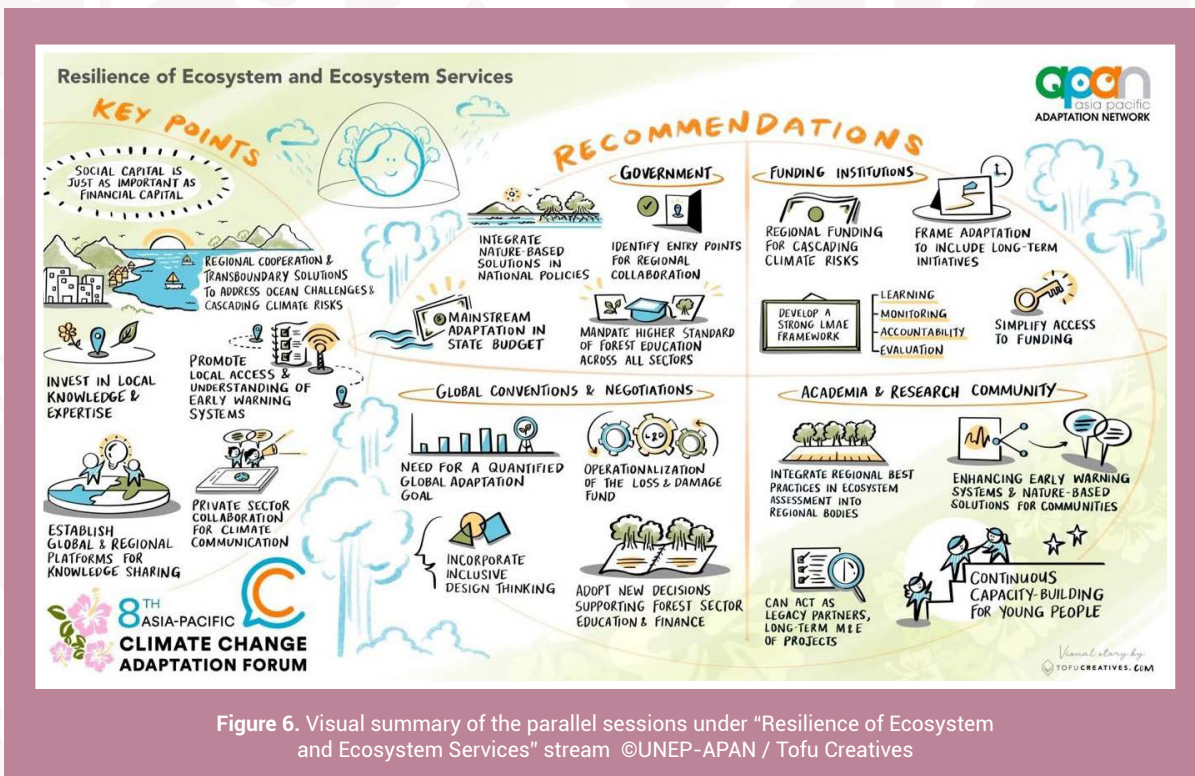


Figure 6. Visual summary of the parallel sessions under "Resilience of Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services" stream ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives





## **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ENABLER**

### **Government Sector**

- National policies should prioritise the integration of nature-based solutions, such as mangrove conservation, to simultaneously address climate change and biodiversity loss.

### **Funding Institutions**

- Encourage regional collaboration and innovative financing to coordinate adaptation efforts, benefiting local communities.
- Streamline access to funding across diverse entities to speed up climate project implementation, addressing specific needs.

### **Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Amplify the voices of local communities in regional and global dialogues, enhancing their participatory role and learning from high-level discussions.
- Encourage regional and international collaboration to tackle cross-border ecosystem challenges, integrating research tools into regional bodies for effective nature-based solutions.

### **Academia and Research Community**

- Foster cross-border research collaborations and integrate ecosystem assessment tools into regional bodies for more effective climate adaptation using nature-based solutions.
- Encourage interdisciplinary research and knowledge-sharing to support community-based adaptation efforts in the region, ensuring successful implementation with technical and financial support.



## **PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENABLER**

### **Government Sector**

- Regional cooperation on adaptation plays a key role in sharing best practices and lessons among countries, strengthening early warning systems and other climate hazard responses.
- Enhancing regional cooperation often requires navigating complex political landscapes. Identifying tangible and relevant issues, such as shared climate threats, can act as entry points, with sensitivity to regional nuances determining the optimal approach.

### **Funding Institutions**

- The discussion of cascading climate risks and opportunities needs to be taken from a climatic to an economic context.
- Directing more funding to regional and global programs is essential.
- Multilateral development finance institutions are interested in regional funding for cascading climate risks, contingent on collaborative country initiatives in crafting such regional mechanisms. Although intricate, this remains a viable avenue.

### **Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- A quantified global adaptation goal that accounts for science-based impact and vulnerability assessments with clear progress indicators, is indispensable.
- Operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund is key.

### **Academia and Research Community**

- Strong science to policy mechanisms is instrumental to building regional cooperation on adaptation.
- Our understanding of transboundary and cascading climate threats is limited, and our grasp on resilience-building solutions even more so. Intensifying our knowledge in these domains is imperative.



## **SCIENCE AND ASSESSMENT ENABLER**

### **Government Sector**

- Information needs to flow across all levels, and Governments have the mandate to provide direction and guidance to ensure comprehensive dissemination to the appropriate recipients.

### **Private Sector and Civil Society**

- As technologies, including AI, evolve, private sector engagement becomes ever more crucial. Notable examples include community communication networks facilitating mobile alerts, and traditional methods such as yodelling in mountainous regions.
- Overall, integrating cutting-edge science with traditional knowledge is essential. Inclusive institutional structures, from regional to community levels, are needed to ensure equitable benefit distribution, particularly for the most vulnerable.

**Academia and Research Community**

- It is important that early warning information reaches the most vulnerable communities on a timely basis for them to take appropriate action. The academia sector can help by developing innovative tools and methodologies and provide capacity building to the stakeholders.

**TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES ENABLER (WITH A FOCUS ON FOREST EDUCATION)****Government Sector**

- Given the regional deforestation trends, governments should realign forest education with internationally recognised best practices in forestry.
- Governments should mandate enhanced forest education standards for all involved, and engage every sector, emphasizing the private, in regular recertification and continuous improvement of practices.

**Funding Institutions**

- Donors should structure projects to include long-term funding, ensuring a consistent flow of data for trend reporting, rather than project-based, to better gauge and enhance forest education trends.
- Funding should prioritise enhancing forest education standards across all forestry sectors to address climate change adaptation needs.

**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Parties to global conventions need to endorse decisions supporting continuous forest education for climate adaptation and commit to consistent funding for regional forest education.

**Academia and Research Community**

- Research bodies should aid in consistently monitoring and reporting on education trends. They should substantively and financially contribute to creating region-specific best practices and facilitate knowledge coordination from actors at all levels.





## FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ENABLER

### Government Sector

- Take ownership of donor-funded adaptation projects, provide clear guidance to donors based on national context, and integrate climate change adaptation into the state budget.

### Funding Institutions

- Engage in locally led adaptation with an emphasis on local expertise, establish a lasting Learning, Monitoring, Accountability, Evaluation (LMAE) framework, and focus on results-based investments.

### Global Conventions and Negotiations

- Launch global platforms for knowledge sharing and scale successful projects while innovating for new challenges.

### Academia and Research Community

- Act as long-term project partners, monitoring the impacts over the course of time as part of extended M&E.
- Engage youth in continuous capacity building and maintain their involvement through alumni programs in adaptation initiatives.

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## 3.3 Transformative Climate Actions in Communities

While the impacts of climate change are universally felt, vulnerable communities with intersecting marginalised identities experience them differently. The adequacy of tools for these communities to effectively monitor and evaluate adaptation projects remains uncertain.

Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Knowledge (ITLK) systems, one of the most inclusive tools available to many communities, are often the default options for responding to climate impact but there is a lack of practical approaches to integrate them into existing adaptation projects, programs, and policies. The younger generation often lacks the motivation to adopt and sustain ITLK practices, posing a risk to this knowledge system, mainly preserved by the elderly and women, potentially fading with time. Moreover, the effectiveness of ITLK may decline as climate impacts intensify.

For transformative climate actions, locally led adaptation must be at scale. Leveraging strategies that are innovative, yet grounded in local realities, and harnessing local-specific media platforms and tools is essential. These efforts should be supported by multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels.

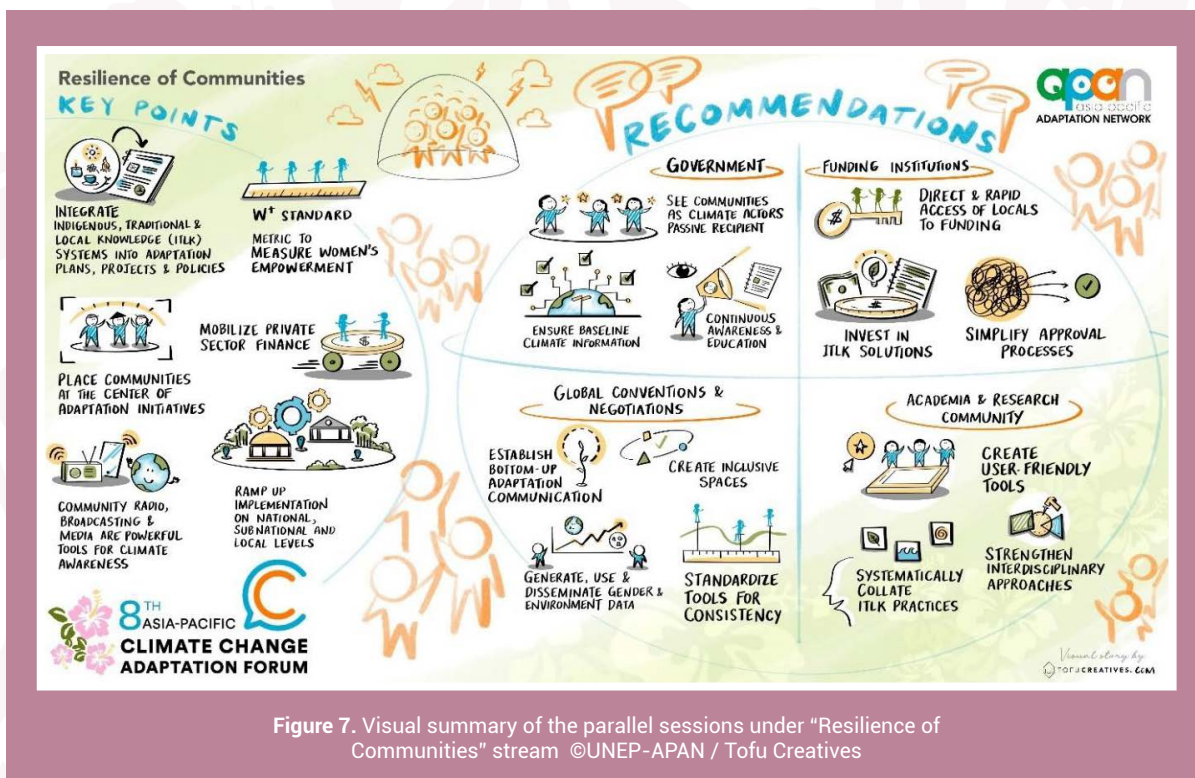


Figure 7. Visual summary of the parallel sessions under "Resilience of Communities" stream ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives



## POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ENABLER

### Government Sector

- Shift the perception of vulnerable communities from mere recipients to active climate adaptation contributors, by collaborating with local organisations, including those of disabled individuals, women, youth, and indigenous people, in climate action planning, and empowering them for meaningful participation in climate governance. Additionally, recognizing and addressing the unique vulnerabilities and contributions of both men and women in the face of climate change.
- Integrate Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Knowledge (ITLK) into adaptation strategies and promote ITLK-based solutions.
- Use community media platform for local climate information dissemination.
- Enhance inter-departmental coordination and adopt intersectional approaches in climate adaptation.



## FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ENABLER

### Funding Institutions

- Prioritise financing for local-level initiatives, ensuring rapid and direct access to resources for vulnerable communities and their representative bodies.
- Focus investments on solutions rooted in ITLK that actively involve youth, women, and the elderly.

### Global Conventions and Negotiations

- Value and elevate the knowledge and leadership of women, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities in climate action by provide platforms for these groups to share insights and influence decisions.
- Emphasise bottom-up communication in climate adaptation planning, aligning with global goals.
- Produce and share gender disaggregated data highlighting the specific needs and capacities of marginalised groups in relation to gender and the environment.

### Academia and Research Community

- Systematically collate and substantiate the ITLK practices and strengthen interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge production.



## PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENABLER

### Funding Institutions

- Ensure that adaptation plans are locally led and developed from a bottom-up approach and prioritise genuine community engagement at the local level.

### Academia and Research Community

- Implement technology and digital transformation to support locally led adaptation, ensuring solutions are user-friendly and sustainable.



## TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES ENABLER

### Government Sector

- Provide localised climate projections using global models, continuously educate communities for better coordination, and ensure community participation in all stages from planning and decision-making to implementation and evaluation.



### Academia and Research Community

- Value and elevate the knowledge and leadership of women, indigenous - Develop user-friendly tools tailored for community understanding and acknowledge traditional knowledge as integral to adaptation solutions.



## PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENABLER

### Government Sector

- Deepen engagement with key stakeholders, such as the private sector and international actors, to secure financing for climate adaptation.

### Funding Institutions

- Simplify the approval processes for funding proposals, particularly for countries that the IPCC has identified as most vulnerable to climate change.

## 3.4 Transformative Climate Actions in Cities, Infrastructure & Settlements

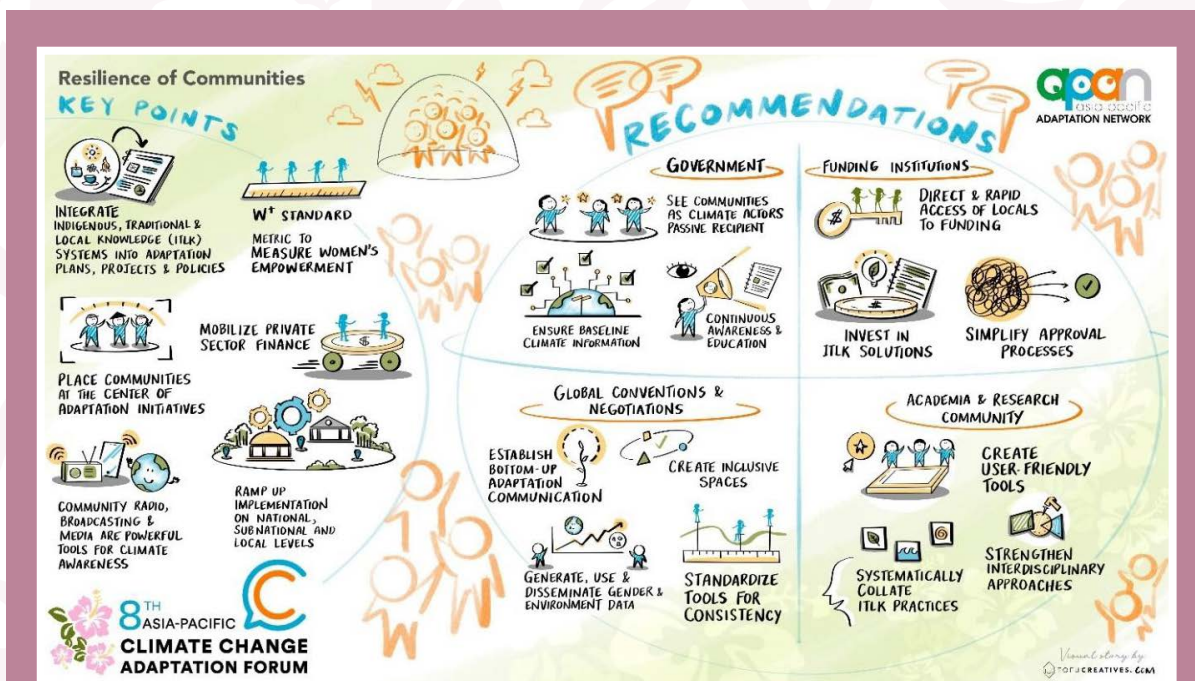


Figure 8. Visual summary of the parallel sessions under "Resilience of Cities, Infrastructure and Settlements" stream ©UNEP-APAN / Tofu Creatives

How can we transition from project-based to long-term programmatic adaptation financing, leveraging various instruments for transformational adaptation?

Climate-resilient fiscal risk assessments are crucial for adaptation planning and securing financing. A system-wide approach, integrated into the broader national fiscal framework for sustainable development, is essential for upscaling adaptation finance, demanding robust coordination among stakeholders and institutions. Additionally, integrate gender-responsive assessments into climate adaptation planning. Identify and analyze the specific vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities of different genders, ensuring that programs address the unique needs of women, men, and diverse gender identities. The Gender Assessment provides a context of the different roles, rights, needs and opportunities of women and men, girls and boys, identifying causes and effects of differential vulnerability and capacity and presenting a gendered “problem context” that the project can address.

Challenges exist in making a business case for adaptation due to its long-term nature and prioritisation of green economy transition and energy-focused projects. With many nations facing infrastructure deficits, there's an opportunity to invest in building resilience of people and systems. Stronger finance mechanisms, partnerships and collaborations with grassroots entities are essential for enhancing infrastructure and reaching the most vulnerable.

International climate funds play a crucial role in driving private sector finance in developing countries. Without their de-risking measures and capacity-building initiatives, the private sector couldn't serve the most vulnerable in regions such as SIDS. In addition, legal frameworks that stipulate the roles and responsibilities are essential for collaborations between governments and the private sector.

Lastly, it is essential to objectively evaluate the potential and limitations of NbS. Blending NbS with grey infrastructure can enhance resilience as NbS often has lower costs of hidden or unintended consequences. To guarantee urban poor benefit from NbS, we should scale evidence, strengthen technical, institutional and project management capacities, and value long-term, non-monetary advantages of NbS.



## **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE ENABLER**

### **Government Sector**

- Establish an efficient governance system that connects national and local governments for climate change adaptation, facilitating the sharing of successful methods, best practices, and learned lessons.

### **Funding Institutions**

- Increase investments in research and development to mitigate uncertainties in future climate adaptation.
- Promote accessibility to diverse research outcomes and accurate information to inform climate adaptation strategies.

### **Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Systematically collate and substantiate the ITLK practices and strengthen interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge production.



## **PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENABLER**

### **Funding Institutions**

- Ensure that adaptation plans are locally led and developed from a bottom-up approach and prioritise genuine community engagement at the local level.

### **Academia and Research Community**

- Encourage countries to discover and share successful examples of climate adaptation for inter-city partnerships, as well as area-based strategies to address climate change adaptation challenges.
- Facilitate broader stakeholder engagement and foster interest in climate adaptation policies and issues.



## **PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ENABLER (WITH A FOCUS ON NBS FOR URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE)**

### **Government Sector**

- Develop policy and regulatory tools to promote and monitor NbS deployment.
- Engage local governments and communities including women, youth, and other marginalised groups in the NbS design and implementation.



**Funding Institutions**

- Remove barriers to NbS inclusion in major urban projects, providing financing and market instruments and offering support for procurement policies, standards and codes, and construction guidelines.
- Recognise NbS benefits and support design of bankable projects.

**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Advocate for NbS in urban resilience, emphasizing its diverse benefits, including cultural values, and involve the youth.

**Academia and Research Community**

- Develop tools to facilitate NbS implementation, such as methods to quantify long-term benefits.
- Enhance NbS expertise and build long-term capacity for youth and practitioners.

**SCIENCE AND ASSESSMENT ENABLER****Government Sector**

- Foster inter-agency partnership to carry out assessment that identify root causes of vulnerability to inform scenario development and formal adaptation planning processes.
- Prioritise integrating Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Knowledge (ITLK) into adaptation strategies such as heatwave plans, instead of solely depending on science.

**Funding Institutions**

- Provide seed grants for communities for data collection and local capacity-building.
- Fund start-ups to aid in community knowledge documentation, developing a business case for adaptation and rolling out scalable adaptation interventions.

**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Re-examine aid modalities questioning why only 10% of global adaptation finance reaches the most vulnerable.
- Engage local governments and communities including women, youth, and other marginalised groups in the NbS design and implementation.

**Academia and Research Community**

- Assist communities in documenting climate impacts, traditional knowledge, and coping strategies for climate risks to inform local government adaptation plans.
- Research should be expanded to address the limitations in formulating adaptation policies grounded in scientific quantitative evidence, which is predominant in many countries.

**TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES ENABLER****Government Sector**

- Engage the private sector in developing Early Warning Systems based on the needs of Asian and Pacific countries.
- Clearly define roles, responsibilities, and data-sharing policies within a legal framework to enhance public-private collaboration.

**Funding Institutions**

- Emphasise the importance of public-private partnerships (PPP) and co-development of products, ensuring their optimal utilisation for targeted recipients.

**Global Conventions and Negotiations**

- Prioritise clear communication and outreach strategies to ensure the information reaches the last mile – the community members at the grassroots level.

**Academia and Research Community**

- Ensure that Early Warning Systems, regardless of their technological advancement, convey clear and understandable messages to end-users.

**FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ENABLER****Government Sector**

- Greater efforts required to support local governments access climate finance through improved project design and implementation.
- Need for exploring innovative financing mechanisms (e.g., green bonds) for mobilizing resources for adaptation investments.
- Establish a coordination framework for key actors, integrating adaptation financing into long-term fiscal planning.

**Funding Institutions**

- Assist Ministries of Finance with developing investment plans that prioritises a pipeline of adaptation projects for financing from diverse funding sources.
- Increase the number of direct access entities of Global Climate Funds, providing more opportunities to access climate finance.
- Ensure that adaptation financing supports transformational solutions such as NbS, targeting urban poor and the most vulnerable communities.

**Private Sector**

- Private sector participation in adaptation investments is limited in general due to perceived high risks and the view that adaptation is a public sector responsibility. It is crucial to identify suitable areas for private sector adaptation financing, especially in SIDS.



## Appendix A: Useful Resources

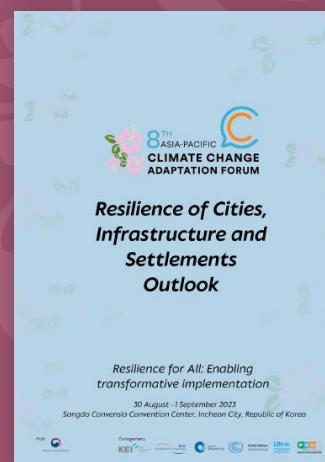
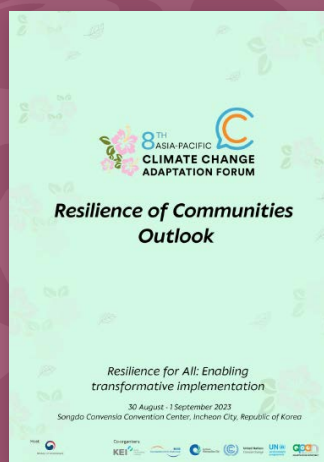
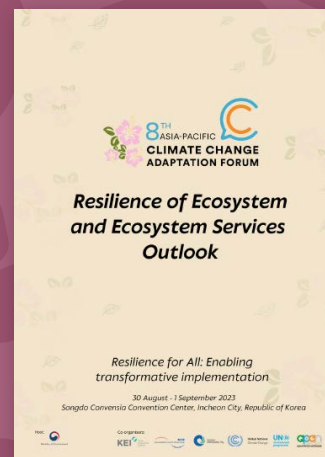
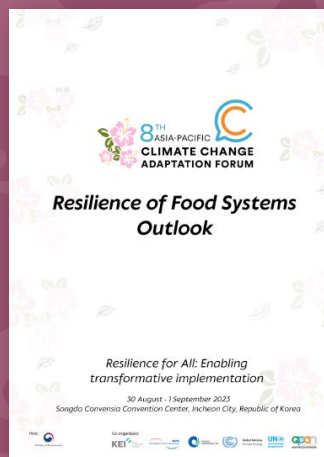
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### Resilience Outlooks: Technical Background Documents

Background documentation for the forum consists of four Resilience Outlooks that provide a snapshot of the stream-specific aspects of resilience at the regional level. The Outlooks depict challenges, promising innovations, best practices as well as priorities for action for the resilience, analysing them against the means by which each of these systems may be enabled: the five enablers - Policy and Governance, Planning and Programming, Science and Assessment, Technologies and Practices and Finance and Investment.

The documents aim to support understanding of the status of adaptation practices in the region and present the background for an in-depth discussion on how to enhance resilience holistically.

Please click on the images below to access the document.

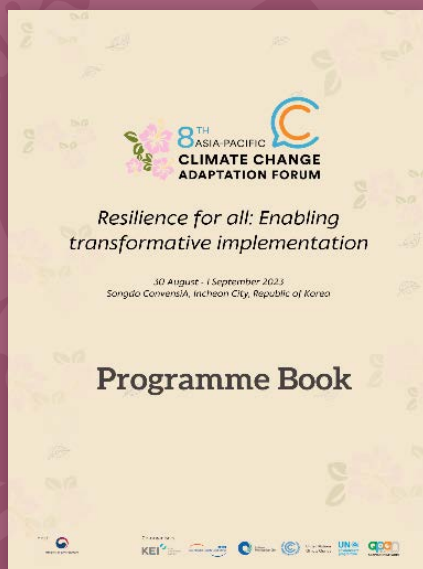


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Please click the images on the right to access the Youtube webinar recordings.



This document provides detailed information on the sessions and related events of the 8th APAN Forum.

## Appendix B: Organisers and Partners

APAN would like to acknowledge its partner organisations whose support have been invaluable in delivering its activities.

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### Hosts



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### Co-organiser



**United Nations**  
Climate Change

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### Lead Organisations



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**UN**  
environment  
programme



## Session Partners



## Appendix C: Forum Background, Timeline and Host Background

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The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum (APAN Forum) is the flagship event of the APAN Secretariat. It is the primary regional platform for adaptation practitioners to meet, share their learnings and experiences, and work together towards the pertinent outcomes and practical solutions needed to address the challenges of climate change.

The APAN Forum has been active since 2010, hosted and sponsored by different governments and agencies and with varying themes of focus. Since 2010, the APAN Forum has grown and become a space for scientists, financing institutions, youth, civil society, international organisations, the private sector and governmental representatives from various line ministries from over 50 countries to meet, discuss and work together for greater partnerships for adaptation action.

### Timeline



## Host



환경부


Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment – Korea (MoEK) provides environmental protection services. The organization protects the national territory from environmental pollution in order to improve the quality of life of the public. The Ministry's tasks include the oversight of environmental laws and regulations, introduction of environmental institutions, and environmental conservation, among others.

With focus on building adaptive capacity, MoEK has developed targeted action plans for different sectors and industries. The Ministry is also working on enhancing climate resilient infrastructure for cities where most of the population lives. Programs for the vulnerable are being scaled up as well to better protect children, the elderly, low-income people and outdoor workers from extreme weather conditions.







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