



Adaptation Without Borders

Responding to a
global challenge

The Adaptation Without Borders Initiative explores the global implications of transboundary climate risks and strengthens cooperation among a range of partners to meet the global challenge of adaptation to climate change.

Context

We live in an interconnected world. Just as people, goods and capital cross borders, so too do the impacts of climate change and the effects of our adaptation responses. Adaptation plans too often fail to recognise or account for these cross-border risks. Adopting a transboundary perspective on climate risk changes the scope and nature of the adaptation challenge, creates opportunities to strengthen international cooperation on adaptation and paves the way towards lasting global resilience.

The Adaptation Without Borders Initiative is founded on the belief that the global effects of climate change require solutions beyond the adaptation efforts of any single government. Policy discourses around adaptation have focused at the national or local level. We seek to change the narrative and drive action to establish adaptation as a global public good that warrants significantly more investment and attention than it currently attracts.



Activities

The work and activities of the Adaptation Without Borders Initiative are organised under four pillars: raising the visibility of transboundary climate risks; gathering evidence and analysis; building connections among stakeholders; and inspiring action. Planned activities under each of these pillars will include:



Create visibility

Regional roadshows, presentations and engagement at key influencing moments; an online campaign to build support and harness the profile and outreach of the initiative and its champions; and an event series co-organised with key actors outside the UN climate regime.



Build connections

Meetings and newsletters for partners and prospective partners; closed-door roundtables and breakfast meetings with targeted ministers, executives and UN agencies; high-profile panel discussions.



Inspire action

Inputs into the international climate negotiations, including the 2023 Global Stock Take; think pieces, policy briefs and analytical reports around key influencing opportunities; convening a 'coalition of the willing' and offering practical support to champions of the initiative, national governments and companies; and technical support and expert guidance on transboundary climate risk projects for implementing agencies and funders.



Gather evidence

Case studies highlighting transboundary risks in least developed, developing and industrialised countries; literature surveys and policy briefs; and an Adaptation Without Borders toolkit and dashboard to support planners and decision-makers.

Structure and governance

The initiative's governance structure comprises three tiers of partnerships: a steering committee, initially comprising the founding organisations; partners; and champions. The steering committee oversees decision-making on the strategy and operations of the initiative. Partners may be organisations or individuals who are committed to the initiative's vision and wish to contribute to its outcomes. They are ambassadors for the initiative and its aims, under the guidance of the steering committee. Champions are high-level individuals, experts in their field, who will represent the initiative and build connections among key stakeholders. They will support the initiative independently of their work.

A one-day annual general meeting, open to all partners, will review progress against strategic objectives, set new goals and review the communications and promotional strategy. Ahead of the general meeting the steering committee will meet to review objectives and decide on potential new members. Quarterly steering group meetings will review progress against the deliverables set for the steering committee, alongside periodic operational calls between all partners.

How to join

Interested organisations and individuals should contact the convening partners to express their interest in joining the Adaptation Without Borders Initiative. Partners will contribute concrete activities that support the agreed outcomes of the initiative, attend regular meetings and act as ambassadors. Partners and champions will receive regular briefings on the latest developments in the field of transboundary climate risk and will have the opportunity to participate in shaping the annual workplan. Their logos will feature on the Adaptation Without Borders website.

Roadmap for the initiative

The Adaptation Without Borders Initiative will be launched at a series of events this autumn, starting with a roundtable in August at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm and a public event at ODI's offices in London in September, co-hosted with Wilton Park. A private dialogue in New York later in September will be followed by another

event in Paris in October ahead of COP 25. The intention is to use this outreach to seed key concepts associated with the initiative into high-level agendas, conversations and events, ensuring that the initiative becomes part of the public discourse surrounding the UN Climate Action Summit and helps to inform outcome documents, narratives and actions.

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