



Cultural Heritage and the Global Goal on Adaptation: What to expect at COP30

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The “COP of Adaptation”

LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Eighth Letter from the Presidency

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From the Convention’s ultimate objective to the Paris Agreement’s long-term resilience goal, from the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), COP30 **must be the COP of adaptation**. Adaptation ambition and action will be key to advancing in Belém our three priorities: (i) strengthening **multilateralism**; (ii) connecting the climate regime to **people’s** daily lives; and (iii) accelerating climate **implementation**.

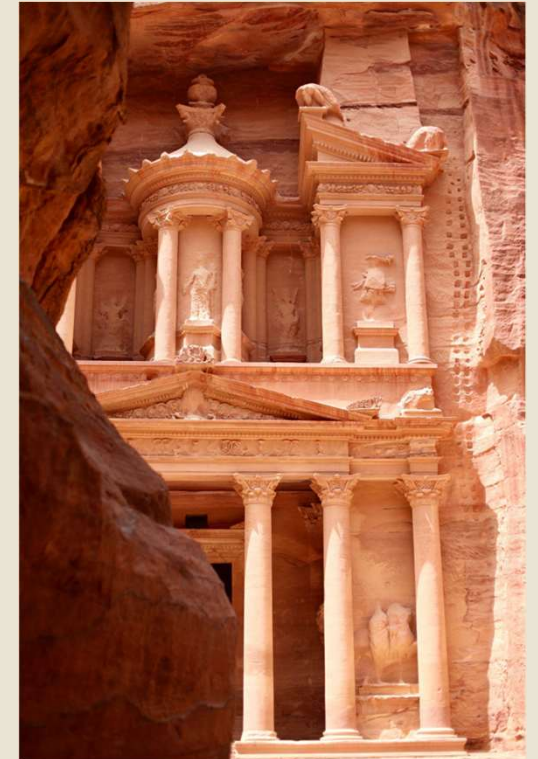


André Aranha Correa do Lago
COP30 President Designate

Global Goal on Adaptation Thematic Targets

The final UNFCCC Adaptation Targets adopted at COP28 in 2023 includes the following seven thematic targets:

- ❑ Water
- ❑ Food and Agriculture
- ❑ Health
- ❑ Nature, Biodiversity
- ❑ Infrastructure and Human Settlements
- ❑ Poverty Eradication and Livelihoods
- ❑ **Cultural Heritage**



GST/GGA Heritage Thematic Target

COP28 GST para 63g/GGA para 9g

9(g) Protecting cultural heritage from the impacts of climate-related risks by developing adaptive strategies for preserving cultural practices and heritage sites and by designing climate-resilient infrastructure guided by traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems

9g01: Adaptation Measures Implemented

9g01	Percentage of at-risk cultural and natural heritage sites with adaptation measures implemented	Social categories, Geographic, Any other	Disaggregated by implementation levels of the adaptation measures for (i) Internationally listed, (ii) Parties listed at national, subnational, and local levels; (iii) non-listed cultural and natural heritage sites.
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Outcome. Tracks whether adaptation actions are actually applied at vulnerable sites → direct measure of progress.

Issues/Notes:

- Includes natural heritage; Purports to include non-listed heritage
- Why percentage-based; better as direction of travel indicator (“number of sites with ...”)
- Why add “at-risk qualifier?” Needs clarity on what counts as “implemented.”
- Silent on quality and inclusiveness of those measures. Following 10d01, add disaggregation for “inclusion of a stakeholder mechanism ensuring an inclusive and participatory development process.”

9g02: ICH with “Enhanced Resilience”

9g02	Percentage of intangible cultural heritage elements with enhanced resilience to climate change impacts	Geographic, Any other	Disaggregated by intangible cultural heritage or living heritage (i) internationally listed (ii) listed or identified by Parties at national, subnational, or local levels.
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Impact Indicator. Issues/Notes:

- ICH vs cultural practices;
- What is “enhanced resilience”? Better to measure through proxies? (continuity of practice, intergenerational transfer, participation).
- Why percentage-based – better would be number of ICH practices made more resilient or perhaps even better, number of communities using ICH elements to be more resilient. Only listed elements currently.

9g03: Protection by Digitization/Storage

9g03	Proportion of cultural heritage protected from climate impacts by (i) digitizing for preservation and recovery, (ii) storing movable heritage in climate-resilient facilities	Geographic, Any other	Disaggregated by cultural and natural heritage listed in (i) international lists (ii) Parties lists at national, subnational, and local levels; cultural heritage includes sites, intangible cultural heritage elements/ practices, and moveable cultural heritage objects.
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Output. Concrete deliverables, but measures protection actions, not their effectiveness for adaptation. Risk of technical bias (digitization $\neq$ resilience).

Issues/Notes:

- Why percentage based? Direction of travel would be better
- Indicator says “cultural heritage” but disaggregation say it applies to cultural and natural heritage.
- Silent on MOI to address digital divide

9g04: Emergency Plans in Place

9g04	Percentage of cultural heritage with emergency preparedness and response plans in place for climate change related hazards	Any other	Disaggregated by listed cultural heritage sites, intangible cultural heritage elements, cultural objects, and natural heritage included in (i) international lists, (ii) listed by Parties at national, subnational, and local levels.
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Output → Early Outcome. Plans show preparedness capacity. Progress indicator, though effectiveness depends on drills/training.

Issues/Notes:

- Why percentage based?
- Why limit to listed heritage (per disaggregation)?
- Indicator says “cultural heritage” but disaggregation say it applies to cultural and natural heritage.

9g05: Incorporation of Cultural Heritage Into Climate Plans

9g05	Percentage of climate change adaptation plans, policies and strategies that incorporate the safeguarding and protection of cultural heritage	Social categories, Geographic, Any other	Plans as NAP, Regional Plans, Action Area Plans, National or subnational plan, policies or strategies; or city level adaptation plans;
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Output. Strong mainstreaming indicator: shows institutional uptake. Doesn't measure depth/quality of integration.

Issues/Notes:

- Again, direction of travel indicator would be better than percentage.
- Why exclude natural heritage?
- Disaggregation at national, regional and local levels?

9g06: Climate Change Training Programs

9g06	Number of relevant climate change adaptation training programmes that integrate cultural heritage and/or guidance from traditional, local or Indigenous knowledge	Social categories, Any other, Geographic	Disaggregated by training programmes at (i) international, national, subnational, and local levels; (ii) guidance from traditional, local, or Indigenous knowledge integrated
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Input → Output. Measures capacity-building investment (input) and immediate delivery (output). Progress proxy for strengthening systems.

Issues/Notes:

- Note: Direction of travel indicator!
- **Lack of FPIC-like protections.** Could be “ethically integrate IK” or integrate IK with FPIC where applicable.
- At least one indicator should be dedicated to measuring efforts to support access to and capacity building for Indigenous Peoples and local communities in adaptation process (see 9g07)
- Cf 10c10 (“Number of Parties with institutional arrangements for the provision of regular training on climate change adaptation at the national and local level for governments and non-government organisations including community-based organisations”) – but currently no thematic disaggregation proposed.

9g07: CH Adaptation Measures Engaging With/Informed by “Local or Indigenous Peoples” & their Knowledge Systems

9g07	Percentage of cultural heritage specific climate adaptation measures that engage with and are informed by local or Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems	Geographic, Any other, Social categories	Disaggregated by (i) measures informed/ guided by traditional, local, or indigenous knowledge; ii) measures developed with the participation of local communities or Indigenous Peoples.
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Process. Tracks inclusivity and legitimacy of adaptation. Very important for equity and effectiveness. Needs qualitative depth (avoid tokenism).

Issues/Notes:

- Why limit to CH specific measurers (Cf 10c [no indicator] but also 10b05 on plans and policies)?
- Why percentage-based? Director of travel would be better.
- Why conflate local and Indigenous with no disaggregation? Should be with “ethical” participation.
- At least one indicator should measure efforts to support access to and capacity building for Indigenous Peoples and local communities in adaptation process, for example: Number of: (i) measures to promote capacity building and strengthen leadership of Indigenous peoples' self-governing institutions within climate adaptation processes; (ii) instances of use of Indigenous languages in systems communications for climate action and planning. – **or covered by 10c11?**

9g07 Continued

9g07	Percentage of cultural heritage specific climate adaptation measures that engage with and are informed by local or Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge systems	Geographic, Any other, Social categories	Disaggregated by (i) measures informed/ guided by traditional, local, or indigenous knowledge; ii) measures developed with the participation of local communities or Indigenous Peoples.
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o Metrics should track compliance with UNDRIP principles, including FPIC and self-determination over lands and knowledge in climate adaptation matters; as well as, where appropriate, analogous efforts for local communities. For example: Number of climate measures that received free, prior, and informed consent of affected Indigenous Peoples' autonomous institutions before approval. Here, HACA supports the recommendation of the Indigenous Peoples Organization for a 9g Indicator (perhaps under the Cultural Practice sub-component) on "Percentage of Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and resources with legally recognized collective tenure rights." Land tenure security is key for assuring ethical use of IK and the intergenerational transmission of IK.

9g08: Building and Sites Retrofitted

9g08	Number of cultural heritage buildings and sites retrofitted with climate-resilient materials and/or technologies, including those guided by traditional, local, or Indigenous building practices	Any other	Disaggregated by retrofitted with climate resilient (i) materials or (ii) technologies or (iii) guided by traditional, local, or Indigenous building practices (iv) New construction that integrates adaptive practices guided by traditional, local, or Indigenous building practices
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IPO-OI Indicator Types: Outcome. Tangible physical adaptation measure → progress towards resilient heritage infrastructure. Needs criteria for what counts as “climate-resilient.”

- Issues/Notes:
- Note: direction of travel!
- Collaborators noted that its use of the term “retrofitting” suggests a mitigation focus, while the rationale emphasizes adaptation—redesigning buildings to withstand climate impacts—

What's Missing?

- Framing of Target 9g Sub-components: No real attention to “3. Designing climate-resilient infrastructure guided by traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and local knowledge systems.”
 - Restore original indicator 9g12 (“Number of initiatives implemented to build infrastructure decision makers competence and capacity to receive, comprehend, and value insights from Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) in the development of infrastructure, both at the individual and institutional levels.”)
- Include a Maladaptation Screening Mechanism: A dedicated indicator (e.g., “Existence of mechanisms to identify, monitor, and avoid maladaptation in climate adaptation strategies for cultural heritage”)

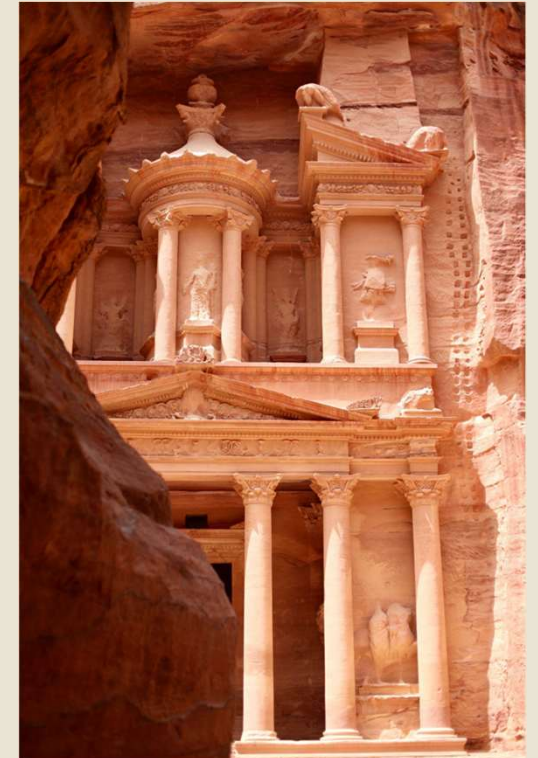
What's Missing?

- Use direction-of-travel metrics,
- Disaggregate by gender, age, and Indigeneity, and ensure indicators reflect ethical engagement and community agency.
- Qualitative elements that measure inclusivity, co-development, locally-led.
 - Building on original Indicator 9g47: “Number of risk assessment, adaptation planning and implementation activities for cultural heritage that include stakeholder and rightsholder mechanisms ensuring an inclusive and participatory development process, including for local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and disadvantaged groups.

GGA Dimensional Targets

The final GGA adopted at COP28 includes four “dimensional” targets tied to the iterative adaptation cycle concept embedded in National Adaptation Frameworks:

- ❑ Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment
- ❑ Planning
- ❑ Implementation
- ❑ Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)



10a: Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment: by 2030 all Parties have conducted up-to-date assessments of climate hazards, climate change impacts and exposure to risks and vulnerabilities and have used the outcomes of these assessments to inform their formulation of national adaptation plans, policy instruments, and planning processes and/or strategies, and by 2027 all Parties have established multi-hazard early warning systems, climate information services for risk reduction and systematic observation to support improved climate-related data, information and services

Issues/Notes: Zero references to IK or TK.

- Need to restore originally proposed one: “Number of Parties with traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and local knowledge systems integrated into their risk information systems” (former 10a01d)
- 10a08 on climate information services for risk reduction and systematic observation to support improved climate-related data, information and services – **need to disaggregate by thematic**
- 10a10 on Amount of finance for climate change adaptation for the design, development and operationalisation of climate information services – **need to disaggregate by thematic.**

10b: Planning: by 2030 all Parties have in place country-driven, gender responsive, participatory and fully transparent national adaptation plans, policy instruments, and planning processes and/or strategies, covering, as appropriate, ecosystems, sectors, people and vulnerable communities, and have mainstreamed adaptation in all relevant strategies and plans

- Multiple targets with disaggregation by thematic (e.g. existence of national plans (10b01), Number of Parties with a legal requirement for public investments to take into account climate risks including in planning, implementation and maintenance (10b07); government budget allocated to adaptation (10b10)
- 10b05 Proportion of National Adaptation Plans, policy instruments, and planning processes that have been informed by traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems; disaggregation by a) type of knowledge system (Indigenous, traditional, community-based) – **need ethical engagement (cf 9g07)**

10c: Implementation: by 2030 all Parties have progressed in implementing their national adaptation plans, policies and strategies and, as a result, have reduced the social and economic impacts of the key climate hazards identified in the assessments referred to in paragraph 10(a) above

Issues/Notes:

- 10c11 -- extent of capacity-building interventions enhancing adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities/people ... with disaggregation by thematic targets, as well as disaggregated by (i), Indigenous Peoples, local communities. Per expert report: "This indicator measures the extent to which capacity building interventions have increased the adaptive capacity of vulnerable people/communities to climate change impacts and hazards. Measured through: (b) Quantitative data on ... (iii) number of adaptation-related research and development programs integrating indigenous and traditional knowledge in various levels of education (from primary, secondary, high school and post-school such as vocational training colleges and universities).“ -- but what about ethical engagement?

10c: Continued

Issues/Notes:

- 10c03 Number of people who experienced direct social and economic impacts associated with climate-related hazards per 100,000 people ... Disaggregated by ... (d) People whose livelihoods were disrupted or destroyed – **add heritage**? What?
- 10c04 "Direct economic loss associated with climate-related hazards as a proportion of gross domestic product" ... additional disaggregation by economic losses resulting from climate-related hazards can be computed for the thematic targets
- 10c06, international public finance for adaptation, disaggregated by target is great. Deleted: disaggregation to Indigenous Peoples (former 10c08)
- 10c07 – Annual adaptation finance expenditure disaggregated by thematic

10d: Monitoring, evaluation and learning: by 2030 all Parties have designed, established and operationalized a system for monitoring, evaluation and learning for their national adaptation efforts and have built the required institutional capacity to fully implement the system

Issues/Notes:

- 10d01 Number of Parties that have designed a system for monitoring, evaluation and learning for their national adaptation efforts disaggregation ... (ii) inclusion of a stakeholder mechanism ensuring an inclusive and participatory development process ... The disaggregation of this indicator tracks whether the process of designing the MEL system has been inclusive, especially whether vulnerable groups, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, have been participating.
- 10d04 Level of integration of MEL system findings into relevant plans, policies, processes, legal frameworks, and budgets ... disaggregated by Thematic targets

9(a) Water: Significantly reducing climate-induced water scarcity and enhancing climate resilience to water-related hazards towards a climate-resilient water supply, climate-resilient sanitation and access to safe and affordable potable water for all

Issues/Notes:

No Indicators listed as being relevant to cultural heritage. Opportunities:

- 9a03 Proportion of critical water and sanitation infrastructure systems that are built or retrofitted to withstand climate-related hazards – **disaggregate by heritage?**
- 9a09 Percentage of people assisted with the planned relocation in a **safe, voluntary, and dignified way** among those displaced as a result of water related hazards and extreme events such as floods, droughts, tropical cyclones and storm surges, sea level rise and other water induced disasters – **reference culturally appropriate?**

9b Food: Attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, as well as increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all

Issues/Notes: No reference to culture or TEK or IK at all. Opportunities:

- 9b01 Proportion of area under management for food and agricultural production utilising practices and technologies relevant to climate change adaptation – **disaggregation to reference TEK as type of practice or technology**
- 9b02 Proportion of food and agricultural value chain actors that have adopted practices and technologies relevant to climate change adaptation – **description should include reference to TEK as type of practice/technology**
- 9b03 Number of institutional frameworks for knowledge transfer, research and development, and extension services supporting climate change adaptation in food and agriculture – **description should include reference to TEK as type of practice/technology**

9c Health: Attaining resilience against climate change related health impacts, promoting climate-resilient health services and significantly reducing climate-related morbidity and mortality, particularly in the most vulnerable communities

Issues/Notes: No comment

9d Ecosystems/Biodiversity: 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;

Issues/Notes: 7 of 10 indicators listed as being relevant to CH; 8 of 10 are direction of travel

- 9d03 measures the proportion of people benefiting from cultural, spiritual, recreational, relational, reciprocal, and knowledge services provided by nature and biodiversity that directly support adaptive capacity; defined as the percentage of people in communities reporting access to or reliance on nature- and biodiversity-based cultural and knowledge services.
- 9d05 Extent of ecosystems that contribute to climate resilience covered by protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, disaggregated by governance type incl “Indigenous, and community conserved areas.”
- No indicator on guided by IK/TK.

9e Infrastructure and Human Settlements: Increasing the resilience of infrastructure and human settlements to climate change impacts to ensure basic and continuous essential services for all, and minimizing climate-related impacts on infrastructure and human settlements

Issues/Notes: 4 of 7 report relevance to CH

- 9e04 Number of planned relocation protocols for human settlements and infrastructural system to facilitate inclusive and adequately supported and managed local-scale relocation – **relevance to CH flagged but CH should be mentioned in the description**

9f Poverty and Livelihoods: Substantially reducing the adverse effects of climate change on poverty eradication and livelihoods, in particular by promoting the use of adaptive social protection measures for all

Issues/Notes: 3 of 9 relevant to CH



Heritage Adapts Goal: By 2030, 3000 heritage places and cultural practices are protected from climate change through adaptive strategies designed by their communities.



Heritage Adapts! 3000 x 2030

Leadership Partners (list in formation)



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1 October 2025

