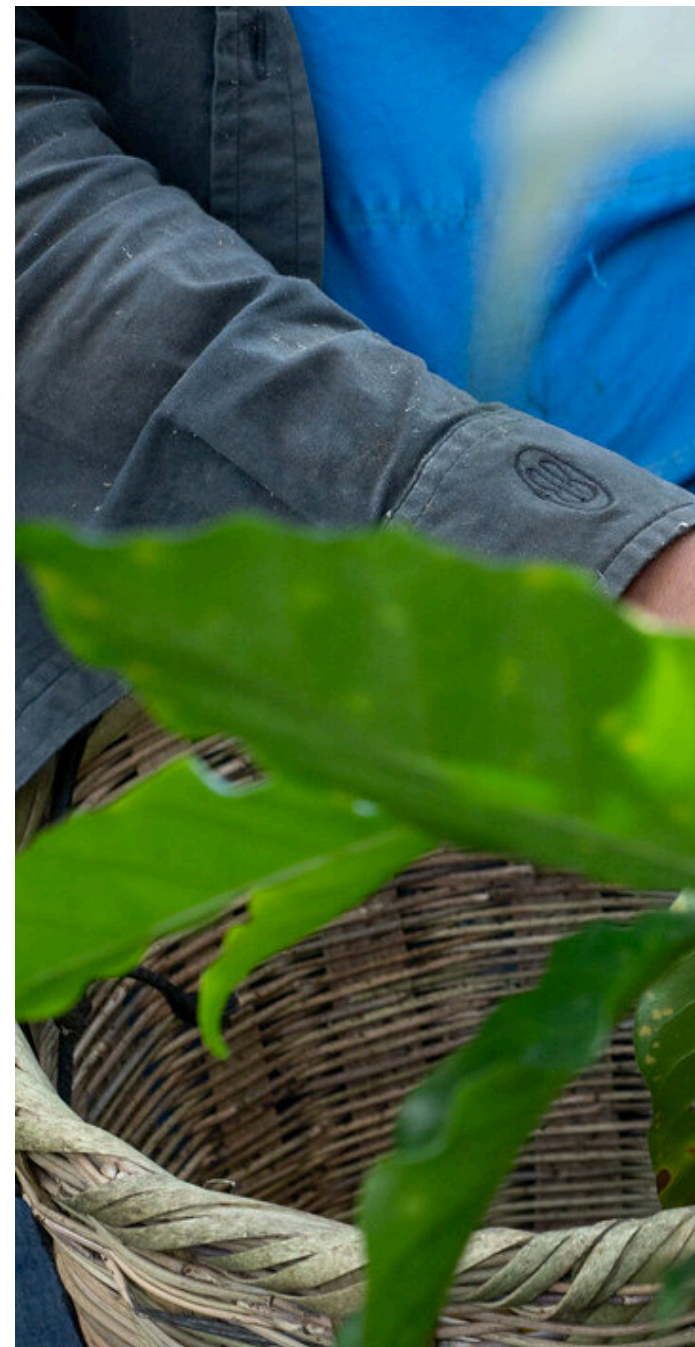


ADAPTATION AND NDCS:

FROM ANALYSIS AND
PLANNING TO ACTION
AND AMBITION RAISING

NDC 
PARTNERSHIP





INTRODUCTION

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of 180+ countries and institutions collaborating to drive transformational climate action while enhancing sustainable development. The Partnership engages directly with country governments to understand and address country needs around the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. To date, the NDC Partnership is engaged on the ground in 70+ countries, of which 42 countries have submitted specific requests for support through request letters or the development of Partnership Plans. In addition, 63 countries are receiving support for NDC enhancement in 2020¹ through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP). In response to country requests to the Partnership, members provide targeted and coordinated support while leveraging their resources and expertise. Overall, the specific requests that the Partnership has received provide a broad and high-level overview of emerging country needs for NDC implementation and updating. Across all requests for Partnership support, around a quarter focus on adaptation and nearly half of requests address both mitigation and adaptation. Therefore, the Partnership is uniquely positioned to share trends identified in countries' adaptation-related needs and insights.

¹ While some delays are expected due to COVID-19, as of UNFCCC correspondence in August 2020, countries are still requested to submit NDCs by 31 December 2020.

BY SHARING THESE INSIGHTS, WE AIM TO:

1. **Strengthen cross-country learning on adaptation action** as part of NDC implementation; and
2. **Encourage partners to step up their support** for adaptation action where countries show ambition, but where resources are lacking.

Adapting to climate change remains an immense global challenge as gaps persist in data and information, coordinated planning and decision-making, adaptation finance, and monitoring and evaluation. For countries to plan and execute meaningful adaptation action, they are seeking access to dependable data and information systems, which helps identify and prioritize climate risks and vulnerabilities. Moreover, there is a clear need to improve coordination and alignment between NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and national development plans—and thus set a cohesive framework for implementation. In tandem, countries are seeking monitoring and evaluation systems for tracking implementation, which can promote lesson-learning and help improve adaptation measures over time.

Further, in order to move from planning to implementation, countries require significant support for project-based adaptation action, which currently consists of 15 percent of all analyzed adaptation requests (78 projects from 18 countries), with well over a third (38 percent) of these proposed projects not yet financially supported by partners. Gaining access to project financing for adaptation is an evident need amongst country

requests, making up nearly a third (29 percent) of adaptation-related finance requests. All in all, taking adaptation measures from analysis to action requires a significant investment from partners in the form of technical (including project preparation) and financial assistance (project investment).

Finally, based on requests from 63 member countries participating in CAEP, the Partnership expects to see an expansion of adaptation-related measures in the second round of NDCs. As countries are updating and enhancing their NDCs in 2020, many are including new sectors within their adaptation-related activities; in fact, nearly a third (32 percent) of countries engaged through CAEP intend to include at least one new adaptation sector.

METHODOLOGY

This analysis was conducted using a dataset of country requests received from governments and extracted in March 2020 from the NDC Partnership's internal data management platform.

This analysis provides an overview of countries' adaptation needs while identifying key trends and highlighting gaps in support. The framework for the analysis is based on the Global Commission for Adaptation (GCA) Action Tracks that were identified in 2019² to set the stage for accelerating adaptation action in the following key areas: *Agriculture and Food Security, Cities, Infrastructure, Nature-Based Solutions, Local Action, Water, Disaster Risk Management, and Finance*. Two transformational thematic areas were added to this list in the NDC Partnership's analysis, *Gender and Health*. More

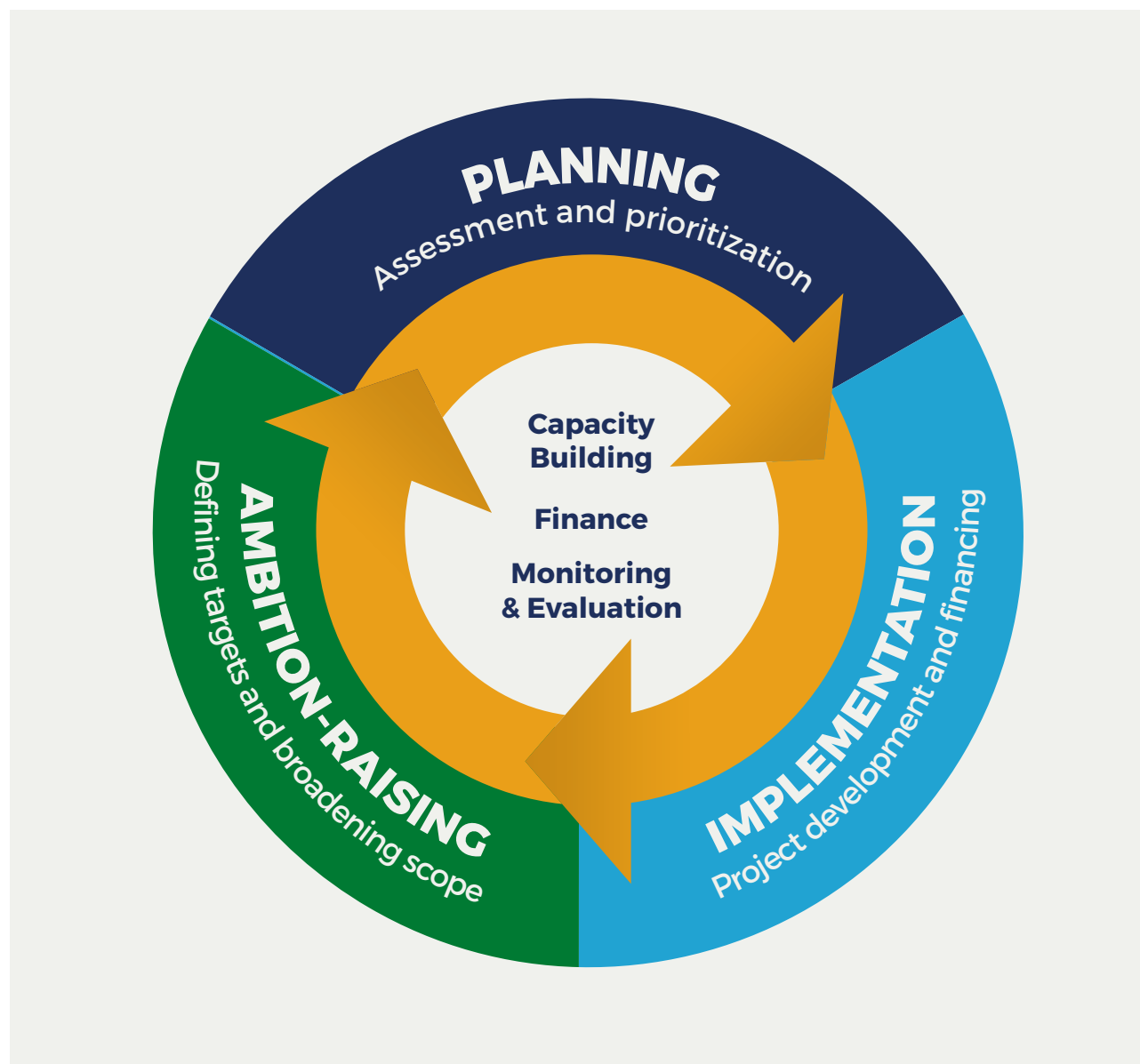
than 500 output-level requests from 35 countries (out of 42 countries) related to NDC implementation were identified within these adaptation focus areas. An additional 200 requests from 49 countries (out of 63 countries) received through CAEP and related to NDC enhancement were analyzed. In total, requests from 64 individual countries were considered in this analysis.

Based on the comprehensive dataset of country requests for support through the NDC Partnership, three key interconnected stages for adaptation action were identified and analyzed in greater depth: 1) planning; 2) implementation; and 3) ambition-raising. Figure 1 outlines these three stages as well as the cross-cutting areas present throughout, namely finance, capacity building, and monitoring & evaluation (M&E).

This paper elaborates on the three stages, while illustrating concrete actions being undertaken by countries and highlighting remaining opportunities for accelerating adaptation action.

An elaborate search methodology was applied to classify adaptation requests into the GCA's eight Action Tracks, as well as Gender and Health. After

FIGURE 1. CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE THREE KEY STAGES IN ADAPTATION ACTION



the dataset was compiled, a qualitative analysis was done to identify and elaborate on the first two key stages outlined in this brief, centered around data-informed planning, project implementation, and finance. Under the first stage (“planning”), an additional set of cross-cutting adaptation requests was also taken into consideration, such as capacity building and monitoring & evaluation, to strengthen the dataset on which the analysis is based. Under the second stage (“implementation”), the dataset with technical assistance requests related to adaptation finance was also expanded for the same reason. NDC enhancement requests were compiled and analyzed separately through CAEP data, resulting in key insights captured as part of the third stage. As requests are not mutually exclusive and can fall within multiple action tracks, some overlap and duplication across the dataset may exist.

All data is available in a comprehensive dataset upon request.³ As country requests are updated and additional partner support is mobilized, the data used in this analysis continues to evolve. Therefore, verifying the current status of these requests and their support is recommended on a case-by-case basis.

1 LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR ACTION: ADAPTATION PLANNING

The requests received through the NDC Partnership give a clear message: countries are seeking to strengthen data and information systems to inform adaptation planning processes and, subsequently, to monitor implementation progress. In fact, 25 percent of the adaptation requests analyzed fall under the principal theme of strengthening information-driven planning processes. The planning requests in this analysis are primarily cross-cutting, spreading across all eight Action Tracks identified by the Global Commission on Adaptation and encompassing a broad range of sectors and focus areas. Three planning subthemes were identified and analyzed in greater detail: data and assessment; prioritization and strategies; and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting⁴. This section explores adaptation requests from 32 countries⁵ within the three planning subthemes. Support for these requests is being provided by 35 partners of the NDC Partnership⁶.

3 Unsupported requests were included to highlight areas that need further support from partners. For more detail into these requests, please reach out to Ralien.Bekkers@ndcpartnership.org.

4 Data and assessment requests require data collection, information-gathering, or analysis to inform planning processes. Prioritization and strategy requests aim to translate adaptation priorities into concrete measures and develop the necessary policy frameworks and strategies. Monitoring and reporting requests pertain to M&E, MRV, or other mechanisms used to track implementation progress.

5 32 countries: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

6 35 partners: ADB, AFD, AfDB, Belgium, CAF, CDB, CI, Climate Analytics, Denmark, FAO, GCF, GEF, Germany, GGGI, ICLEI, IFAD, IISD, ILO, IMF, IRENA, Netherlands, NREL, OECS, SEI, SNV, Spain, Sweden, TNC, UN Environment, UNCDF, UNDP, World Bank, WRI, WWF, IUCN.

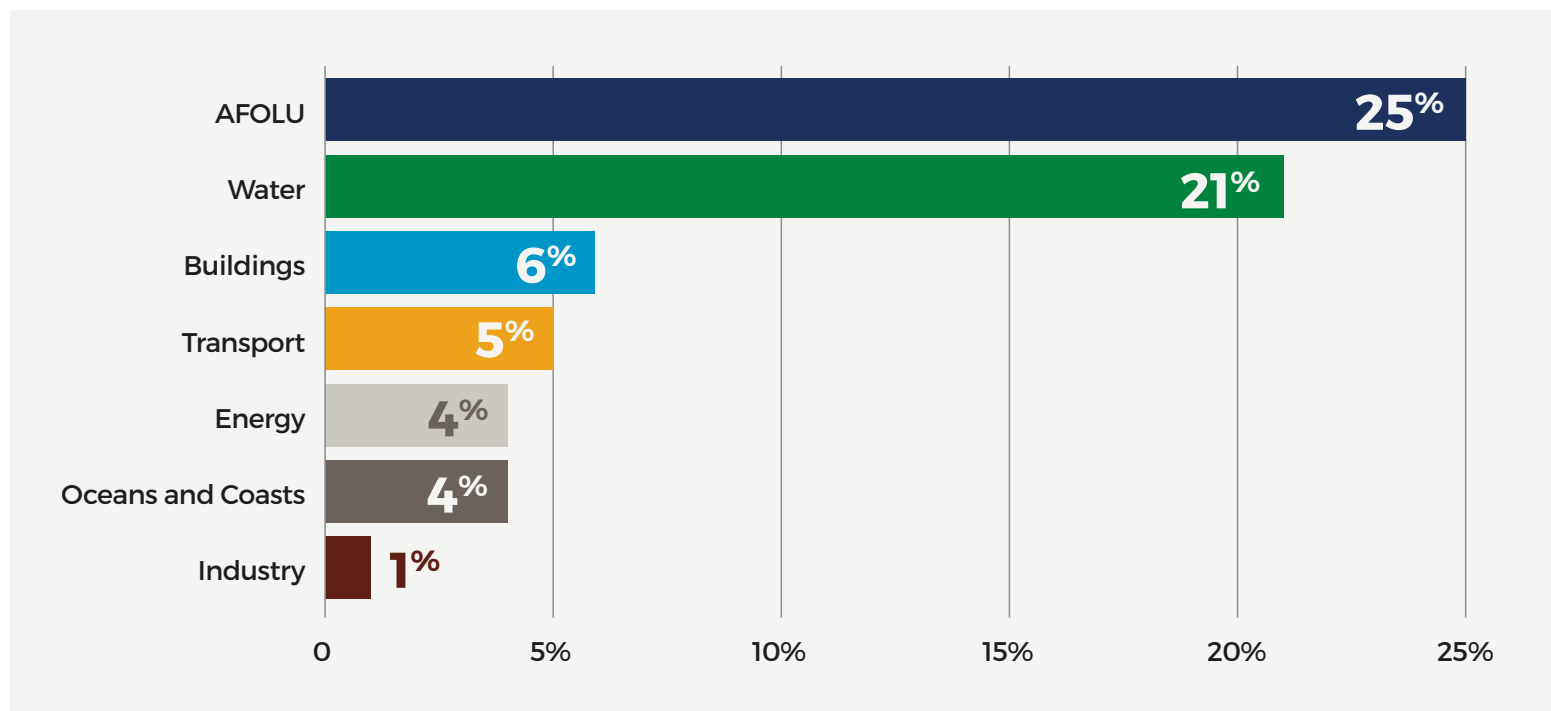
1.1 | DATA AND ASSESSMENT

In order to set the path towards meaningful adaptation action, countries are seeking access to data and information systems that will allow them to assess adaptation challenges in greater depth, highlight key areas for intervention, and inform their planning processes. Requests focused on data and assessment needs come in the form of identifying climate risks; assessing key vulnerabilities, climate modelling and scenarios; or making data more accessible. These requests come from 21 countries and support is provided by more than 20 partners. However, 42 percent of data and assessment requests remain unsupported, thus flagging an area needing further partner support.

The sectoral breakdown of these requests is seen in Figure 2. Note that more than half (52 percent) of the requests were considered multi-sector, which were omitted from the graph below.

Taking a closer look, vulnerability assessments comprise 33 percent of these requests, coming from 14 countries. The assessments vary widely in focus depending on the country; for example, São Tomé and Príncipe requested a vulnerability assessment for specific communities, Jordan for ecological hotspots, and Morocco focused on land degradation. Meanwhile, Namibia and Uganda requested gender-focused vulnerability assessments. Sectoral vulnerability assessments were the most frequently requested, such as in the case of Uganda,

FIGURE 2.
SECTORAL
BREAKDOWN
OF COUNTRY
ADAPTATION
REQUESTS WITH A
THEMATIC FOCUS
ON DATA AND
ASSESSMENTS



Mozambique, Mali, Ethiopia, Morocco, and the Philippines, for sectors including agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU), water, energy, health, and infrastructure.

Establishing robust data collection systems is also in high demand, requested by 14 countries. Examples include a national water resources information system (Mozambique), a national forest resource database (Philippines), and a climate-sensitive disease surveillance system (Jordan). Climate modelling and scenario development were requested by seven countries, such as sectoral scenario development (Uganda) or a risk modelling system (Gabon). Lastly, information-sharing and increased access to data were clear needs expressed by seven countries. These requests take the form of facilitating access to climate information at the national and sub-national levels via an information-sharing platform (Morocco) or increasing access to climate data through a centralized database (Viet Nam).

The data and assessment requests demonstrate that countries are looking to deepen their understanding of the adaptation challenges they are facing, and further, to use this analytical depth and oversight to inform and strengthen planning processes.

1.2 | PRIORITIZATION AND STRATEGIES

Building upon assessment needs, countries are seeking support to prioritize areas for adaptation intervention, develop plans and strategies, and build capacities within planning and implementing entities. This is a key stage in the road towards implementation, for which 30 countries have requested support. These requests are supported by more than 30 partners; however, 35 percent of these requests remain unsupported. Requests generally seek technical assistance to identify priority actions, conduct feasibility studies and cost-benefit analyses, draft policies, and align various climate-related strategies like NAPs, NDCs, SDGs, and national planning processes. To highlight the diversity of planning needs related to prioritization and strategies, Table 1 classifies the requests into three planning subthemes and provides examples from across countries, including several that remain unsupported.

TABLE 1. PLANNING-FOCUSED ADAPTATION REQUESTS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE PLANNING SUBTHEMES

PLANNING SUBTHEMES	EXAMPLES OF COUNTRY REQUESTS
<p>Identifying priorities and planning measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate adaptation interventions identified to restore degraded lands and rangelands and improve resiliency to drought (Jordan; unsupported) • Adaptation options are selected with a priority list of adaptation measures (Mali; unsupported) • Restoration opportunity assessments and prioritization of areas (Zimbabwe) • Long-term options analysis in the context of sea-level rise with recommendations, to be discussed through local and national dialogues (Republic of the Marshall Islands) • Priorities identified, particularly in the tourism sector, for minimizing vulnerability to climate change impacts (Seychelles) • Revision of adaptation priorities mentioned in NDC; analysis, discussion, and approval of new priorities (Honduras)
<p>Feasibility studies and cost-benefit analyses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility and design studies for drought prone areas of the country (Ethiopia) • Feasibility studies and assessments to evaluate the priority adaptation measures and translate them into specific implementation programs and activities (Philippines) • Staff across key sectors trained on cost-benefit analysis to help with planning and budgeting around climate change, disaster risk management, food security, etc. (Mozambique) • Quantification of the cost of drought on the economy (Antigua and Barbuda)
<p>Policy and strategy development, alignment, and synergies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy and legislation for disaster risk management developed and approved (São Tomé and Príncipe; unsupported) • Synergies identified between development objectives, policies, plans and programs, and national adaptation objectives to be included in the NDC (Morocco; unsupported) • National Adaptation Plan developed, serving as the basis for the NDC adaptation component (Namibia) • Adaptation issues in the enhanced NDC strengthened by integrating the NAP in the NDC (Grenada) • Coordination mechanism established for NAP and NDC by 2020 (Uganda) • Alignment and mainstreaming of NDC, SDG, and NAP targets, as well as gender mainstreaming, into the next Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (Nigeria)

Within the context of adaptation, the need to prioritize areas for intervention and translate priorities into planning measures was clearly expressed by countries, especially in the face of emerging adaptation challenges. In tandem, countries recognize the need to strengthen their broader policy framework around adaptation: 24 countries have requested support specifically for interventions related to policy, strategy, and legislation. Countries are also looking to promote alignment between NDCs, NAPs, SDGs, and national development plans, amongst other planning instruments, which is a fundamental step in establishing a cohesive framework for implementation.

Eight countries requested support to the NDC Partnership regarding NAPs: Burkina Faso, Grenada, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda, and Viet Nam. Out of the eight, only two have submitted a NAP as of September 2020. This highlights the NDC process as an important entry point for countries to undertake NAP development. According to the NAP Global Network⁷, for countries that do not have a NAP process underway, or where it is not significantly advanced, NDCs can be leveraged as a national mandate to advance NAPs. Moreover, the inclusion of NAPs in requests to the Partnership offers an opportunity to leverage partner support to develop comprehensive adaptation plans and promote alignment between NAPs and NDCs from the start. In fact, 80 percent of all countries that have submitted NAPs to the UNFCCC are also members of the Partnership, which highlights the potential for broader institutional collaboration and alignment across country adaptation planning processes.

1.3 | MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING

In addition to data and assessments to inform decision-making, countries are seeking support from the NDC Partnership to establish Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems; develop indicators and metrics; and create data-sharing mechanisms, among others. Solid M&E systems allow countries to quantify progress in NDC implementation and thus, bring evidence of economic returns to potential investors in adaptation. They also provide valuable feedback to decision-makers on whether adaptation measures are working and can prompt adjustments where necessary. However, M&E for adaptation continues to present many challenges, including a lack of common metrics to measure the success of adaptation action, unavailability of data, uncertainty around the impacts of interventions, intervening socio-economic variables, and the long timescale over which climate impacts unfold⁸. Nineteen countries⁹ are requesting support to overcome these limitations. Support for these requests comes from more than 15 partners of the NDC Partnership. Only 10 percent of these requests remain unsupported, suggesting that partners also consider M&E and MRV systems to be important focus areas.

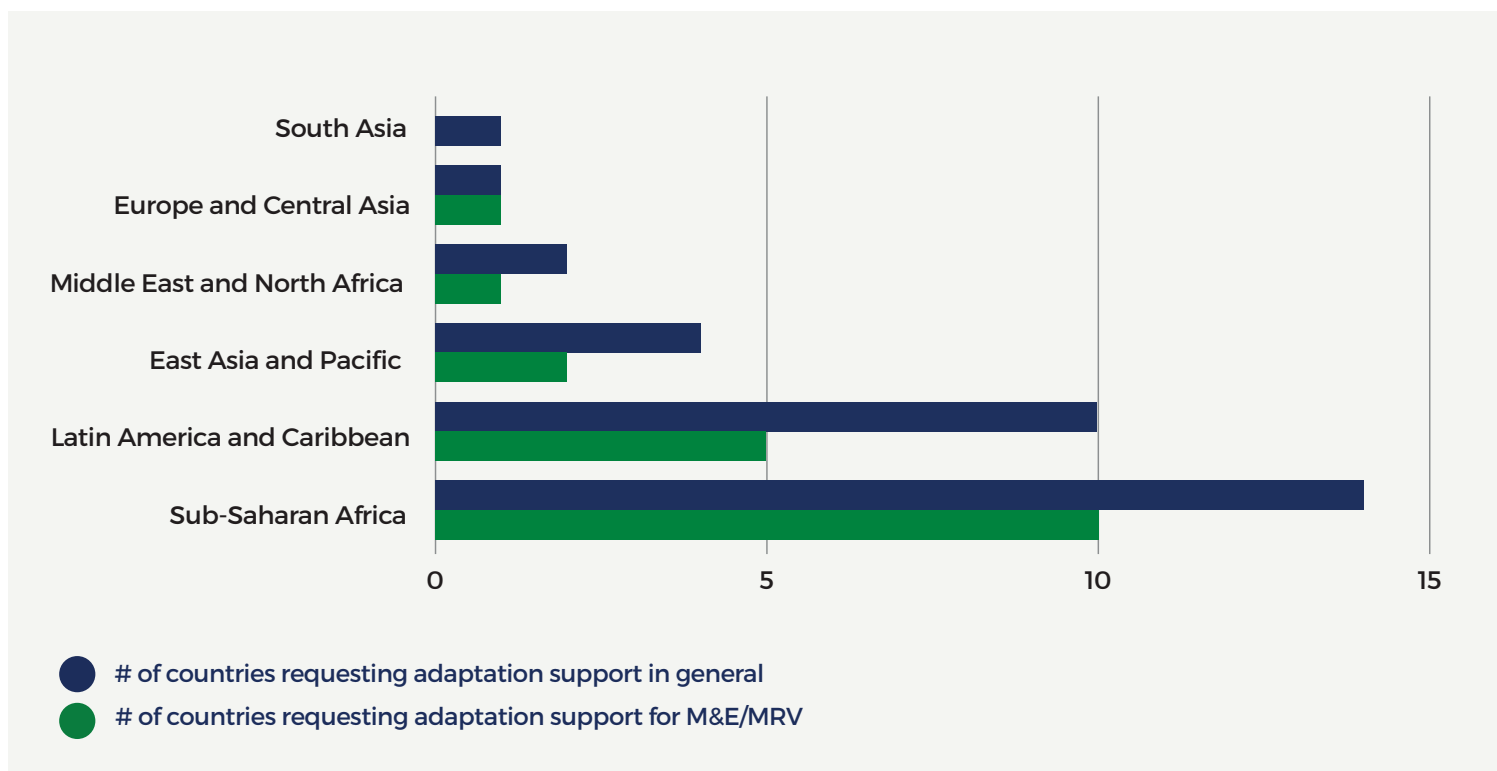
M&E and MRV systems are currently the least prevalent within the requests analyzed in this trend; however, they are still an emerging priority for countries, especially as they look towards implementing their updated NDCs. It is also important to note that the requests received through the Partnership are only a

7 NDC Partnership Briefing on Adaptation. 2 March 2020. NDC Partnership and NAP Global Network (Virtual Event).

8 NAP Global Network - Developing National Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: A Guidebook.

9 Albania, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Philippines, Saint Lucia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

FIGURE 3.
PERCENTAGE OF
COUNTRIES PER
REGION THAT
REQUESTED
SUPPORT FOR
ADAPTATION-
FOCUSED M&E
AND MRV



partial reflection of country needs and do not represent the full picture when considering global M&E and MRV needs.

Looking at the geographic distribution of M&E requests (Figure 3)¹⁰, at least 50 percent of the countries in nearly every region requested support for M&E or MRV related to adaptation—flagging an opportunity for intra-regional collaboration and lesson-sharing around this topic. M&E and MRV systems are critical for measuring implementation progress against NDC targets and yet there are clear gaps across countries, especially around adaptation. Given the central role that data

and information plays in establishing strong M&E systems, creating further opportunities for knowledge exchange between countries, along with institutional experts, is crucial. The NDC Partnership has a unique convening power and can promote such knowledge exchange through peer-to-peer convenings, regional climate weeks, and other global opportunities.

For resources on M&E and MRV systems please refer to the Partner Resources section for a collection of online resources provided by members of the NDC Partnership.

¹⁰ The regions of South Asia, Europe/Central Asia, and Middle East/North Africa lack representation overall, where three or less countries from that region have submitted requests to the NDC Partnership.

CAPACITY BUILDING AS A CROSSCUTTING PRIORITY: STRENGTHENING COUNTRIES' ANALYTICAL AND PLANNING CAPACITIES

Capacity building needs were expressed throughout the adaptation planning stages of data and assessment, prioritization and strategies, and M&E. Over half (52%) of countries that made adaptation requests to the NDC Partnership are seeking capacity building support specifically. This is unsurprising, given that country ownership is key to developing effective long-term adaptation solutions and tracking their implementation over time. For example, Paraguay has requested technical assistance to strengthen capacities within the adaptation department of the National Directorate for Climate Change to coordinate between national institutions and key actors around the implementation of the NDC. Capacity building requests are not limited to national governments, however. Seychelles is seeking to build capacities of local actors and stakeholders to develop, implement and monitor adaptation projects.

2 ACTING ON THE URGENCY: MOVING FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

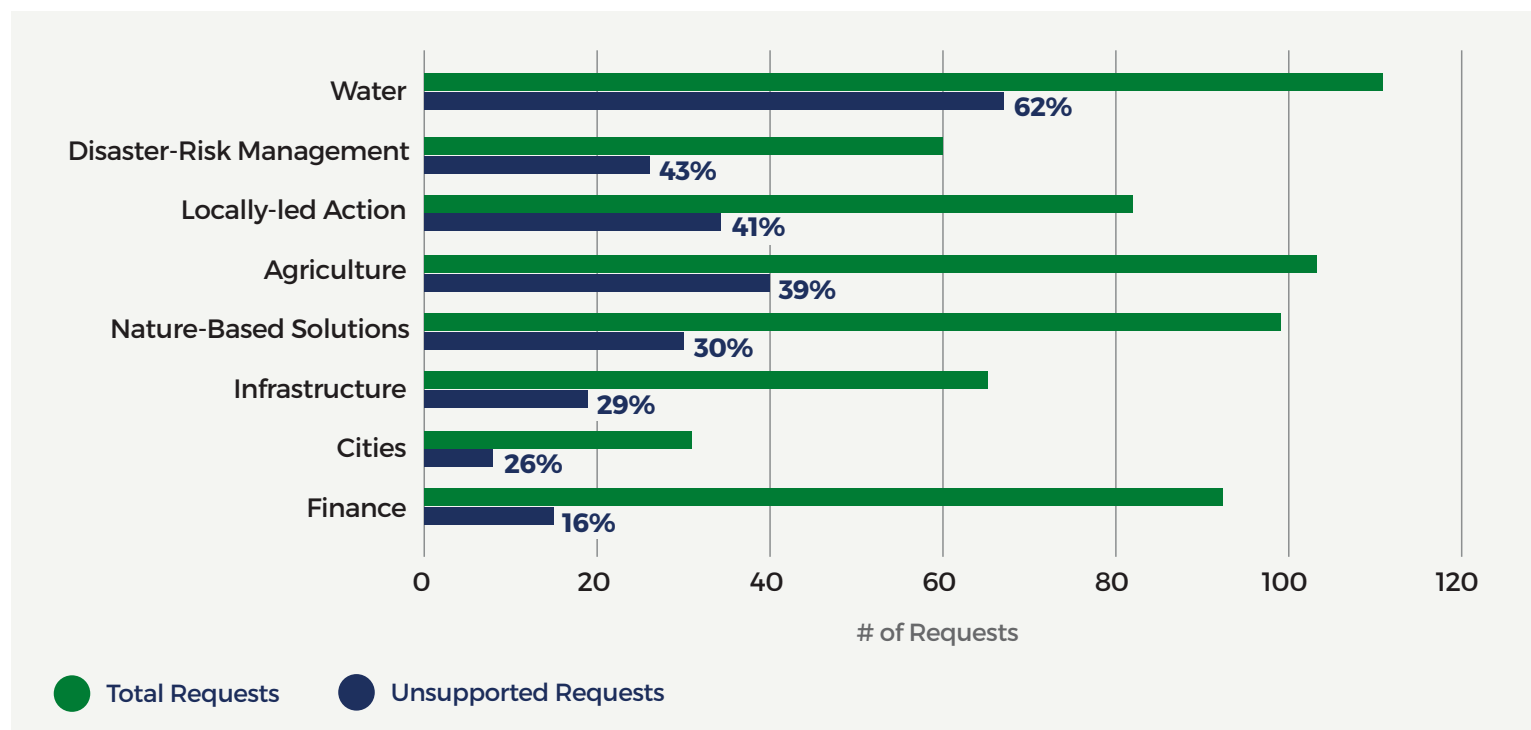
Through the NDC Partnership, countries are requesting partner support to accelerate NDC implementation, including priority adaptation actions. Building on a solid foundation of assessing, planning, and prioritizing adaptation measures, countries are starting to move into the implementation phase and focus on preparing, financing, and implementing adaptation projects.

Of all adaptation requests analyzed across the eight Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) Action Tracks, an average 42 percent of requests remains unsupported. Most adaptation requests focus on water, agriculture, nature-based solutions, and finance. Specifically, the water sector requires additional partner support for implementation (Figure 4).¹¹ Through the Partnership, strengthened matchmaking between expressed country needs and partner support takes place, and several partners have expressed new interest to step up support for adaptation action based on requests to the NDC Partnership, including in the water sector.

The section below takes a specific look at the subset of requests that focus on adaptation projects, then focuses on the critical area of adaptation finance, which is considered key to unlocking action from the planning stage into the implementation stage.

¹¹ More details on the GCA action tracks and initiatives with related NDC Partnership requests can be found here.

FIGURE 4.
ANALYZED
ADAPTATION
REQUESTS PER
GCA ACTION TRACK
AND RESPECTIVE
UNSUPPORTED
REQUESTS



2.1 | TOWARDS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Although many requests for support made to the Partnership are for technical assistance services, 15 percent of analyzed adaptation requests are project-based—a unique subset of requests targeted towards moving projects from the planning, analysis, and preparatory stage to actual implementation of solutions on the ground. Typically, the countries making these requests seek financial backing from development banks, the private sector, or other streams of climate finance. Out of 78

project-based adaptation requests from 18 countries¹², 60 percent are supported by 30 different partners (confirmed support only¹³), with support most commonly provided by Germany, France, FAO, World Bank, UNDP, AfDB, GEF, UNEP, and the EU (providing confirmed support to three or more projects each, with some project requests being supported by multiple partners).¹⁴ Notably, 11 partners are providing support to projects that are not members of the NDC Partnership, such as the West African Development Bank (BOAD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). Most of the 31 remaining unsupported project requests are

¹² Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jordan, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Rwanda Saint Lucia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

¹³ Another 14 partners have indicated pipeline support (of which some have also provide confirmed support), which includes additional partners Belgium, IOM, JICA, Natural Eco Capital, SNV, and the USA.

¹⁴ Other partners indicating confirmed support to project requests include the following members: Netherlands, NREL, CDB, IFAD, Sweden, TNC, GGGI, CI; and non-members: BOAD, GCF, EIB, IWSD, IFDD, AUC, BID, SDC, APEFE, KFS, GIG.

from [Jordan](#) and [Mali](#)¹⁵, where governments are in the process of gathering more partner responses to their Partnership Plans.

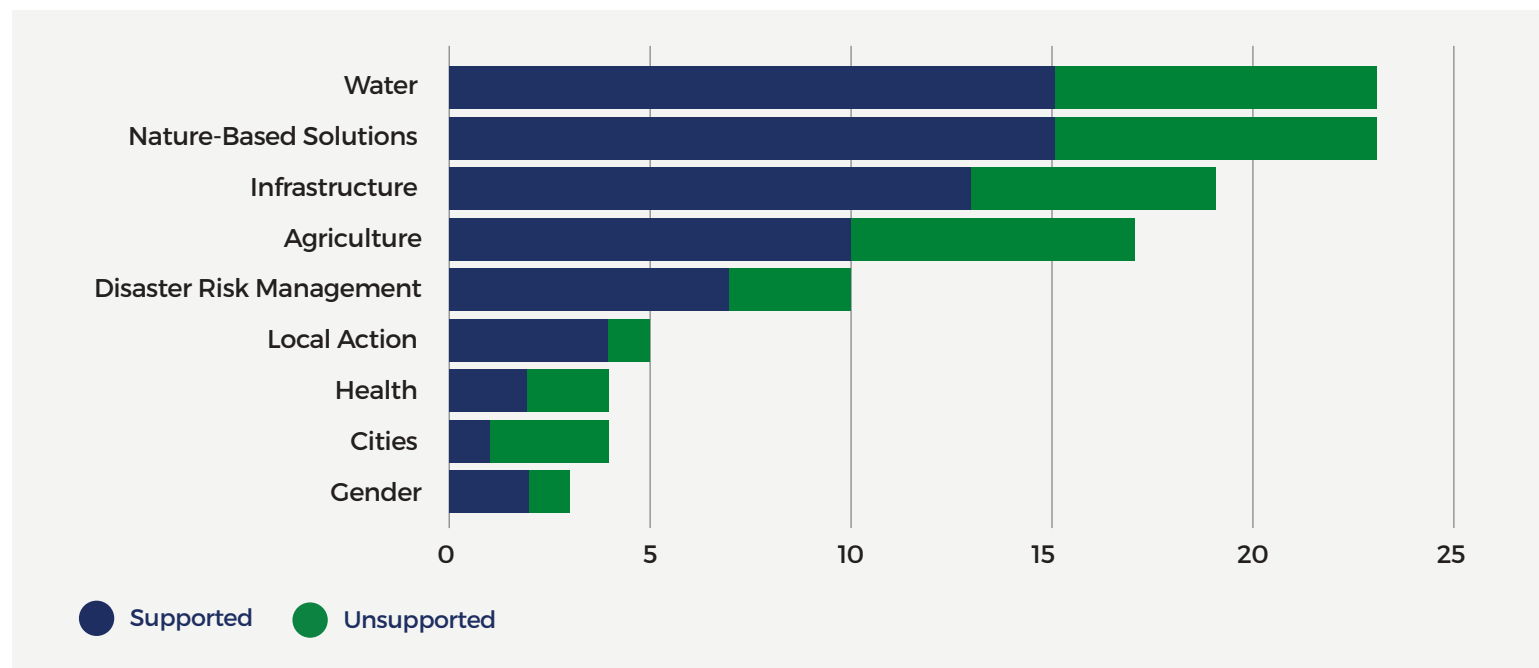
Most adaptation projects are identified in the water, nature-based solutions, infrastructure, and agriculture sectors—clear priority areas where countries are moving concrete adaptation solutions forward with speed (see Figure 5). Across those four priority areas, an average of 34 percent of projects remain unsupported as countries seek additional partners to invest in the acceleration of adaptation actions.

Across the adaptation action tracks, requests for project implementation support help the Partnership identify sectors ripe for NDC implementation and subsequently flag opportunities to partnering financiers. A sectoral breakdown of

these adaptation projects reveals five key trends:

- **Water** projects often fall within a wide scope of sectors or have explicit linkages with AFOLU, waste, energy, or industry.
- Nearly all **nature-based solutions** projects lie within the AFOLU sector, while some countries seek to implement innovative solutions in waste management or in coastal-marine areas prone to climate risks.
- **Infrastructure** projects in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) largely focus on building the foundation for a resilient transportation sector, including EV-compatible and disaster-prone road investment.
- Most **agriculture** projects have a multi-sector focus or explicit linkages with water, energy, or waste.

FIGURE 5.
NUMBER OF
PROJECTS PER
ADAPTATION
ACTION TRACK AND
DISTRIBUTION OF
PARTNER SUPPORT



15 Also refer to Mali's [Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan](#).

- **Disaster risk management** projects are mostly named by SIDS and frequently overlap with infrastructure actions, including in the transport, energy, and water sectors.

Other requests look at project development and implementation through the lens of local or city-level action, health, or gender. While the number of adaptation projects is more limited, several insights can be drawn:

- **Local level** projects emphasize implementing adaptation solutions in rural or vulnerable communities—several with a specific focus on involving local youth. The projects are generally cross-cutting in nature, though some focus specifically on forestry or on the intersection of water desalinization and renewable energy.
- At the **city level**, infrastructure and buildings projects range in scale from major urban center renovations to multi-city implementation. A higher than average amount of projects in this area remains unsupported (3 out of 4).
- **Health** projects focus on implementing new modeling technology and monitoring systems to strengthen government capacities in forecasting and responding to climate-related health risks.
- Adaptation projects related to **gender equality** typically fall into the AFOLU sector or natural resource management, and often aim at achieving increased economic activity for women.

Table 2 provides examples of project requests by their corresponding adaptation action track, to illustrate the ambition countries are demonstrating on implementing adaptation action.

TABLE 2. PROJECT REQUESTS BY ADAPTATION ACTION TRACK

ACTION TRACK	EXAMPLES OF PROJECT REQUESTS
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting date palm trees using harvested water and clean energy (Jordan; unsupported; costed at USD10 million; Project Information Note) • Rehabilitation of waterworks, fight against leakages, pilot of a sanitation component, and capacity training for water management (Nigeria; supported by France) • Construction of dams (multi-purpose for power, irrigation, and water supply) in line with Integrated Water Resources Management principles (Nigeria; pipeline support from France)
Nature-based Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting forest plantations in school settings to meet the educational, material and financial needs of educational communities (Côte d'Ivoire; unsupported; costed at USD10.7 million; Project Information Note) • Afforestation projects that scale up productive use of orchards and woodlots in suitable areas, building off small scale orchard pilot projects in the North West Forestry Region (Namibia; unsupported) • Territory managed in coastal-marine areas with a climate change adaptation approach

ACTION TRACK	EXAMPLES OF PROJECT REQUESTS
Nature-based Solutions	<p>and risk management (Dominican Republic; supported by TNC, Germany, UNEP, EU and AFD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green infrastructure for erosion reduction and flooding implemented (Mozambique; supported by Germany/KfW) • Deployment of green areas (buffer areas) and fencing in waste management infrastructures promoted (Mozambique; pipeline support from AFD)
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and mapping of public assets and infrastructure based on climate and disaster risk, and actions taken to ensure new roads and urban expansion are climate-resilient (Grenada; unsupported) • Conventional (concrete) protection infrastructure to protect public assets, tourist points and urban areas along the coast and rivers implemented in Agua Grande, Lembá and Lobata (São Tomé and Príncipe; supported by EIB) • Green Barbuda project: Climate resilient physical development for a 100 percent renewable island (Antigua and Barbuda; supported by Germany and NREL)
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving food and nutrition security through the sustainable intensification of agro-sylvo-pastoral production and increasing carbon sequestration (Burkina Faso; unsupported; costed at USD35.6 million; Project Information Note)

ACTION TRACK	EXAMPLES OF PROJECT REQUESTS
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the marketing of agricultural products (Jordan; unsupported; costed at USD12 million; Project Information Note) • Cross-border program for the preservation of cropland and the recovery of degraded land for adaptation to climate change in the liptako-gourma region (Mali; unsupported; costed at USD22 million) • Soil fertilizer improvement and adaptation to the effects of climate change (Mali; unsupported; costed at USD14 million)
Disaster Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Emergency Operations (COE) created and strengthened (São Tomé and Príncipe; unsupported) • Use of wildfire risk mitigation scaled up through fire breaks, restoration of rangeland, and bush thinning (Namibia; supported by Germany)
Local Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Sahel communities project and youth integration (Mali; costed at USD50 million; unsupported) • Improved utilization of forest resources for the benefit of local communities living in sensitive landscapes (São Tomé and Príncipe; supported by FAO/GEF) • Use of desalinization plants for rural communities scaled up by replicating the Akutsima plant or permeable membrane technologies using renewable energy (Namibia; supported by Germany)

ACTION TRACK	EXAMPLES OF PROJECT REQUESTS
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened adaptation to deal with climate-sensitive health risks: water-borne pathogens; food-borne pathogens; vector-borne diseases; respiratory diseases; malnutrition, and undernutrition (Republic of the Marshall Islands; unsupported) Pilot projects, focusing on public institutions such as hospitals and schools, by applying use of waste from the agricultural sector for pellet production (Albania; unsupported)
Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes retrofitted in accordance with green design principles in five cities (Jordan; unsupported) Climate resilience of communities and infrastructure strengthened in major urban centers (Uganda; supported by UNDP and World Bank)
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-crop planting programs implemented such as vegetation of bare or eroded land by planting 194,762 ha of cacti in arid zones, resulting in an improvement in the income of small farmers and women's cooperatives (Morocco; unsupported) Natural resource management of the Northeastern coast, resulting in increased economic activities among both men and women (Saint Lucia; pipeline support from UNEP and GEF)

Across all adaptation action areas, countries are ready and seek partner support to implement transformational projects that will increase resilience across communities and societies, and further strengthen sectors and economies.

2.2 | PREPARING AND FINANCING ADAPTATION PROJECTS

It is estimated that adaptation costs in the period around 2030 are likely to be between USD140-300 billion per year, flagging that international public finance will have to be 6 to 13 times greater than it is today¹⁶. For this reason, it is crucial that governments not only understand the costs of adapting to climate change, but also build capacity to mobilize, track, and manage necessary financing from both public and private sources.

The adaptation finance requests analyzed, in line with the dedicated GCA Action Track on Finance, show that for several of the initiatives that the GCA highlights, countries are ready to move and are seeking collaboration with partners. For example, in order to mainstream climate risk into public sector fiscal and financial planning, as well as business and investor decision making, Namibia is developing fiscal incentives to encourage the private sector to invest in adaptation and mitigation interventions. Similarly, **São Tomé and Príncipe** is developing and updating basic information to subsidize climate risk management. Moreover, **Mexico** is strengthening the adaptation components of its NDC and long-term strategy and requested specific Partnership support for developing a quantitative approach to climate risk management. Related to the GCA initiative on furthering the economic and financial case for investment in adaptation, **Mongolia** is conducting an

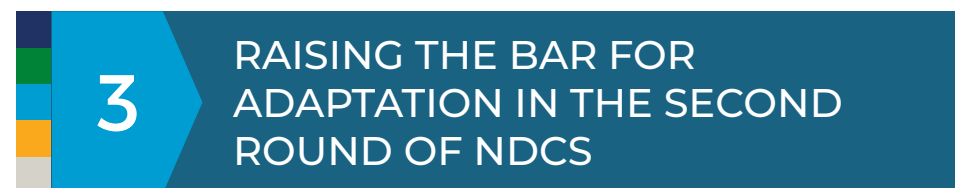
economic cost-benefit analysis for adaptation measures in key sectors and building national staff capacity to conduct such assessments. **Antigua and Barbuda** is undertaking a scoping study for mainstreaming low carbon climate resilience into asset management and investment.

Across all finance-related adaptation requests analyzed, a third of requests from countries are for technical assistance to access project financing and mobilize resources for implementation. For instance, **Jordan** has requested advisory support to develop a revolving loan fund which will finance mitigation and adaptation actions in the agriculture sector, and **Namibia** requires support to develop a funding model for banks to incentivize the installation of home solar water heating systems through mortgage payments. Fifteen percent of finance requests include a private sector engagement component, typically to access insurance against climate risks or attract green investors. This may point to increasing interest from governments towards engaging private insurers to contribute to climate resiliency. **Morocco**, for example, has requested support to develop a public-private financial mechanism to insure people and property against climate risks.

Above all, the identification, assessment, and development of bankable adaptation projects and project pipelines remains a priority across all countries, encompassing 43 percent of adaptation finance requests. Technical support in this area will play a crucial role in unlocking investment and funding opportunities, from economic and financial feasibility assessments to compiling investable project portfolios or climate resiliency interventions. For example, **Namibia** has outlined a need for support to develop project proposals with an energy-water-food nexus. **Uganda** has requested support to strengthen the project proposal development capacity of the National

Climate Change Project Development Committee, civil society, and the private sector. The **Dominican Republic** aims to develop a comprehensive pipeline of adaptation projects, seeking further partner support.

As countries receive the technical assistance needed to build national capacity to develop project proposals—and as they are readying themselves to accelerate implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground—the Partnership anticipates an influx of requests targeted at implementing specific projects and mobilizing funding for project implementation.



3.1 | ADAPTATION TRENDS IN NDC REVISION AND ENHANCEMENT

The Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) is an NDC Partnership offering designed to deliver targeted, fast-track support to countries to enhance the quality and ambition of their climate commitments¹⁷. Sixty-three countries are receiving technical assistance through CAEP from more than 40 partners, and nearly 50 of these countries are requesting support on adaptation. Within the scope of adaptation, an analysis of 230 CAEP requests from countries reveals key trends in countries' priorities for their second round of NDCs. These requests primarily center on three common activities as part of the NDC updating process (see Figure 6): 1) defining adaptation

17 Reference the [Climate Action Enhancement Package](#) homepage for additional information on the NDC Partnership's CAEP offering.

targets; 2) broadening the scope of NDCs to include adaptation components; and 3) improving data and accompanying MRV systems.

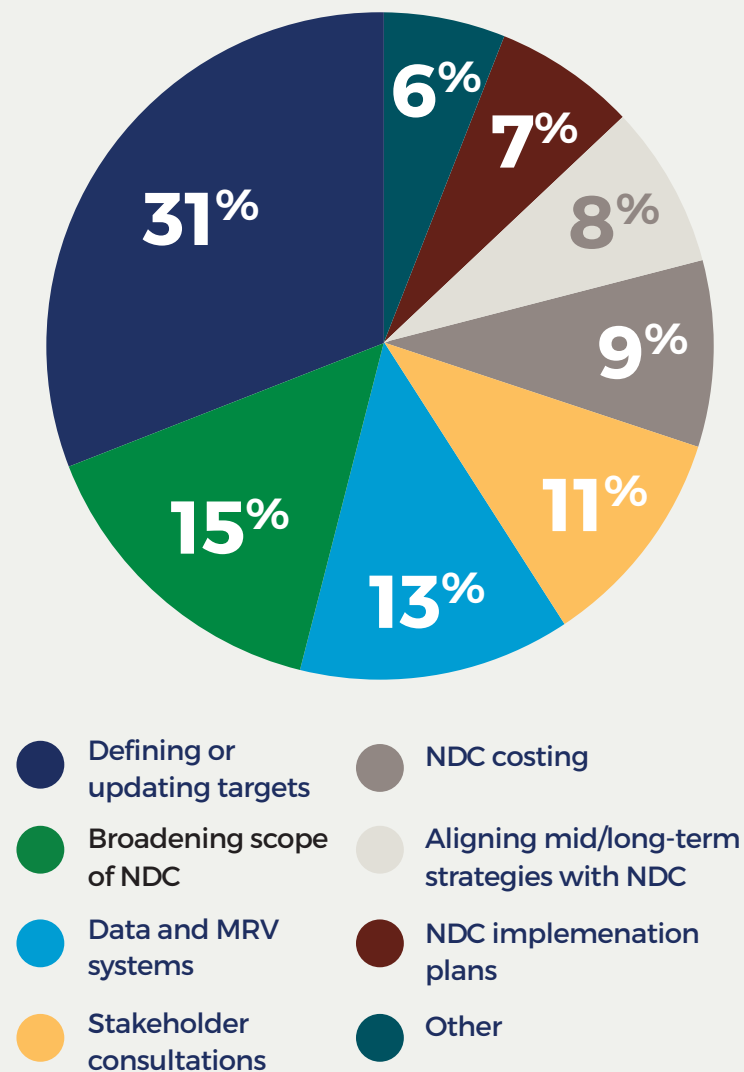
3.2 | TRACKING SECTORAL AMBITION

NDC enhancement requests to the Partnership through CAEP suggest a strong interest from countries to expand the scope and sectoral coverage of adaptation action in the second round of NDCs. Analyzing member countries' sectoral priorities across CAEP activities can serve as an indication for what to expect from countries in their revised NDCs.¹⁸

Through CAEP, 21 countries have mentioned adaptation components in sectors that did not explicitly reference adaptation in their first round of NDCs—particularly in energy and infrastructure. Additionally, member countries are leveraging CAEP as an opportunity to make new adaptation and risk finance commitments for the first time, centering their activities around mobilizing, budgeting, and tracking finance. **Guatemala**, for example, plans to implement climate budget tagging systems to monitor and track public expenditure in adaptation in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food. Furthermore, 12 countries are enhancing their NDCs by making linkages to NAPs through their enhancement activities. The inclusion of NAPs in updated climate targets is a promising indication that countries are taking advantage of the NDC revision process as a means of increasing their climate ambition in adaptation.

¹⁸ Sectoral coverage was quantified by assessing 1) a country's inclusion of adaptation action in one or more sectors in their First Round NDC as compared to 2) a country's inclusion of adaptation action in one or more sectors in their CAEP activity requests. Sectoral coverage in First Round NDCs was assessed using the [ClimateWatch](#) database. All CAEP activity data is referenced from the NDC Partnership's internal knowledge management platform.

FIGURE 6. NDC ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS FOR ADAPTATION BY THEME



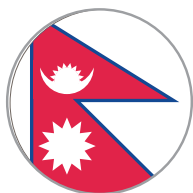
COUNTRY EXAMPLES

Defining or Updating NDC Targets



Costa Rica aims to identify specific adaptation actions and targets for the revised NDC, based on existing information on priority areas and the National Adaptation Policy.

Broaden Scope of NDC



Nepal aims to assess climate related risks and hazards to inform the revised NDC and broaden its scope.

Data and MRV Systems



Ecuador aims to design indicators to allow subsequent verification of compliance with national adaptation commitments, in a participatory process with key sectoral actors.

CONCLUSION

Through analyzing adaptation-related requests received from governments by the Partnership, we can draw several key observations that are all part of interconnected adaptation action stages (Figure 1).

1. **Countries are undertaking comprehensive processes to lay the groundwork for effective adaptation action in the context of their NDCs;** however, countries continue to face analytical and planning capacity challenges around adaptation. Further partner support is needed to help countries assess and prioritize adaptation challenges, align adaptation planning processes, and subsequently monitor implementation progress.
2. **To move the needle from planning to implementation, countries are lining up adaptation projects for investment in a wide range of areas for transformative action,** including in all GCA Adaptation Action Tracks. The most advanced of these projects lie in the water, nature-based solutions, infrastructure, and agriculture sectors. Countries are seeking further assistance to prepare more adaptation projects for investment. This was identified as the highest priority among adaptation finance requests.
3. **Countries are expected to include adaptation more prominently in their second round of NDCs (2020)** and are looking to expand the scope to include adaptation action in more sectors.

It is evident that countries are planning to take ambitious and transformative adaptation action as part of and in line with their NDCs. As illustrated in this paper, we can already learn from 40+ countries about how they are working to accelerate adaptation

action on the ground. We also see a clear need for partners to further step up support to move adaptation actions from planning to implementation.

For adaptation action to reach the scale and speed necessary to respond to the urgency and reality of the climate crisis, an ambitious approach is needed that includes cross-sectoral collaboration matched with technical and financial resources across the spectrum of planning and implementation, including financing, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation, enabling countries to realize adaptation action and raise ambition. Mobilizing finance in the nascent stages of adaptation action is critical for successful project implementation on the ground. Making this a clear priority in the second round of NDCs will be an important step to move the needle. The NDC Partnership is committed to advancing cooperation at all levels in order to align country needs with partner support most effectively.

PARTNER RESOURCES ON ADAPTATION AND NDCS

ADAPTATION IN THE NDCS: OVERVIEW

- **[Tool for Assessing Adaptation in the NDCs \(GIZ\)](#)**: Knowledge platform that aims to provide an overview of and detailed information on adaptation content included in the NDCs. It allows you to explore the substance of, and the differences between, various NDCs including adaptation, to compare measures planned and taken by different countries, and access key statistics around adaptation contents in NDCs.

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING

- **[Planning for NDC Implementation: A Quick Start Guide on Adaptation](#)** (CDKN): Overview of the UNFCCC adaptation planning process and stepwise guidance on the planning and development of adaptation actions at the national level.
- **[Alignment of NAPs & NDCs](#)** (NAP Global Network): Guidance on opportunities to align adaptation action across NDCs and National Adaptation Plans. *Resources available in English, French, and Spanish.*
- **[Vertical Integration in National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes](#)** (NAP Global Network): Guidance note for linking adaptation plans at the national and sub-national levels.
- **[Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning: A Guide for Practitioners](#)** (UNDP-UNEP): Step-by-step guidance on how governments and

other national actors can meet implementation challenges and mainstream climate change adaptation into national development planning as part of broader mainstreaming efforts.

- **Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans** (NAP Global Network): Toolkit designed to support countries in pursuing gender-responsive adaptation planning. *Available in English and French.*

MONITORING & EVALUATION FOR ADAPTATION

- **Reporting Adaptation Through the Biennial Transparency Report (ICAT & UNEP DTU)**: Guide to help national governments understand the UNFCCC's adaptation guidelines for the Biennial Transparency Report and how to tangibly produce these reports in the coming years.
- **The Adaptation M&E Navigator** (GIZ): Research-based decision support tool for selecting suitable approaches to monitor and evaluate adaptation to climate change. The paper includes a quick reference chart that provides a list of specific M&E purposes and links them to relevant M&E approaches.
- **Developing National Adaptation Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: A Guidebook** (NAP Global Network): Guidebook for decision-makers and technical advisors involved in the development of national monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation, particularly in developing and middle-income countries. *Available in English, French, and Spanish.*

ADAPTATION PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- **Designing Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives: A Toolkit for Practitioners** (UNDP): Guide to support the design of measurable, reportable, and verifiable adaptation initiatives. It provides step-by-step guidance in designing climate adaptation projects.
- Sectoral guidance by IsDB and WRI to help practitioners identify and analyze climate risk through a step-by-step decision-making process at the project level that aims to highlight vulnerabilities and aligned adaptation options.
 - **Agriculture and Rural Development**
 - **Energy**
 - **Transport**
 - **Water**

ADAPTATION FINANCE

- **Toolkit to Enhance Access to Adaptation Finance (OECD)**: Toolkit includes practical and technical solutions to identify and support adaptation as a national priority, design fundable projects and programs, better link with available funding and enhance capacity to attract investments.
- **Financing Adaptation to Climate Change - An Introduction** (GIZ & Adelphi): Introduces climate adaptation finance with step-by-step guidance and information on how to develop a strategy to access adaptation finance.

- **Engaging the Private Sector in National Adaptation Planning Processes** (NAP Global Network): This study aims to offer guidance to governments and their partners on how to engage the private sector in the NAP process as key partners in the design, financing and implementation of adaptation priorities.

INCLUDING ADAPTATION IN REVISED NDCS

- **Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans (WRI & UNDP)**: Guide designed to help practitioners think through how to structure their countries' enhanced NDCs across three dimensions, including enhancing climate resilience, providing details on the steps to enhance the adaptation component of countries' NDCs. Available in English and Spanish.

For additional resources including good practices, toolkits, and guidance on climate finance, please visit the NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal.

CREDITS

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