

Water and Transboundary Cooperation in COP28 Decisions

José Gesti. SWA Climate Action

February 28th 2024



Intro to the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

- **Paris Agreement Article 7:** established a global goal on adaptation, to enhance adaptative capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change
- **Challenges** include the lack of universal, global metrics that could easily, meaningfully measure or capture “enhanced adaptation” across a vast range of contexts.
- Through a **2022-2023 work programme** on the global goal on adaptation **have gone** through the complex task of crafting a Framework for the GGA
- The **GGA Framework was adopted by consensus at COP28** to “guide and strengthen efforts, [...] towards reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience, as well as the collective well-being of all people, the protection of livelihoods and economies, and the preservation and regeneration of nature”



Bringing the water community together



Source: Adapted from Water Security Infographic (UN Water, 2013)

Thematic targets of the GGA Framework

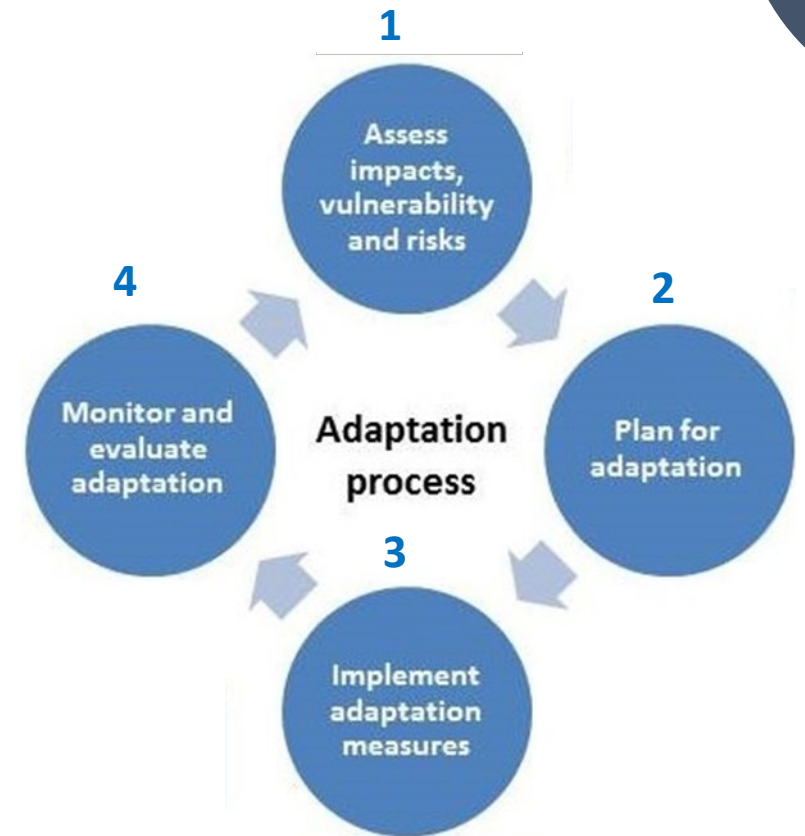
(By 2030...)

WATER IS CENTRAL TO ALL GGA TARGETS

- **WATER-SANITATION:** Significantly reducing climate-induced water scarcity and enhancing climate resilience to water related hazards towards a climate-resilient water supply, climate-resilient sanitation and towards access to safe and affordable potable water for all
- **FOOD-AGRICULTURE:** Attaining climate-resilient food, agricultural production, supply and distribution
- **HEALTH:** Attaining climate-resilient health services
- **ECOSYSTEMS:** Reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, including through their management, enhancement, restoration and conservation and the protection of terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystems
- **INFRASTRUCTURE- HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:** minimizing climate-related impacts on infrastructure and human settlements and ensure basic and continuous essential services for all
- **POVERTY ERADICATION- LIVELIHOODS:** promoting the use of adaptive social protection measures for all
- **CULTURAL HERITAGE:** developing adaptive strategies, preserving cultural practices and heritage sites

Targets across the Iterative Adaptation Cycle

- **1:** by 2030 all Parties have conducted up-to-date assessments of climate hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities to inform their NAPs, policy instruments, and planning processes and/or strategies. By 2027 multi hazard early warning and information systems
- **2:** by 2030 all Parties have in place NAPs, policy instruments covering ecosystems, sectors, people and vulnerable communities
- **3:** by 2030 all Parties have progressed in implementing their national adaptation plans, policies and strategies
- **4:** by 2030 all Parties have designed, established and operationalized a system for monitoring, evaluation and learning



Transboundary Water in the GGA Decision

Recognizes that climate change impacts are often transboundary in nature and may involve complex, cascading risks that can benefit from:



Collective consideration (of transboundary risk)



Knowledge-sharing



Climate-informed transboundary management



Cooperation on global adaptation solutions

GGA Follow up work...

- **Two-year work programme on indicators for measuring progress** achieved towards the targets (thematic and policy cycle) with a view to identifying and, as needed, developing indicators and potential quantified elements for those targets
- **Parties and observers invited to submit via the submission portal by March 2024:**
 - a) **Views on measuring progress**
 - b) **Modalities of the work programme**, including organization of work, timelines, inputs, outputs and the involvement of stakeholders
- **UNFCCC Secretariat** requested to synthesize these submissions by May 2024 as an input to the work programme
- **Adaptation Committee and Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG):** recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress
- **UNFCCC Secretariat:** to undertake work to examine how transformational adaptation is defined and understood by COP29
- **LEG:** to update the technical guidelines for the NAP process



MITIGATION / Global Stocktake (GST)

- **Inclusion of water in the introduction of the GST text:** “Also recognizing the critical role of protecting, conserving and restoring water systems and water-related ecosystems in delivering climate adaptation benefits and co benefits, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards”
- **GST references to TRANSBOUNDARY issues:**
 - Recognizes that climate change impacts are often transboundary in nature and may involve complex, cascading risks that require knowledge-sharing and international
 - Recognizes the importance of international collaboration, including transboundary cooperation, for contributing to progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement
- **Revision of NDCs:** “requests Parties that have not yet done so to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2024”
- **Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme:** “encourages Parties, observers and other non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 1 February 2024 suggested topics to be discussed at the global dialogues in 2024”.

Climate Financing

- **Lost and Damage Fund:** Agreement to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund (financial assistance to the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change)
- **Progress towards the “100 billion commitment” (from developed to developing countries):**
 - In 2021 reached USD 89.6 billion. It is estimated that the goal was met in 2022
 - COP28 important commitments to replenishments of GCF, Adaptation Fund, Global Environmental Facility (Least Developed Countries Fund, Special Climate Change Fund).
- **Adaptation Finance:**
 - Concerns that adaptation finance gap is widening
 - Urging of further work needed to double adaptation finance by 2025 (baseline is 2019)
 - Recognition will have to be significantly scaled up beyond the “doubling”
- **Work Programme on the “New Quantified Global Goal on Climate Financing”**
 - What after the “100 billion” commitment?
 - 3-year programme and 2024 is the last year concluding at COP29.