

SECRETARIAT NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is a bi-monthly update to share announcements, updates, calls for input and funding, tools/resources, learning opportunities, reports and research, events, and other information relevant to humanitarian organizations on climate and environment action.

You are receiving [these newsletters](#) because you one of your organization's official focal points to the Charter, or you have signed up online. **If your colleagues would like to receive these emails, we would be delighted to add them to our mailing list.** We encourage you to [share with programmatic or technical leads](#) in your climate/environmental work or [national/regional counterparts](#). You can either [register online](#) or email us a list of additional contacts to add to the mailing list at secretariat@climate-charter.org

SECRETARIAT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for 2025! Last year was a busy year for climate and environment action, while this year has already seen wildfires, floods and cyclones devastating people's homes and livelihoods. We look forward to supporting Signatories in implementing the Charter Commitments and taking meaningful action to strengthen the most vulnerable communities in their efforts to adapt, and we are committed to working together as the Charter community to keep climate and environmental action in humanitarian contexts high on the agenda this year.

Nishanie and Natasha,
Co-Coordinator, Charter Secretariat

Together with Community World Service Asia and ADAPT Initiative, the Charter Secretariat held a workshop on [Mainstreaming Climate and Environmental Considerations in Humanitarian Action](#) on the sidelines of the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok on 13 December 2024. The workshop brought together thirty signatories of the Charter ranging from local, national, regional and international NGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent movement working across the Asia-Pacific region to share experiences, challenges, and strategies for integrating climate and environment commitments into their humanitarian programming. A workshop summary is available on [our website](#), and you are welcome to [read a reflection](#) by workshop participant Rajeev Jha, Humanitarian Aid International (HAI), India.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

USAID/BHA Climate Smart and Disaster Ready APS Round 2, January 31, 2025
The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance announced the launch of [Round 2](#) of the Climate Smart and Disaster Ready Annual Program Statement (APS). The goal of the Climate Smart and Disaster Ready APS is to implement innovative and applicable adaptation solutions in communities at greatest risk to climate related disasters, in current and foreseeable humanitarian settings. Round 2 focuses on soliciting concepts across four Technical Priority Areas:

1. Support integrated watershed and landscape-scale natural resource management (NRM) approaches.
2. Scale locally-led Nature-based Solutions (NbS) activities.
3. Strengthen capacity of multi-hazard early warning systems (EWS) and provision of climate information services (CIS).
4. Prioritize capacity strengthening for locally-led disaster and climate risk reduction including anticipatory action (AA) approaches.

USAID welcomes applications from diverse partners. Additional details regarding geographic location of activities, applicant requirements, and more can be found on [grants.gov](#).

Maximum five-page Concept Notes using the required Concept Note Template are due by **January 31, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. EST**.

Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature (OCEAN) Grants Programme is now Open, February 17, 2025

OCEAN is a new competitive grants scheme that will support innovative proposals from local coastal communities and organisations that aim to deliver marine protection and reduce poverty worldwide. It is part of the UK's Blue Planet Fund - a £500 million programme supporting developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty - and aims to support the people and communities most impacted by declining ocean health and climate change through funding local solutions to local problems. For more information, visit: <https://ocean.flexigrant.com/>

The Community Grants programme is now open. Closing Date: 17th February 2025 23:59 GMT.

CALLS EXPERTS, COLLABORATIONS, AND CONSULTATIONS

Call for Partnerships: [Somalia Pilot of the Localisation of Environment in Humanitarian Action \(EHA\) capacity strengthening](#)

The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) is launching a new project in Somalia to strengthen capacities on environmental issues in humanitarian context. The project aims to enhance the skills of local humanitarian responders in Somalia through a specialized and localized training. To achieve this, **the JEU is looking to establish partnerships with stakeholders operating in Somalia**, including local, national, or international NGOs, community-based organizations, and relevant local government entities and authorities. Partners will play a key role in collaborating on the project and ensuring the training reaches the appropriate stakeholders.

For more information or if you are interested in partnering with the JEU on this project to co-develop training content or participate in the training to build your internal capacity on environmental sustainability in the humanitarian context, please contact Tina El Khoury at tina.elkhoury@un.org.

Call for Participation and Presentations to the [Environment in Humanitarian Action Network \(EHAN\)](#), 11:00 – 1730 CET, 27 March 2025

The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) is pleased to announce the next Environment in Humanitarian Action Network (EHAN) event will be held as part of the [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week \(HNPW\)](#). The meeting will be **hybrid**, allowing for both in-person and virtual participation. The EHAN session will focus on three critical themes:

- Environment and Conflict Nexus
- Localisation and Accountability in EHA
- New Tools and Resources on EHA

Charter Signatories are invited to be part of the event either as a participant by registering through [this link](#) or a presenter on one of these themes, if you have relevant insights, experiences, or case studies to share.

Presentation proposals (a brief abstract, duration of your presentation, and the names and affiliations of the presenters) should be submitted by **30 January 2025** to JEU (ochaunep@un.org copying Tina El Khoury tina.elkhoury@un.org and Yukiko Yoshida yoshiday@un.org).

Call for Case Studies, Loss and Damage Collaboration (L&DC), 28 March 2025

Ahead of the fifth meeting of the Board (B5) of the [Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage \(FRLD\)](#) which will take place on the 8-10 of April 2025 in Bridge Town, Barbados, L&DC are seeking case studies on access to climate, development or humanitarian finance for communities, Indigenous Peoples, local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and organisations representing marginalised groups. The L&DC welcome stand alone published case studies, case studies published in briefs, unpublished case studies (text or linked documents), video/photo essay case studies.

The form will stay open as long as access modalities for the FRLD are being discussed. **The case studies submitted by the 28th of March 2025 at 23:59 GMT will be part of a submission to B5.** Find more information, and to submit a case study [HERE](#).

Call for Proposals MR2025: Mobility, Adaptation, and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate, June 16-18, 2025

MR2025 is presented in partnership with the [Global Centre for Climate Mobility](#) around the theme of "Mobility, Adaptation, and Wellbeing in a Changing Climate." We invite both in-person and virtual session proposals for traditional academic paper sessions, roundtable panels, and workshops, as well as poster presentation abstracts and individual papers. MR2025 will be held from June 16-18 at Columbia University in New York City. See the [website](#) for more details, with general registration information coming soon. For questions or further information, contact Sheehan Moore at sheehan.moore@columbia.edu.

[Submit your proposals here](#) by **January 27, 2025**.

Call for Manuscript Submissions: [Vulnerability, Climate Loss and Damage, and Resilience: Climate Action and Financing for Transformation](#)

The field of climate action and financing is at a critical juncture as the human-induced climate crisis intensifies, leading to unprecedented losses and damages. This research topic aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of vulnerability, climate losses and damages, and the potential for transformative climate action and financing. The primary objectives include examining the conceptualization of L&D in relation to existing climate efforts, identifying strategies to avoid past failures in climate finance, and developing mechanisms to deliver finance effectively in contexts with limited data and institutional capacity. [REGISTER Here](#) for interest.

Manuscript Summary Submission: 27 February 2025
Manuscript Submission deadline: 30 May 2025

GUIDANCE, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES

[Supplier Engagement: Tools, Guidance and Resources, Climate Action Accelerator](#)

Suppliers hold the key to reducing CO2 emissions in an organisation's supply chain. Organizations can put in place different engagement strategies to push suppliers to operate with renewable energy, make production processes more efficient and create innovative product solutions to name a few. In this online guide, the Climate Action Accelerator outlines how humanitarian organizations can take meaningful action on reducing carbon emissions through more sustainable procurement of goods and services.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FROM CHARTER SIGNATORIES

[Nature Based Solutions \(Nbs\) for Humanitarian action e-learning](#), SPHERE

Charter Signatory Sphere's new NbS e-learning is live! This 90-minute course in English is practical, interactive, and filled with ideas to create lasting solutions for communities affected by natural hazards. Explore how NbS approaches create lasting positive impacts by combining humanitarian action with environmental stewardship

- Discover how to work with nature to respond to crises effectively.
- Learn simple yet powerful methods to protect ecosystems while meeting urgent needs.
- Build lasting solutions that benefit both communities and the environment.

You can find Sphere's full [NbS Guide HERE](#). You can find other Sphere-related e-learning opportunities [here](#).

[Inclusive Approaches in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction – Afghanistan](#), RedR UK

5 February 2025, 15:00 – 17:30 GMT/ 19:30-22:00 AFT.

RedR UK is offering a free, high-quality online training course aiming to equip participants with a foundational understanding of how gender and disability intersect with climate for and disaster risk, enabling participants to recognise the importance of advocating for and implementing inclusive approaches in CCADRR efforts. This training is designed for humanitarian responders living and working in Afghanistan. The training is a 2.5 hour, fully online course delivered on Zoom.

Please ensure that you will be able to attend the course before registering as we only have a certain number of places available. Register [HERE](#).

POLICY AND REPORTS

[Prioritising Children's Health Amidst the Climate Crisis, Save the Children International, December 2024](#) (English, French, Spanish and Arabic)

Climate change severely impacts children's health, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), increasing risks of diseases, malnutrition, and mental health issues while threatening access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare. Vulnerable groups, including impoverished, displaced, and children with disabilities, face the greatest challenges.

A bold response is essential to safeguard the health and future of 2.4 billion children globally. While this brief focuses on adaptation and resilience, it underscores the importance of mitigation to reduce long-term risks and protect future generations. This policy brief calls for urgent, multisectoral action, including:

- Governments prioritizing climate-resilient, child-sensitive services and closing the adaptation funding gap.
- Global health organizations, multilateral banks, and private sectors scaling up climate-sensitive financing and support for climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems.
- All stakeholders to ensure meaningful participation of children and communities in climate-health decision-making processes.

[A fair and equitable decarbonisation target for an international NGO, Group URD, December 2024](#)

Since 2020, in response to the climate emergency, a growing number of NGOs have committed themselves to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Like other organisations, the NGO that commissioned this report commissioned itself to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030, with 50% being an absolute value by comparison with 2019. Emissions are to be accounted for as fully as possible. Is this target fair, however? The aim of this report is to analyse this NGO's decarbonisation targets, as well as the monitoring and review process, highlighting some of the pitfalls of carbon accounting and reviewing some of the foundations of environmental ethics and climate justice. Finally, the report puts forward proposals for a fair decarbonisation target.

[Advancing Action on Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought](#)

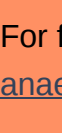
The President of the [sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP16\) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) closed on 14 December 2024, as the largest and most inclusive UNCCD COP to date, with more than 20,000 participants in over 600 events. At COP16, Parties adopted 39 decisions, including:

- Creation of a Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and a Caucus for Local Communities.
- Continuation of the Convention's Science-Policy Interface to strengthen science-based decision-making.
- Mobilization of private sector engagement under the [Business4Land](#) initiative.
- A prototype launch of the International Drought Resilience Observatory, the first global AI-driven platform to help countries assess and enhance their capacity to cope with harsher droughts.
- Decisions on the budget, the decision on the midterm evaluation of the Strategic Framework, and the procedural decision on drought were also taken.
- Parties adopted the [Riyadh Political Declaration](#).
- Over USD 12 billion were pledged to tackle desertification, land degradation and drought around the world, especially in the most vulnerable countries.
- Despite notable efforts, Parties did not agree to begin talks on a new drought framework or legally binding protocol. A procedural decision was adopted to continue discussions based on the progress made at COP 16, with a view to adopting a decision at COP 17, in Mongolia, in 2026

Read more on outcomes

- [IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#)
- [UNCCD Press Release](#)
- [COP-16 Presidency Press Release](#)
- [UN News](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



20 JANUARY 2025

[A Quarter-Century Celebration | Last Preparations for GEN@25 High-Level Closing Ceremony](#)

The celebration of the 25 years of the Geneva Environment Network will culminate in a **High-Level Celebration** organized around [two key moments that will take place at the International Environment House](#): the **GEN@25 Environment Forum (9:00 – 10:45 CET)**, followed by the **High-Level Closing Ceremony (10:45 – 11:45 CET)**, and a **networking reception (11:45 – 13:30 CET)** at the International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland. They will serve as an occasion to celebrate the numerous institutions that contribute to making Geneva a global hub for environmental governance. For further information on participation, you may contact: claudia.schiavelli@un.org; anaelle.cathelineau@un.org; mitsuki.ishii@un.org

[REGISTER HERE](#)



18 MARCH 2025

SAVE THE DATE: On target? Accelerating Humanitarian Climate and Environment Programming

13:00 - 14:00 UTC / 14:00 - 15:00 CET

The Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat and the ADAPT Initiative are pleased to invite you to an online event during the Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week (HNPW) to launch a case study report examining how organizations are incorporating climate and environmental considerations into their humanitarian work, particularly through the setting of clear, actionable targets. The online event will explore themes and learnings emerging from the case studies. More on HNPW below.



VARIOUS

[NEAT+ Training Sessions](#)

West Africa, MENA, Europe:

January 23, 2025 | Latin America/Caribbean: February 11, 2025

Group URD is hosting a series of training courses on the

NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool) to assess the

environmental risks of your projects. You will learn how to

analyse and use the results produced by the NEAT+ tool,

and how to develop an action plan for your project based on

these results. Sessions will take place every month until March

2025, including 2 in French.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



17 - 28 MARCH 2025

[Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week \(HNPW\)](#)

Session registration is now open for HNPW 2025, which will be held in a hybrid format from 17 to 28 March (first week remote, second week in-person in Geneva).

The HNPW provides a unique forum for humanitarian networks and partnerships to meet and address key humanitarian issues. The Climate Crisis has been on the HNPW agenda since 2020, reflecting the increasing recognition across the humanitarian community of the need to scale up our action and adapt our responses in light of the climate crisis and the humanitarian needs it is generating. Informed by the commitments in the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, HNPW includes a number of sessions touching on 6 thematic areas that frame the various components of the humanitarian response to climate change

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This newsletter is distributed by the **Secretariat for the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations**. For more information, visit the [Charter Website](#)

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