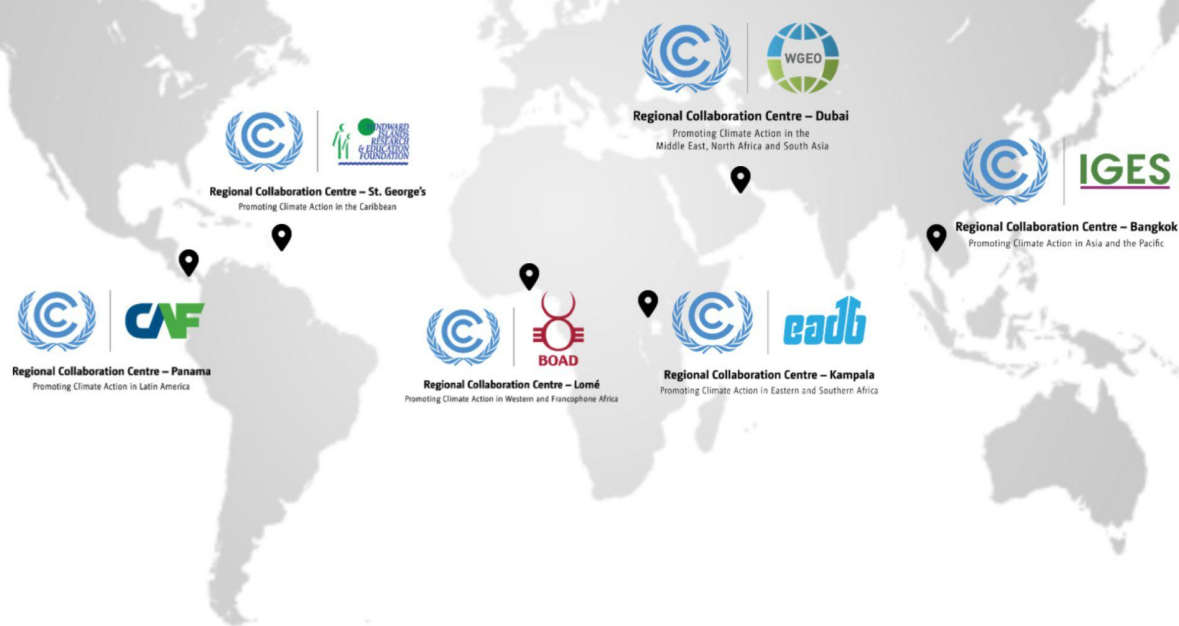


BACKGROUND

The Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) initiative¹ was launched in 2013 with the establishment of four RCCs in Lomé, Togo; Kampala, Uganda; St. George's, Grenada; and Bogotá, Colombia. RCC Bogotá was moved to Panama City, Panama in 2017. In 2015, an RCC was established in Bangkok, Thailand, and in February 2019, a sixth RCC was established, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to serve the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and South Asia. RCCs are collaborations between UN Climate Change and regional host partners, local and regional agencies and multilateral development banks², focused on supporting national climate action on the ground.

6 Regional Collaboration Centres



Launched to increase projects under the Clean Development Mechanism, the RCCs have since 2015 broadened their work to support countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation, and cross-cutting matters.

The main objectives of RCCs are to:

- Facilitate country driven approaches, which are consistent with the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement
- Give more visibility to the regional and national climate action efforts of stakeholders
- Provide strategic direction based in line with the inter-governmental climate change process
- Support the recognition of action, pledges, commitments/initiatives
- Provide stakeholders a possibility to report on their climate action in the UNFCCC context
- Provide a platform for sharing experience and interacting with UN implementing agencies

¹ <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>

² West African Development Bank, Lomé; East African Development Bank, Kampala; Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, St. George's; Development Bank of Latin America, Panama; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Bangkok; and World Green Economy Organization, Dubai, UAE.

IMPACT OF THE RCCS

Since establishment of the first RCC, in Lomé in 2013, the regions in which they work have seen positive impacts on the ground, in particular:

- Strengthened collaboration between national and international actors to foster dialogue, coordination and coherence towards green development and climate action
- Direct support and guidance to countries on green policy and the creation of an enabling environment for action on climate change
- Local capacity on cooperative approaches to addressing climate change, such as use of carbon markets and mechanisms
- New partnerships making climate action more effective and efficient, by finding synergy and avoiding duplication of effort.

Benefits RCCs Bring to the Region



Regional Collaboration



Policy Support



Technical Capacity



Partnership Building



Communication and Outreach



Data Collection



'Plug and Play'



Logistics Hubs

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

Mitigation

Clean Development Mechanism

Building capacity

In 2019, RCCs co-organized 17 events to build capacity on the CDM, which together were attended by 600 stakeholders

In these events, governments received up-to-date information on the status of negotiations, new tools for climate action and measurement, reporting and verification, and the latest developments in the CDM. Project developers received tailored technical support for project implementation, monitoring of greenhouse gas emission reductions or net anthropogenic greenhouse gas removals and use of CDM certified emission reductions (CERs).

Technical Support to CDM Projects

RCCs provided technical support to 275 CDM project activities and Programme of Activities (PoAs). As a result, 13 CDM projects and PoAs moved at least one step in the CDM project cycle. In addition, 40 bottom-up standardized baselines (approximately 71 per cent from CDM underrepresented countries) and five top-down standardized baselines were supported. As a result, seven proposed standardized baselines were submitted for approval, and four standardized baselines received approval from the CDM Executive Board.

Further, RCCs promoted use of CERs available on the United Nations Carbon Offset Platform and responded to 243 technical queries on the CDM. These efforts by the RCCs³ further developed the capacity of CDM stakeholders and maintained interest and use of the CDM and or CERs in the regions.

Measurement, Reporting and Verification Network

There were useful developments towards operationalizing monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems by 2020. In February 2019, RCC St. George's established a Caribbean Cooperation MRV Hub⁴ which should lead to stronger policies to assess and monitor the Caribbean region's contributions to addressing climate change.

3 Biannual reports on RCC operation are available at: <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>

4 <https://ghginstitute.org/ccmrhv/>
<https://unfccc.int/news/new-hub-launched-to-increase-transparency-of-climate-action-in-the-caribbean>
<http://un-gsp.org/event/enhancing-mrvtransparency-processes-climate-action-english-speaking-caribbean>
<https://ghginstitute.org/2019/02/15/a-new-center-for-climate-change-monitoring-in-the-caribbean/>

CI-ACA Initiative

Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CI-ACA)⁵

- CI-ACA concluded the first phase of its implementation in June 2019, described in a synthesis report on lessons learned and achievements
- Elaborated the second phase of CI-ACA and secured financial contributions from donors Germany, the Province of Quebec and RCC host partners
- Recruited a regional coordinator to form an East African alliance on climate finance and carbon markets
- At the UN Climate Conference (COP25), CI-ACA held an event focused on the role of regional platforms to promote adoption of collaborative economic instruments to achieve the Paris goals
- Panama, with support from RCC Panama, finalized guidelines for a registry of greenhouse gas emissions



The launch of CI-ACA in Dominican Republic – July 2018; CI-ACA concluded the first phase of its implementation in June 2019, described in a synthesis report on lessons learned and achievements

- Pakistan, with support from RCC Bangkok, finalized a report on the opportunity for domestic carbon pricing and a study on feasibility of establishing an emissions trading system, and announced at COP25 the setting up of a national committee on establishing carbon markets
- Senegal, with support from RCC Lomé, published outcomes of a study and validation workshop and design of follow-up activities
- Dominican Republic, with RCC St. George's, finalized a study on the potential for domestic carbon pricing, prepared a validation report, and designed and started activities identify options and design for a domestic carbon pricing system.

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-ci-aca-initiative>

⁶ <https://youtube.com/watch?v=czp8BctEeVA>

⁷ <https://online.sgu.edu/climate/>

⁸ https://unfccc.int/NBF_Project

⁹ <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Np1wgN9wL1l>

Adaptation

Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

RCC Dubai is supporting the efforts of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) by identifying and engaging with relevant institutions and experts to facilitate activities and dissemination of knowledge outputs to fill knowledge gaps and, ultimately, facilitate ambitious regional, national and subnational adaptation planning and implementation. See the video on developments on LAKI in the MENA region⁶.

Online course on climate change and health

RCC St. George's, with St. George's University Department of Public Health and the World Health Organization, launched a free online course on the implications of climate change on public health⁷. More than 800 students from 21 countries participated in the four-week course.

Means of Implementation

Needs-based Finance Project

The RCCs are supporting implementation of the Needs-based Finance Project (NBF)⁸ in 10 regions and sub-regions, covering 92 countries. In 2019, the RCCs supported the project's launch in: the Arab States, Eastern Caribbean States, Small Island Developing States in the Indian Ocean, Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. See the video on NBF in the MENA region⁹. Specific events supported by RCCs in 2019 included:



Inception Workshop, Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy, Cairo, Egypt

- Validation of the draft Climate Finance Strategy for four Melanesian island States in Port Vila, Vanuatu
- Launch of the first phase of the NBF for the Southern Africa region in Johannesburg, South Africa, the ASEAN region in Quezon City, the Philippines, and for the Arab States in Manama, Bahrain.
- Inception workshop organized in Cairo, Egypt to begin preparations to design a Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy and exchange information on climate finance needs at the regional and country level.

Cross-cutting Areas

Regional Climate Weeks



Opening of the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2019

The RCCs supported CDM-related events during the regional climate weeks in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁰. In the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, the events highlighted experience and opportunities offered by standardized baselines to replicate replicate mitigation projects. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the event focused on the role of market mechanisms like the CDM in developing carbon pricing strategies and reviewed the status of carbon pricing. The RCCs also supported the regional NDC dialogues taking place at the margins of regional climate weeks.

RCC Global Forum

The annual RCC Global Forum meeting was held on 20-21 October in Dubai concurrent with the World Green Economy Summit¹¹. The RCC Global Forum saw the official launch of the newest entrant to the RCC network, RCC Dubai. The Global Forum was attended by representatives of the host partners of the RCCs. Also joining the Forum were representatives from RCC collaborating organizations, such as UN Environment, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Germany's GIZ, among others. In addition to the continuous support to the CDM, partners proposed other areas of RCC work in 2020.



Participants of the 5th RCC Global Forum held in Dubai, UAE

Partnerships



Partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to publish the report: "Analysis of the human mobility in the Americas"¹² which reviews current national policies and actions related to migration due to climate change.

Partnership with the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) to establish RCC Dubai¹³ which will cover countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, and placement of a Green Economy Expert at each RCC. RCCs supported the organization of five WGEO regional ministerial conferences on green economy around the globe, and convened a special session on climate finance at each conference.



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai
Promoting Climate Action in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia



Continued partnership with UNDP and the GHG Management Institute to implement activities relating to nationally appropriate mitigation actions and the MRV Hub in the Caribbean.

Partnership with ParlAmericas¹⁴ for capacity-building of parliamentarians from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The ParlAmericas International Secretariat signed the pledge to join the Climate Neutral Now initiative initiative. International Secretariat staff agreed to compensate the emissions associated with work travel through the purchase of carbon offsets via the UN Carbon Offset Platform. Parliaments and parliamentarians were invited to join ParlAmericas staff in offsetting flights.



Youth Engagement

RCC Panama supported the 2nd edition of the Youth Leadership Academy on Climate Change in Panama held in Los Santos Province, with the objective to develop the capacities of youth leaders at the national level for the established of the Panama Climate Change Youth Network¹⁵.

10 <https://unfccc.int/about-the-regional-climate-weeks>

11 <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-dubai>

12 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/analysis_mecc_americas_2.pdf

13 <https://unfccc.int/news/regional-collaboration-centre-dubai-hosts-annual-rcc-global-forum>

14 https://parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/PR_UNFCCC_Observer_Status_ENG.pdf

15 <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/07062019%20SIA%20ARTICLE%202nd%20CCYOUTHACADEMY%20RCC%20WEBSITE.pdf>

East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance

In June 2019, RCC Kampala established the East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance¹⁶, building on experience in West Africa¹⁷. The Alliance advances potential use of carbon markets, promotes a common vision to foster carbon markets and climate finance, and fosters coordinated participation of delegates from the East African region in UNFCCC negotiations. The involved include: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. A regional coordinator for the Alliance was appointed. Until a secretariat for the Alliance is established, RCC Kampala and GIZ Uganda will serve as secretariat in close coordination with member countries.

Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions

By hosting and supporting the regional NDC Coordinators of the NDC Partnership, RCCs continued their support to the global coalition of countries and international institutions working to mobilize support for and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. Currently, RCC Bangkok and RCC Panama are hosting regional NDC coordinators. RCC St. George's collaborated with the NDC Partnership to support implementation of Belize's NDC¹⁸.

Engagement with UN system

In 2019, RCCs liaised with UN national and regional Resident Coordinators and Regional UN Development Group Teams to seek synergy, especially on issues related to SDG 13 – Climate Action. For example, RCC Panama continued supporting the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Panama. In response to a request from some UN agencies in Panama for more coordination and more centralized access to information on the outcome of the annual UN climate conferences (COPs), RCC Panama launched a collaboration platform with a focus on climate change information in Latin America for UN agencies. RCC Bangkok continued supporting the UN Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), and closely worked with the UN regional Resident Coordinator for Asia-Pacific region on implementation of the new UN system. RCC Bangkok is also supporting the preparation of the Plan of Action to implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN 2021-2025. Other RCCs are expected to engage with UN system in 2020.

Communication and outreach

RCCs increased their communication efforts in 2019. RCCs regularly disseminated e-newsletters and published these on their respective websites in English, French and Spanish¹⁹. The newsletters reached more than 6,000 stakeholders to provide technical advice, inform readers on relevant events, facilitate cooperation and promote opportunities for project funding. The newsletters have received positive feedback from stakeholders. Organization of the fifth RCC Global Forum in conjunction with the World Green Economy Summit 2019 in Dubai is further evidence of the RCCs' enhanced communication effort at the global level.



RCC WORK in 2020

The RCCs in 2020 will continue their **support to the CDM**, and in response to requests from countries, host partners and other organizations, will work to **increase ambition and facilitate implementation of NDCs under the Paris Agreement**. The major areas of work in the six RCCs will thus comprise support to the CDM, Article 6, adaptation, facilitating climate-aligned finance and regional capacity-building on transparency, climate finance and NDCs.

16 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Launch%20of%20the%20East%20African%20Alliance_final.pdf
<https://carbon-mechanisms.de/en/initiatives/market-development/east-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance/>
17 <https://carbon-mechanisms.de/en/initiatives/market-development/west-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance/>
18 <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RCC%20St.pdf>
19 Accessible at <https://unfccc.int/rcc-Bangkok>, <https://unfccc.int/rcc-dubai>, <https://unfccc.int/rcc-kampala>, <https://unfccc.int/rcc-Panama>, and <https://unfccc.int/rcc-st-georges>.