

WASP

World Adaptation Science Programme

WASP

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ADAPTATION
SCIENCE
PROGRAMME



Photo credit: Unsplash / Hugh Whyte

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About the WASP

The World Adaptation Science Programme is a **United Nations Initiative global think tank and knowledge hub** involving over 40 core specialists/members from around the globe. They belong to leading national, regional and international research institutions, implementation agencies, funding organizations, financial sectors and governance bodies.

WASP's core vision is ensuring that **climate adaptation knowledge gaps are filled to inform evidence-based policies, solutions and actions** for successful adaptation to new climate conditions. Our priority is addressing the knowledge needs in vulnerable developing countries and providing policy-relevant science for decision-makers.



WASP Chair, Abdalah Mokssit, providing opening remarks at the WASP Fourth Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in October 2023. Also pictured former WASP chair and UNEP Management Group Representative, Jian Liu, and Head of the WASP Secretariat, Maarten Kappelle. Photo: UNEP / Selma Hedges

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Contact: WASP Secretariat, Thematic Assessment Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP, Secretariat@wasp-adaptation.org



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Adaptation Futures 2023 - Montreal, Canada



Between the 2nd and 6th of October, the 7th Adaptation Futures took place in Montreal, Canada, hosted by Ouranos, in partnership with the Government of Canada and the World Adaptation Science Programme. The conference brought together the international scientific community, policymakers and actors, private stakeholders and civil society leaders to **share the best knowledge and practices on adapting to climate change**, with nearly 180 sessions focused on various climate adaptation topics.

The WASP led three sessions on: **the Global Goal on Adaptation, research questions on loss and damage**, and **advancing adaptation effectiveness**. All three sessions included important and engaging discussions on advancing climate adaptation science and research.

Announcement of hosts for Adaptation Futures 2025

The WASP announced that the eighth Adaptation Futures Conference will be organised by the University of Canterbury, in partnership with the Government of New Zealand and the World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP). The conference will take place between the 28 October and 02 November 2025 in **Ōtautahi Christchurch**.

Call for proposals to host the eighth Adaptation Futures conference in 2026

The WASP Secretariat is delighted to open the call for proposals to host the ninth Adaptation Futures conference in 2026. Expressions of interest are warmly welcomed before **1 May 2024**. For more details, please feel free to reach out to the World Adaptation Science Programme Secretariat at secretariat@wasp-adaptation.org.

Launch of the 7th WASP Science for Adaptation Policy Brief on Advancing Effectiveness for Climate Adaptation

On October 5th 2023 at Adaptation Futures in Montreal, Canada, the WASP launched the seventh science-for-adaptation policy brief on advancing effectiveness of climate adaptation.

The purpose of the brief is to **enhance the understanding of the effectiveness of climate adaptation** by elucidating the dynamic framing for adaptation policy and action, identifying areas where approaches for ensuring adaptation effectiveness have advanced, highlighting adaptation effectiveness in international and national policymaking and measuring adaptation effectiveness of actions on the ground.



Authors of the SAPB on Advancing Effectiveness for Climate Adaptation at Adaptation Futures 2023 in Montreal.
Photo: UNEP / Selma Hedges

WASP Fourth Annual Meeting

On the 2nd and 6th of October 2023, the WASP held its Fourth Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

Over the two days, WASP members discussed the work of the **Working Groups** and Core Projects, the **outcomes of Adaptation Futures 2023**, and future directions of the WASP, including plans for 2024.



WASP Members at the Fourth Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada. Photo: UNEP

Launch of the 2023 Adaptation Gap Report

The eighth edition of the WASP-supported UNEP **Adaptation Gap Report: Underfinanced. Underprepared. Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed** was launched on the 2nd of November in a virtual press conference. The report provides an update on the global status and progress of the adaptation progress across three elements: **planning, financing, and implementation**. The 2023 edition also provides a more **in-depth finance assessment** chapter and includes a **thematic deep-dive chapter on loss and damage**.

COP28 UAE - United Nations Climate Change Conference



UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen, speaking at the UNFCCC Climate Action Event on the findings of the WASP-supported UNEP Adaptation-Gap Report 2023. Photo: UNEP / Duncan Moore

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, November 30th - December 14th 2023.

The WASP organised three collaborative side events at the WMO-IPCC Pavilion on Scaling up Climate Action through **Adaptation Effectiveness**, the **Global Goal on Adaptation**, and Dealing with **Loss and Damage**, in Honor of the Late Prof. Saleemul Huq.

The WASP also co-organised three side events at the **UNEP Pavilion** on Partnering to Bridge the Science-Policy Gap for Adaptation Effectiveness, Adaptation Finance: The Adaptation Gap Report and the Need to Scale Up Climate Resilient Finance, and Minimising Loss and Damage by addressing soft adaptation limits.



Discussions at the WASP side event on Adaptation Effectiveness at the WMO-IPCC Pavilion at COP28. Photo: UNEP / Maarten Kappelle

New Working Group on Adaptation Finance

A fourth WASP Working Group on Adaptation Finance (WG-IV-FIN) was established in November 2023.

This Working Group focuses on science and research for policy and practice in relation to finance for adaptation. Main areas that this Working Group will target are: (a) Formulating **concepts and terminologies** for finance for adaptation, (b) Mapping the **adaptation finance landscape**; and (c) Approaches, instruments and mechanisms for finance, including public and private finance from different sources such as domestic and international.



Working Group on Adaptation Effectiveness discussions at Adaptation Futures 2023.
Photo: UNEP / Selma Hedges

European Commission joining the WASP as an Observer

The European Commission joined the WASP in the role of an Observer in November 2023. The European Commission is keen on sharing more climate adaptation knowledge stemming from the Horizon Europe programme, European Union's key funding programme for research and innovation.



Upcoming Events

Gobeshona Global Conference - March 2024

The fourth annual Gobeshona Global Conference focused on monitoring Locally-Led Adaptation (LLA) and resilience organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development will be held virtually between the 4th and 8th of March.

The conference aims to link local, and international researchers, scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners to participate, support, and leverage the upstanding intentions and creativity of local communities aiming to develop and implement solutions dealing with climate change and monitor progress. The WASP will be organising sessions at the conference, more information on these coming soon.

Contact: WASP Secretariat, Thematic Assessment Unit, Early Warning and Assessment Division, UNEP, Secretariat@wasp-adaptation.org