Water is an essential part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions, generate renewable energy, and sequester carbon - key components of most Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

It is also essential to addressing many of the most pressing climate change impacts, such as expanding irrigation to address increased climate variability, developing reliable water, sanitation and hygiene services, and managing urban flooding and drought.

How water is addressed in climate plans, and how it is managed as a resource when these plans are implemented, can make the difference between project success or failure.

WHAT IS THE WATER TRACKER?
The Water Tracker helps ensure that water resilience is integrated into national climate plans. This means assessing water use, allocation, and trade-offs across multiple sectors, and making sure that plans are robust, flexible and able to withstand the impacts of climate change.

WHO IS THE WATER TRACKER FOR?
The Water Tracker is especially a resource for national climate planners and policy-makers. It is also useful for line ministries, civil society, investment banks, aid agencies, and other groups with a stake in evaluating the credibility and efficacy of national climate instruments, such as the NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
In the initial phase of the project (2021-2022), the project partners are working with a targeted set of countries that are committed to enhancing water resilience in their national climate plans.

With the support of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) and partners, countries are participating in the design of the Tracker, undertaking self-assessment using the pilot version, providing recommendations for revisions, and using the Water Tracker to identify gaps and needs for their national climate plans.

The initial pilot countries will have the opportunity to showcase their application of the Tracker at COP 26.

Based on the experiences and recommendations of the pilot countries, the Tracker will be scaled up with broader adoption by a second cohort of countries in late 2021 and beyond.

This initiative is being championed by the UK government under the water sector workstream of the Adaptation Action Coalition (AAC). The AAC is an international coalition aimed at raising global ambition to urgently build adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors, including pandemics such as Covid-19.

The Water Tracker tool will also be aligned with the UNDP Climate Promise Programme, which is providing support to 115 countries in enhancing their 2020 NDCs.

The development of the Water Tracker is being overseen by several leading international organizations, including the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), and UNICEF, with input from UNDP, the Global Resilience Partnership, and others.

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