



SCALING CLIMATE ACTION



A student looks at art pieces from the Kenya Climate Change Art and Essay Competition organized by the Kenya Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The competition aimed to involve youth in the discussions around climate change, a necessary step to safeguarding future generations. *Photo by Edward Echwalu*

Under the Paris Agreement, all country signatories are invited to update and communicate their national plans to mitigate carbon emissions and adapt to climate change every five years, starting in 2020. With rising global temperatures now affecting people and economies worldwide, this deadline is critical to contain the damage by scaling climate ambition.



Current commitments by 183 countries fall far short of the Paris goal to keep warming well below 2°C—and preferably no more than 1.5°C—above pre-industrial levels. The NDC Partnership, through Partnership Plans and the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), works with countries to enhance ambition by:

- Adopting stronger mitigation and/or adaptation targets
- Accelerating original timelines for meeting climate targets or taking climate actions
- Expanding NDCs to include new economic sectors or additional targets

The Partnership takes a flexible approach to raising ambition. We support countries through capacity building and providing technical and financial resources, based on their unique local circumstances. As the examples in this report show, our country engagement can drive momentum for stronger climate action by bringing together key actors and identifying sector needs, project pipelines, and finance opportunities. The graphic below shows the kind of approaches countries can adopt to enhance their NDCs, strengthening domestic and global climate progress.

OPTIONS FOR ENHANCING COUNTRY CLIMATE PLANS

MITIGATION AMBITION

Strengthen or add a **GHG target**

Strengthen or add a **sectoral non-GHG target**

Strengthen or add **policies and actions**

Align implementation of the existing NDC with **long-term goals**

ADAPTATION

Update or add information on **trends, impacts, & vulnerabilities**

Update or add **current & near-term planning and action**

Update or add **monitoring, evaluation, & learning plans**

Update or add **national long-term goals or vision**

Update or add information on **gaps & barriers**

IMPLEMENTATION

Add actions or measures to **strengthen implementation**

COMMUNICATION

Provide basic information to enhance **clarity, transparency, & understanding**

Provide **additional detail**

SPOTLIGHT

Fast-Track Support for Raising Climate Ambition

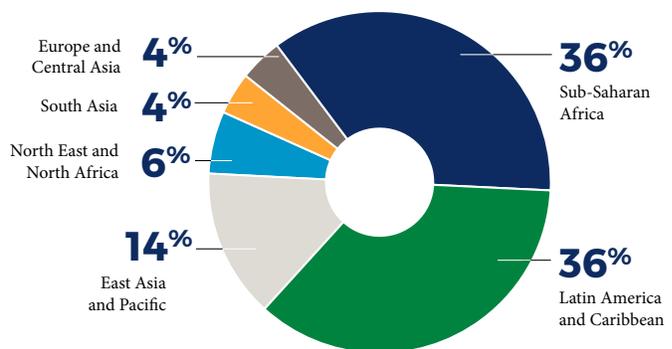
In September 2019, the NDC Partnership launched a major initiative to fast-track support to countries revising their NDCs with a view to increasing ambition. As the 2020 deadline for submitting enhanced NDCs approaches, our goal is to encourage stronger national targets and actions and set countries up for long-term success.

The Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) offers members technical and financial support to develop and implement robust, evidence-based 2030 climate plans, for submission by 2020, with broad ownership across government and society. It works by:

- Tapping new and existing NDC support avenues from developed country members and implementing partners.
- Providing access to a new Technical Assistance Fund for fast deployment of additional, targeted aid.
- Supporting country contributions to the UN Secretary-General's (UNSG) Climate Action Summit in September 2019.
- Inviting country proposals for specific mitigation and adaptation activities and commitments. These include stronger greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation targets, adding new sectors or GHGs to original NDC targets, strengthening adaptation goals, plans, and action, and fleshing out how revised climate plans will be implemented, costed, financed, and governed. The first round of requests, opened during the Climate Action pre-Summit, resulted in 50 countries stating their intention to work towards greater ambition in mitigation and adaptation through activities that drive a whole-of-government approach, engage with stakeholders across society, and support gender equality.

The successful requests received pledges of support from 31 implementing partners, drawing both on their own resources and the Technical Assistance Fund of

NUMBER OF CAEP APPLICATIONS PER REGION



over USD15 million. For instance, Jamaica seeks support for the development of its long-term GHG emission reduction strategy (2021 to 2050) to complement its ongoing work to update its NDC; Pakistan seeks to strengthen its mitigation targets, including through strengthened measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) capacity and expanded sectoral coverage; and Burkina Faso seeks to develop sector-specific action plans with gender mainstreaming.

A second call for requests was launched on 8 October 2019, during the Pre-COP. As this report went to print, the results were not yet announced, but second round results, as well as all other information related to CAEP, can be found online at ndcpartnership.org/caep.



CASE STUDY

HONDURAS PURSUES GREATER CLIMATE AMBITION



Photo by Lexie Harris-Cripp

Led by the Presidential Office of Climate Change and the Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat, Honduras has been turning its NDC Roadmap into action since 2017, and is preparing its updated NDC.

The country's Partnership Plan is the main vehicle for delivering enhanced mitigation, reviewing priorities, and strengthening adaptation targets. These include a 15 percent reduction of relative emissions compared to business as usual, land reforestation and restoration of 1 million hectares, and coordination of actions by domestic stakeholders and international partners. As the Government rolls out this NDC Roadmap, it has shared lessons learned at regional events such as the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week and the Regional Climate Finance Dialogue, as well as with other Partnership countries, including the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Panama.

The Roadmap identifies 21 priority activities for 2018 to 2020, including an updated NDC and national climate change investment plan, data collection and monitoring, capacity building, and public awareness. The land reforestation and restoration effort is a centerpiece of the country's updated plans for both climate action and sustainable development. More than 200,000 small-scale livestock, coffee, and palm producers are expected to benefit through a financial inclusion mechanism that will provide incentives to take sustainable actions that increase productivity while reducing GHG emissions.

NDC Partnership support for implementing this agenda is already underway. UN Environment, through the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme and GIZ NDC Assist program, is assisting ministries in identifying sector-specific mitigation measures and commitments for the updated NDC and supporting the overall review and update of the NDC. The World Bank's NDC Support Facility is building on a selection of those measures to develop comprehensive implementation pathways to deliver capacity building for their implementation as well as undertake vulnerability assessments in the Dry Corridor to identify adaptation priorities. The European Union, through Euroclima+, is also contributing to the implementation of the updated Roadmap through a €5 million proposal to pilot the mechanism for financial inclusion in selected rural areas over the next five years.

Furthermore, the Intersectoral Committee for the NDC, established in August 2019, has strengthened the national governance for NDC implementation. The Committee's main responsibility in the short term will be the preparation of a revised and updated NDC to be presented to the UNFCCC in 2020. The committee will work in a participatory and inclusive manner ensuring the necessary sectoral commitment and long-term engagement for NDC implementation.



CASE STUDY

COSTA RICA LAUNCHES WORLD-LEADING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY PLAN



Photo by GIZ, Mi Transporte, Ministry of Environment and Energy

Costa Rica is setting a global example of bold leadership on climate ambition. The Government's immediate commitments, as reflected in the country's NDC goals, include a maximum net emission of 9.37 million tons of GHG by 2030 while protecting climate-vulnerable populations and economic sectors. Over the longer term, the Central American country is aiming for a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 through transformative action encompassing transport, energy, industry, agriculture, and waste and landscape management.

In February 2019, Costa Rica's President unveiled a comprehensive Decarbonization Plan, which will serve as a roadmap for this development vision alongside the National Strategic Plan: Costa Rica 2050. Rolling sector-based targets will drive progress toward zero emissions, including goals to electrify 70 percent of buses and taxis on the country's roads by 2035 and reach full public transport electrification by 2050. Other targets include transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy, expanding Costa Rica's forest cover from 52 percent to 60 percent of national territory by 2030, expanding sanitary and storm sewer systems, and reducing the agriculture sector's carbon footprint.

The current Costa Rican administration has taken substantial steps to reach these targets. The country has enacted laws and incentives to promote electric vehicles and sustainable mobility, imposed limits on the imports of old and broken-down vehicles, and signed an emission reduction agreement with the agriculture and livestock sector—the first of its kind in the country. Ministries began mainstreaming the Decarbonization Plan throughout

national planning processes, as well as embedding its priorities in the upcoming National Strategic Plan and Costa Rica's revised NDC, to be submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020. These priorities will also drive new sectoral emission reduction agreements, in addition to those already in place for agriculture and transport.

The NDC Partnership is supporting Costa Rica's transformative climate agenda on several fronts, including the development of an NDC investment plan that analyzes the costs, investment needs, and co-benefits of 28 priority climate actions. The IDB is now supporting a cost-benefit analysis of the Decarbonization Plan and preparing select projects for financing with government guidance. IDB and GIZ are also assisting with the update of Costa Rica's national climate plan. The World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness and UNDP's NDC Support Programme are among partners supporting climate change metrics and modeling, as Costa Rica turns its bold climate plans into action.



CASE STUDY



ZIMBABWE EXPANDS CLIMATE ACTION, EMBRACES LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT



Photo by Ulrich Mueller / Shutterstock

Zimbabwe's economy relies on climate-vulnerable sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy, and tourism. The country's current NDC, committing to a 33 percent drop in emissions from business as usual levels by 2030, focuses on energy. As it updates its NDC, the Government is expanding the NDC's scope to be economy-wide and explore broader carbon reduction opportunities, with Partnership support.

Zimbabwe assessed gaps and needs in meeting its mitigation goal through the energy sector and developed a broader implementation framework for mitigation with support from the World Bank. In addition, UNDP is assisting the government in crafting a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) encompassing the energy, agriculture, forestry, industrial products, and waste sectors. Based on the results, cross-government efforts are now underway to develop an expanded mitigation and adaptation three-year plan. The LEDS and the mitigation plans are setting the foundation for a strategic and long-term vision, while the Partnership Plan looks at shorter-term priority areas that will enable further actions. Eight ministries are involved, including those responsible for finance and economic development, energy, local government, industry and commerce, transport, tourism, small businesses, and women's affairs. Twenty development partners are supporting the process.

The consultation process—which included Zimbabwe's Parliament, civil society, and private sector, as well as the country's ongoing mainstreaming efforts—is led by the Climate Change Management Department within the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Climate, Water, and Rural Resettlement and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. A Climate Change Act is also in the works to set the improved regulatory framework for the implementation of Zimbabwe's updated NDC. UNDP and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation are supporting the legislation's development, along with climate policy capacity building among members of Parliament. Finally, the Government also launched a Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund, a USD80 million multi-donor fund active in 18 rural districts, with support from the European Union, Sweden, UNDP, and the United Kingdom.

The Partnership's engagement in Zimbabwe has strengthened cross-government ownership of climate action, opening the door to expanded ambition.



CASE STUDY



Photo by Vladislav T. Jirousek / Shutterstock



NAMIBIA PRIORITIZES WATER IN 2020 CLIMATE PLAN

In May 2019, the Republic of Namibia's President declared a state of emergency due to the natural disaster of drought in the whole country. Since 2013, most parts of Namibia have recorded below normal rainfall, thereby leaving the grazing land exhausted with very limited recovery. Faced with falling river levels and little rainfall across the country over the past year, the Government is prioritizing improved water resources management to secure the water supply and ensure food security for its 2.5 million people. The Government has so far set aside N\$500 million (USD40m) to buy food, conduct water tank rehabilitation and drilling of new boreholes, and create incentives to transport livestock to areas with better grazing.

The NDC Partnership is now supporting the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and relevant ministries to include water resources as a priority issue in Namibia's updated NDC, due in 2020. This will enable more effective cross-sector climate planning that embeds water management into climate action. It will also raise Namibia's climate ambition on the global stage and help leverage international support for vital water management projects to mitigate intensifying climate impacts.

On the ground, the Partnership is mobilizing support for water-smart projects that benefit Namibia's smallholder

farmers. This includes aquifer recharging projects and other drought response measures. Under the Partnership umbrella, the World Bank's NDC Support Facility is piloting integrated approaches to landscape and watershed management, and France is financing geological surveys to locate new boreholes in drought-prone areas. The World Food Programme (WFP) is also exploring various mechanisms to strengthen early warning systems to better prepare communities for extreme climatic events.



CASE STUDY

GRENADA AND JAMAICA PURSUE LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

Caribbean islands are embracing low-carbon development to deliver economic benefits while bolstering climate resilience.

Grenada, for example, is working with the NDC Partnership to strengthen the implementation and enhancement of its NDC by taking concrete mitigation actions in key sectors and expanding the scope of current climate commitments, including those from the 2012 energy policy. Following broad-based consultations involving key sectors, an implementation plan has been developed to support the country's goal of cutting GHG emissions by 30 percent from 2010 levels by 2025. This NDC Partnership Plan is linked to key strategic documents, such as the draft National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, the National Climate Change Policy, the Technology Needs Assessment, the National Adaptation Plan, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Through its engagement with the Partnership, Grenada's Government has committed to enhancing its NDC, with support from all sectors engaged in the validation of the Partnership Plan. It also has already identified opportunities for strengthening of the NDC by 2020. These include potentially broadening emission reduction activities to include more types of GHGs (in particular HFCs) and to include liquid waste in addition to solid waste as part of the waste sector. The government is also exploring innovative mitigation opportunities from the blue economy.

Grenada is highly vulnerable to climate impacts, in particular storm damages, coastal floodings, forest fires, crop losses, water shortages and rising incidences of pests and diseases. To address its critical adaptation and resilience needs, the Partnership Plan includes a set of climate resilience projects consistent with the GCF Country Program.

In Jamaica, where seven in ten citizens live in coastal areas threatened by erosion, sea level rise, and intensifying storms, the Government is charting a similar course. The NDC Partnership, through the World Bank's NDC Support Facility, is supporting the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation as well as the Planning Institute of Jamaica in the process of reviewing and enhancing their NDC. Efforts are focused on broadening the sectoral scope and possibly increasing the mitigation targets in the energy sector. A revised NDC will be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2020. Once mitigation pathways are clear, the Partnership will support the planning of specific interventions in the form of an NDC implementation plan designed to translate commitment into concrete measures and project pipeline potentials or draft potential activities.