



UNDP's Climate Promise

NDC ENHANCEMENT: LESSONS LEARNED IN CAPACITY NEEDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

18 NOVEMBER 2020



Objective

To support at least 100 countries enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020, with demonstrated increase in ambition

UNDP will help countries undertake an inclusive and transparent process to revise and submit enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020. Building on UNDP's extensive climate and sustainable development portfolio and partnerships with the UN, NDC Partnership, coalitions, IDBs, private sector, academia and civil society groups, the initiative will provide technical and financial support across a tailored set of services to address bottlenecks and scale-up key success factors.



A short window of opportunity

As part of the Paris Agreement, countries have been requested to put forward the next generation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020. First NDCs are estimated to collectively result in a temperature rise of 2.9 - 3.4 degrees Celsius by 2100. New pledges must be more ambitious if the world is to get on track for a 1.5 Celsius degree future.

Revision of NDCs is a critical opportunity to advance global efforts to meet the Paris Agreement goals. The world's “moonshot” of transformative climate action will need a global commitment to raising ambition, articulated in the next generation of NDCs, to create economic drivers that shift investments away from fossil fuel use and carbon-intensive practices.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to unfold, and countries are weighing the many considerations of recovery, it becomes even more critical to leverage the Climate Promise and NDC processes. There is a window of opportunity to align and integrate NDC measures and strategies with COVID-19 recovery plans to secure “green” and resilient recovery of the global economy.



Leveraging UNDP's portfolio for success

- Climate portfolio over US\$ 3billion in grant financing in more than 140 countries, in collaboration with the vertical funds, bilateral, and multilateral partners
- Global Policy Network with insights and wide expertise in governance, health, gender equality, women's and youth empowerment, disaster risk reduction, and inclusive growth
- Established track record of supporting governments on NDC design and implementation since 2014, including hosting 22 NDC Dialogues with UNFCCC engaging over 2,200 participants from over 150 countries and wide range of partners and key stakeholders that helped to lay the foundation for NDCs
- Support for countries to prepare Intended NDCs (INDCs) and direct support for 63 countries to strengthen their NDC architecture in collaboration with the NDC Partnership
- Pioneering guidance and tools on I/NDC preparation, Gender and NDCs, Youth and NDCs, SDG-NDC linkages, Quick Wins for Enhancing NDCs, Nature-Based Solutions and NDCs, Investment and Financial Flows Assessment, and Transparency in collaboration with World Resources Institute and other partners
- Emergent learning on bottlenecks to NDC implementation (and thus raising of ambition), as well as key success factors



Partnership Approach

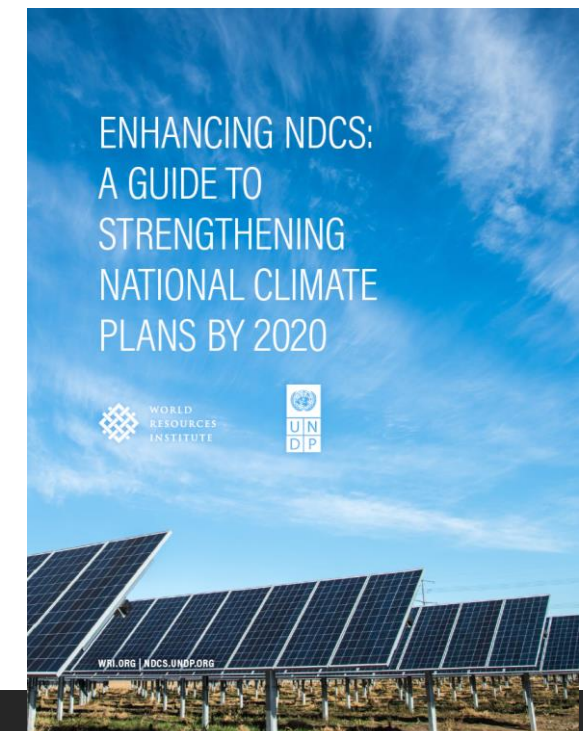
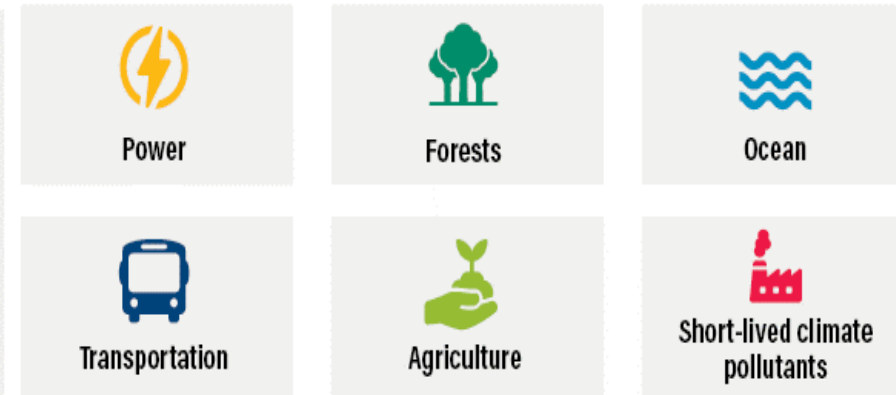
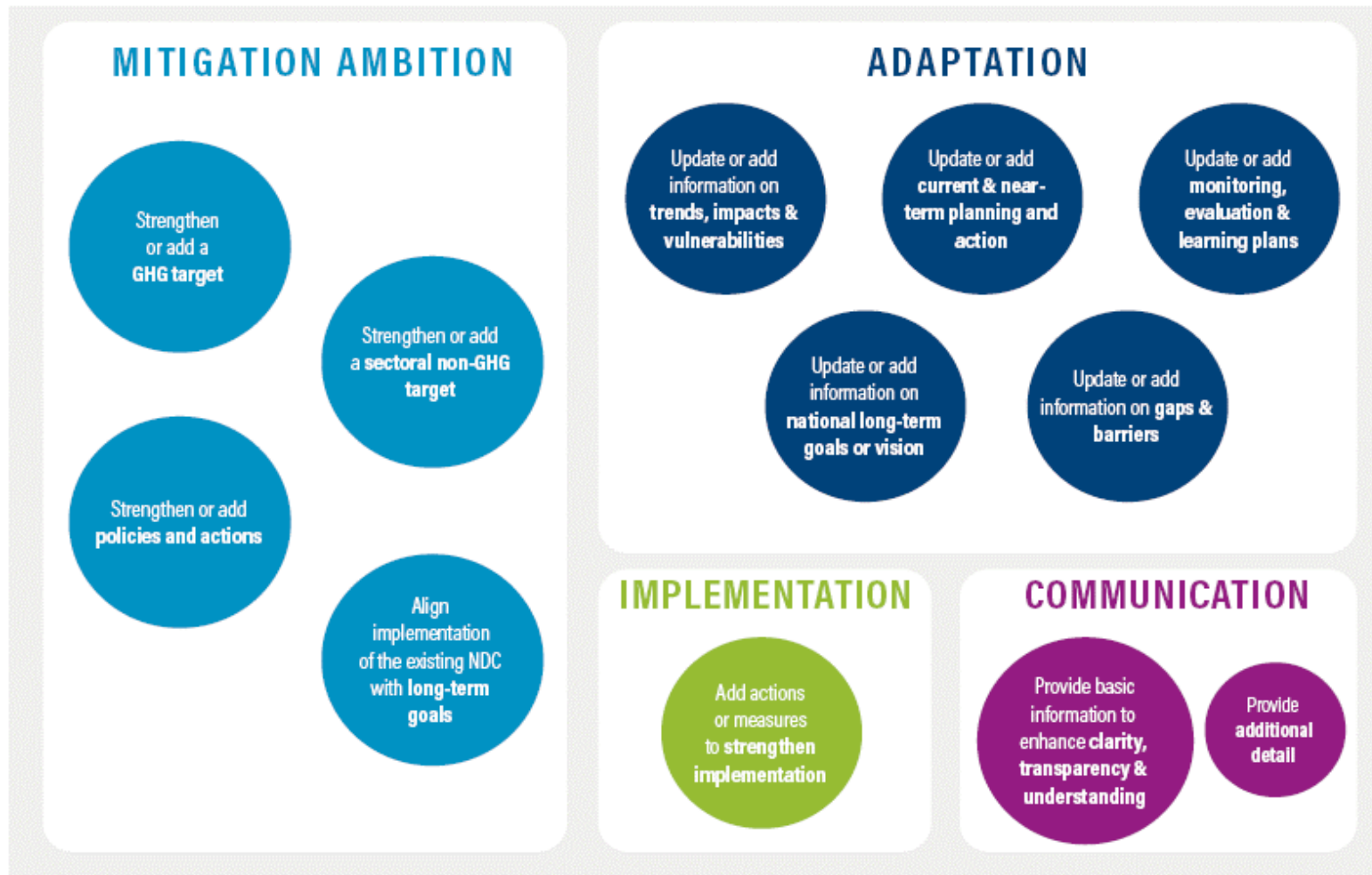
UNDP is delivering the Climate Promise in close collaboration with over 25 key strategic partners, and as a contribution to the NDC Partnership.

Central to this strategy is UNDP's engagement with, and through, the **NDC Partnership – especially in the context of the Partnership's new initiative, the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)**. All UNDP support under the Climate Promise that can respond to country support needs requested via the CAEP is formally recognized as a contribution to the initiative. UNDP has also established a formal partnership with GIZ and Climate Analytics for responding to the CAEP.

Partnerships include:

- UN system (e.g., UNFCCC, UN Environment, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation)
- Financial institutions and funding mechanisms (e.g. World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund)
- Key alliances (e.g., the NDC Partnership, the IKI NDC Support Cluster, and the Africa Caribbean Pacific Secretariat)
- Academia (e.g., ETH Zurich, Stockholm Environment Institute)
- Private sector, and civil society, NGOs, youth groups, and foundations (e.g., IRENA, New York Declaration on Forests, the Heinrich Boll Foundation)

A Guide to enhancing NDCs: WRI and UNDP



Source: *Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans*, 2019, WRI and UNDP.

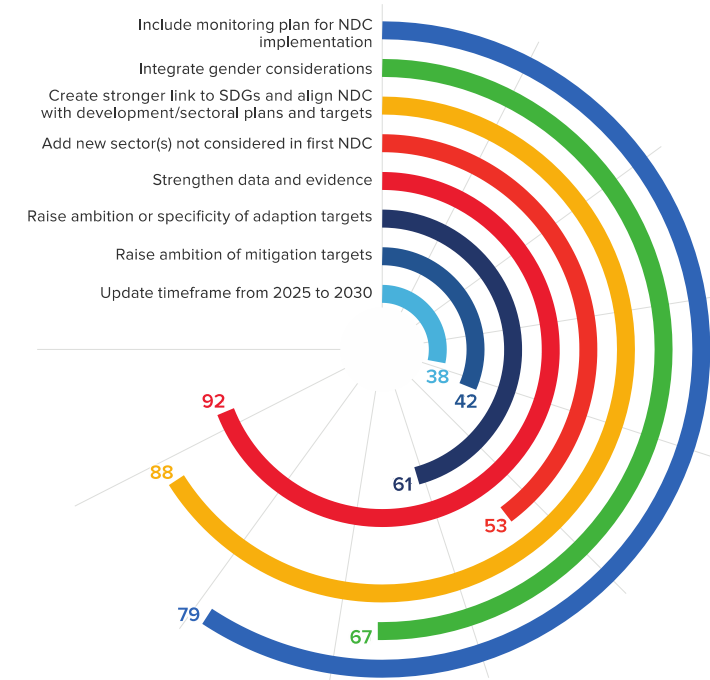
Matching needs on the ground with a global support

In 2019, UNDP conducted a major survey of countries on their plans for 2020 with respect to revising national climate plans and current NDC implementation status, as well as critical bottlenecks and success factors. More than 130 countries responded, making it the largest survey of its kind to date.

In 2020 all Climate Promise countries have developed and endorsed their Climate Promise Work Plans. Implementation at the national level is aligned with the work of partners and is being tracked against the Work Plans.

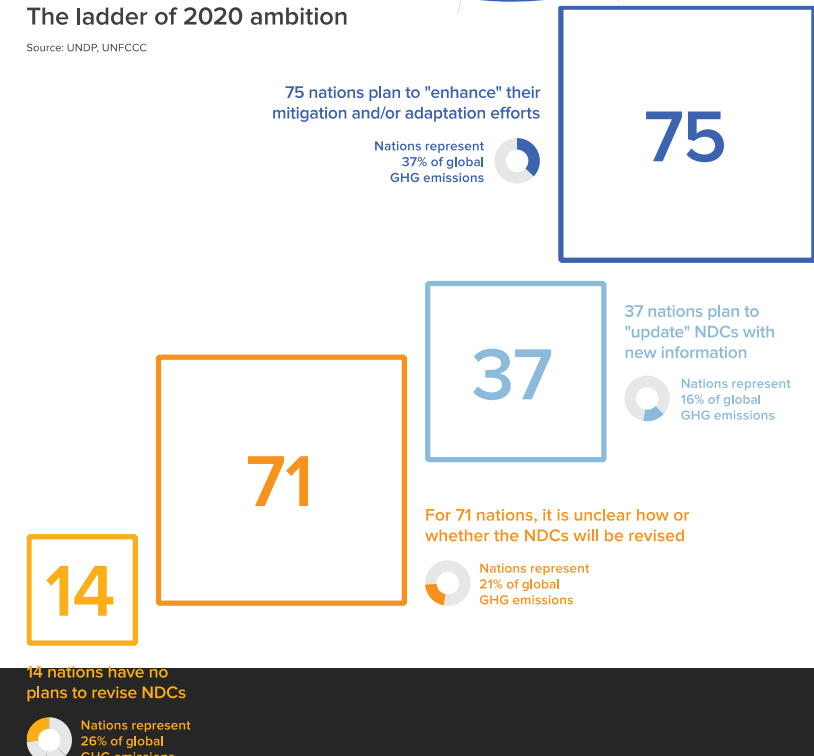
Main objectives for revising NDC

Source: UNDP 2019 NDC survey in 133 countries



The ladder of 2020 ambition

Source: UNDP, UNFCCC



Menu of Services for NDC Enhancement



**BUILD POLITICAL
WILL AND
SOCIETAL
OWNERSHIP AT
NATIONAL AND
SUB-NATIONAL
LEVELS**



**REVIEW, ALIGN
AND UPDATE
EXISTING
TARGETS,
POLICIES AND
MEASURES**



**INCORPORATE
NEW SECTORS
AND/OR GHGS**

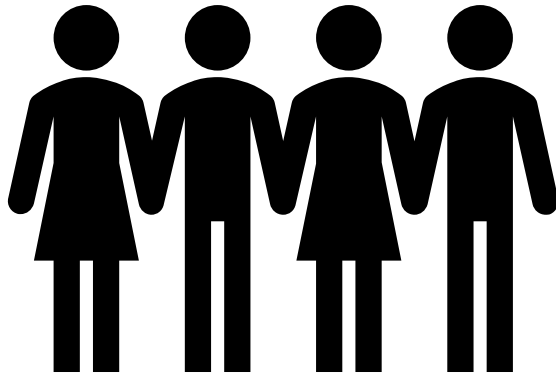


**ASSESS COSTS
AND
INVESTMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**



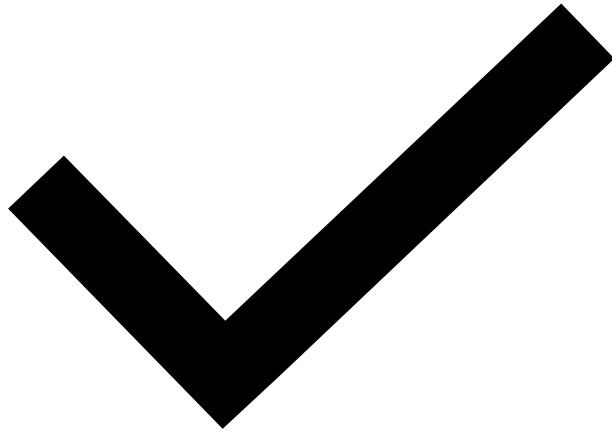
**MONITOR
PROGRESS &
STRENGTHEN
TRANSPARENCY**

Build political will and societal ownership at national and sub-national levels



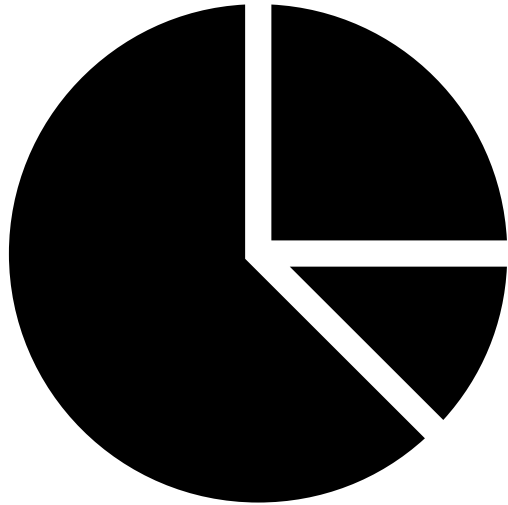
- Engage key ministries and sub-national authorities to coordinate and harmonise inputs: A whole-of-government approach will be used to convene inter-ministerial and sub-national consultations on NDC target- and priority-setting exercises, so that new commitments are informed by experiences, challenges, and lessons learned from current NDC implementation.
- Engage stakeholders for broad ownership of an NDC, especially youth and women: Support countries to promote a country's NDC vision and ensure an inclusive approach for its enhancement. Special efforts will be made to empower the voices of women, youth and other marginalized and/or vulnerable groups that may be at risk of being left behind.
- Conduct capacity assessment to identify critical skills gaps for NDC implementation: Assessing institutional capacity building needs at the national and sub-national levels will help to ensure a strong, long-term foundation for NDC revision and implementation.

Review, align, and update existing targets, policies and measures



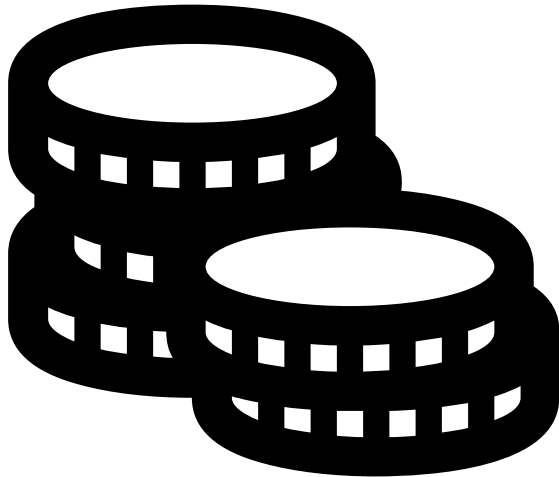
- Stock take of NDC's current scope, measures, timescales and pledges with national plans and policies: Comparing the current NDC against national strategies and plans, national communication, national adaptation and mitigation strategies, disaster risk reduction strategies, and the Kigali Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, among others.
- Inclusions of more robust data and information, scenarios, and key trends: New data and information can be incorporated into a revised NDC to ensure that all targets and actions are quantified and up to date and align with national emissions projections.
- Assess NDC-SDG alignment and linkages: Aligning NDC actions the SDGs – both synergies and potential trade-offs.

Incorporate new sectors and/or greenhouse gases



- *Identify and assess missing sectors and/or gases:* The complexity associated with incorporating new sectors and/or gases in a new NDC will depend upon the domestic objectives for NDC enhancement, as well as the quality and availability of relevant information, data, and analyses that can be used to define targets, goals, policies and measures.
- *Delivering tools for “quick wins” to incorporate common additional sectors and/or gases:* There are several sectors in which the existing UNDP project portfolio can be leveraged to support inclusion of additional sectors and gases:
 - Nature-based solutions (NBS)
 - Integration of SLCPs
 - National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
 - National DRR Strategies
- *Inclusion of gender and role of youth:* Better identify, understand, and describe how and why gender differences and inequalities are relevant to the climate policies and actions proposed in a particular sector, and identify and address gender gaps and structural barriers to advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment through climate actions.

Assess costs and investment opportunities



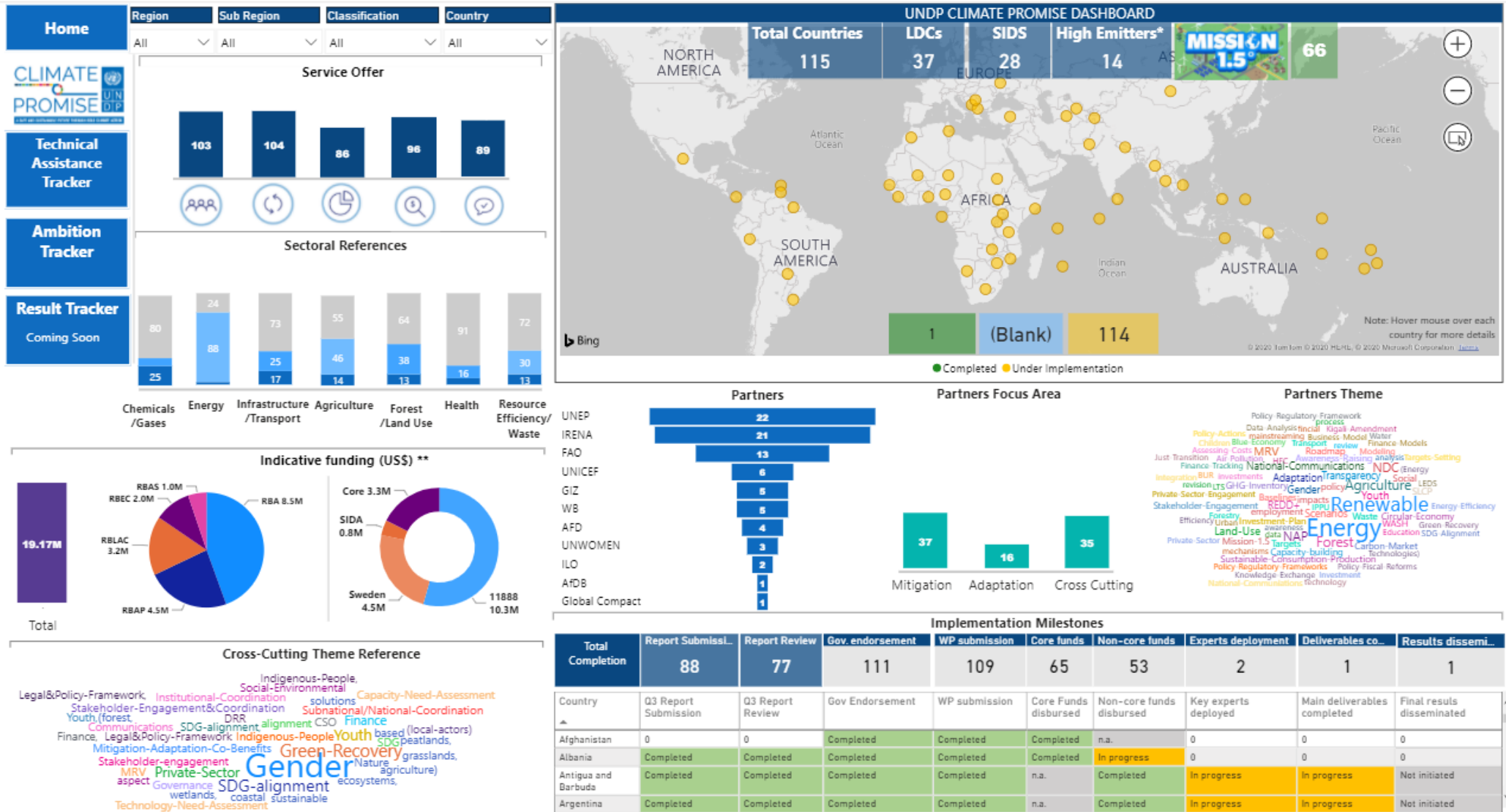
- Estimate costs of priority actions: Many countries have information on costs of mitigation and adaptation measures in existing analyses that can be used (e.g. national communications, NAPAs, TNAs, national REDD+ strategies, etc.). There are also many useful sources of costing data that can be used for estimates (e.g. IRENA for renewable energy).
- Support preparation of NDC finance strategy: Articulating proposed funding sources for all NDC actions, including those where action could be best served by realigning public finance flows and/or adopting fiscal policies and measures in line with mitigation or adaptation objectives.
- Demonstrate opportunities for private investment in NDC actions and measures to enable or de-risk investment: Beyond national public funds and international support, the finance strategy might also identify opportunities for private investment or public-private partnerships.

Monitor Progress & Strengthen Transparency



- Provide technical guidance on implications of methodological and accounting processes: Information elements to facilitate the clarity, transparency, and understanding of the NDC include assumptions and methodological issues, such as baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), and sectoral specific approaches. This is particularly important for the land sector.
- Conduct CTU quality assurance review: The identification of possible errors and inconsistencies and make recommendations for improving CTU. Advising on aligning the NDC with the Paris Rulebook and strengthening framing and alignment with SDGs.

Real-time tracking: Promise Dashboard



Progress



Climate Promise is supporting 115 governments, implementation is underway in 113 countries

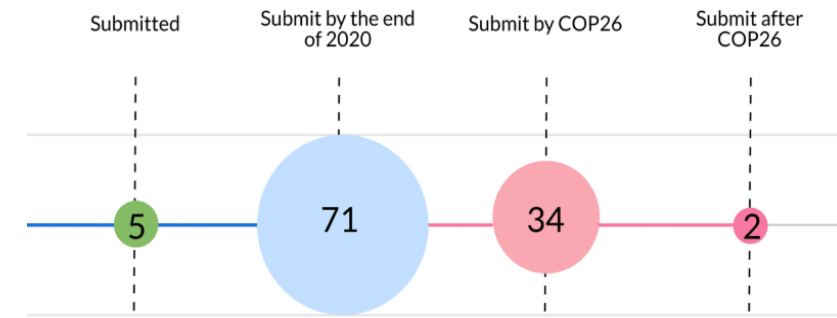
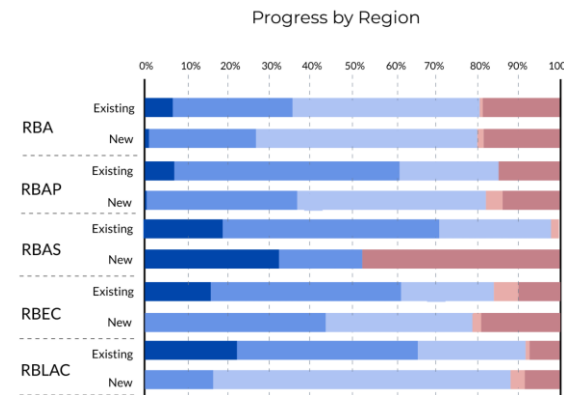
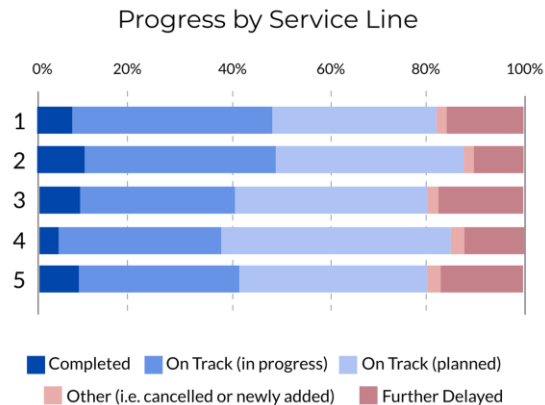
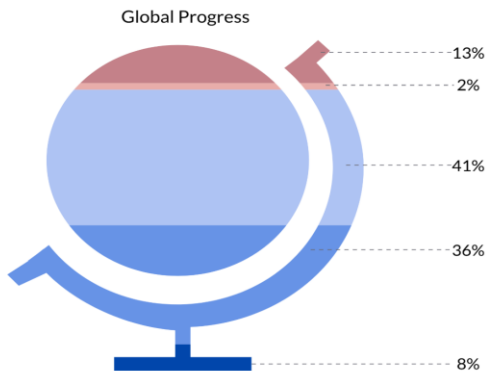
In Eastern Europe and Central Asia 17 countries are supported

Globally 51% of all Promise countries still intend to submit by the end of 2020 and 45% of countries will submit ahead of COP26 in November 2021

56% of Promise countries intend to raise mitigation ambition and an additional 38% are still unclear – presenting an opportunity to support these countries toward greater ambition; 92% of Promise countries intend to raise adaptation ambition

Moldova submitted its 2d NDC in March 2020 with an enhanced mitigation ambition and adaptation component

As part of the extensive set of resources developed to help advance NDC enhancement, and in collaboration with the UNFCCC, an NDC Quality checklist has been developed to guide countries to pursue robust and ambitious NDCs



Support Architecture and Funding in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



- ✓ Institutional set up and consolidated human resources across HQs, IRH, Country Offices – *Global Policy Network*
- ✓ UNDP Core Funding (over \$2 million)
- ✓ Bilateral funds (EU4Climate, Italy, SIDA)
- ✓ MOUs with partners (IRENA Technical Assistance)
- ✓ National-level climate change mitigation and adaptation portfolios
- ✓ NDC Global Support programme
- ✓ GEF's Capacity Building for Enhanced Transparency (CBIT)
- ✓ NAP Global Support Programme
- ✓ GCF Readiness – NAPs
- ✓ Synergies with NDC Partnership and CAEP
- ✓ Technical guidance and tools

DONORS



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



+ UNDP core donors

PARTNERS



Knowledge sharing and resources



UNDP [Climate Promise webpage](#)

[Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans by 2020](#)

An “[NDC Quality Checklist](#)”, in collaboration with UNFCCC, outlines three dimensions (country ownership and inclusiveness, robustness and ambition, feasibility) that are considered essential for robust and ambitious NDCs.

A guidance note “[Building the Economy of Tomorrow: Using NDCs to Inform Green Recovery](#)” provides guidance on how to integrate ambitious climate action into COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Ten *thematic briefs* on adaptation, cooling, DRR, energy, gender, health, forests, transparency and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), ocean carbon sequestration, and water. Each brief provides information on co-benefits, proposed entry points, country examples and additional resources. Available at [Resource Portal](#).

A joint UNDP/UNEP service offer “[Enhancing NDCs through Circular Economy](#)” sets out a range of technical resources and analytical tools that help countries enhance targets through strengthening the resource efficiency and circularity of their national economies.



Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

Almost one-third of countries reported on concrete ways that they are linking the Climate Promise support to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

UNDP has launched a guidance note to support integration of the COVID-recovery with the NDC planning and climate action, entitled “*Building the Economy of Tomorrow: Using NDCs to Inform Green Recovery*”. Five entry points of the guidance:

- 1) Align and Integrate NDC Measures and Strategies with COVID-19 Recovery Plans,
- 2) Align Climate and NDC Finance with Recovery Finance,
- 3) Strengthen Capacities and Coordination between Ministries of Finance and Environment,
- 4) Enhance Gender-responsive and Inclusive Processes across NDCs and Recovery, and
- 5) Build National Capacity and Facilitate South-South Collaboration.



For more information, please contact UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Team:

Armen Grigoryan

Regional Team Leader – Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction

Climate Response Unit

Armen.Grigoryan@undp.org

Laura Altinger

Regional Team Leader – Nature, Climate and Energy

Bureau of Policy and Programming Support

Laura.Altinger@undp.org

Natalia Olofinskaya

Regional Specialist on Climate Change

Nature, Climate and Energy / Bureau of Policy and Programming Support

nataly.olofinskaya@undp.org

Damiano Borgogno

Climate Technical Advisor for MRV and Transparency

Nature, Climate and Energy / Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

Damiano.Borgogno@undp.org