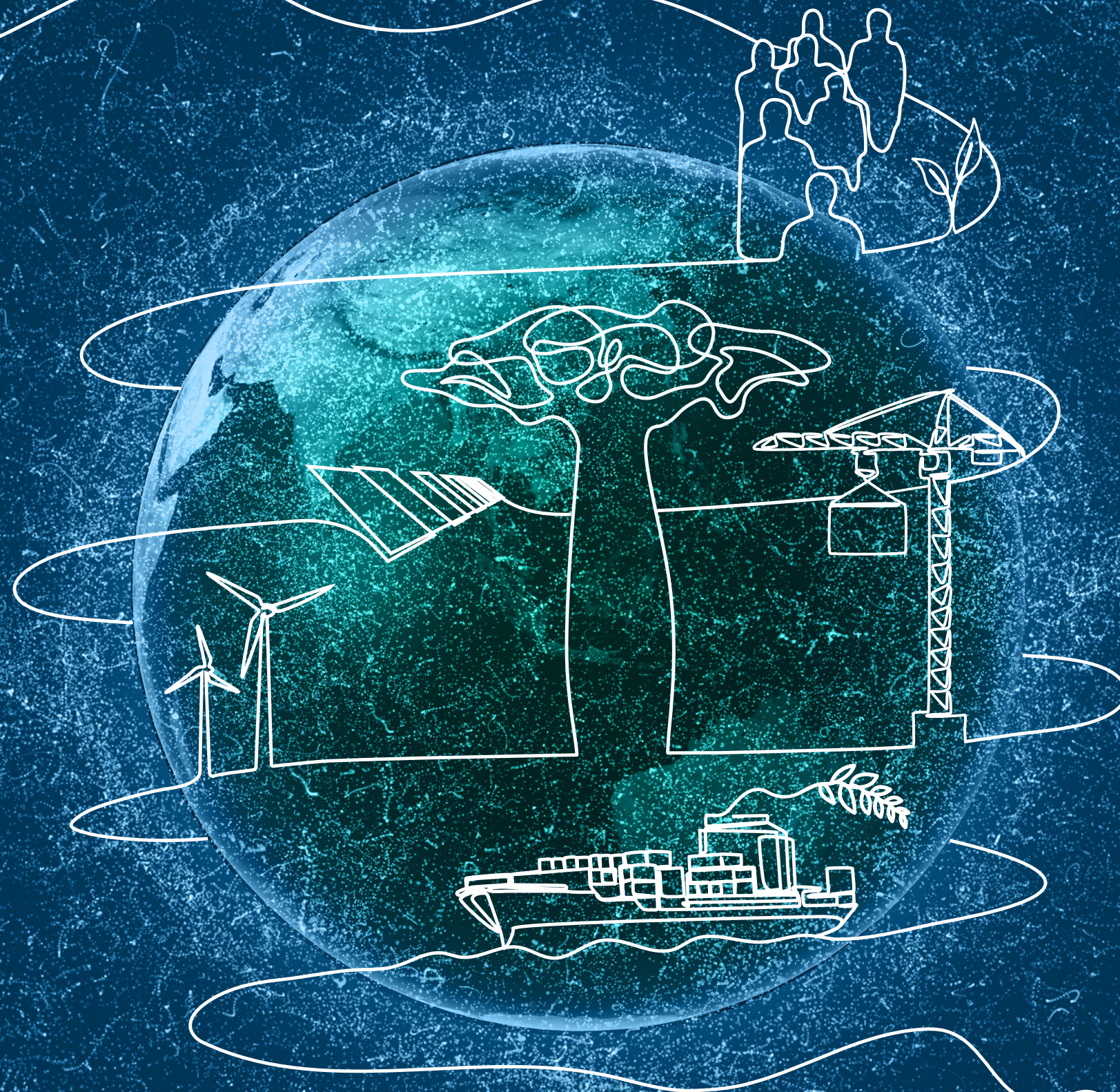




Climate Strategy 2025 - 2029

From awareness to action

Our collective path to a sustainable future



PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

@2025 UNOPS

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Table of contents

Acknowledgements	1
1. Overview	2
2. Introduction	3
3. Guiding principles	4
4. Strategic objectives and targets	5
4.1. Delivering low-carbon and resilient projects	
4.2 Embedding climate action in our internal processes	
4.3 Working with partners for our shared aspirations	
5. Strategy roll-out	9

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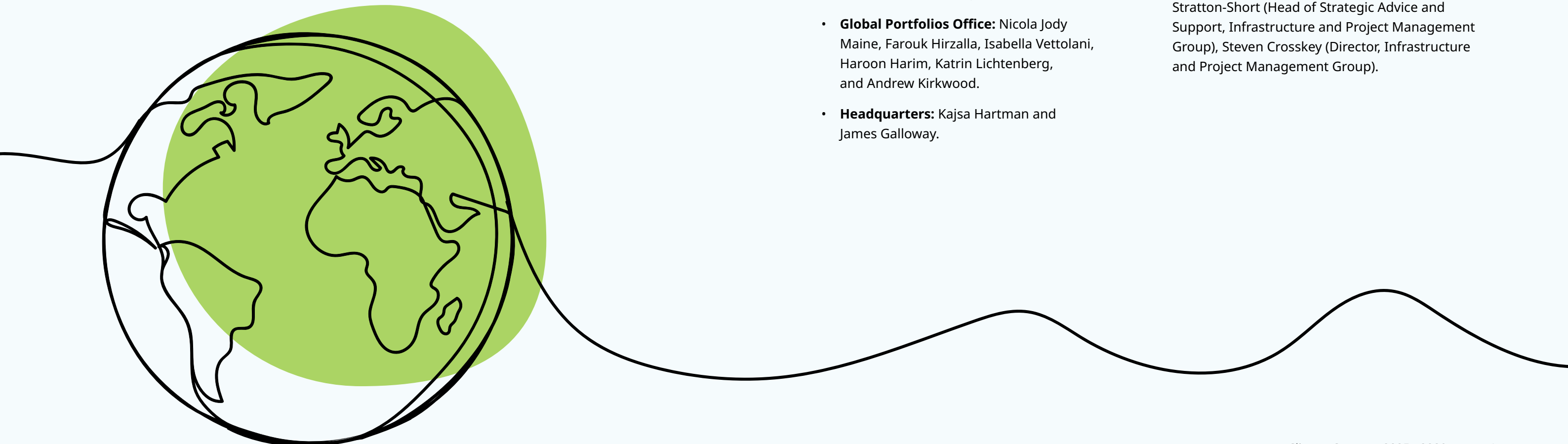
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1. Overview

This strategy is **UNOPS commitment to accelerating global climate action by reducing its carbon footprint and embedding resilience into all aspects of our work.** It provides a comprehensive roadmap for the period 2025-2029, guided by five key principles and informed by rigorous technical assessments.

The clear mitigation and adaptation targets across our operations and projects outlined in this strategy address both direct emissions and our value chain. By implementing this strategy, we will transition from a traditional to a more climate-integrated operational model. **The strategy aligns the organization with global climate goals and strengthens our ability to deliver climate-resilient development that benefits communities worldwide.**

2. Introduction

The climate crisis is a pressing global threat, affecting every nation and ecosystem. The 2023 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underscores that human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are driving global warming, with a global surface temperature 1.1°C higher in 2011-2020 than in 1850-1900.¹ This warming intensifies climate disruptions – extreme weather, rising temperatures, and shifting climate patterns – that pose unprecedented risks to vulnerable populations and ecosystems. To address this, the global community has reinforced commitments through the [Paris Agreement](#) to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and prioritize climate action under [Sustainable Development Goal 13 \(SDG\)](#), which is dedicated to climate action.

UN alignment on climate action

The UN aligns its climate action under key frameworks, including the Paris Agreement, the [SDGs](#), and the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), setting clear directives to tackle emissions and increase climate resilience. The UN Secretary-General's call to action emphasizes the need to protect at-risk populations, safeguard jobs, and ensure climate justice. Additionally, the [Strategy for Sustainability Management in the United Nations system, 2020-2030](#), approved by the Chief Executives Board, sets similar expectations for UN agencies, aiming for alignment with IPCC emission reduction targets.

The necessity of a climate strategy for UNOPS

A dedicated climate strategy is essential for UNOPS to fulfill our unique role within the UN system as a bridge between climate policies and implementation. By integrating climate objectives into infrastructure, procurement, project management, human resources, and financial management, we can strengthen our position as a vital executor of climate initiatives aligned with UN targets and effectively respond to the growing demand for sustainable practices in line with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

A climate strategy empowers UNOPS to strengthen our partnerships and extend our impact beyond the UN. By aligning with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), UNOPS can help governments and communities meet their climate commitments through effective, locally adapted solutions.

This strategic focus also allows UNOPS to fulfill our own climate commitments, maintaining credibility within the UN system. Implementing this strategy enables us to manage our operations and projects, tangibly reducing our carbon footprint, aligning with global climate goals, and demonstrating our commitment to climate action to our stakeholders.

UNOPS is a reliable implementing agency in climate action

In alignment with the UNOPS strategic plan, 2026-2029 and our COP28-renewed commitment to climate action, we pledge to reduce corporate emissions by 45 per cent from 2016 baseline levels by 2030, achieve net zero before 2050, account for emissions in our supply chains, and drive climate resilience in the projects we implement with our partners. Through these actions, we demonstrate our [ongoing commitment](#) to transforming our climate targets into actionable outcomes.

Transition to the UNOPS Climate Strategy

We have developed a comprehensive climate strategy to stand by our commitments and meet emerging climate challenges, focusing on emissions reduction and resilience. This strategy is based on rigorous emissions calculations, climate risk assessments, and extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders. By embedding these elements into our operational framework, we are committed to leading climate action and ensuring that communities worldwide are protected from climate impacts and prepared for a sustainable future.



“

The UN Secretary-General has made it clear: urgent and ambitious climate action is needed to secure a liveable future for all. At UNOPS, we are committed to working as part of the UN system to reignite progress on the SDGs and on climate mitigation and adaptation, facilitate the clean energy transition, and deliver meaningful actions for people and the planet.”

Jorge Moreira da Silva,
UNOPS Executive Director

1. IPCC, 'AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023', <www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>, accessed 22 September 2025.

3. Guiding principles

The strategy is firmly anchored in five guiding principles:

1. **Promote a just transition** by fostering a fair, inclusive, and equitable shift towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy.

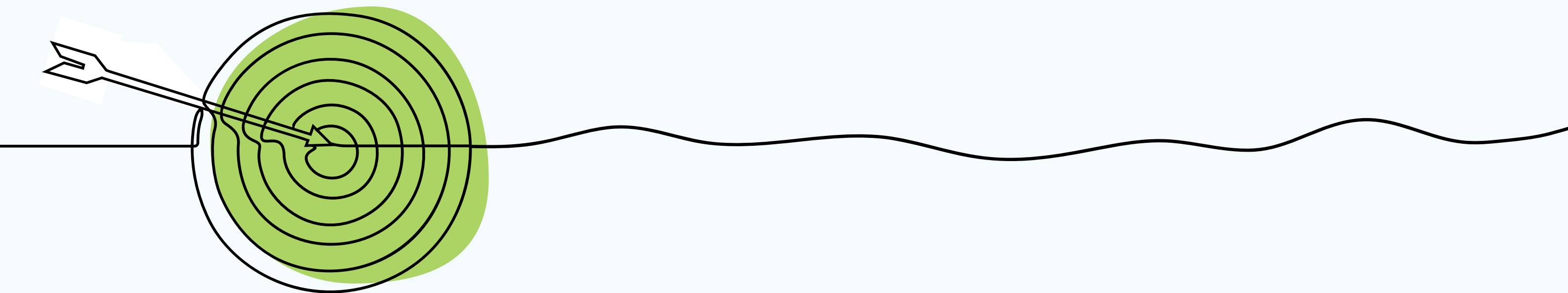
2. **Finance the climate strategy sustainably** by exploring innovative financing models.

3. **Align with national and regional climate mitigation and adaptation goals** by leveraging established frameworks like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

4. **Integrate climate and operational excellence with partners** by collaborating closely to embed climate considerations into all operational activities.

5. **Leverage a growth and learning mindset** by continuously innovating, testing new approaches, and fostering knowledge sharing for continuous improvement.

▼
The strategy is aligned with the Paris Agreement, UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan, 2020-2030, and the SDGs, particularly SDG 13.



4. Strategic objectives and targets

This ambitious strategy is supported by a set of specific and measurable targets, designed to align with and build upon the UNOPS strategic plan, 2026-2029.

The identified targets for 2025-2029 centre around mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (building resilience).

Adaptation targets

- Integrate climate risk screening in 100 per cent of the infrastructure portfolio by 2026.
- Reduce damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services due to climate hazards, in line with the Sendai Framework.
- Promote the use of nature-based infrastructure.
- Ensure 100 per cent of UNOPS offices complete climate vulnerability assessments.

Mitigation targets

- Reduce corporate emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and achieve net-zero before 2050.
- Reduce value chain emissions by working with partners and suppliers, embedding low-carbon considerations into procurement and project design.
- Prioritize partnerships with organizations that have science-based decarbonization targets.
- Incorporate energy efficiency measures and circular economy principles into 95 per cent of new building designs and infrastructure projects.

To achieve these targets, the strategy focuses on three main levers for change: **our projects, our offices and operations, and our partners.** The first focuses on embedding climate action in our internal processes, where UNOPS can lead by example by mitigating emissions and developing adaptive capacity and resilience in offices and operations. The second looks at UNOPS projects, where UNOPS can strive to reduce emissions, build resilience, and enhance adaptation, while actively supporting our partners and suppliers in their decarbonization efforts, by including climate criteria across the entire project and procurement lifecycle. The third requires collaborating with other organizations that share the same vision. UNOPS recognizes that collective action is the most effective way to address the global climate crisis, amplifying efforts and achieving a greater impact on climate mitigation and adaptation.

4.1. Delivering low-carbon and resilient projects

The UNOPS Climate Strategy, 2025-2029, sets out a **proactive and multifaceted approach to designing infrastructure that is both low-carbon and highly resilient to climate change**.

This involves integrating mitigation and adaptation measures across the entire project lifecycle, from initial conceptualization and design to procurement and operation.

Due to the important role that procurement plays in supply chain management, it is critical to map, understand, and support our partners and suppliers in their efforts to decarbonize. To lower emissions, UNOPS will integrate climate criteria in the entire procurement process, from planning to contracts. UNOPS will use tools like **life cycle assessments** to map indirect emissions outside of our direct control, and promote actions such as **sustainability certifications** for key products and services, appropriate climate-related criteria, and **circularity** within our projects and resources.

4.1.1 Embedding low-carbon principles in design

UNOPS aims to **cut the carbon footprint of infrastructure projects** by prioritizing low-carbon, locally sourced materials and optimizing material quantities. We will engage suppliers for greener manufacturing and logistics. A key target is for new building designs to align with green certifications by 2030, emphasizing energy efficiency through passive design, high-performance building envelopes, and energy-efficient equipment.

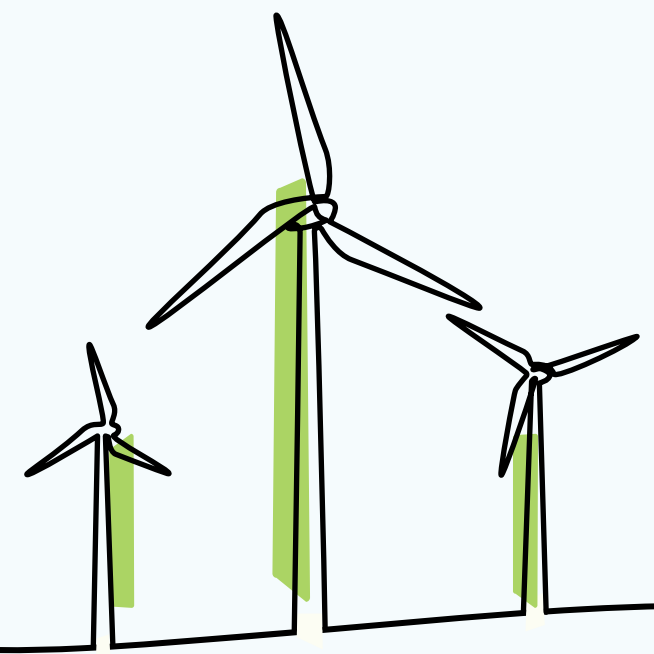
UNOPS targets 20 per cent **renewable energy integration** by 2030 and 95 per cent by 2050 via on-site generation, powering critical services, and smart grid integration.

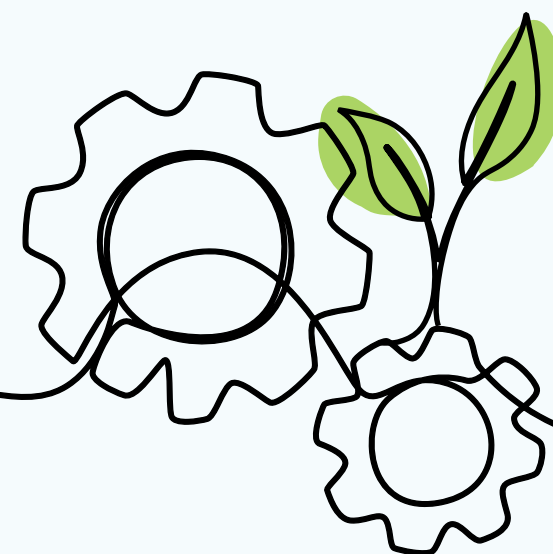
By 2030, UNOPS aims to **integrate circular economy principles** into 95 per cent of our projects, including 'design for disassembly', material cascading and upcycling, construction waste reduction, longer lifespans, and modular construction.

4.1.2 Building resilience into design

UNOPS aims for **100 per cent climate risk screening by 2026**. This involves systematic risk and vulnerability assessments at project inception, leading to tailored adaptation measures such as flood, drought, heat, and storm resilience, as well as coastal protection. By 2027, UNOPS will develop Nature-Based Infrastructure (NBI) guidelines that integrate ecosystem services and hybrid solutions for climate resilience and co-benefits.

In alignment with the Sendai Framework, UNOPS focuses on **critical infrastructure resilience**, including redundancy, diversification, and early warning systems. We prioritize investments, incorporate scenario planning, and embrace adaptive management to deliver sustainable, future-proof assets that contribute to global climate goals.





4.2 Embedding climate action in our internal processes

UNOPS will embed climate action in our internal processes, where we can lead by example by mitigating emissions and developing adaptive capacity and resilience in offices and operations.

4.2.1 Reducing corporate emissions by 45 per cent by 2030

In 2023, 39 per cent of UNOPS corporate emissions came from on-site energy, refrigerants, and electricity, while business travel accounted for 62 per cent. Therefore, we aim to **cut greenhouse gas emissions in our operations**. All of our initiatives will adhere to transparent and reputable standards.

UNOPS will **decarbonize our offices** through efficient operations, optimizing facilities, promoting energy-conscious practices, and upgrading to energy-efficient appliances, LED lighting, and low-global warming potential (GWP) heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. This will be

supported by automation and regular maintenance. We will also integrate renewable energy via solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, containerized solar microgrids, and renewable power purchase agreements.

To **reduce our travel emissions**, we will optimize business travel, transition company vehicles to electric vehicles and fuel-efficient alternatives, develop virtual meeting guidelines, prioritize sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), encourage electric vehicle use for ground travel, and lower emission alternatives.

To achieve the UNOPS net-zero goal before 2050, we will **explore carbon removal projects**, including both technology-based removals (TBR) and nature-based removals (NBR), such as reforestation and afforestation, particularly for hard-to-abate emissions.

4.2.2 Building resilience of offices to climate hazards

This strategy aims to **protect UNOPS operations and personnel from climate risks**, ensuring

the continuity of our work in the event of climate disasters. Technical assessments will identify at-risk global offices by analyzing climate exposure and categorizing **vulnerability levels** (severe, high, moderate, and standard concern), considering staff and community exposure.

Adaptation and resilience interventions are categorized based on vulnerability levels and office type. **No-regret interventions**, such as weather monitoring, emergency kits, evacuation plans, and training, are universal. **Basic interventions**, such as HVAC optimization and water-saving devices, are for all offices with moderate vulnerability. **Advanced interventions**, such as impact-resistant windows and elevated infrastructure, are for highly vulnerable UNOPS-owned offices or, where possible, for leased offices. **Relocation** is a last resort when interventions are too costly or not possible for leased offices.

Regional offices will **report annually** to the CAP team on the status of vulnerability assessments and implementation progress. An online repository for cost-effective interventions and best practices will support these efforts.

4.2.3 Promoting sustainable travel and waste management

UNOPS will support initiatives that encourage **sustainable employee commutes**, such as carpooling, building electric vehicle charging infrastructure at our offices, promoting walking, biking, and public transportation, and encouraging the purchase of electric vehicles.

Embedding **circularity considerations** in our internal procurement will directly reduce emissions by minimizing waste and the use of new materials. This involves conducting waste audits, implementing waste segregation, promoting reusable products, and partnering with waste management companies.

4.3 Working with partners for our shared aspirations

UNOPS commitment to partnerships is fundamental to achieving our climate strategy. We prioritize collaborations that amplify the impact of our climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, recognizing that collective action is essential for addressing the global climate crisis.

4.3.1 Exchanging climate knowledge and best practices

We will **build climate knowledge partnerships** and use geographic information systems (GIS) to **map project risks with open-source data**, establishing a centralized GIS tool for project teams. This tool will integrate climate and biodiversity data, improving on existing systems. We will also provide other user-friendly tools for project teams to estimate emissions reductions, total cost of ownership, and financial impacts of climate interventions.

4.3.2 Engaging suppliers to develop low-carbon and resilient supply chains

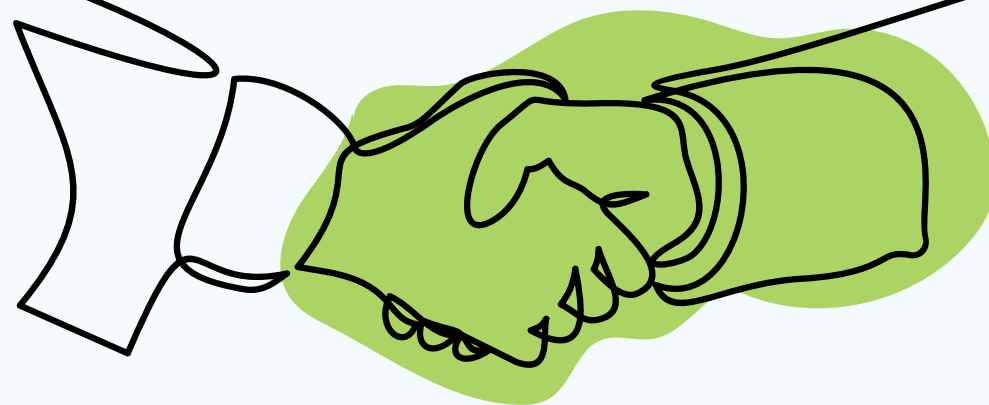
UNOPS will engage suppliers through four approaches: **collaboration, close support, development, and monitoring**. By 2030, we expect that 95 per cent of our strategic suppliers will have emission reduction plans and report biannually.

We will encourage our **strategic and high-impact suppliers** to adopt a climate risk management framework like ISO 14090, and include climate requirements in all new contracts for priority categories of goods and services. For **transactional suppliers**, our engagement will focus on capacity-building and the integration of flexible climate requirements in tenders, ensuring inclusivity and accommodating less mature markets. Furthermore, we will collaborate with the **private sector** on advanced disaster risk reduction tools, early warning systems for climate hazards, carbon accounting, and sustainable, climate-resilient infrastructure.

4.3.3 Working together for a just transition

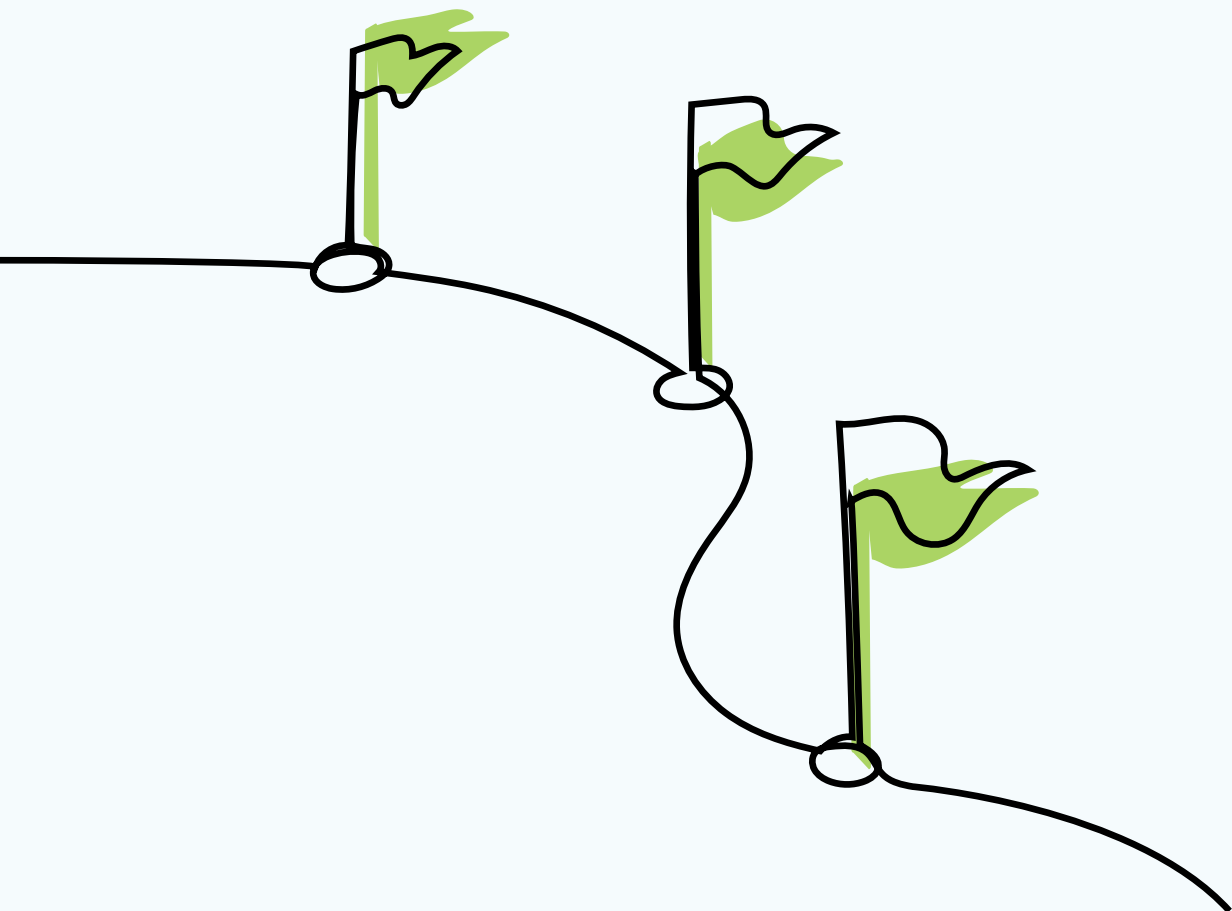
UNOPS is committed to fostering a shift towards a sustainable, low-carbon economy in a manner that is **fair, inclusive, equitable, and ensures no one is left behind**. We recognize that mitigation and adaptation, while distinct, can sometimes have conflicting outcomes or create new opportunities.

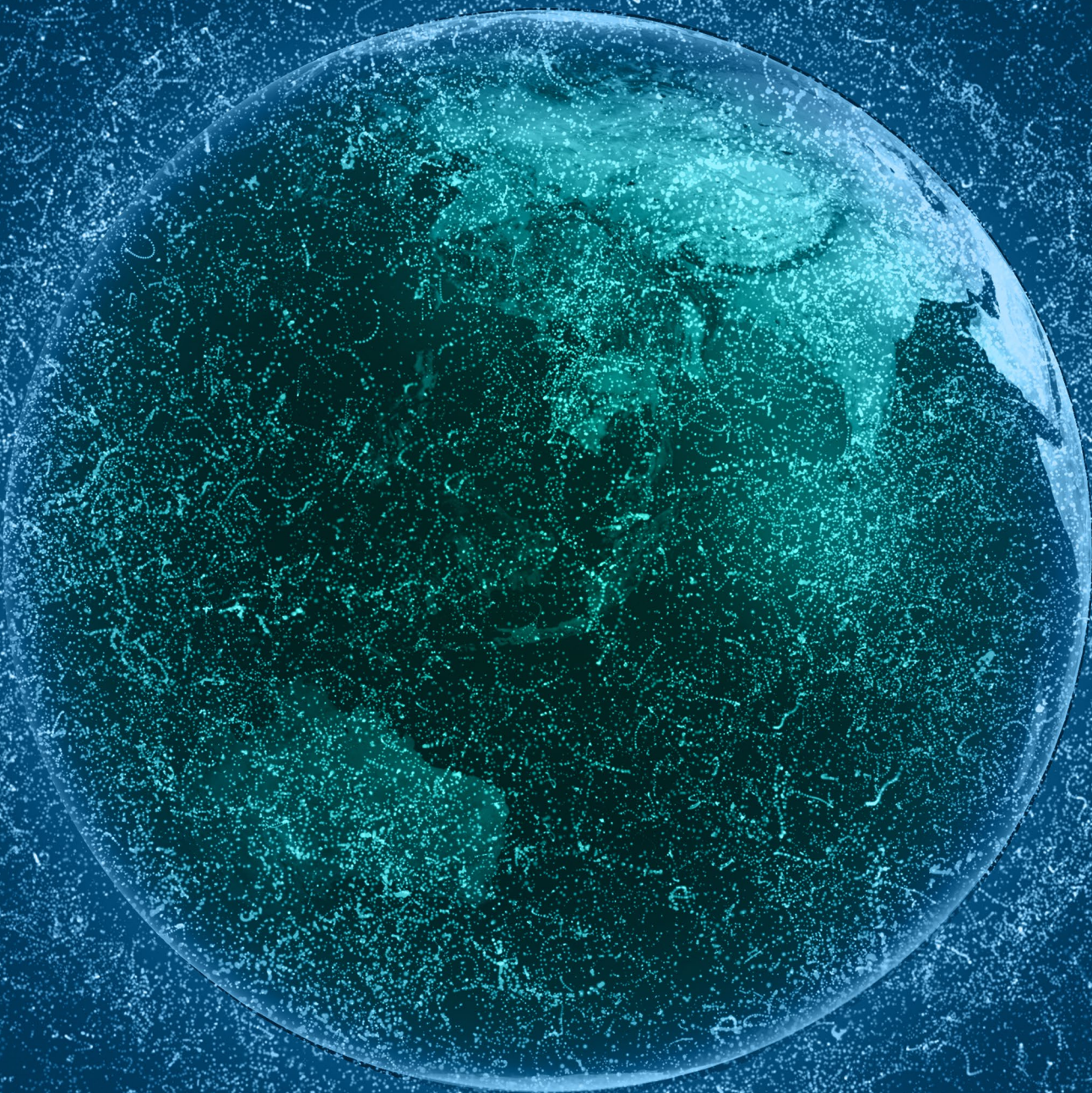
Therefore, we will adopt an **integrated approach** to maximize benefits and minimize potential conflicts. This involves conducting holistic assessments across all projects and actions for our offices, ensuring resilient design in all mitigation projects, and maintaining flexibility to adjust to changing climate conditions. Collaboration across sectors, such as energy, water, and urban planning, and with local governments and communities, is essential to manage immediate risks and effectively plan for future transitions.



5. Strategy roll-out

UNOPS climate strategy is structured into three phases: prepare, mobilize, and execute. Key actions and associated timelines are identified for each phase, including a focus on integrating technology and a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure continuous improvement and long-term success. By embedding climate action into governance, change management, and technology, and by fostering strategic partnerships, UNOPS aims to not only meet its commitments but also to lead by example, supporting a sustainable and resilient future for all.





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UNOPS Climate Strategy



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