



REGIONSADAPT

**PROGRESS
REPORT
2024**

From Cali to Belem: Subnational Governments Leading Nature Actions to Adapt to Climate Change

In partnership with:



Regions4

Sustainable Development



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Thanks to

Québec 

for its support to RegionsAdapt.

Foreword


As climate change intensifies, the need for robust, just and actionable adaptation strategies at the subnational level has never been more urgent.

To meet this challenge, the RegionsAdapt initiative was launched alongside COP21 in Paris in 2015, with the aim of elevating the critical role of subnational and devolved governments in building climate resilience. Designed by and for these governments, the initiative has grown to include over 82 states, provinces and regions – all committed to advancing climate adaptation.

Since its inception, RegionsAdapt has been dedicated to delivering valuable insights through its annual reports on adaptation efforts. Partnering with CDP, it offers a global platform for subnational governments to measure, manage, and disclose their environmental impact. The annual reporting process provides up-to-date assessments of members' climate resilience progress, shaping peer-to-peer exchanges, and strengthening advocacy efforts. This ensures the voices of subnational governments are heard in global climate negotiations.

A key goal of RegionsAdapt is to amplify its members' adaptation stories, giving their efforts the visibility they deserve. By showcasing real-world examples of subnational climate action, we highlight practical solutions while inspiring other regions to act. This visibility brings recognition to local leadership, boosting climate action momentum and unlocking funding and partnerships. RegionsAdapt promotes these stories through its social media campaigns and by integrating them into major global initiatives like the Global Climate Action Portal, the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, the UN Race to Resilience campaign, and key annual climate events.

Natalia Uribe, Secretary General,
Regions4 Sustainable Development



This year's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP 29) in Baku serves as a crucial bridge between the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16 in Cali and UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, two conferences held in megadiverse countries. As we witness the growing devastating impacts of climate change around the world, it's important to also recognize that though biodiversity is a victim, it also holds crucial solutions for tackling the climate crisis. Across the globe, regional governments are leading the way with innovative approaches that harness the power of nature.

This is why the RegionsAdapt Progress report 2024, supported by Québec, focuses on the intersection of nature and climate. We invite you to explore the insights from 40 members who recently shared their progress, showcasing how strategies that address both biodiversity and climate can drive effective climate adaptation.

At Regions4, we are convinced that the regional level is key to generating impact at scale, with people and nature at its core. We are committed to amplifying recognition and support for regions as leaders of nature-positive, climate-resilient action, ensuring that their contributions remain central to global sustainability efforts





Transformative multilevel action

Subnational solutions for climate and biodiversity

—
Yasuni
National
Park,
Ecuador

Transformative multilevel action: Subnational solutions for climate and biodiversity

The twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change pose significant threats to planetary stability. These challenges are deeply interconnected: climate change accelerates biodiversity loss, while ecosystem degradation worsens climate impacts and undermines resilience. Together, they can be critical tipping points with severe potential consequences for people and nature.

Addressing these crises requires an understanding that climate, biodiversity, and human society form an interconnected system. Healthy ecosystems—such as forests, wetlands, and mangroves—are natural buffers to climate variability and extremes, mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon, enhancing resilience of ecosystems to extreme weather, and providing essential services like clean air and water. Protecting and restoring these ecosystems mitigates climate impacts as well as strengthens resilience, offering a sustainable and cost-effective solution for both nature and communities.

Subnational governments, including states, provinces, and regions, are uniquely positioned to lead in this effort. Situated between local and national governance, they can implement locally-tailored policies that bridge urban and rural areas, foster collaboration, and address specific community needs. Their role is critical in planning, financing and implementing solutions that contribute to both mitigation and adaptation while addressing the biodiversity crisis – a key to success in advancing climate action.

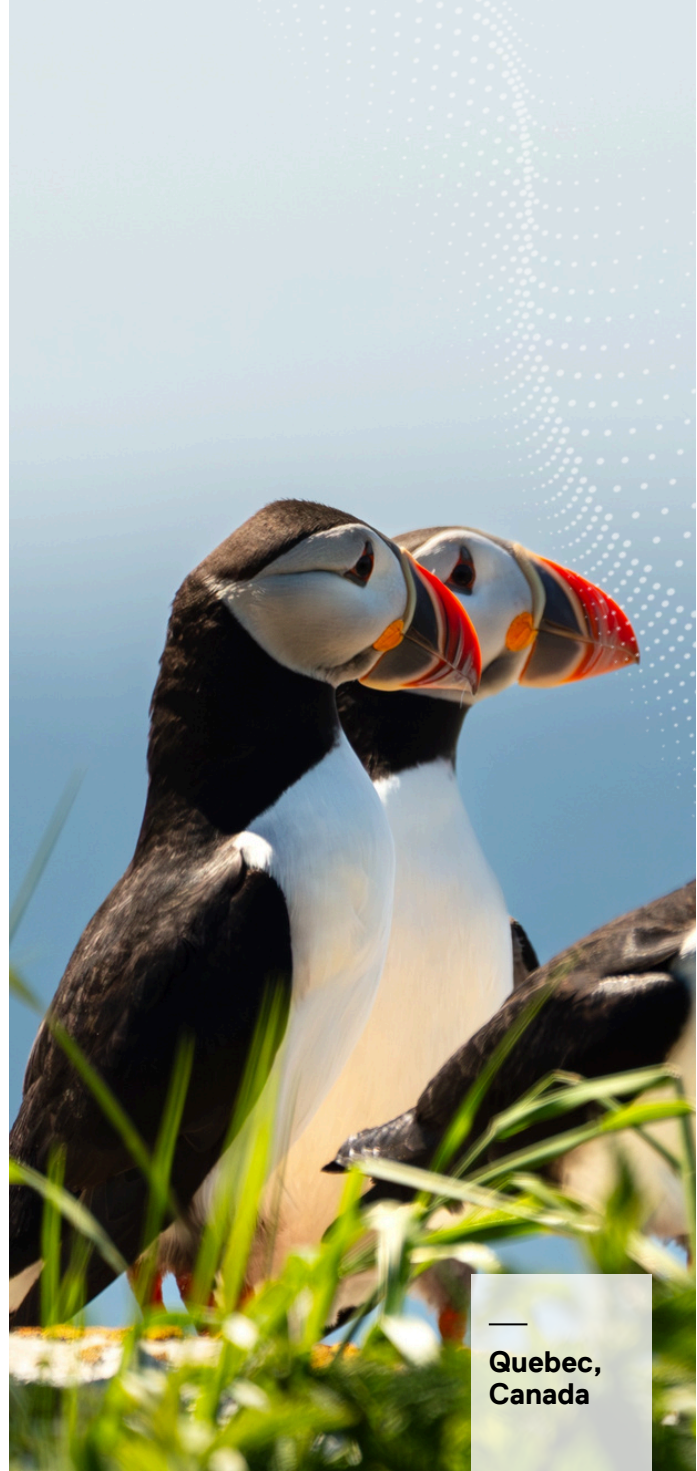
Key elements of subnational action for biodiversity and adaptation:

- **Inclusive and interconnected approaches:** Subnational governments are well-positioned to operate across multiple scales and sectors, as well as engage diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).
- **Territorial approaches:** These approaches emphasize multifunctional landscapes that support both conservation and community needs. Mixed-use landscapes such as biosphere reserves and biological corridors have been shown to deliver significant biodiversity and climate co-benefits, along with enhanced health and resilience for local communities.
- **Nature-based solutions:** Nature-based solutions hold significant potential at the subnational level, utilizing ecosystems to achieve both climate mitigation and adaptation. Actions like ecosystem restoration, reforestation, and sustainable land management can sequester large amounts of carbon while reducing the risk of erosion and landslides from extreme rainfall events. For example, forest restoration alone could mitigate up to [10.1 gigatons of CO₂](#) annually while also supporting species conservation. These efforts contribute to reaching [global targets](#) such as restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. The recovery of coastal wetlands is another clear example, as these ecosystems contribute to sequestering and storing CO₂. They are a natural reserve of organic carbon and are more resilient to coastal stresses, thereby reducing the risk of flooding.

Spotlight

Building on these key elements, this report highlights emerging trends and [success stories from subnational governments](#) (see “[Regions in Action](#)” page 20), showcasing how innovative governance, nature-based solutions, and effective financing mechanisms are advancing biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and building resilience in local communities.

- Multilevel and transformative governance:** Achieving large-scale impact requires subnational governments to adopt innovative governance models that align global goals with local contexts. By integrating climate and biodiversity priorities into their policies, subnational governments can drive systemic change. This includes formal participation in reporting frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Such multilevel governance enables subnational actors to mainstream climate and biodiversity action, fostering collaboration and scaling successful practices.
- Accelerating financial flows:** Despite their pivotal role, subnational governments often face slow access to climate finance, with [less than 10%](#) of global climate funds' commitments reaching local level. To support local initiatives, it is essential to accelerate the flow of public and private financial resources, prioritize grants over loans, and make global funding mechanisms, such as the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, more accessible. Public-private partnerships can also play a key role in bridging funding gaps and strengthening financial support for subnational-led climate and biodiversity solutions.



—
Quebec,
Canada



This section is drawn from ***Transformative Multilevel Action: Subnational Solutions for Climate & Biodiversity***, a comprehensive 4-page study by Regions4, part of the #TransformativeAction series from the Post2020 Biodiversity Framework – EU Support project. For detailed insights, case studies, and references, we encourage you to explore the original document. It is available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

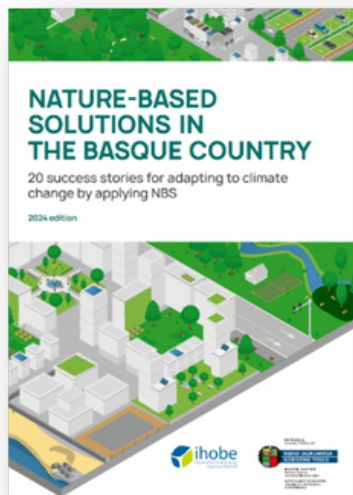
Nature-Based Solutions: An Umbrella Concept to Climate Resilience and Sustainability

In recent years, Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) have been recognised as an effective framework to reverse ecosystem degradation while enhancing alignment between climate action and sustainable development objectives.

[Recent research suggests](#) that the NbS conceptual framework emerged from the ecosystem approach, [endorsed by the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water, and living resources, promoting conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

While multiple definitions have emerged for NbS, organizations like the IUCN, European Commission, and the UN agree that they represent a powerful tool for climate resilience and biodiversity protection, offering co-benefits that include environmental, social, and economic outcomes, as well as enhanced regional resilience and sustainability.

These solutions encompass diverse concepts applicable to strategic planning and engineering, ranging from creating green or blue spaces (e.g., community gardens or urban parks) to minimal intervention projects like biodiversity conservation areas, yielding social, economic, and environmental advantages.



*The Spanish **Basque Country** has long prioritized nature-based adaptation, embedding it into regional planning and developing the tools needed for effective implementation. Their latest publication showcases successful NBS projects and provides practical guidance for local decision-makers on designing and implementing nature-based strategies. Explore the document to discover more insights and best practices - available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).*

NbS share many principles with other environmental frameworks, such as the Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Forest Landscape Restoration, Ecological Restoration, and Protected Areas.

However, NbS has three distinctive features: first, its flexibility—it can be used alone or integrated with other approaches. Second, it is most effective when applied across entire landscapes rather than confined to small areas. Third, NbS is not simply an add-on; it must be embedded into the core of policy planning and actions to address society's most pressing challenges.

The [UN Environment Assembly defines](#) NbS as actions that protect, conserve, restore, and manage ecosystems sustainably to address social, economic, and environmental challenges while also enhancing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity. The [European Environment Agency further emphasizes](#) that NbS help society adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risks, providing multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits.

While adaptation policies are being developed across all governance levels, cities, municipalities, and regions are also responsible for implementing these measures. The [UN Environment Programme estimates](#) that investment in NbS must at least triple by 2030 and quadruple by 2050 to meet minimum climate, biodiversity, and soil degradation targets.

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense green forest. To the left of the road is a large body of water with a deep blue hue. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue gradient and a network of thin, white, curved lines that create a sense of movement and connectivity. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

RegionsAdapt

Tracking subnational adaptation progress

A 2024 focus on nature

Finland

RegionsAdapt

Tracking subnational adaptation progress

Since 2016, RegionsAdapt has been dedicated to tracking the adaptation planning and actions shared by its members through the CDP States and Regions platform, and to showcase it in RegionsAdapt annual reports, communities of practices, and communications. Starting this year, this information is also featured on the newly launched RegionsAdapt Subnational Tracker Page, shown on the next page.



RegionsAdapt particularly monitors the progress of regional governments concerning the four commitments made by members when joining the initiative (see Figure 1). This year, we'll focus on insights drawn from CDP data from 40 reporting members (see Page 19), especially regarding nature.



1. Assess

climate change impacts through risk and vulnerability assessments that include all vulnerable communities.



2. Plan

and adopt an ambition adaptation strategy, plan or programme, mainstreaming adaptation into other sectoral policies and including the most vulnerable populations.



3. Act

by implementing concrete adaptation actions in identified priority areas.



4. Report

annually on their progress through RegionsAdapt/CDP reporting platform to inform and improve policies and actions.

Figure 1. Four key commitments of [RegionsAdapt Members](#).

Tracking subnational adaptation progress is crucial for several reasons:

- **Informed Decision-Making:** Access to up-to-date and comprehensive data enables policymakers and practitioners to make informed decisions and prioritize actions based on real-world evidence and trends.
- **Scaling Successful Practices:** By showcasing successful adaptation practices and strategies, the platform helps regions learn from each other and adopt effective measures.
- **Impactful Transparency:** Transparent reporting on adaptation progress fosters accountability and encourages regions to stay committed to their adaptation goals.
- **Enhanced Advocacy:** By sharing subnational data with the UN and key forums, RegionsAdapt strengthens global advocacy. This data is also integrated into the Global Climate Action Portal, which tracks global climate commitments, and the Race to Resilience R2R Data Explorer, a tool for monitoring resilience impacts worldwide.

The New RegionsAdapt Subnational Adaptation Tracker

Explore Plans, Data, and Success Stories

RegionsAdapt members share valuable information via the CDP States and Regions Platform, but our annual report only captures part of this rich data. To provide a fuller view of climate actions, RegionsAdapt has launched a new online Tracker Tool, which provides a database and framework for users in assessing, planning, reporting, and acting upon adaptation needs.

With the financial support of



More than **250 actions** were reported by
RegionsAdapt members in CDP States and Regions
since **2021**.

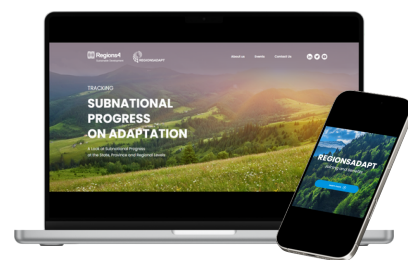
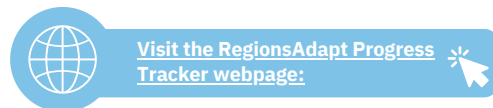
The RegionsAdapt Tracker page is a central resource for stakeholders to explore regional adaptation initiatives. Here's what you can find:

1. Adaptation Planning Library: A detailed collection of adaptation plans from regions worldwide, highlighting their progress in vulnerability assessments and climate action planning.

2. Data and Reporting: The platform tracks indicators such as exposure to climate risks, development of adaptation plans, and implementation progress, offering a transparent, data-driven view of regional adaptation efforts.

3. Member Highlights: The “Stories of Progress” section showcases successful projects and innovative actions from leading regions, offering inspiration and practical insights for others. Next year, this section will expand to include more examples from CDP data, capturing a broader scope of members' efforts.

4. RegionsAdapt Communities of Practice and Progress Reports: These resources foster peer learning and highlight impactful subnational climate actions to a global audience interested in climate solutions.



Visit www.regions4.org/regionsadapt-regional-adaptation-progress

1 Assess: Developing risk and vulnerability assessments

When joining RegionsAdapt and Regions Race to Resilience, regional governments commit to assessing the impacts of climate change in their territory by developing risk and vulnerability assessments that includes all vulnerable communities.

Regional governments are at the forefront of climate change, with 30% of regions reporting hazards that directly threaten ecosystems and biodiversity or worsen soil degradation—a vital foundation for life and agriculture. Among the 196 identified risks, 57% affect the nature conservation and forestry sectors, underscoring the urgent need for effective climate resilience strategies that also prioritize the preservation of nature.

California, USA, for example, faces the collapse of vital ecological processes as climate change drives species to the brink through physiological stress, disrupts seasonal cycles, and accelerates the spread of invasive species, pests, and diseases. At the same time, the state is facing severe soil moisture loss and coastal erosion, all of which compound the vulnerability of its landscapes to future climate shocks.

In **Scotland**, United Kingdom, soil erosion is a growing and costly crisis, estimated to drain £31-50 million annually. This degradation is weakening the very systems that protect communities, leading to increased flood risks and deteriorating water quality, with severe consequences for both people and nature.

Across Brazil, states like **Goiás** and **Ceará** are grappling with severe soil degradation, a direct threat to their agricultural livelihoods. Goiás is witnessing devastating erosion, intensified by erratic rainfall and wildfires, which harm small farmers and damage vital infrastructure. In Ceará, advancing desertification is stunting agricultural productivity and eroding biodiversity, leaving land barren and ecosystems broken.

Andalusia, Spain, underscores the far-reaching impact of climate change on sectors reliant on natural resources. As biogeochemical cycles shift and new pests emerge, marine ecosystems and fisheries are increasingly at risk. While the recreational and tourism value of natural landscapes diminishes, livelihoods and economies tied to these vital resources are threatened.

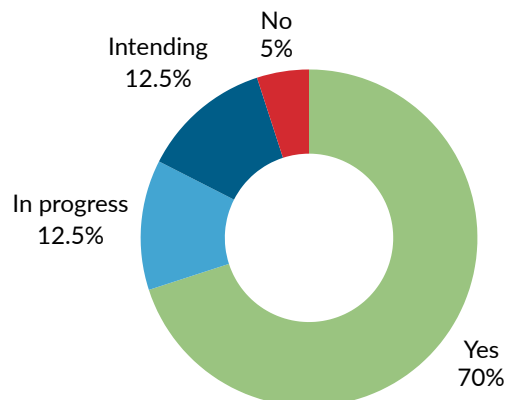
Spotlight

Top 5 risks reported:

Droughts (faced by 50% of reporting members), Extreme Heat (40%), Fire Weather (38%), Water Stress (33%) River Flooding (33%) For 57% of the 196 risks reported, the sectors most exposed are Nature Conservation and Forestry.



RegionsAdapt members (40) reporting since 2021 with climate risks and vulnerability assessments:



Amongst these assessments, 82% consider nature.

While **70% of regions acknowledge deforestation and forest degradation as significant challenges, only 45% have implemented a deforestation risk or vulnerability assessment, specifically targeting these issues. This disparity highlights a critical gap between recognizing the problem and taking structured, proactive measures to address it.**

The **Australian Capital Territory** lacks official deforestation estimates but reported a land clearing rate of 1,500 hectares in 2020. In Mexico, all oases in **Baja California Sur** show varying deforestation and forest degradation while **Campeche** experienced a gross deforestation rate of 0.51% from 2001 to 2018, equating to 22,805 hectares lost annually. In **Cross River State**, Nigeria, deforestation rates rose from 2.7% (1990-2000) to 4.0% (2005-2010), with net losses of 39,907 and 167,382 hectares over two periods. In Brazil, **Goiás** faces significant deforestation, with 695.4 km² lost in 2023, a 125.3% increase from 2022 while in **Minas Gerais**, illegal deforestation poses habitat and water resource challenges, prompting state actions for monitoring and restoration. In **California**, USA, climate change has driven unprecedented wildfires and tree mortality.

Despite these growing challenges, many regions are facing significant barriers in their fight against climate change. While **budgetary constraints and lack of quality data are cited as the most common hurdles**, six states and regions (including California, Catalonia, Auvergne Rhône Alpes, Goiás, Tocantins, and La Rioja) identify **ecosystem degradation, loss of green spaces, and declining landscape quality as critical threats to their adaptive capacity.**

California is already seeing the consequences of ecosystem collapse, with unhealthy landscapes now emitting more greenhouse gases than they absorb, exacerbating risks to both people and nature. Yet the state is actively restoring these landscapes, knowing that resilient ecosystems are key to achieving climate goals.

In **Tocantins**, Brazil, the stakes are high. As a state where agriculture drives the economy, environmental degradation threatens not only the land but the economic base itself, pushing the state into a race to build climate resilience before irreversible damage occurs.

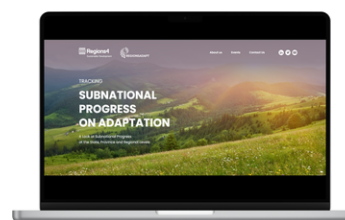
Catalonia highlights a concerning reality: while access to education, healthcare, and water security strengthens a society's ability to adapt, the degradation of natural systems weakens these gains, making even well-developed regions more exposed to the impacts of climate change.

These challenges underscore the urgent need for coordinated action to restore ecosystems, strengthen resilience, and ensure that both natural and human systems can withstand the mounting pressure of a changing climate.



Explore

The [RegionsAdapt subnational tracker](#) gives access to newly published vulnerability assessments! Discover the latest documents from Andalusia and Catalonia in Spain, Baja California Sur, Jalisco and Yucatán in Mexico, as well as Paraná in Brazil.





—
**Amazonia
rainforest,
Brazil**

2 Plan Adopting ambitious adaptation plans

When joining the RegionsAdapt initiative and Regions Race to Resilience, regional governments commit to planning, prioritizing, and adopting an ambitious adaptation strategy, plan or programme, mainstreaming adaptation into other sectoral policies, including the most vulnerable populations, and establishing interim targets and long-term goals.

Nature-focused Strategies Strengthen Climate Resilience

While the current CDP database doesn't specify the areas addressed by these adaptation plans, insights into various environment-related plans, policies, and strategies within different jurisdictions are available. A total of 11 regions — **Andalusia, Catalonia, Basque Country, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Lombardy, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Sul, Scotland, California, and Yucatán** — have developed biodiversity-focused plans and strategies to combat climate impacts on nature.

Additionally, 13 regions are actively planning to combat forest degradation and promote restoration, including **Basque Country, Auvergne Rhône Alpes, Ceará, Cross River State, Minas Gerais, and Québec**. Green infrastructure is also a priority, with six regions — **Andalusia, Catalonia, British Columbia, Goiás, Québec, California** — incorporating it into their strategies, while Paraná has introduced a plan focused on urban greening.

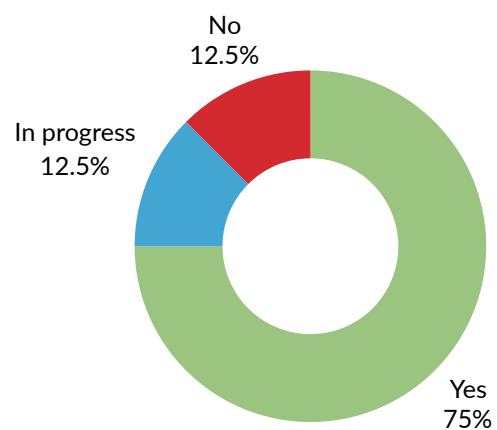
In **California**, the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) integrates climate considerations into wildlife and habitat conservation to ensure ecosystem health. In Mexico, **Yucatán's** ECUSBEY framework highlights ecosystem restoration and biocultural practices, aligning with global goals such as the Aichi Targets. **Jalisco's** 2020 biodiversity strategy is closely tied to the state's governance and development agenda.

Lombardy's Regional Observatory for Biodiversity, in Italy, oversees Natura 2000 sites in line with European conservation directives, while **Rio Grande do Sul** promotes sustainable land management and rural environmental practices through initiatives like a Payment for Environmental Services Program in Brazil.

These collective efforts demonstrate how nature-focused strategies can enhance climate resilience, fostering healthier ecosystems and promoting sustainable development across regions.

Spotlight

RegionsAdapt members (40) reporting since 2021 with climate action plan or strategy that addresses adaptation:



82% of RegionsAdapt members report having at least one adaptation goal in place.

Key trends in adaptation goals

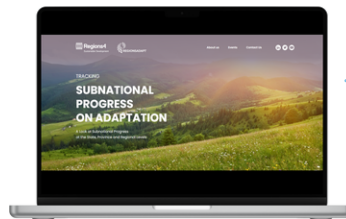
Looking at the Adaptation goals reported by RegionsAdapt members that address biodiversity loss, here are some emerging trends:

- **Community and Social Resilience:** Many regions emphasize the importance of strengthening community-driven solutions, collaborating for resilience, and bolstering protections for vulnerable communities. There is a focus on public health and safety as well.
- **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation:** Several goals highlight the need to protect local species, preserve biodiversity, and conserve ecosystem services. Biodiversity is recognized as crucial for resilience against climate impacts, including flooding and storm surges.
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** There is a growing emphasis on accelerating nature-based climate solutions and leveraging natural systems to enhance resilience, particularly in forestry, agriculture, and water management.
- **Economic and Sectoral Adaptation:** Economic resilience is a common theme, with goals aimed at mitigating losses in industries such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. Promoting sustainable resource use and adapting economic activities to climate risks is also a priority.
- **Scientific Knowledge and Governance:** Using the most up-to-date climate science and promoting evidence-based decision-making is seen as a top priority. There are also efforts to enhance governance frameworks and stakeholder collaboration, as well as community participation.
- **Climate Risk Management:** Addressing specific climate risks, such as soil degradation, water scarcity, and extreme weather events, is central. This includes improving infrastructure resilience, such as wastewater and stormwater systems, and enhancing food and water security.
- **Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:** Partnering with industry and leveraging resources through collaborations is frequently mentioned, especially in regions with significant agricultural, industrial, or coastal development activities.



Explore

Explore the [RegionsAdapt subnational tracker](#) to access our members' key updates. Don't miss the [latest adaptation plans and strategies](#) from the Basque Country and Catalonia in Spain, Alberta in Canada, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Paraná and Rio Grando do Sul in Brazil, as well as Yucatán in Mexico.



3 Act Implementing action to respond to climate adaptation

When joining the RegionsAdapt initiative and Regions Race to Resilience, regional governments commit to implementing concrete actions on adaptation in several priority areas. These priority areas align with the [UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#) and the [Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#) encompassing: Water, Nature, Agriculture, infrastructure & Human Settlements, Health, Livelihoods, Cultural Heritage and Coastal areas.

Overview of Subnational Governments' actions in Forestry and Conservation Efforts

RegionsAdapt members have reported a total of 108 actions in the forestry and nature conservation sectors. These actions, categorized according to the Marrakesh Partnership classification in the figure page 17, highlight a strong emphasis on **nature-based solutions**, which are particularly relevant to these sectors.

Subnational governments actively engage in revitalizing rural and mountainous areas by funding and executing projects that involve local communities, businesses, and municipalities. Their strategies span various sectors, including agriculture, water and soil management, forest management, and biodiversity conservation.

Key initiatives include restoring native vegetation, improving green spaces, and establishing ecological corridors that foster biodiversity and carbon sequestration. These efforts align with broader governmental objectives for addressing climate change, safeguard natural resources, and promote sustainable development. Ultimately, they contribute to the resilience of both local ecosystems and communities.

In addition to these initiatives, subnational governments are implementing effective governance and building human and institutional capacities.

This involves adopting climate governance measures to tackle agricultural threats, integrating climate considerations into water management, and developing strategies tailored for vulnerable mountain regions. They are also enhancing forest management by increasing expertise in climate science and promoting nature-based solutions for disaster mitigation. Furthermore, they are updating laws to align forest and climate policies, investing in emergency management systems, and providing financial support for low-emission agricultural technologies.

Another key focus is the **sharing of knowledge and best practices in risk management**. Subnational governments are dedicated to disseminating knowledge and fostering climate adaptation and resilience through training programs for professionals, advisory support for farmers, and participatory processes that engage diverse stakeholders in planning.

In 2023*, 189 adaptation actions were reported by 32 Regions.

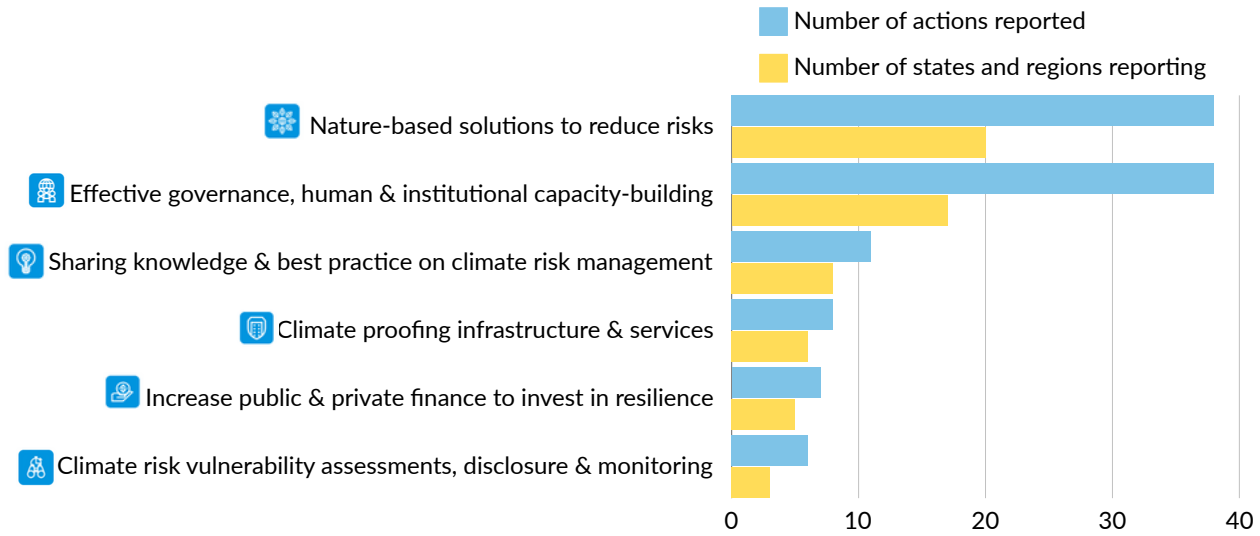
36 of these actions have quantifiable impacts, benefiting over 76 million people.

47% of these actions are related to the forestry and conservation sectors.

*Information on adaptation actions for 2024 is not yet available as CDP is finalizing the data.

Spotlight

Actions in the forestry and nature conservation sectors, reported by RegionsAdapt members in the CDP States and Regions questionnaire 2023



Collaborations with Indigenous communities integrate traditional knowledge into climate strategies, while research initiatives collect vital climate data. Networking forums facilitate the sharing of experiences, and community engagement efforts raise awareness about climate impacts and adaptation strategies. Together, these initiatives aim to enhance collective capacity and resilience against climate change across various communities.

Regions lead in climate and nature action but face funding challenges for nature-based initiatives.

While regions are taking the lead in mainstreaming climate and nature action, many face challenges in securing funding for nature-based initiatives. According to CDP data, among the 129 planned climate-related projects seeking additional financing, several specifically focus on nature-based solutions.

For example, in **Hauts Bassins**, Burkina Faso, the PARVREN-ACP project aims to reduce the vulnerability of natural resources and improve living conditions for local communities by creating 32 conservation spaces, raising climate change awareness, and enhancing local producers' capacities through agroforestry practices, including the establishment of nurseries for reforestation and support for women's involvement in conservation.

In **Paraná**, Brazil, initiatives such as *Sinais da Natureza* develop projects for climate change prevention and adaptation through environmental policies and vulnerability mapping, while the *Adaptação Baseada em Ecossistemas (AbE)* studies the climate impacts on agricultural and livestock systems in the Ivaí River basin. Additionally, *Poliniza Paraná* promotes native bee populations to enhance agricultural productivity, focusing on sustainable practices for local women coffee producers.

In **Jalisco**, Mexico, funding is sought for their Programme of Natural Protected Areas and Other Conservation Instruments 2020-2024.

The **Auvergne Rhône-Alpes** Region in France is exploring a biodiversity certificate market to fund restoration projects. Companies could purchase certificates linked to scientifically validated projects, directly supporting local biodiversity efforts

4 Report

Sharing Insights to the Race to Resilience

When joining RegionsAdapt, regional governments commit to reporting on their progress through the online CDP States and Regions Questionnaire to inform and improve policies and actions.

RegionsAdapt is a key partner of the UN Race to Resilience

The Race to Resilience is a global campaign led by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions. It aims to empower non-state actors to enhance the resilience of 4 billion vulnerable people by 2030. This ambitious campaign focuses on supporting the most at-risk communities—those on the frontlines of extreme weather, such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, and rising sea levels—to better adapt to these climate challenges.

As an official partner of this campaign, **RegionsAdapt plays a vital role, driving the participation of states, regions, and provinces in the Race to Resilience.** Subnational governments are invited to join RegionsAdapt and become part of this global effort to drive meaningful climate action and strengthen resilience in their territories.

Among the [82 RegionsAdapt members](#), **40 states and regions have been actively disclosing their data and reporting their progress to CDP since 2021.** Their updates are featured in the RegionsAdapt Annual Report, which serves as the official submission to the Race to Resilience campaign. This report highlights their valuable contributions to building global climate resilience.



40
disclosing regions



16
countries



287
million inhabitants



7,4
million km² inhabitants of
the world's surface area



[Climate Champions Webpage](#)



[Join the Race as a state or region](#)



Disclosing RegionsAdapt Members List

AUSTRALIA

Australian Capital Territory
South Australia*

BRAZIL

Ceara
Goiás*
Minas Gerais*
Paraná*
Pernambuco*
Rio de Janeiro*
Rio Grande do Sul*
São Paulo*
Tocantins*

BURKINA FASO

Centre Nord
Hauts-Bassins

CANADA

Alberta
British Columbia
Prince Edward Island*
Quebec*

COLOMBIA

RAP Pacifico

ECUADOR

Pastaza*
Santa Elena

FRANCE

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes*
La Réunion

ITALY

Lombardy*

IVORY COAST

Sud-Comoé

MEXICO

Baja California Sur*
Campeche
Guanajuato*
Jalisco*
Yucatan*

NIGERIA

Cross River State*

SENEGAL

Gossas

SOUTH AFRICA

KwaZulu-Natal

SPAIN

Andalusia*
Basque Country*
Catalonia*
La Rioja
Navarra *

UNITED KINGDOM

Scotland*
Wales*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

California*

* We congratulate all RegionsAdapt members who disclosed their data this year and thank them on reporting their inspiring and ambitious efforts to adapt to climate change.



Gauteng,
South
Africa



Regions in Action

Inspiring initiatives from Regions

—
Pichincha,
Ecuador



Youth Assessing and Driving Climate Resilience in Assam Villages, India

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In Assam State, India, the Chief Minister’s Climate Resilient Village Fellowship Programme (CMCRVF) puts the youth at the forefront of climate action. This initiative empowers young leaders and post-graduate students to assess climate vulnerabilities in rural communities and develop tailored solutions. 43 villages have already undergone vulnerability assessments, revealing high exposure to extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. By focusing on water management, renewable energy, and nature-based solutions, the program not only strengthens community resilience but also fosters a new generation of climate leaders who integrate local knowledge into their work.



Ecuador Provinces Empowered to Protect Their Natural Heritage

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The Strategic Natural Heritage Management Manual (MAGEPAN), developed by the Consortium of Provincial Governments of Ecuador (CONGOPE), is a key guidance document designed to enhance natural heritage management at the provincial level. This initiative emerged from an urgent need to protect the country’s biodiversity and ecosystems, based on a thorough assessment of the political, technical, administrative, and financial capacities of local governments. MAGEPAN not only identifies key strategies and best practices, it also serves as a practical guide for provincial governments to improve their management of natural resources, aligning local and national development policies. With a focus on wildlife conservation and the enhancement of technical capacities, MAGEPAN empowers provincial authorities to play a leading role in safeguarding Ecuador’s natural heritage.



—
Assam,
India



GOSSAS, SENEGAL

A Model of Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity Preservation

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Since 2010, the province of Gossas has become a national leader in climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation in Senegal. The cornerstone of this achievement is the Plan Climat Territorial Intégré (PCTI - Integrated Territorial Climate Plan), introduced in 2014 with UNDP support. This strategic document has been crucial in defining effective, localized strategies that address both climate challenges and biodiversity preservation. Thanks to its integrated Territorial Climate Plan, Gossas has implemented impactful initiatives like establishing protected areas and regenerating degraded forests, setting a powerful example of sustainable development and climate resilience in West Africa.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

South Australia's First Biodiversity Act Shaped By Community Input

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The South Australian Government is taking a vital step to protect the state's biodiversity by developing a dedicated Biodiversity Act. This Act responds to the issue of species loss and ecosystem decline, with over 1,100 native species at risk of extinction in South Australia. The Act will focus on adapting to climate change, integrating First Nations' knowledge, and establishing a framework for assessing, monitoring, and regenerating biodiversity. South Australians have shown strong support for this initiative, particularly in giving biodiversity greater legal protection, and enhancing community participation.



—
**Amazonia
rainforest,
Brazil**

This chapter organizes stories by thematic themes aligned with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda's priority areas.

Nature



PARANÁ, BRAZIL

Paraná Pioneers Biodiversity Credit Policy at the subnational level

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Paraná has become the first subnational government in the world to establish a biodiversity credit policy, launched at COP16 in Cali, Colombia. The State Biodiversity Credit Policy aims to offset the environmental impact of companies by partnering with the private sector to fund services for environmental preservation, conservation, and restoration. Developed with the Life Coalition and supported by the BRDE bank, the program allocates R\$ 2 million for businesses to purchase biodiversity credits from certified natural reserves. Initially benefiting 25 reserves, the program is set to expand to other conservation areas, positioning Paraná as a global pioneer in biodiversity preservation.



SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM | NATURE

Scotland Leads the World With World Heritage Status for Flow Country Peatlands

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Scotland, United Kingdom, has made history by designating The Flow Country as the world's first UNESCO World Heritage Site for peatlands, highlighting its global ecological significance. Spanning 4,000 square kilometers, this pristine ecosystem is crucial for carbon sequestration, holding around 400 million tonnes of carbon—more than all of the UK's forests combined. The Scottish Government has committed £250 million to restore 250,000 hectares of degraded peatlands by 2030, emphasizing a comprehensive strategy of protection, management, and restoration. This initiative not only supports Scotland's net-zero goals but also enhances community resilience and promotes sustainable economic growth, positioning Scotland as a leader in peatland conservation and climate action.

Nature



QUÉBEC, CANADA

Québec Facilitates Species Movement Through Ecological Corridors

READ MORE →

Rising temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns in North America are pushing many species to move northward, with Québec, in Canada, at the crossroad of these ecological changes. However, natural and human-made barriers, as well as limited habitat connectivity in southern Québec, hinder this dispersion, increasing species' vulnerability. To address this, the 2024-2029 implementation of the [2030 Plan for a Green Economy](#), supports the conservation and establishment of ecological corridors, to enhance species' adaptability. The effectiveness of these ecological corridors is further strengthened using data and science. The province collaborates with New England governors and Eastern Canadian premiers on ecological connectivity, climate adaptation, and biodiversity conservation through [Connectiviteecologique.com](#). This platform shares the latest science on protecting natural pathways across Eastern North America, showcasing successful projects and fostering knowledge exchange.

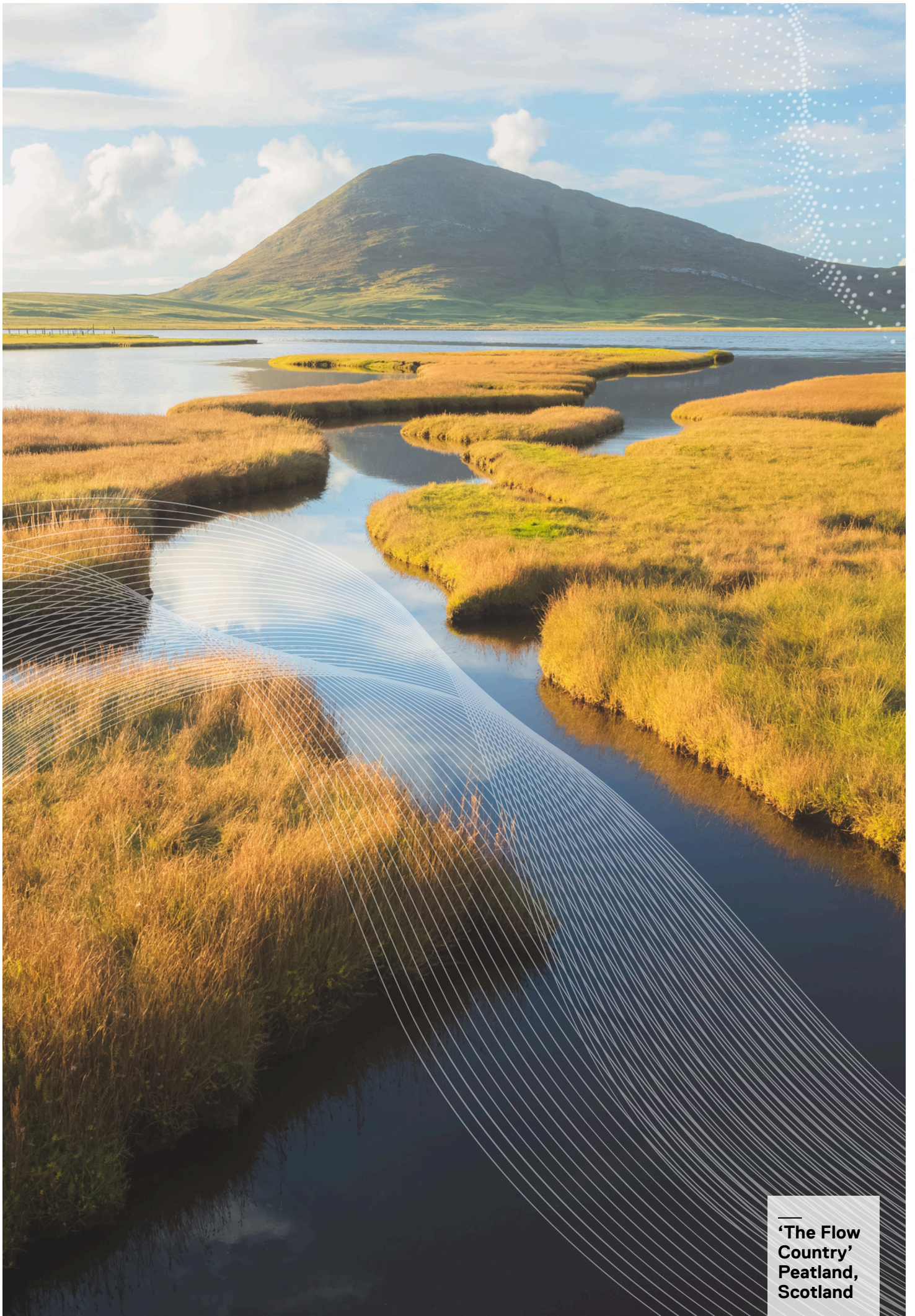


SUD COMOE, CÔTE D'IVOIRE | NATURE

Tanoé-Ehy Swamp Forest Becomes Côte D'Ivoire's First Community-Managed Nature Reserve

READ MORE →

In December 2021, the Tanoé-Ehy Swamp Forest (FMTE) in Sud Comoé was officially recognized as Côte d'Ivoire's first voluntary nature reserve, a milestone achieved through years of dedicated community efforts and as barrier to rapid climate change impacts and degradation to nature areas. Initially identified in 2006 as crucial for protecting endangered primates, the reserve's success is rooted in empowering local communities in managing their natural heritage and earning the support of the Regional Council of Sud Comoé. Despite some challenges, the project has fostered sustainable development and scientific research, becoming a model for community-driven conservation in West Africa.



**'The Flow
Country'
Peatland,
Scotland**

Water



BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Healthy Watersheds Initiative Boosts Climate Resilience in British Columbia

READ MORE

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative in British Columbia, Columbia, focuses on strengthening water ecosystems to enhance resilience against climate change impacts like flooding and drought. By collaborating with watershed stewards, Indigenous communities, and conservation leaders, the initiative supports projects that conserve and rehabilitate streams and wetlands, monitor water quality, and maintain critical infrastructure. Since fall 2020, the Province has invested nearly \$27 million, facilitating over 60 projects through grants to First Nations, non-profit organizations, and local governments. Budget 2022 allocated an additional \$30 million to further protect these essential ecosystems, highlighting their crucial role in climate adaptation and community well-being.

Agriculture



LOMBARDY, ITALY

Life 'Gestire2020' Project Transforms Conservation Practices in Lombardy

READ MORE

The LIFE “Gestire2020” Integrated Project in Lombardy, Italy, is transforming conservation efforts by improving governance and taking action to protect local ecosystems. Since 2017, the project has funded 146 initiatives, investing around 15 million euros. Key activities include managing invasive species, monitoring conservation status, and enhancing ecological networks within the Natura 2000 sites. The project also highlights agriculture’s crucial role in conservation, showcasing how it supports and integrates within broader environmental goals.

Human Settlements



GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA

Gauteng's 1 Million Tree Program Drives Green Transformation in South Africa's Urban Areas

READ MORE →

In Gauteng Province, South Africa, a remarkable initiative is taking root: the 1 Million Tree Program. Targeting areas with scant tree coverage like townships and informal settlements, this program aims to plant 400,000 indigenous trees and 600,000 fruit trees. This green push not only combats environmental degradation and enhances carbon sequestration, but it also fights climate change by reducing pollution and increasing green spaces. This effort aligns with the President's pledge to plant 10 million trees in five years, supporting South Africa's contribution to the Global Peace's 75 Million Trees Campaign which launched in Durban in 2019. Each tree planted in Gauteng represents a step towards a more resilient environment and a sustainable future.

Coastal Areas



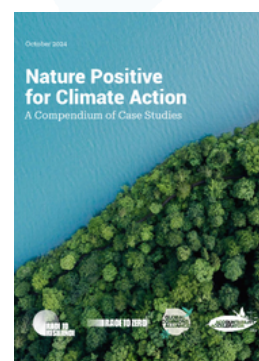
BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN

Basque Country Greens Tonpoi Cliffs for a Climate-Resilient Coast

READ MORE →

The Tonpoi cliffs in Bermeo, Spain, have been transformed from a degraded area into a model of climate-adaptive coastal restoration. Now part of the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve, the restored cliffs feature native trees, biodiversity-supporting microhabitats, and pedestrian paths, offering locals a peaceful green space. This project enhances climate resilience while fostering a connection between community and nature.

To discover real solutions implemented by the private sector and subnational governments to advance both climate and nature goals, explore the latest collection of nature-positive case studies selected by the UN Climate High-Level Champions. This comprehensive resource showcases successful strategies and initiatives, and is available [here](#).



An aerial photograph of a lush green vineyard with rows of grapevines. In the center, a small white house with a dark roof is visible. A network of thin, white, curved lines radiates from the house, suggesting a fiber optic or data network. The bottom of the image transitions into a solid blue gradient.

Learn more

Stay connected

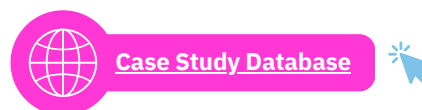
**Lombardy,
Italy**

Learn more

Interested in discovering more stories? Check out our [RegionsVoice campaigns](#) from Biodiversity COP16 and Climate COP29! Launched by Regions4 in 2019, the #RegionsVoice campaign amplifies the voices of regional governments at key UN events and negotiations on sustainable development. Explore how regional leaders are making an impact!



Explore the [Case Study Database](#), a valuable resource featuring detailed accounts of regional success stories aimed at addressing common challenges faced by subnational governments. Each case study provides insights into project origins, institutional frameworks, key components, impacts, financial sustainability, and lessons learned. With over 15 cases on biodiversity available in Spanish, French, and English, this database offers practical examples and strategies that may be applicable to your own initiatives.



About

Regions4

Regions4 is a global network representing subnational governments (states, regions, and provinces) before UN processes, European Union initiatives, and global discussions in the field of sustainable development. Through advocacy, cooperation, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange, we empower subnational governments to accelerate climate action, halt biodiversity loss, and raise ambition in achieving the SDGs towards resilient and sustainable territories and communities. Follow @Regions4SD or visit www.regions4.org



CDP

CDP is a global, non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, investors, public authorities, cities, states, and regions. Over 24,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2023, including more than 23,000 companies - including listed companies worth two thirds of global market capitalization - and over 1,100 cities, states, and regions. Fully TCFD aligned, CDP holds the largest environmental database in the world, and CDP scores are widely used to drive investment and procurement decisions towards a zero carbon, sustainable, and resilient economy. Follow @CDP to find out more or visit data.cdp.net



Race to Resilience

The Race to Resilience is a global campaign led by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions that aims to catalyse action by non-party stakeholders in building the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks by 2030. Through a partnership of initiatives, its focus is on helping the most vulnerable, including frontline communities, to build resilience and adapt to the physical impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding, and sea-level rise. Visit: racetozero.unfccc.int/system/resilience



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