

From data to decisions: How Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems inform policy, investment and adaptive management for climate resilience

Overview of MEL for NAP processes

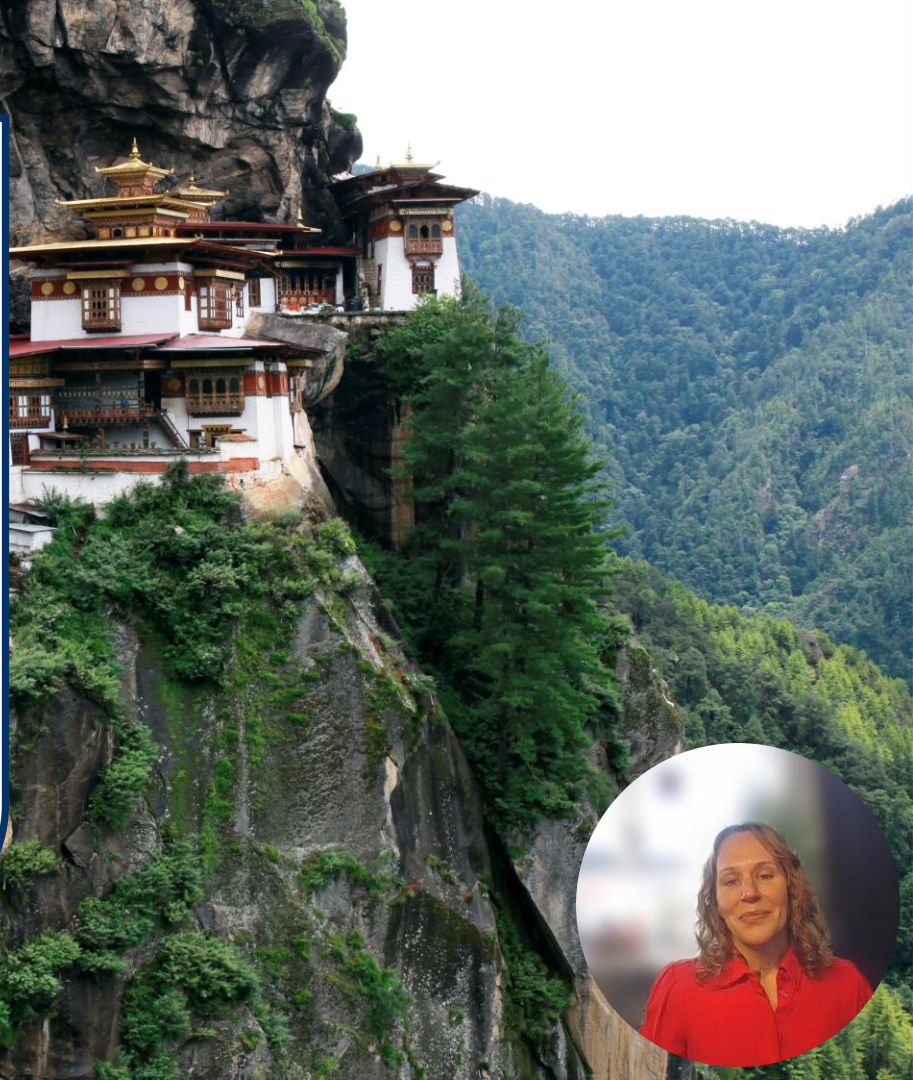
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Lead on MEL for climate change adaptation

International Institute for Sustainable Development

April 25, 2026

Yeosu, Korea



Running on empty

The world is gearing up for climate resilience — without the money to get there



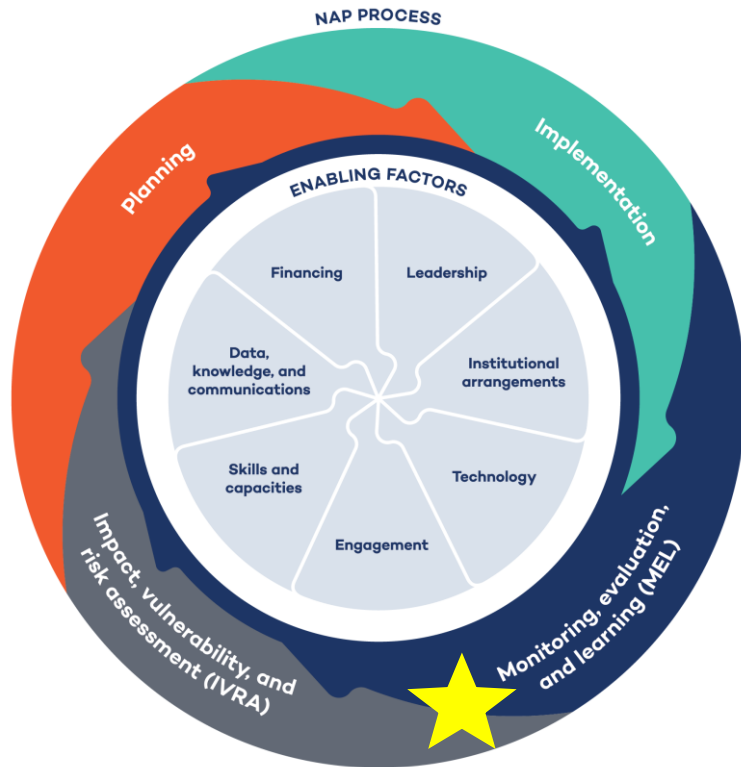
UN Environment 2025 Adaptation Gap Report

- Adaptation planning is nearly universal, but too often outdated and disconnected from implementation. Financing and delivery lag far behind needs, with persistent gaps in inclusion and **measurable outcomes**.
- Overall, global adaptation action remains: underfinanced, uneven in planning quality, slow to implement, and **weakly tracked**.



National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process

Put adaptation at the heart of decision-making



- **Identify and address medium- and long-term priorities** for adapting to climate change
- Put in place the systems and capacities to make this a part of regular development planning and budgeting



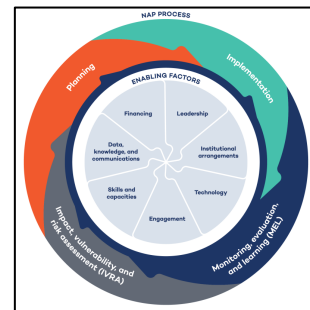
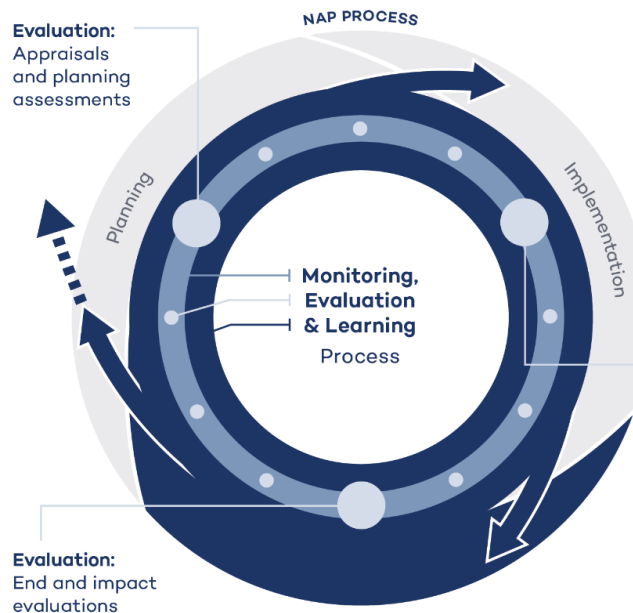
How to define MEL for NAP processes?

Adaptation is a learning process in itself.

The aim of a MEL system is to provide a structured approach to monitor progress, evaluate results, and facilitate learning for NAP processes and their activities to effectively achieve their intended results.

The different activities that countries undertake under MEL systems are closely connected.

- MEL occurs to both a distinct phase and a dedicated set of activities throughout the adaptation process.
- M&E must be embedded in learning throughout the NAP process to shift from upward accountability to adaptive management.



Evaluation:
Mid- and during-term evaluation

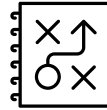


Why do national MEL systems matter?

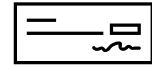
National MEL systems lay the foundation for effective, inclusive, and transformative adaptation processes.



Understanding the effectiveness of NAP processes



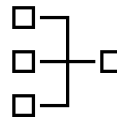
Improving adaptive management and mutual accountability



Mobilizing domestic, international, public, and private finance



Strengthening equity



Enhancing efficiency



Supporting and transparency





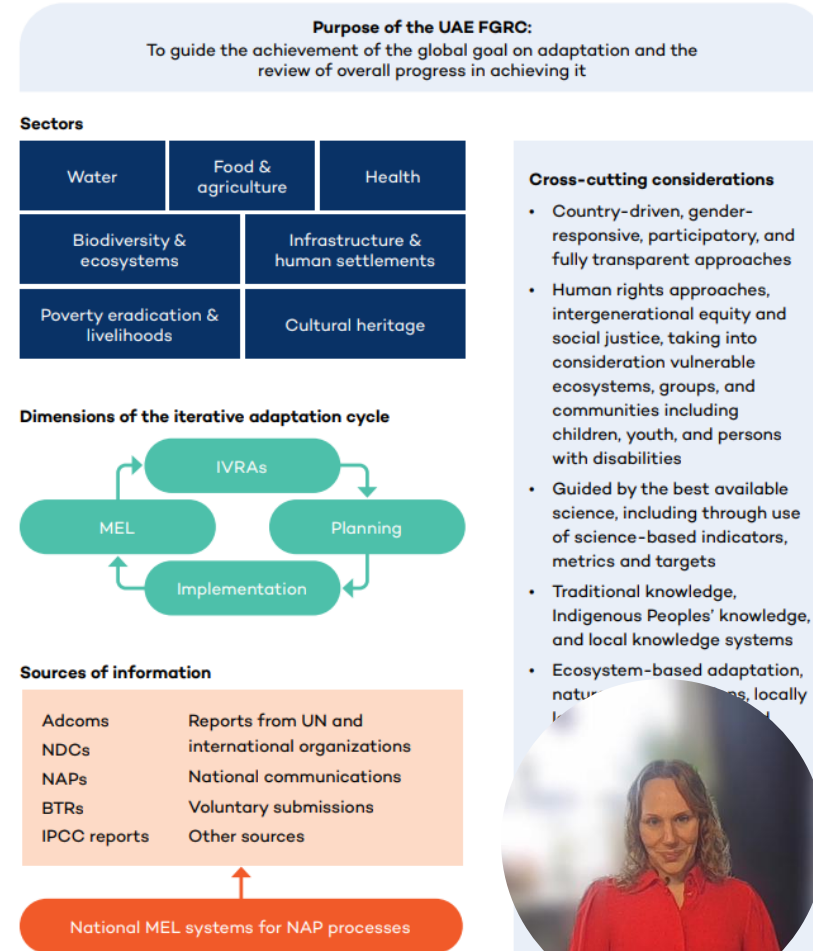
Without MEL, adaptation
is promise.
With MEL, it becomes a
practice.



National MEL systems also play a critical role in informing collective progress on adaptation!

The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience sets a target focused on MEL:

*“By 2030 all Parties have **designed, established and operationalised** a system for monitoring, evaluation and learning for their national adaptation efforts and have built the **required institutional capacity** to fully implement the system.”*



The reporting landscape is expanding

Biennial Transparency Reports are now due every two years.
The second Global Stocktake will take place from 2026-2028.

2024

First BTR deadline
under the Enhanced
Transparency
Framework (ETF)

2026

Second BTR deadline

Start of the second
Global Stocktake

2028

Third BTR deadline

End of the second
Global Stocktake

Start review of the ETF

2030

Fourth BTR deadline

UAE Framework
target: all Parties with
operational MEL
systems



Belém Adaptation Indicators

At COP30 in Belém (2025), 59 voluntary indicators were adopted as part of a cover decision.

- Initial scoping: 10,000 indicators
- Narrowed to: 100 indicators by the group of technical experts with the UAE-Belém work programme
- Adopted in Belém: 59 voluntary indicators.

Key considerations:

- Voluntary & non-prescriptive: Countries choose which indicators to report on
- No additional burden: Aligned with existing national systems and NAP processes
- Disaggregation as appropriate by social categories, climate hazards, geographical contexts, ecosystems, etc.
- Further technical work: Metadata and methodologies under development via Belém-Addis Vision until COP32.



The main message for countries:

1

Identify national indicators for your priorities
and *then* align with global frameworks

2

Report using UNFCCC instruments
and the UAE FGCR structure

3

Contribute to global progress
assessments, e.g., Global Stocktake

Design one national MEL system for
adaptation that serves multiple purposes



Making key information on
**National Adaptation Plans
(NAPs)** easily accessible
and digestible for the
climate change adaptation
community.

trends.napglobalnetwork.org

Where we stand today on MEL?

MEL integration in submitted NAP documents

	2022 <i>n = 38 NAPs</i>	2025 <i>n = 64 NAPs</i>
MEL framework	38%	73%
Indicators defined	47%	67%
Progress reporting commitment	65%	84%





Misper Apawu, Lapsational trainee, Ghana (2021)

A small functional MEL
system beats a
comprehensive nominal one.

You don't have to do it all at
once... You can develop and
implement your MEL system
using a phased approach.





MEL systems don't run themselves...

They need clear roles, coordination mechanisms, and sustained capacity across ministries.



Integrating gender equality and social inclusion considerations shouldn't be an afterthought: it's essential to ensure that adaptation actions address the root causes of inequality and aim for just and systemic change.





Forthcoming: new practice brief!

***"Steps to identify and
implement adaptation indicators
for your national MEL system"***

June 2026



TOOLKIT

Toolkit for Monitoring,
Evaluation, and Learning for
National Adaptation Plan
Processes



NAP
Global
Network



United Nations
Climate Change

Adaptation Committee



Online Course
“MEL for NAP processes”



Sign Up Now



Thank you!

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