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Panama Launches New Programme Towards Implementing its NDC



UN Climate Change News, 9 June 2020 – Panama's Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC), which supports national climate action, has reached an important milestone with the launch of a new national carbon footprint programme by the Government of Panama branded "*Sustainable Panama: Reduce Your Footprint*".

The overall objective of the programme is to encourage public and private organizations to reduce their carbon emissions - for example through energy efficiency programmes and the use of renewable energy resources such as wind or solar power – and to support them in doing so.

The programme is designed to cover government ministries, the Panama Canal, organizations in the logistics, construction, forestry, agriculture, tourism and hospitality industries, as well as academia and the financial sector.

Support is provided through “Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action” ([CiACA](#)), a global initiative that assists governments in developing carbon pricing instruments for implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions ([NDCs](#)) - national climate action plans under the [Paris Agreement](#).

UN Climate Change and its partners currently operate [6 Regional Cooperation Centres around the world](#) which support national climate action through capacity-building, technical assistance and strategic networking, sourcing know-how and resources to drive clean development.

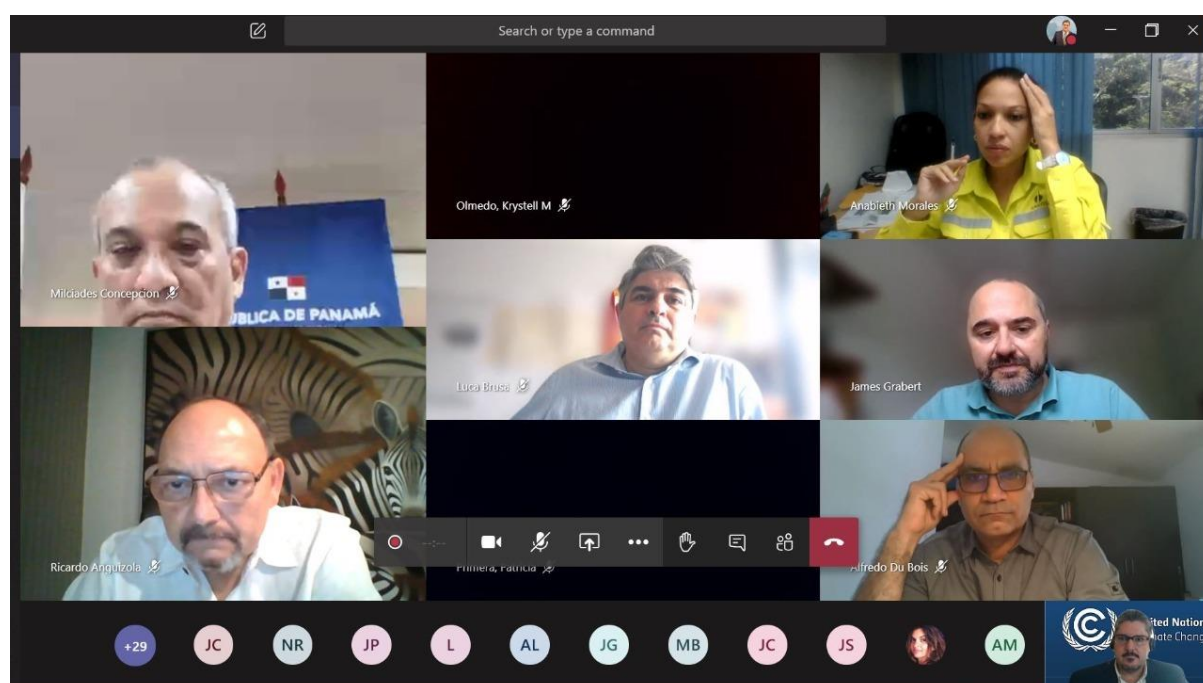
The centres were established to spread the benefits of the Clean Development Mechanism ([CDM](#)), which spurs investment in sustainable development by rewarding projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, the RCCs have had the broader task of supporting implementation of countries' NDCs.

Panama, home to one of the RCCs, is a leading CiACA country in Latin America, the first to move from the initial stages of stakeholder engagement and technical analysis to the effective adoption of a carbon pricing instrument. It is also a technical partner of the Partnership for Market Readiness ([PMR](#)), thus making it a leading regional example of a more ambitious regional framework and a pilot case for CiACA globally.

GHG monitoring tool for increased transparency

CiACA has supported the development of standards and a registry to measure, verify and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The groundbreaking impact of the adoption of this tool is that, while it is intended as voluntary, the government is planning to make it a requirement to be able to access the funds that will be made available for the post-COVID-19 recovery.

Three workshops targeting different audiences (government, private sector and civil society) have been planned to present the tool.



The Minister of Environment of Panama H.E. Mr. Concepción and Mr. James Grabert (Director of the Mitigation Programme, UNFCCC) provide opening remarks at the virtual event “Sustainable Panama: Reduce Your Footprint” with the private sector.

The first of the three workshops took place on 27 May and targeted around 65 government officials, particularly Ministry of Environment personnel, who were also trained on how to use the application.

The second workshop took place on 3 June and targeted around 40 representatives from the private sector, academia, chambers of commerce and the Canal.

Speaking at the opening of the event, UNFCCC Mitigation Director, James Grabert, said: “What makes the adoption of the GHG inventory standards for GHG monitoring instrumental today is that they come at a moment of great challenge, but also of great opportunity — opportunity for economies to transform. The choice of the Government of Panama to make adoption of the tool linked to pro-climate policies sends a meaningful signal to the economy and represents an important step towards achieving the Paris goals.”

For more information on CiACA activities, contact Monique Nardi (mnardi@unfccc.int), or visit the [CiACA website](#).

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