

Launch of Provincial Adaptation Plans

Pakistan's Adaptation Agenda: From National Framework to Subnational Implementation and Lessons from Global Practices

In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), and the Planning and Development Departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

Climate adaptation is a national development priority for Pakistan, where floods, heat stress and water insecurity threaten livelihoods and essential services. The [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) 2023](#) establishes priorities across the agriculture–water nexus, natural capital, urban resilience and human capital, alongside disaster risk management and social inclusion. Its significance lies in integrating climate risk into development decisions. Translating this framework into provincial and district action is essential to addressing different local vulnerabilities and protecting development gains.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has supported Pakistan's NAP process and capacity for adaptation planning. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), collaboration between the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), [UNEP](#), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the provincial Planning and Development Department supported the development of [District Adaptation Plans](#) for Charsadda and Karak, launched on 6 May 2026. These plans demonstrate how national priorities can be translated into locally relevant adaptation measures.

Building on this UNEP-supported planning process at district and provincial levels, the session will launch the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Climate Adaptation Plan. The launch will provide an opportunity to examine how provincial priorities connect with the Charsadda and Karak plans, how sector departments can take responsibility for implementation, and what support district institutions require. The discussion will also draw on progress and lessons from district adaptation planning in Balochistan.

The session will undertake a soft inception of the newly launched Punjab climate adaptation planning initiative under the GCF-funded project, introducing its scope and creating an opportunity for early stakeholder engagement. The documented Punjab work includes a Provincial Adaptation Plan, two District Adaptation Plans, Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments, capacity building and legal review. [Lessons](#) from KP and Balochistan will inform discussion of Punjab's planning approach and links between provincial priorities and district needs.

A central question is how these plans can translate into sustained implementation across government. Pakistan's NAP identifies national–provincial coordination, institutional capacity, finance and data gaps as implementation barriers and sets out requirements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The panel will assess coordination between provinces, [federal](#)–provincial linkages and provincial–district responsibilities. It will examine practical arrangements for shared climate information, integration into development budgets and reporting on adaptation outcomes. Community engagement will be considered for planning, delivery and review, including how women and vulnerable groups influence priorities and assess whether interventions address their needs.

The discussion will also identify takeaways for Pakistan's engagement at COP31. The [Global Goal on Adaptation](#), the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Belém Adaptation Indicators provide relevant international reference points for connecting national and subnational

progress. The panel will consider how provincial experience can inform Pakistan's priorities on adaptation finance, implementation support and capacity building, and how monitoring can generate credible evidence of local results. These takeaways will be developed as recommendations for consideration by the relevant national authorities.

Convened at SDPI's 29th Sustainable Development Conference, the session will bring the NAP team, UNEP and government representatives into discussion with adaptation experts and community-engagement practitioners. Collaboration with SDPI will connect the KP launch and Punjab soft inception with an expert dialogue on implementation. It will provide the NAP team and UNEP with documented recommendations on coordination and monitoring, while enabling provinces to exchange lessons and identify follow-up priorities. Specific objectives include:

- Launch the KP Provincial Climate Adaptation Plan and explore its implementation through provincial and district institutions, drawing on experiences from Charsadda and Karak.
- Initiate the Punjab climate adaptation planning process, engaging stakeholders and incorporating lessons from KP and Balochistan.
- Strengthen federal–provincial, interprovincial and provincial–district coordination for effective adaptation planning and implementation.
- Integrate adaptation priorities into sectoral plans, provincial Annual Development Programmes and district implementation frameworks, supported by adequate financing and institutional capacity.
- Strengthen adaptation monitoring and evaluation through measurable indicators, reliable data and reporting mechanisms aligned with national and provincial frameworks.
- Promote inclusive community participation, particularly among women and vulnerable groups, in adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Develop Pakistan's key adaptation recommendations for COP31, focusing on climate finance, implementation support and capacity building.
- Examine international best practices in adaptation implementation and financing to identify relevant lessons for Pakistan.

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