



UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2024

For Prelims: [United Nations \(UN\)](#), [Adaptation Gap Report](#), [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

For Mains: Need for Revamping Climate Financing, Challenges in Climate Adaptation Financing

[Source: DTE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) released the [Adaptation Gap Report 2024: Come hell and high water](#).

- The report stresses the need for significant increases in climate adaptation efforts, particularly regarding adaptation financing for developing nations.

What are the Key Findings of the Adaptation Gap Report 2024?

- **Adaptation Finance Gap:** The adaptation finance gap, indicating the disparity between financing needs and actual funds, has widened.
 - **Current funding (2022)** is significantly below requirements, with only USD28 billion provided—meeting just 5% of the projected needs under the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#).
 - Glasgow Climate Pact aims to reduce methane emissions by **at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030**.
 - UNEP estimates developing countries need **USD 387 billion annually by 2030** for adaptation.
- **Funding Crunch:** Only about **one-third** of the adaptation finance gap is in sectors typically funded by the **private sector**, leaving significant opportunities for private investment.
- **Impact of Global Warming:** The [Emissions Gap Report, 2024](#) indicates that global **temperatures** could increase by **2.6°C to 3.1°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100**.
 - **Developing countries suffer the most** from climate-induced weather events despite having minimal contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions.
 - **Recent floods in Nepal, Nigeria, and Chad** underscore the financial and infrastructural vulnerabilities of these nations.
- **Progress on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):** While 171 countries have at least one adaptation policy, out of 26 countries without an adaptation policy, 10 are uninterested in developing one, indicating slow progress in [NAP](#) planning and implementation.
 - The **UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (UAE-FGCR)**, introduced at [UNFCCC COP28](#), sets dimensional and thematic targets (e.g., agriculture, water, health) for adaptation, yet implementation is lagging.
 - It is the **first international declaration** of its kind with climate adaptation as the primary focus.
- **Transformational Adaptation:** UNEP calls for a shift **from reactive to strategic adaptation**, addressing harder-to-finance areas like ecosystem preservation and cultural heritage.

- The concept of "[transformational adaptation](#)" was contentious during COP28 but is considered crucial for addressing the rising risks.
 - **Transformational Adaptation** refers to actions that adapt to climate change by making substantial changes in structure or function, surpassing mere adjustments to current practices.





UAE FGCR THEMATIC AREAS

Health

- Risk assessment and monitoring
- Awareness and communications

Infrastructure and settlements

- Risk assessment and management
- Climate smart infrastructure

Cultural heritage

- Climate proofing
- Community engagement

Poverty and livelihoods

- Diversifying livelihoods
- Reskilling in vulnerable sectors

Ecosystems and biodiversity

- Risk assessment and monitoring
- Ecosystem-based approaches
- Community engagement

Food and agriculture

- Climate smart agriculture (techniques and technologies)
- Climate resilient food systems

Water

- Risk assessment and monitoring
- Community engagement
- Regulations

ITERATIVE ADAPTATION POLICY CYCLE

Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment

- Data collection and access
- Risk and vulnerability assessment

Planning

- Capacity assessments
- Cross-sectoral planning and budgeting

Implementation

- Use of adaptation technologies
- Community engagement

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

- Data collection and monitoring
- Institutional learning

ENABLING FACTORS

Data, knowledge and communications

- Communication and knowledge networks
- Data collection and access

Educational and capacity building infrastructure

- Integrating adaptation into education systems
- Training for public officials

Institutional arrangements

- Mainstreaming gender
- Regulations
- Climate literacy in government

Financing

- Proposal preparation
- Climate risk assessment

Engagement

- Gender-responsive outreach and communication
- Networks for dialogue and exchange

Leadership

- Strategic leadership
- Results-based management

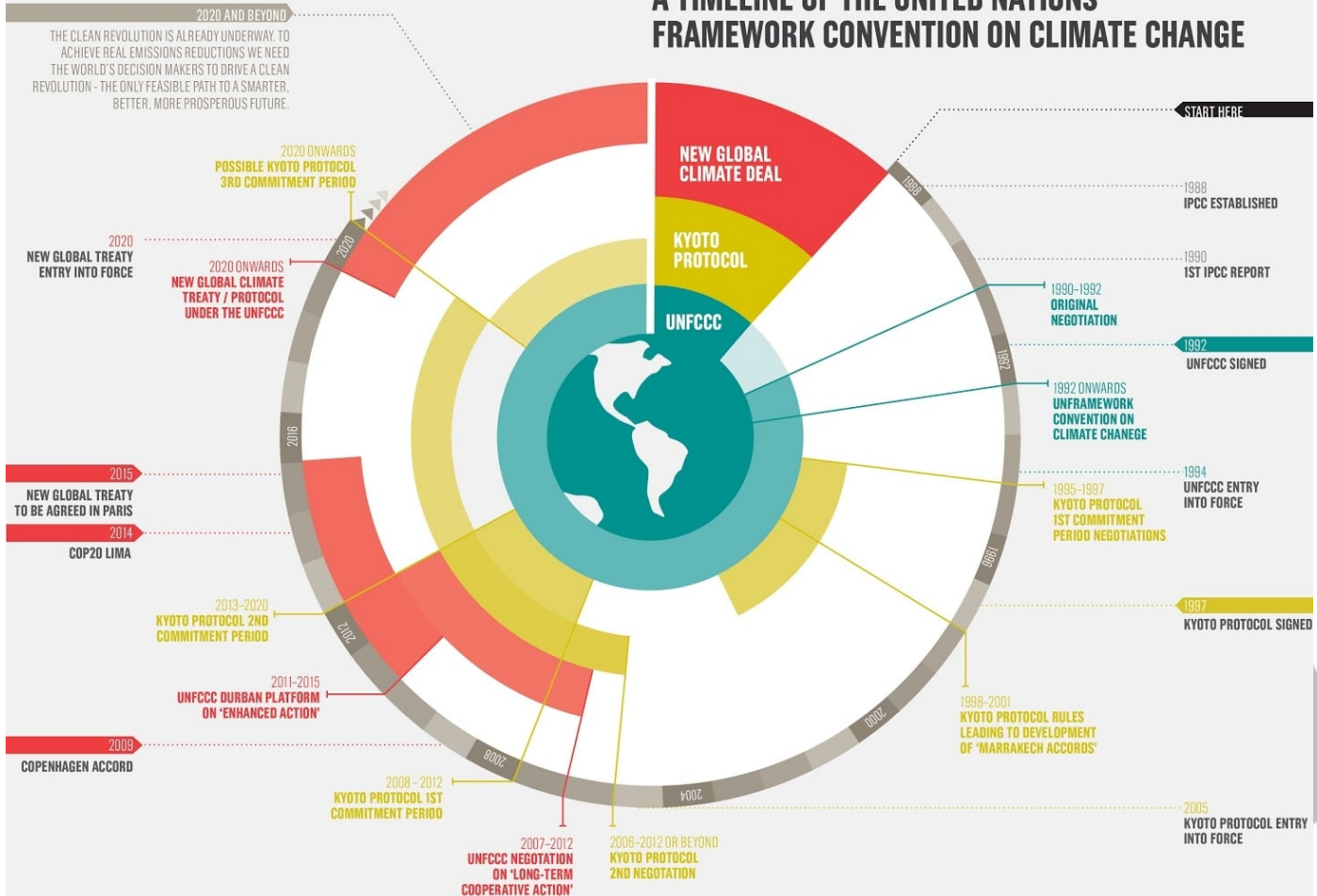
What are the Challenges in Climate Adaptation Financing for Developing Countries?

- **Limited Financial Capacity:** Adaptation projects like seawall construction, resilient infrastructure, and water security are financially burdensome for developing countries.
- **Shortfall in Developed Countries' Contributions:** Developed nations, despite obligations under climate agreements, have fallen short on promised financial support, notably the **USD100 billion goal set for 2020**.
- **Dependence on High-Interest Loans:** Much of the current funding consists of high-interest loans, exacerbating debt burdens and creating financial strain for recipient countries.
- **Urgency of Financial Commitment at COP29:** The goal to double adaptation finance by 2025 will only partially bridge the gap, highlighting a need for innovative financing models.

What are the Efforts and Commitments Adopted to Address Climate Change?

- **Global Efforts:**
 - **Glasgow Climate Pact and Doubling Finance Goals:** At UNFCCC COP26, developed countries committed to doubling adaptation finance from 2019 levels of **USD 19 billion to USD 38 billion by 2025** and establishing a new climate financing goal for 2030.
 - **ADB Climate Adaptation Investment Planning Programme (Asian Development Bank 2023):** It's a regional program helping ADB's developing member countries create adaptation investment plans from their national adaptation priorities and goals.
 - **UNDP Adaptation Accelerator (UNFCCC 2024):** The **UNDP-Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)** is a program that supports locally-led adaptation practices to help communities become more resilient to climate change.
- **India's Efforts:**
 - India's climate resilience and adaptation spending was **5.6% of GDP in 2021-2022**, as per the Economic Survey 2023-24.
 - International financing has increased from 13% in the financial year 2019 to 17% in the financial year 2020.
 - At the 26th session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP26), India presented **five nectar elements (Panchamrit)** as its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**.

UNDERSTANDING THE UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS A TIMELINE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



THE 'FRAMEWORK' FOR INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION, UNFCCC

UNFCCC SIGNED - 1992

The original UN climate treaty. Established the basic framework and principles for international climate change action. Developed countries committed to take the lead with developing countries agreeing to take action with financial and technological support as they developed. No legally emission targets agreed for any countries.

NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND COMMITMENT PERIODS OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

KYOTO PROTOCOL SIGNED - 1997

Requires industrialized countries to make a collective binding emission cut of 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. Introduced innovative new instruments, including the Clean Development Mechanism. US never ratified. First commitment period (2008-12) covered 50% of 1990 global emissions. Second commitment period coverage down to ~15% as Canada, Japan, Russia and New Zealand join US in opting-out and developing country emissions grow.

NEGOTIATING PROCESSES UNDER THE UNFCCC FOR A NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE DEAL TO COMPLEMENT OR REPLACE THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

COPENHAGEN ACCORD - 2009

Lima must build on the momentum generated by key climate events of 2014 e.g. Ban Ki-moon's Climate Summit in September and China-US announcement in November about limiting emissions. In particular, it must reach agreement on: the elements of a draft negotiating text for new global climate deal; the form and structure of countries' targets and measures for the new deal; and how to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period. Without these, reaching an ambitious deal at COP21 in Paris next December will be put at risk.

NEW GLOBAL TREATY TO BE AGREED - 2015

Process to agree new treaty covering all countries was established at COP17 Durban in 2011. Governments have to disclose their targets and measures in March, and then conclude negotiations in Paris in December 2015, with treaty in force from 2020. The goal is a global climate agreement covering all countries that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that will keep the expected rise in Earth's mean surface temperature below 2°C in order to avoid the worst climate change impacts.

Climate Financing

- It refers to local, national, or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.
 - The UNFCCC, [Kyoto Protocol](#), and [Paris Agreement](#) urge developed countries to provide financial assistance to developing countries, following the principle of [Common But Differentiated Responsibilities \(CBDR\)](#).

Way Forward

- **Strong Finances:** The report emphasises the need for a strong financial commitment at UNFCCC **COP29** to support adaptation efforts.
- **Funding models:** The report suggests **risk finance, resilience bonds, debt-for-adaptation swaps, and ecosystem service payments** as alternative funding models.
- **Reforms:** Reforms in international financial institutions could improve access to non-debt-increasing funds.
- **Transformational change: Capacity-building and technology transfer** plans should support adaptation across sectors, scales and development priorities, and build capacity for transformational change.

Conclusion

The Adaptation Gap Report 2024 calls for immediate action on adaptation financing and innovative solutions to support developing nations. This report underscores the importance of climate adaptation within the global climate agenda, highlighting the pressing need to bridge the adaptation finance gap, which remains a crucial point for UNFCCC COP29 negotiations.

Drishti Mains Question

Discuss the main financial and strategic gaps in global climate adaptation efforts identified in UNEP's 2024 Adaptation Gap Report, and suggest ways to address these challenges.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2016)

1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN, and it will go into effect in 2017.
2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate \$ 1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Q. “Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now” is an initiative launched by (2018)

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organisation

Ans: (c)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/unepps-adaptation-gap-report-2024>

