

WASP

**WORLD
ADAPTATION
SCIENCE
PROGRAMME**

Making science work for climate adaptation

*A Progress Report: Six Years of WASP
Achievements (2019 - 2024)*



United Nations
Climate Change



UNU
EHS



A message from the Chair

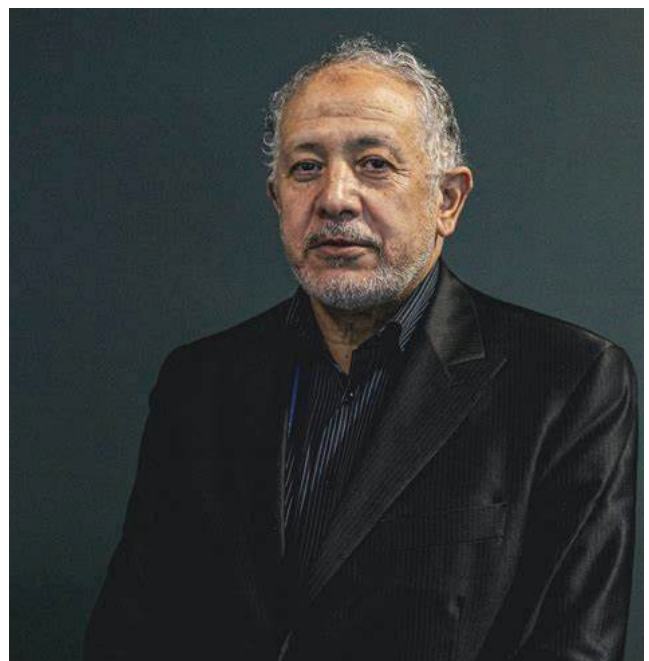
For decades, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has put forward evidence on how people and planet are being rocked by climate destruction. World leaders have gathered at climate COPs to make decisions on how to achieve our collective climate goals.

Now, the global average temperature is well above 1°C higher than pre-industrial levels. We are experiencing more extreme weather, rising sea levels and accelerating change in seasonal weather patterns. We are at a pivotal time for urgent climate action, particularly on climate change adaptation.

The science of climate change could not be clearer with report after report and fact upon fact. With determination to support the most vulnerable and tackling the unprecedented climate change impacts, nine international agencies have joined forces under the World Adaptation Science Programme to ensure that climate adaptation knowledge gaps are filled to inform evidence-based policies, solutions and actions for successful adaptation to evolving climate conditions.

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time, and our climate is collapsing. Even if the international community were to stop emitting all

greenhouse gases today, it would take decades for the climate to stabilize. In this context, the World Adaptation Science Programme stands ready to support developing countries in identifying their needs on climate change adaptation planning, implementation, and evaluation. We need to prioritize providing policy-relevant science for decision-makers. The World Adaptation Science Programme is committed to collaboration to implement the system-wide strategy for adaptation science, policy-making and action.



Mr. Abdalah Mokssit

Chair of the World Adaptation Science Programme, Secretary of the International Panel on Climate Change



About the World Adaptation Science Programme

The World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP) is a **United Nations initiative** and **global think tank**, sponsored by nine international organisations (AF, GCF, GEF, IPCC, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNU-EHS, and WMO). The programme involves interdisciplinary world-renowned experts from the Global North and South. The WASP has a multi-stakeholder governance panel consisting of a supervisory Management Group, which oversees a Science Committee and a Policy and Finance Committee, and four Working Groups, and is supported by a Secretariat hosted by UNEP.

WASP's vision is ensuring that the science-policy gap climate adaptation gap is bridged to inform novel climate conditions. Our main priority is addressing the knowledge needs in vulnerable developing countries and providing policy-relevant science for decision-makers.

Governance, Committees and Working Groups

The **Management Group** is the central decision-making body of the World Adaptation Science Programme, including **representatives from nine international organisations** (AF, GCF, GEF, IPCC, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNU-EHS, and WMO), co-chairs of the Science Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee, and co-chairs of the four Working Groups. The Management Group is chaired by a representative from one of the nine international organizations, serving a two-year term on a rotational basis. Past Chairs have been UNEP (2019-2020), UNFCCC (2020-2022), and IPCC (2022-2024).

The **Science Committee** is composed of 22 distinguished members of the research community and academia. Science Committee members represent diverse disciplines and sectors, reflecting the multiple dimensions of climate adaptation science. The **Policy and Finance Committee** is composed of 16 distinguished members from the policy and finance sectors, including the banking sector, investors and policy leaders.



Fourth Annual Meeting of the WASP in Montreal, Canada (October, 2023). Photo: UNEP

The programme has established four Working Groups, focusing on adaptation effectiveness, loss and damage, the global goal on adaptation, and adaptation finance. These Working Groups aim to further **assess key cutting-edge adaptation science topics**, helping to **mobilize the science and policy communities** with a particular emphasis on strengthening engagement of developing country scientists and policy-makers. The Working Groups also aim to **develop a research agenda**, identify **research priorities**, engage with partners and stakeholders to leverage resources, and **build capacity**.

1. Working Group on Adaptation Effectiveness
2. Working Group on Loss and Damage
3. Working Group on the Global Goal on Adaptation
4. Working Group on Adaptation Finance



Top-left: Launch of the policy brief on adaptation effectiveness, Montreal, Canada (October, 2023). Photo credit: UNEP. Top-right: Working Group on Adaptation Finance Workshop, Beijing, China (October, 2024). Bottom-left: Members of the Working Group on the Global Goal on Adaptation at an ISSI ESA-WASP Workshop, Bonn, Germany (June, 2024). Photo credit: Johanna Nalau. Bottom-right: WASP side event on the launch of the policy brief on Loss and Damage at COP29, Baku, Azerbaijan (November, 2024). Photo credit: UNEP

Key milestones since December 2018

2018

- Formal launch of WASP at COP24 in Katowice, Poland in December 2018 by UNEP, WMO, IPCC, UNFCCC, and GCF.

2019

- Second Annual Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal in May 2019.

2020

- Adaptation Gap Report Scoping Meeting in January 2020.
- Three policy briefs on Decision Support Tools, Transboundary Risks, and High-End Climate Change published in November 2020.

2021

- The Global Environment Facility joins the Management Group in March 2021.
- The United Nations University joins the Management Group in June 2021.
- Sixth Adaptation Futures Conference in New Delhi, India in October 2021.
- Adaptation Gap Report 2021, launched in November 2021.
- Policy brief on Early Warning Systems, launched in November 2021.

2022

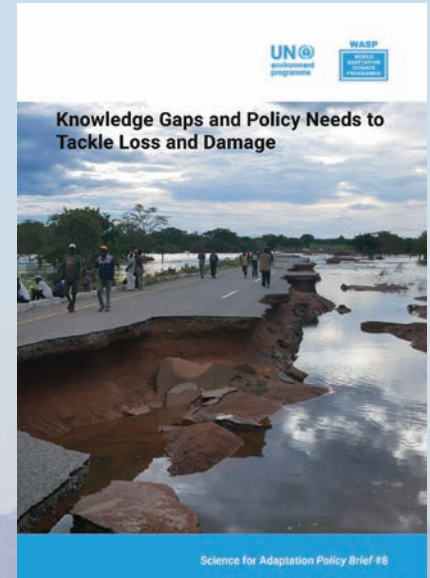
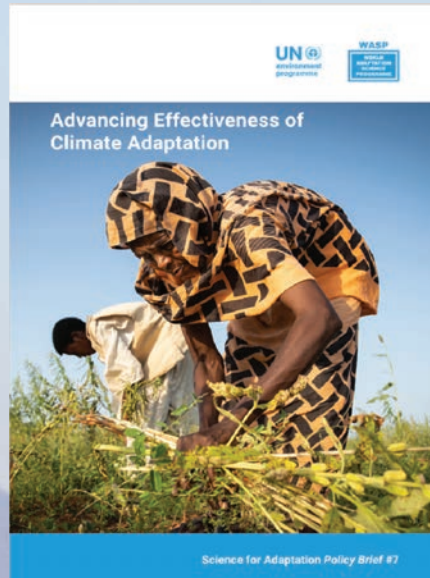
- Policy brief on Cascading Shocks and Stressors, launched in March 2022.
- Third Annual Meeting, held fully virtually in May 2022.
- Adaptation Gap Report 2022, launched in November 2022.
- Policy brief on the Global Goal on Adaptation, launched in November 2022

2023

- Three Working Groups established in May 2023 on Adaptation Effectiveness, Loss and Damage, and the Global Goal on Adaptation.
- Fourth Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada in October 2023.
- Seventh Adaptation Futures Conference in Montreal, Canada in October 2023.
- Policy brief on Adaptation Effectiveness, launched in October 2023.
- Adaptation Gap Report 2023, launched in November 2023.
- Fourth Working Group on Adaptation Finance established in November 2023.

2024

- UNESCO joins the Management Group, and the European Commission joins as an Observer in February 2024.
- ISSI WASP-ESA Forum on Earth Observation and Climate Adaptation held in Bern in June 2024.
- Adaptation Finance Working Group Workshop in Beijing, China in Oct 2024.
- Adaptation Gap Report 2024, launched in October 2024.
- Policy Brief on Loss and Damage, launched in November 2024.
- The Adaptation Fund joins the Management Group in December 2024.



Providing adaptation science to policy makers, researchers and practitioners with Science-for-Adaptation Policy Briefs

The programme has published eight Science-for-Adaptation Policy Briefs, on emerging adaptation science policy topics. The briefs target researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, and aim to **encourage demand-driven knowledge creation and sharing**, as well as **engage stakeholders** at the science-policy-action interface.

1. Adaptation Decision-Support Tools and Platforms
2. Transboundary Climate Risk and Adaptation
3. High-end Climate Change and Adaptation
4. Early Warning Systems for Adaptation
5. Cascading Shocks and Stressors
6. The Global Goal on Adaptation
7. Advancing Effectiveness for Climate Adaptation
8. Knowledge Gaps and Policy Needs to Tackle Loss and Damage

Assessing global progress on adaptation with the Adaptation Gap Reports

The Adaptation Gap Report series provides an **annual science-based assessment of the global progress on adaptation planning, financing, and implementation**. It also explores options for enhancing and advancing national and global adaptation efforts and provides in-depth analysis of selected issues of interest. The reports aim to inform international climate negotiations.

The WASP has co-produced UNEP's annual Adaptation Gap Report with UNEP and the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre since 2020.

The Adaptation Gap Report has been receiving an increasing amount of media attention, with **over 450 articles** published on the 2024 edition in **over 350 media outlets across 60 countries in 10 languages**.



Bringing together the adaptation community with the Adaptation Futures conferences

Since 2018, the programme has been co-organising and co-hosting Adaptation Futures Conferences. The Adaptation Futures Conference series is the **premier international conference** devoted entirely to climate change adaptation, **bringing together scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and private sector representatives** to share their work and build networks.

Adaptation Futures 2021 - New Delhi, India

Adaptation Futures 2023 - Montreal, Canada

Adaptation Futures 2025 - Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand



Host city of Adaptation Futures 2023, Montreal, Canada. Photo: Jackie Hutchinson / Unsplash

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