

Course Information					
Year	AY 2025-2026	School	UNU-IAS		
Course Title	Climate Change Adaptation and Loss and Damage				
Instructor & Contact Information	Naoyuki Okano, Himangana Gupta, Kei Kurushima (IGES) <a href="mailto:okano@unu.edu">okano@unu.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:gupta@unu.edu">gupta@unu.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:kurushima@iges.or.jp">kurushima@iges.or.jp</a>				
Term/Day/Period	AY 2026 Spring / 20 April – 13 July /				
Category	Elective Course	Eligible Year	1 <sup>st</sup> year and above	Credits	2
Classroom	Lecture room, 6th floor in the UNU building	Campus	UNU-HQ, Tokyo, Japan		
Main Language	English				
Class Modality Categories	On-Campus				
Course Code	New Course				
Level	Graduate-level	Types of lesson	Seminar		

Syllabus Information	
<b>Subtitle</b>	Steps to Formulate and Implement Policies and Programmes
<b>Course Description</b> (Word limit: 200)	<p>As the impacts of climate change intensify, climate change adaptation has become an integral part of climate action and support. Adaptation planning and implementation involve many technical processes, and a proper understanding of these processes will enhance effective planning and implementation of adaptation measures and help avoid maladaptation. This course deals with the practical process of developing and implementing adaptation plans under the Paris Agreement framework, including pathways for accessing climate finance. In response to the growing importance of loss and damage as a possible third pillar alongside mitigation and adaptation under the Paris Agreement, this course also addresses emerging practices and future challenges in loss and damage-related policymaking. Lectures are delivered by climate adaptation practitioners and guest speakers from developing countries. The course incorporates numerous interactive elements, emphasizing hands-on activities and group discussions to learn how to formulate and implement adaptation plans.</p> <p>This course is one of the practicum courses of the Diploma Programme for Specialization on the Paris Agreement (SPA). This course is delivered by the UNU-IAS in a close partnership with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). IGES has a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing practical tools for adaptation and implementing adaptation-related projects in the Global South, through the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) initiative.</p>
<b>Objectives and Learning Goals</b> (Bullet points)	<p>The objective of this course is to equip students with practical knowledge to lead the formulation and implementation of adaptation and loss and damage policies and programmes. The learning goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To understand the overall process of formulating and implementing adaptation plans under the Paris Agreement.</li> <li>● To acquire the knowledge and skills to utilize scientific data on current and future climate risks.</li> <li>● To understand the governance and process of selecting adaptation measures.</li> <li>● Gain practical insights into the implementation of adaptation actions, including real-world approaches to reducing vulnerability in diverse contexts.</li> <li>● Acquire practical skills through applied learning activities focused on developing adaptation plans and drafting climate finance proposals.</li> <li>● To understand the purpose of and how to implement the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) process.</li> <li>● Overall, to become capable of constructing ambitious and effective adaptation plans.</li> <li>● To understand the current international framework and policy process of loss and damage.</li> </ul>

### Requirements

This part should include the expected working hours.

This course is one of the practicum courses of the Diploma Programme for Specialization on the Paris Agreement (SPA). To engage effectively with the interactive lectures, it is recommended that students have a basic understanding of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement framework on adaptation and loss and damage (equivalent to the content of the 'Understanding the mechanism to implement the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (MIPA)' course).

The course requires students to actively participate in the class discussion. Some assignments, such as reading materials and preparation for group work, shall be conducted outside lecture hours. The expected weekly working hours are around five hours. Students are also strongly encouraged to follow the news regularly to stay up to date on relevant international developments.

### Course Outline

Detailed information could be provided on Moodle such as the information of the lecturers, etc.

Lecture	Date	Outline
1	20 Apr	Introduction
2	27 Apr	Climate risk assessment
3	11 May	Climate risk assessment
4	18 May	Adaptation Planning
5	18 May	Adaptation Planning
6	25 May	Group workshop1: Adaptation Planning
7	25 May	Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance
8	1 Jun	Group workshop 2: Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance
9	8 Jun	Guest talks 1 by adaptation practitioner
10	15 Jun	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
11	22 Jun	Group workshop 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
12	29 Jun	Loss and damage: current practice
13	29 Jun	Guest talks 2 by loss and damage practitioner
14	6 Jul	Group work: Preparation for final presentation
15	13 Jul	Final presentation

Classes take place from 11:20 to 13:00. When there are two classes on the same day, they will be from 9:30-11:10 and 11:20 to 13:00.

### Course Readings

As basic readings, please refer to the following materials.

- LDC Expert Group. (2025, August). *The NAP Technical Guidelines: Updated technical guidelines for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans*. UNFCCC. <https://napcentral.org/nap-guidelines>
- Beauchamp, E., Leiter, T., Pringle, P., Brooks, N., Masud, S., & Guerdat, P. (2024). *Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes*. NAP Global Network & Adaptation Committee. International Institute for Sustainable Development. <https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-monitoring-evaluation-learning-nap-processes/>

Also, please refer to the following materials, as necessary.

For adaptation:

- UNFCCC NAP Central (webpage): <https://napcentral.org/>
- UNFCCC Adaptation Committee Publications: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/resources/publications-adaptation-committee>
- NAP Global Network (webpage): <https://napglobalnetwork.org/>
- GCF Project Activity Cycle (webpage): <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project-cycle>

For loss and damage:

- Warsaw International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage Executive Committee (WIM ExCom) Knowledge products (<https://unfccc.int/wim-excom#Knowledge-products>)

More detailed reading lists will be provided in due course through the online portal (Moodle).

### Reference

### Grading Policy

Rate	%	Evaluation Criteria
Final group presentation	30	Understanding and application of the knowledge delivered in the course; Policy Relevance; Quality of presentation
Research paper	50	Understanding and application of the knowledge delivered in the course; Policy relevance; Quality of discussion and coherence; Proper styling and formatting
Class Participation	20	Attendance and active participation

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Note / URL if any