



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY: MAPPING THE STRATEGIES AND PLANS OF THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGIES AND PLANS AND METHODOLOGY TO FIND INFORMATION

Parliaments are critical actors in the development, implementation, and monitoring of their country's environment and climate objectives which requires supporting legislation, budget allocations and oversight by the legislative branch to hold the government accountable, as well as promote strong environmental governance. To support these important functions, the repository maps the strategies and plans adopted by the Governments of the Americas and the Caribbean to address specific environmental and climate change topics. It aims to compile and systematize the information in one location to improve accessibility as well as further familiarize parliamentarians with the action plans and initiatives being undertaken by their Executive Branches and identify progress and potential gaps.

This document provides a brief description of the environment and climate change strategies and plans that have been mapped within the Americas and the Caribbean that are found in the repository. It also provides an explanation of the methodology used to identify these plans, including if the plans were obtained from a registry or platform hosted by the Secretariat for the Convention under consideration; the criteria used to designate if a document would be included or identified as an official plan in the repository; and if an additional platform was used, aside from the noted registry, to locate the plans and strategies.

In general, if an official registry was not available, the Google Search Engine was used to locate plans, as well as those sources identified as "other sources of information" under each mechanism, where applicable. Understanding that not all countries have a dedicated plan for each of the topics, there was a concerted effort to highlight related plans that integrated the key elements or principles of the mechanism, however the absence of a dedicated plan was noted.

If you identify a plan or strategy that is missing or a discrepancy in the information we have presented, we would be grateful if you contact us at parlamericascc@parlamericas.org so that we may update this tool.

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC)

The [Paris Agreement](#) is implemented through [NDCs](#), which are mandatory shorter-term climate pledges that countries, or Parties to the Agreement, develop to communicate the actions they plan on taking to mitigate and adapt to climate change and contribute to meeting the common global goal. Each party is therefore responsible for preparing, communicating, and maintaining their successive NDC, which should be re-communicated every five years with each submission more ambitious than the last. The

first round of NDCs were submitted in 2015 or shortly after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the second round was due in 2020, herein referred to as the updated NDC, with the next one due in 2025, and so on.

Methodology

Registry: [NDC public registry](#), hosted by the UNFCCC.

Criteria: Submission of a first or updated NDC to the UNFCCC, displayed in the registry.

Other sources of information: None

LONG-TERM CLIMATE STRATEGY (LTS)

The Paris Agreement calls for Parties to “strive to formulate and communicate [long-term low GHG emission development strategies](#)” by 2020. These strategies are not mandatory, but they provide a vision and direction for a country’s long-term (usually defined as 2050) sustainable development and climate neutrality targets. These strategies can help support the development of a country’s NDC, ensuring that short-term actions will align with and contribute to national long-term goals and those of the Paris Agreement.

Methodology

Registry: [Communication of long-term strategies submissions](#), hosted by the UNFCCC.

Criteria: Submission of a LTS to the UNFCCC, displayed in the registry.

Other sources of information: Updated NDCs

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN (NAP)

The [NAP](#) is a mechanism of the UNFCCC at COP16 under the Cancun Adaptation Framework which aims to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of adaptation to the impacts of climate change in addition to mitigation efforts covered in the NDCs, article 7 of the Paris Agreement establishes that Parties should also undertake adaptation objectives, and submit and periodically update adaptation communications.

Methodology

Registry: [NAP central](#), hosted by the UNFCCC.

Criteria: Dedicated plan outlining the country’s strategy or initiatives to adapt to the impacts on climate change and/or submission of NAP to the UNFCCC registry. Disaster Risk Reduction Plans were not included.

Other sources of information: [Adaptation Communications](#); [National Communications to the UNFCCC](#)

THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS PLAN

The [CBD](#) came into force in 1993 with the objective to “conserve biological diversity, promote the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from commercial and other utilization of genetic resources.” In 2010, the updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted. This framework on biodiversity is used to guide and update [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#), which are the implementation mechanism of the CBD. The development of the post-2020 framework is currently underway.

Methodology

Registry: [Search National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Reports](#), hosted by the CBD.

Criteria: Submission of an Action Plan to the CBD, displayed in the registry.

Other sources of information: None

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD) AND ITS NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION

The [UNCCD](#) came into force in 1994 and its objectives are to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought. In 2017, the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework was adopted. It supports the implementation of the UNCCD and guides the development of the [National Action Programmes](#), along with the sub-regional and regional programmes, which are the implementation mechanisms of the UNCCD.

Methodology

Registry: [Annex III: Latin America and the Caribbean \(LAC\)](#), hosted by the UNCCD.

Criteria: Submission of Action Programme to the UNCCD, displayed in the registry.

Other sources of information: None

ROADMAP OR PLAN ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Circular economy is a systemic approach to sustainable development designed to benefit society, the environment, and the economy. In contrast to a linear model, a circular economy is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple economic growth from the consumption of non-renewable resources. A [circular economy road map](#) can outline actions that can “accelerate the transition towards a competitive and fair circular economy, as well as involve diverse stakeholders, highlight best practices,

and enable sustainable change on a national scale. Additionally, in the post-COVID-19 recovery, a circular economy road map can provide both the compass and the engine for a sustainable recovery.”¹

Registry: None have been identified.

Criteria: Dedicated plan or roadmap outlining the country’s strategy or initiatives to transition to or achieve a circular economy. A plan on a green economy was not sufficient.

Other sources of information: NDCs; Long-term climate strategies; [Climate Technology Centre & Network programme on developing a roadmap](#)

ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT (ACE)

The term Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) has been adopted to refer to Article 6 of the UNFCCC and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, which seek to empower all members of society in understanding and engaging in inclusive climate action, through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues. These call on Parties to appoint ACE national focal points, develop national strategies to implement these objectives, and include these elements within their NDCs. This is supported through the Doha work programme established under the UNFCCC which has expired (2012-2020) and its future will be debated in 2021 at COP26.

Methodology

Registry: None have been identified.

Criteria: Dedicated plan on ACE or a plan outlining a strategy or initiatives that advances any of the objectives that ACE promotes in direct context of climate change or environmental governance (education, training, public awareness/communication, public participation, and/or public access to information). For example, it was not sufficient to have a plan on education if it was not specifically focused on environment or climate education.

Other sources of information: [National Communications to the UNFCCC](#) (including specific chapters on ACE); [Action for Climate Empowerment Guidelines](#); [ECLAC Observatory on Principle 10](#); [EuroClimate+ thematic study on ACE](#)

ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

The [Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), also known as the Escazú Agreement, came into force in 2021 and its objective is to guarantee the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes, and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the

¹ Sitra, *How to create a national circular economy road map*, 2020. <https://media.sitra.fi/2020/09/02171513/how-to-create-a-national-circular-economy-road-map.pdf>

protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.

Methodology

Registry: [Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean webpage on the Agreement](#), hosted by ECLAC

Criteria: Marked as a State Party in the registry.

Other sources of information: None

A PLAN ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

To encourage inclusiveness, the Lima Work Programme on Gender was established under the UNFCCC in 2014, and in 2019 at COP25 the 5-year enhanced version of this work programme and its [Gender Action Plan](#) (GAP) were agreed upon. The Gender Action Plan sets out five priority areas for Parties, the UNFCCC, and all stakeholders to ensure gender-responsive and human rights-centred climate action is mainstreamed in all efforts to advance the climate agenda. It encourages countries to create or integrate within existing plans the actions that will be taken to apply a gender lens in the country's climate action.

Methodology

Registry: None have been identified.

Criteria: Dedicated plan or analysis of how the country's action to combat climate change will aim to be inclusively implemented, include gender-sensitive criteria, and simultaneously strengthen gender equality and build climate resilience.

Other sources of information: NDCs; [UNDP NDC support programme](#); [IUCN climate change gender action plan programme](#)

NDC WAS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH WOMEN STAKEHOLDERS

During the development of the NDC, ensuring that women stakeholders from diverse demographics are meaningfully consulted is essential to ensuring that the plan is responsive to the needs of women and girls and enabling gender-transformative action. For example, when working on agriculture-related climate initiatives, it is critical to ensure rural women are part of the decision-making process.

Methodology

Registry: There is no official registry for this indicator, however the analysis was obtained, in part, from the [IUCN Report on Gender and National Climate Planning](#) (2021).

Criteria: The NDC clearly communicated that women, women’s groups, or other organizations, institutions, agencies, or ministries focused on or led by women were involved in NDC development (based on the IUCN report).

Other sources of information: None

NDC LISTS SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES THAT EXPLICITLY RELATE TO GENDER EQUALITY

Including concrete gender objectives, which go beyond an overarching statement of the importance of ensuring climate action is gender-responsive, within the NDC allows climate action to be purposefully designed to improve gender equality, as well as monitor and evaluate progress.

Methodology

Registry: There is no official registry for this indicator, however the analysis was obtained, in part, from the [IUCN Report on Gender and National Climate Planning \(2021\)](#).

Criteria: The NDC lists specific objectives, priorities, or goals of a policy/programme and at least one of those objectives is explicitly relating to gender/women; or if one or more of the objectives, goals, or priorities include gender, even if not explicitly and solely pertaining to gender (based on the IUCN report).

Other sources of information: [NDC Partnership Gender Strategy](#)

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN UN COP27 STATE DELEGATION

One of the priority areas for the [Gender Action Plan](#) is to “achieve and sustain the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in the UNFCCC process.” One of the ways to achieve this is to ensure gender-equitable participation in climate change decision-making at all levels, including negotiations.

Methodology

Registry: Data on women’s participation in national party delegations at the UN Climate Change Conference is from the [WEDO Gender Climate Tracker](#).

Criteria: The percentage of women party delegates per meeting is calculated by dividing the total number of women delegates by the total number of delegates (based on the Gender Climate Tracker).

Other sources of information: [Gender Composition and progress on implementation](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS WITH A PROVISION THAT CONSIDERS GENDER EQUALITY

Incorporating an intersectional and gender perspective in climate and environmental legislation helps to ensure that action to reduce environmental degradation and mitigate and adapt to climate change is done in a manner that works to holistically reduce the vulnerability of populations that are at higher risk of being impacted by climate change and environmental hazards.

Methodology

Registry: Not applicable

Criteria: Environmental laws, drawn from the [LSE Climate Change Laws of the World repository](#), were analyzed based on their explicit references to climate change *and* women or gender equality. Key words such as women, gender equality, female, equity, and intersectional were used to locate these types of references within the analyzed laws.

Other sources of information: [Gender Sensitivity in Legislation](#)