



# Adaptation Scotland programme 2023/24

## 800

More than 800 individuals and organisations supported to take effective adaptation action



Five place-based workshops have supported more than 100 people to engage with the SNAP3



New collaborative programme work has provided more tailored small business support in Scotland



Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN) has expanded from 40 to 50 organisations

## 200

Over 200 professionals and organisations have engaged with the SNAP3 through thematic workshops



Supported adaptation action to be embedded and strengthened across 13 policy areas by Scottish Government

## 18

18 workshops have supported more than 600 people from climate vulnerable communities to take locally-led climate adaptation action



Helped form a new regional adaptation partnership in the Tayside region, made up of Dundee, Angus, and Perth and Kinross



Over 16,000 visits to the website



Adaptation Scotland resources used with 6 island communities – Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell



Assisted Highland Adapts initiative to move into a new phase with enhanced, more equitable governance structures



90% positive feedback from events

# Purpose

This programme progress report provides an overview of progress during the first 12 months of the current contract period, covering April 2023 to March 2024. It outlines progress towards the five programme outcomes, delivery against the programme plan, and trends in progress against seven key performance indicators (KPIs).



# Executive Summary

Over the 12 month reporting period, the Adaptation Scotland programme has **supported more than 800 individuals and organisations** across public, private, voluntary and community sectors to build their knowledge, capacity and confidence in taking effective adaptation action.

The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by sustainability charity **Sniffer**. It has built on past experience and success to empower individuals and organisations to lead in responding to the climate risks we face in Scotland, and work towards a fairer and climate resilient future.

During the year, the renamed **Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN)** has grown from 40 to 50 organisations, including 24 Local Authorities. PSCAN has assisted these organisations to benchmark their adaptation maturity level across a range of metrics, following the guidance of the Adaptation Scotland programme's

**award-winning Adaptation Capability Framework**. It has enabled a growing network of leaders to work together, to learn from each other, and to use their influence to drive adaptation action across their sectors and places.

The programme has a focus on people and places most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in Scotland. A draft **climate vulnerability and power matrix** has been created and piloted to enable a more objective approach to supporting climate vulnerable communities.

**More than 600 people from climate vulnerable communities have been supported** to take locally-led climate adaptation action, aligned to their local priorities and needs. This has been **delivered through a series of 18 workshops across Scotland, significantly exceeding the target** of 10 workshops over the two years of the contract. The workshops utilised the **Community Climate Adaptation Routemap**,

which was co-produced with a number of third-sector partners. The Routemap was recently **featured as an example of best practice** in a review of climate change resources.

**Island communities** are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and the Adaptation Scotland programme has supported the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership's Climate Change Working Group to identify and secure new external funding for climate resilience work in the Hebrides, including **participatory mapping activities to capture lived experience of climate impacts and adaptation priorities.**

Adaptation Scotland resources have also been used with six island communities – Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell – through the Carbon Neutral Island programme, supported by Sniffer.

A focus of the programme in the year has been helping climate vulnerable communities and other stakeholders across Scotland to be more engaged in shaping adaptation policy and action in Scotland. The programme has

**supported more than 100 people to shape the further development of the Draft Third Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3)** through a **series of five place-based workshops, co-developed with the Climate Action Hubs.** This has also strengthened the relationships with the Climate Action Hubs, which can deliver more collaborative work and climate action across Scotland in the coming year. By the end of April 2024, **over 200 professionals and organisations** have been part of shaping the SNAP3 through a series of thematic workshops with more technical audiences around the outcomes areas of the Plan.

**Place-based approaches** are at the heart of the delivery approach of the Adaptation Scotland programme, with support to regional partnerships being a key mechanism for enabling place-based adaptation action in Scotland. During the year, the programme has contributed to the formation of a **new regional adaptation partnership in the Tayside region**, encompassing Dundee, Angus, and Perth and Kinross. The programme has facilitated partners in the

region to coalesce around a set of shared goals and shared vision of transformation and climate resilience, including opportunities to bring together the wide range of existing climate, nature, and economic development initiatives in the region to work towards common aims and make more effective and efficient use of resources. The programme is currently supporting the regional partners to **apply for up to £180,000 funding** through the EU Horizon Pathways2Resilience scheme, which could enable further transformative work in the region in the coming two years and beyond.

The programme has **supported the Highland Adapts initiative to move into a new phase with enhanced, more equitable governance structures** in place, alongside progressing work on its regional climate risk and opportunities assessment, including an innovative economic assessment. The programme has worked with Highland Adapts in seeking additional external funding.



New work has been initiated during the year to provide **more tailored support to small businesses** in Scotland. This includes collaboration with the Enterprise Agencies, as well as a network of business support organisations across Scotland to build their adaptation understanding and capacity, and to embed climate adaptation content into their existing training and support offerings.

Building on the technical expertise of the programme team at Sniffer, and by

engaging relevant stakeholders from across Scotland, the programme has **enabled adaptation action to be embedded and strengthened across 13 policy areas by Scottish Government**. This has included stakeholder insight briefs on mobilising private finance, public health, and land use, as well as technical input from the team into expert working groups including the NPF4 Climate Change Policy Guidance and the synergies between adaptation and Scotland's just transition to a green economy.

## Next steps

The Adaptation Scotland programme will continue to deliver against the programme plan and KPIs, towards the achievement of the five outcomes. A review of the focus of the programme will be held by the Adaptation Scotland Programme Board following the publication of the final Third Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3), expected in autumn 2024. This will provide an opportunity for the programme to refocus work to support delivery of SNAP3 priorities.



# Overview of the programme

The Adaptation Scotland programme supports public bodies, businesses, and communities in Scotland to increase resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by sustainability charity **Sniffer**.

The programme works towards five outcomes, tailored to the delivery of Scottish Government policy commitments aimed at creating a well-adapted Scotland. Progress towards these outcomes is measured using a set of seven key performance indicators, aligned to the delivery plan of the programme. The programme delivery is arranged around seven 'clusters' of projects, which support place-based climate action that is context-specific.

The five outcomes the Adaptation Scotland programme is working towards are:

- **Outcome 1:** Scotland has a growing network of leaders from across society who are empowered and working together, using their influence to drive adaptation action across sectors and places.
- **Outcome 2:** Innovative adaptation tools, resources and processes are enabling organisations to take effective adaptation action and learn from what works.
- **Outcome 3:** Place-based initiatives are driving effective adaptation action across cities, regions and localities, and sharing their learning and resources, guided by the Place Principle and aligned with the interests and needs of communities.
- **Outcome 4:** People are increasingly engaged in shaping adaptation policy and action in Scotland. The views of those most vulnerable to climate change are valued and acted upon.
- **Outcome 5:** Scotland pioneers innovative approaches to tackling adaptation challenges across finance, land and climate justice. Cross sector collaborations are developing approaches that support fair, just and sustainable adaptation and Scotland's just transition to a green economy.





Achievement of these long-term outcomes should mean that public organisations, businesses, people and places are better equipped to understand the impacts of climate change, and be confident and skilled in taking effective action to reduce loss and damage from climate change and maximise opportunities to create flourishing places and move towards a fair, green economy.







# Key Performance Indicators

Progress towards these outcomes is monitored using a set of seven key performance indicators (KPIs). The KPIs and progress to date<sup>1</sup> are included in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Key Performance Indicators**

Delivery area	KPIs	Progress during 2023/2024
 <b>Public sector leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of organisations actively benchmarking via the Adaptation Scotland Adaptation Capability Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 50 public sector organisations, including 24 local authorities</li> </ul>
 <b>Community and third-sector leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of communities supported to participate in place-based approaches to climate adaptation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 610 community members supported across 18 events</li> </ul>
 <b>Private sector leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses engaged and supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 30 engaged</li> </ul>
 <b>Knowledge, innovation, and research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range and number of institutions engaged with, and policy areas contributed to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 150 individuals and organisations engaged, and contributed to 13 policy areas</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Please note that in consultation with the Scottish Government, it was agreed at the outset of the programme there would be no target numbers for the KPIs, and that they would instead be used to monitor trends.

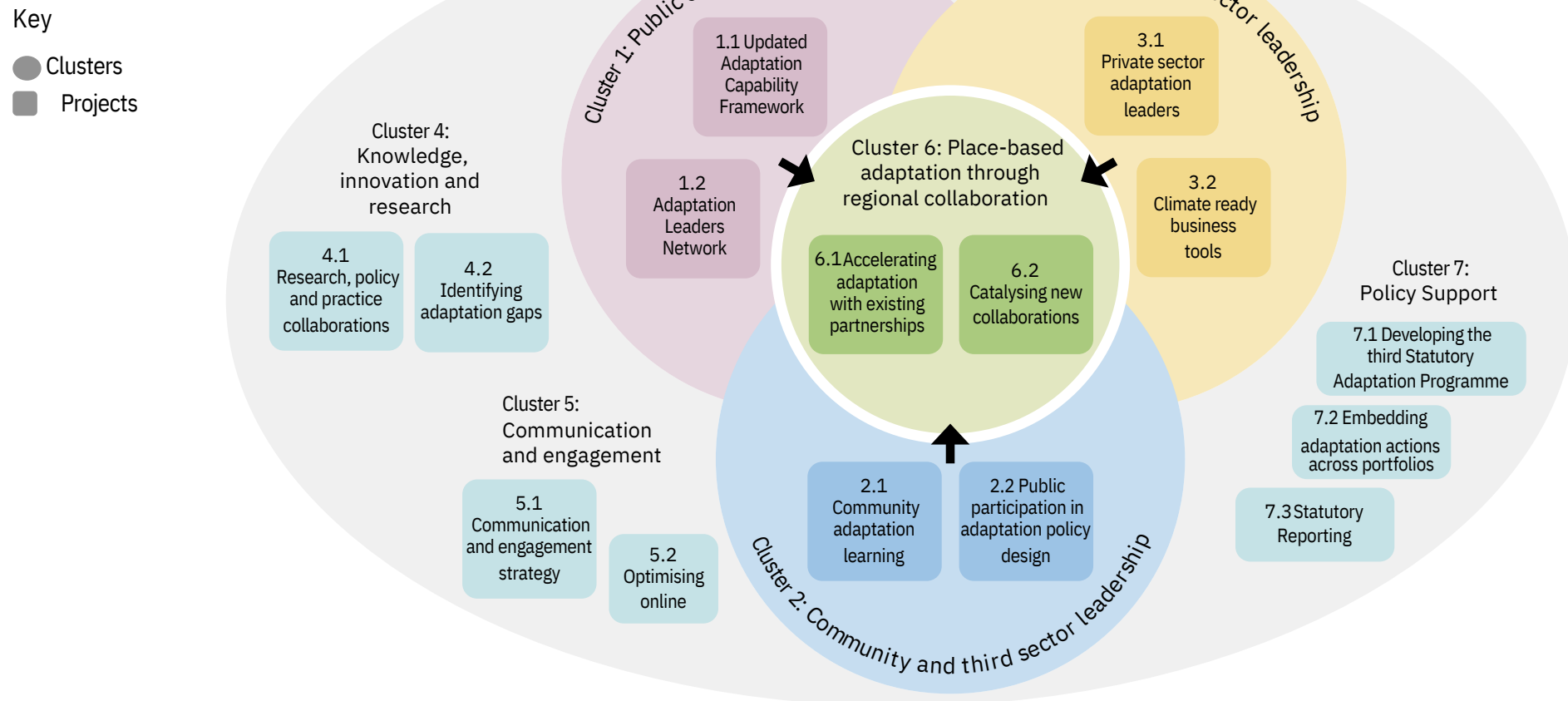
Delivery area	KPIs	Progress during 2023/2024
 <p><b>Communication and engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased website performance (e.g. traffic, session duration, bounce rate)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 16,823 unique visitors</li> <li>✓ Average session duration 2:07</li> <li>✓ Bounce rate 66.7%</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Place-based adaptation through regional collaborations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased geographical coverage of regional adaptation collaboration</li> <li>Value of funding secured by regional adaptation collaborations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ New regional partnership established in Tayside</li> <li>✓ Up to £180,000 pending a final funding decision for the Tayside partnership.</li> <li>✓ £376,000 secured by the Edinburgh &amp; South East Scotland region to establish the Climate Ready South East Scotland partnership</li> <li>✓ £107,000 secured by Climate Hebrides from the Young Foundation</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Policy support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scottish Government policy priorities supported by Adaptation Scotland services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 13 policy areas supported: (biodiversity, public health, private finance, public finance, land, nature, planning, M&amp;E, net-zero, just transition, business growth, economic development, infrastructure)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Programme management and evaluation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely reporting in line with contract requirements</li> <li>Quarterly Programme Board meetings organised, with circulation of agenda and papers at least 14 days in advance</li> <li>Customer service satisfaction levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All reporting requirements met and delivered on time.</li> <li>✓ All quarterly Programme Boards organised, with agenda and papers circulated in advance</li> <li>✓ Average 90% positive feedback from events.</li> <li>✓ 70% PSCAN members say participation in the network has supported the development of adaptation capabilities in their organisation</li> </ul>



# Structure of programme

The Adaptation Scotland programme delivery model is structured around seven interconnected Clusters – packages of related projects – presented in Figure 1. The delivery model for the programme is flexible to the needs of Scotland people, places and organisations. It will be reviewed at the October Programme Board meeting, to ensure that future work aligns with delivery of the outcomes and objectives set out in the forthcoming third Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

**Figure 1: Adaptation Scotland programme structure**



# Outcomes

## OUTCOME 1:

Scotland has a growing network of leaders from across society who are empowered and working together, using their influence to drive adaptation action across sectors and places.

During the year, the **Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN) has expanded from 40 to 50 organisations, including 24 Local Authorities**. PSCAN has assisted these organisations to benchmark their adaptation maturity level across a range of metrics, following the guidance of the Adaptation Scotland programme's **award-winning Adaptation Capability Framework**. It has allowed a growing network of leaders to work together, to learn from each other, and to use their influence to drive adaptation action across their sectors and places.

## Case Study

There have been some standout examples of organisations being inspired by the work of Adaptation Scotland to take a leadership role on adaptation in their sectors. Fife College, a member of PSCAN, advocated to have a focus on adaptation as one of the objectives they are working towards as part of the public sector net zero building standard demonstrator project at the new Dunfermline Learning Campus. Not only have **they advocated for a greater focus on adaptation and resilience in future iterations of the standard** leveraging their experience, they have also **influenced the work of main contractors for the project, Balfour Beatty**.

Working in collaboration with Adaptation Scotland, a joint learning event was held in July 2023 engaging Fife College, Balfour Beatty, and several other project stakeholders including architects and engineers. This resulted not only in specific adaptations measures that could be introduced in the new building and grounds, but also **inspired senior Balfour Beatty staff to integrate the climate risk analysis approach into future work**. Fife College are planning to roll out the approach across their entire estate, ensuring that **students and staff will be more resilient to climate change and have opportunities to learn about climate resilient development** for years to come. This has already inspired a new student-led podcast series, demonstrating the integration between operational adaptation action and educational outcomes.



The programme has also strengthened relationships with the Climate Action Hubs, supporting communities across Scotland to take effective adaptation action and have the knowledge and confidence to drive forward locally-led adaptation action. Furthermore, the programme has delivered training to communities that are members of the Scottish Communities Climate Adaptation Network (SCCAN), and the Network now has a greater focus on adaptation as part of its work, with new adaptation-focused initiatives launched in the past year.

There has been commitment from private sector organisations to take a leadership role in addressing climate risks and championing adaptation action. More than 25 business support organisations and industry bodies engaged in initial scoping work for the programme in developing the strategy and plan for Cluster 3 of the programme, with organisations from five sectors signalling their commitment to collaborative action to drive forward adaptation in their sectors over the coming year. Moreover, more than a dozen businesses support organisations noted their interest in gaining a deeper understanding of climate risks and impacts, and a commitment to integrate adaptation content into their existing resources and business support services.

## OUTCOME 2:

**Innovative adaptation tools, resources and processes are enabling organisations to take effective adaptation action and learn from what works.**

Over the first year of the programme **18 workshops for community and third sector organisations have been delivered, significantly exceeding the target** of 10 workshops over the two years of the contract. This in turn has **supported more than 600 people from climate vulnerable communities** to take locally-led climate adaptation action, aligned to their local priorities and needs. The workshops used the **Community Climate Adaptation Routemap**, which was coproduced with a number of third-sector partners. The Routemap was recently **featured as an example of best practice** in a review of climate change resources.

**50 public sector organisations are now using the Adaptation Capability Framework and Benchmarking Tool to understand and analyse**

**their adaptation maturity level**, and to inform their organisational strategy, resourcing, and action plans. New organisations are also identifying the value of the Framework, with Scotland Excel now seeking to use the tool to benchmark their adaptation maturity level and explore how to better embed adaptation and resilience considerations into their work. The Adaptation Capability Framework has also inspired action from organisations from beyond Scotland, with Greener NHS England exploring how they could utilise the framework in their context with NHS trusts, and the Green Arts Initiative in Ireland also keen to explore how the Framework can be used with their members.

Tools have also been shared with community groups across Scotland, including in collaboration with regional partnerships. Adaptation Scotland partnered with the Climate Ready Clyde initiative to bring together community groups and local authorities across the region, assisting 40 people with the Community Climate Adaptation Routemap, Adaptation Personas, Climate Hazards in the Workplace, and other resources.

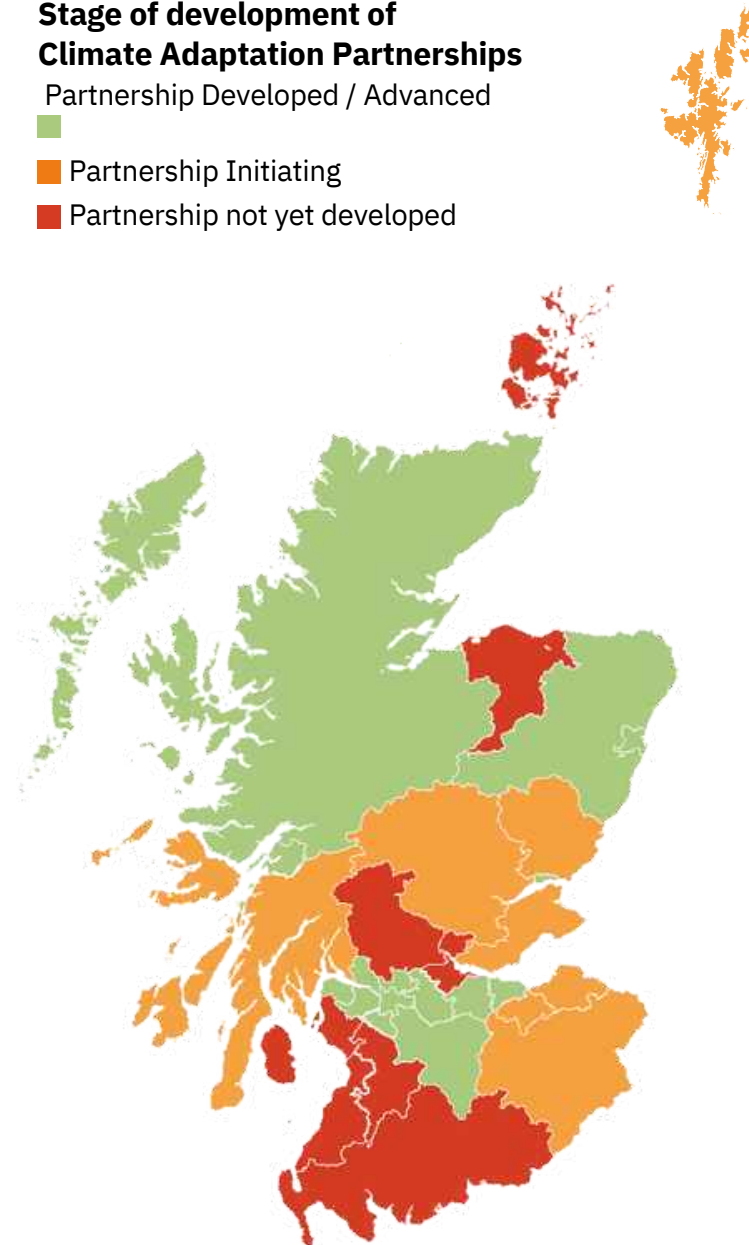
### OUTCOME 3:

Place-based initiatives are driving effective adaptation action across cities, regions and localities, and sharing their learning and resources, guided by the Place Principle and aligned with the interests and needs of communities.

Place-based approaches are at the heart of the delivery approach of the Adaptation Scotland programme, with support to regional partnerships being a key mechanism for enabling place-based adaptation action in Scotland. During the year, the programme has contributed to the formation of a **new regional adaptation partnership in the Tayside region**, encompassing Dundee, Angus, and Perth and Kinross. The programme has facilitated partners in the region to coalesce around a set of shared goals and shared vision of transformation and climate resilience, including opportunities to bring together the wide range of existing climate, nature, and economic development initiatives in the region to work towards common aims and

### Stage of development of Climate Adaptation Partnerships

- Partnership Developed / Advanced ■
- Partnership Initiating ■
- Partnership not yet developed ■



#### SHETLAND ADAPTS



#### TAYSIDE ADAPTATION PARTNERSHIP

#### EDINBURGH ADAPTS

Climate Ready Clyde





make more effective and efficient use of resources. The programme is currently supporting the regional partners to apply for up to £180,000 funding through the EU Horizon Pathways2Resilience scheme, which could enable further transformative work in the region in the coming two years and beyond.

The programme has **supported the Highland Adapts initiative to move into a new phase with enhanced, more equitable governance structures** in place, alongside progressing work on its regional climate risk and opportunities assessment, including an innovative economic assessment. The programme has also worked with Highland Adapts in seeking additional external funding.

We have helped the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal partners to secure political and financial commitments

for a major regional climate risk assessment project of a similar scale to the Climate Ready Clyde initiative, **including a total of £376,000 funding** for a regional partnership and climate risk and opportunities assessment. This initiative launched in December 2023 as Climate Ready South East Scotland, with funding secured via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and from Scottish Government.

Through the Adaptation Scotland programme's membership of the Edinburgh Adapts partnership, we have been a part of the development of City of Edinburgh Council's draft **new Edinburgh Adaptation Plan**, which was published in December 2023. This included the use of Adaptation Scotland resources to develop the draft Plan, and there are specific linkages made between the plan and the Adaptation Scotland programme for knowledge-sharing.

**Island communities** are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and the Adaptation Scotland programme has assisted the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership's Climate Change Working Group to identify and secure new external funding for climate resilience work in the Hebrides, including **participatory mapping activities to capture lived experience of climate impacts and adaptation priorities**. Adaptation Scotland resources have also been used with six island communities – Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell – through the Carbon Neutral Island programme, also supported by Sniffer, and building on the work provided under the previous Adaptation Scotland contract to the Carbon Neutral Islands programme.



## OUTCOME 4:

**People are increasingly engaged in shaping adaptation policy and action in Scotland. The views of those most vulnerable to climate change are valued and acted upon.**

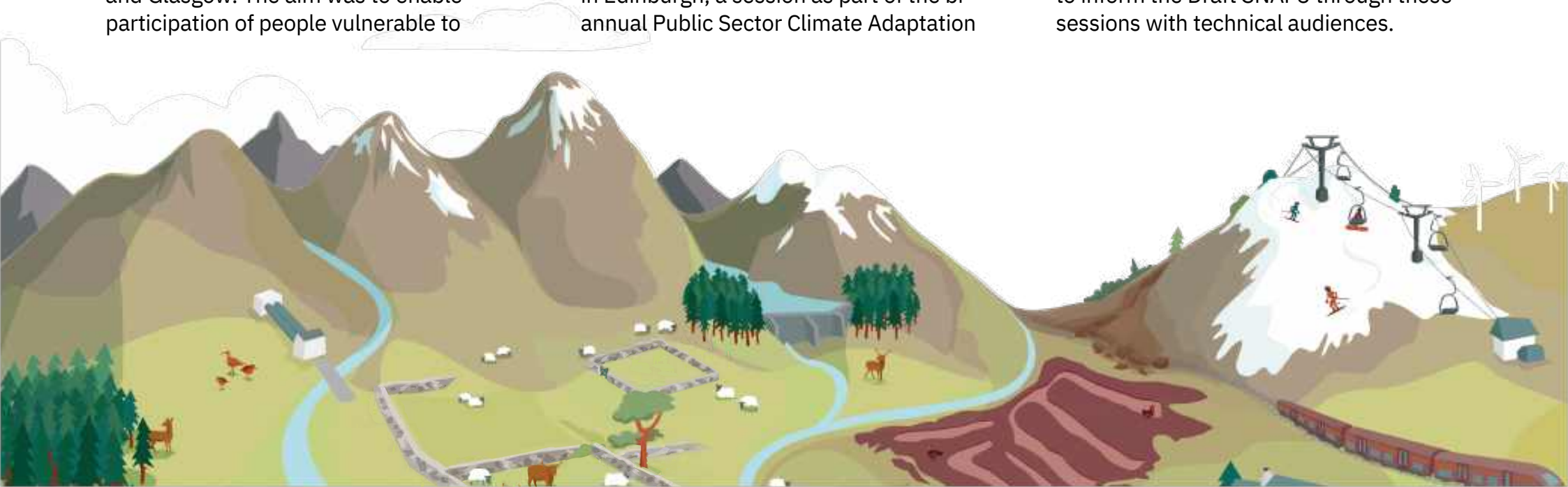
The Adaptation Scotland programme collaborated with the Scottish Government to undertake a series of workshops as part of the public consultation for the Draft Third Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3). This included collaborations with five Climate Hubs, facilitating workshops in Annan, Montrose, Golspie, South Uist, and Glasgow. The aim was to enable participation of people vulnerable to

climate change to help inform the further development of the plan, gathering their lived experiences of climate change, and supporting their engagement in adaptation policy and action in Scotland, towards delivery of Outcome 4 of the Adaptation Scotland programme. **More than 100 people** participated in the place-based work shops.

In addition to this, the Adaptation Scotland programme has assisted the Scottish Government to undertake a series of workshops with more technical audiences to inform the further development of SNAP3. This has included workshops at the **Scotland's Flood Resilience Conference** in Edinburgh, a session as part of the bi-annual Public Sector Climate Adaptation

Network event with over 70 participants, and an online session with stakeholders involved in nature, land use, and marine environments.

Throughout April 2024, further workshops took place, focusing on stakeholders from business, industry and finance, a session with infrastructure operators and owners as part of the Climate Ready Infrastructure Scotland event (see Cluster 4), and a collaborative workshop co-hosted with SSN, SLAED, ECCI, COSLA, and the Improvement Service to engage economic development teams in local authorities. In total **more than 200 participants** were supported by Adaptation Scotland to inform the Draft SNAP3 through these sessions with technical audiences.



## OUTCOME 5:

Scotland pioneers innovative approaches to tackling adaptation challenges across finance, land and climate justice. Cross sector collaborations are developing approaches that support fair, just and sustainable adaptation and Scotland's just transition to a green economy.

The Adaptation Scotland programme developed two insights reports, drawing on the experience and insights of stakeholders to inform policy development and wider action on two policy priority areas: **mobilising adaptation finance**, and **land use and adaptation**. These reports outlined innovative ideas and case studies for adaptation action in Scotland, and identified potential policy and action areas. The Climate adaptation finance report was presented at the Nature Finance Scotland Forum in Edinburgh in October to more than 200 delegates, generating a significant amount of interest and follow-up engagement. It was noted that this was the first time that considerations of climate adaptation had been included

in the annual event, and that it **helped participants think differently about the opportunities for cross-sector collaboration between areas of nature finance and wider climate finance**.

A **case study** of developing a fully worked business model for a public-private partnership for adaptation investment was developed by Paul Watkiss Associates, exploring blue-green infrastructure retrofit of an urban retail park in Craigleith, Edinburgh, reducing current and future flood risk (and to an extent, future heat risk) whilst increasing property values, footfall, biodiversity and air quality. This case study was presented at the European Climate Change Adaptation conference in Dublin, Ireland, as well as **informing the work of the UK Green Finance Institute** in its approach to financing natural flood management schemes.

The Land Use and Climate Adaptation in Scotland insights launch webinar was attended by over 100 participants, with more than 200 people signing up. The insights from the report have directly informed the work of the Scottish Land Commission, which has updated its guidance to include a section on adaptation

and resilience, and invited the Adaptation Scotland programme team to present the key insights to their wider 'Good Practice Group'. The **insights from this work have also influenced national policy**. The final version of the Land Reform Bill now **proposes** a specific requirement on adaptation for larger landholdings.

The process of developing the report, with over 40 participants including crofters, estate owners, farmers, unions, and nature charities, has helped to build cross-sector insights and areas for future collaborative action, which will inform the work of Cluster 3 of the Adaptation Scotland programme in the coming year. It **highlighted key climate justice considerations in how land use in Scotland is governed, managed, and regulated**.

The programme collaborated with Public Health Scotland to produce a **policy briefing paper** exploring issues of social change and climate justice, and the public health impacts of climate change in Scotland. This briefing paper has **helped to frame new work by Public Health Scotland on climate impacts and adaptation**, and directly informed its scoping work for the Health Impacts Assessment of the Draft SNAP3.

Adaptation  
Scotland  
supporting climate change resilience

## Further information

For more information about the Adaptation Scotland programme:

Visit: [www.adaptationscotland.org.uk](http://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk)

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