

NDC Survey Report

Caribbean Region



UNFCCC | RCC St. George's | 2020



Regional Collaboration Centre – St. George's
Promoting Action Against Climate Change

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FOREWORDS



James Grabert

Director of Mitigation Division
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This Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) survey report on countries in the Caribbean region highlights actions taken by participating countries, reveals key limitations and challenges faced, and presents areas of support needs critical towards successful implementation. To date, several countries have already submitted updated or new NDCs with others scheduled to submit theirs in the upcoming months.

Successful progress towards climate action requires a well-coordinated, and targeted implementation plan that uses a fully inclusive and consultative approach. We cannot ignore the importance of having adequate capacity, access to technology, and well-functioning institutional frameworks. All of which are acknowledged needs by Caribbean countries and require significant technical and financial support.

Information provided in this report is therefore fundamental to deciding the best way in which our Regional Collaboration Center for the Caribbean Region (RCC St Georges) and its partners can provide effective and tailored support to each country. The data also provides important insights that can be used in planning long-term low-carbon development strategies that supports climate-resilient development.

The UNFCCC appreciates the transparency and openness shown by countries in voluntarily participating in this survey. We are also very grateful to all partners for their commitment placed in supporting these countries through NDC revision and implementation.

We look forward to seeing continued climate action progress across the Caribbean region as we continue to provide support through our RCC St. Georges office.



H.E. Fiona Clouder

Regional Ambassador, Latin American and
The Caribbean, COP 26

This survey report on NDCs in the Caribbean profiles progress made and future plans. The region is important for climate change, facing and living with many of the challenges and also containing a high proportion of the world's unique biodiversity and ecosystems. The challenges facing the region have been compounded by the tragedy in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic with health, social and economic impacts on the Caribbean. This means that NDCs and long term strategies are more important than ever. More than just a formal submission to the UNFCCC, these are living documents which set the strategy and direction for each country to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions essential for a net zero world.

2020 has made manifest the intimate linkages between people, nature and the environment. The changes to all our lives from the pandemic has perhaps made us all value a little more the world we live in and help us understand that we are custodians of the planet for the future. This year has also shown how climate change is no longer just the preserve of those with environmental interests. It is an issue that affects governments, business, communities and every single one of us. Hence, NDCs are a vital platform to define how addressing climate change can help us all.

In the midst of the pandemic, there is also hope. There are opportunities from a green recovery to create jobs and economic growth, whilst at the same time reducing emissions and preserving the environment. The UK has recently announced its own 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.'

The UK, in partnership with Italy, will host COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2021. As well as taking forward the negotiations in line with the Paris Agreement (PA), there are 5 key themes to encourage ambition and action by governments, business and wider society across the world. These are Adaptation and Resilience, the Energy Transition, Clean Transport, Nature Based Solutions and Finance.

Since the survey outlined in this report was initiated, many countries have further revised their NDCs and/or are planning new announcements. On 12 December 2020, the UK, the UN, France and in partnership with Italy and Chile, co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit. This both celebrated the progress in 5 years since the PA, but also very much looking to the future and the year ahead leading to COP26. Over 75 world leaders made new commitments to climate action. The UK itself confirmed an updated NDC of at least 68% reduction of emissions by 2030 from 1990 levels; reaffirmed our doubling of ODA climate finance to £11.6 billion in 2021-25; an end to UK Government support overseas for fossil fuel; and published our adaptation communication, and announcements on green finance, including commitment to climate related financial disclosure.

Whilst the Climate Ambition Summit and the progress outlined in this report on NDCs are important contributions to tackling climate change, we need to go much further to build a resilient, net zero emissions future. COP26 provides a vital moment for the world to come together. There is much to do in the year ahead to show that together we can build a better world.



Didier Trebucaq

UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

"We are in race against time to adapt to rapidly changing climate. Adaptation must not be the forgotten component of the climate action agenda."

UN Secretary-General - António Guterres

Climate Change will present an irreversible challenge to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the absence of immediate and increased action to adapt and alter its present course. While SIDS are the smallest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions; their population, biodiversity and resources are the most at risk, being threatened by recurrent natural disasters, with the Caribbean being seven times more likely to be impacted than any other region.

The Paris Agreement, along with the SAMOA Pathway, set a framework for SIDS commitments to NDCs. All Caribbean SIDS adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 and countries have taken actions towards putting in place NDC measures. Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica and Suriname are at the vanguard, having updated their NDC in 2020, with more ambitious coverage and commitments. Grenada is the first Eastern Caribbean country to have taken action, with Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda, followed by Barbados, following suit and making steady progress towards formalising commitments in 2021.

As with most sectors, COVID-19 has exacerbated the vulnerability of SIDS. The economic impacts of the pandemic have derailed countries' commitments towards climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, while eroding previous development gains. The risk is that due to competing priorities for resource allocation for recovery, there will be further setbacks in the climate agenda, which could be at the detriment of longer-term goals such as carbon neutrality. COVID-19, however, has also provided real opportunities for countries to readapt, refocus and innovate. Promising partnerships between Caribbean governments, development partners, private sector entities and investors are resulting in innovative initiatives that scale-up the use of renewable energy and other resources, as well as sustainable production, among others.

This survey, the first of its kind in the region, provides a thorough diagnosis of 15 countries' progress, gaps and challenges to meet NDC commitments. This is a commendable effort from UNFCCC- Regional Collaboration Centre -St. George's, in tandem with a series of six Caribbean NDC Support Virtual Exchange Dialogues carried out this year, in partnership with other UN Agencies and external partners.

In the spirit of the UN Reform, these instruments and findings allow us as UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to find ways to strengthen our coordination and collaboration in support of countries efforts, whether it is through technical assistance, financing mechanisms or other targeted means.

These efforts are supported by platforms including the, recently established, Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change, that provides clustered policy support and solutions, and the Eastern Caribbean Sustainable and Resilient Development Partners Group, that promotes the convergence of both agenda, with the participation and support of a wide cross-section of stakeholders.

The UN Caribbean is committed to continuing its support to all countries' NDC ambitions, while fostering increased cooperation among states. I have no doubt that the Caribbean is transforming into a resilient and greener region despite its challenges, as we partner to support efforts to create a sustainable future for both people and planet.



Janine Felson

Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belize-UN on behalf of the Chair of AOSIS

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) submitted the SIDS Ambition Package to the Climate Action Summit in September 2019. That Package headlined the SIDS commitment to enhance nationally determined contributions pursuant to the Paris Agreement, with the support of partners and institutions. In response, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its Climate Promise, and the NDC Partnership through its Climate Action Enhancement Project (CAEP), as well as other partners such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), mobilized support to small island developing states to realize that ambition.

At the time of writing, the majority of state parties of any grouping who have submitted NDCs could be counted from amongst the Members of AOSIS. Others will follow before the end of the year and early in 2021. Already the contributions to be seen from our Members will yet again set the bar for climate ambition and leadership in the race to net zero emissions.

While the global pandemic, COVID-19, has presented epochal challenges for SIDS socially and economically, there is an unwavering resolve from our leaders that present and future generations of island women, men and children shall not be made to suffer the cost of inaction. In the same manner that they have responded to the pandemic in swift and bold measures, so too are they responding to curb greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience, and address loss and damage.

The NDC Survey is a useful tool to sharpen focus on potential areas for refining approaches for mitigative and adaptive capacity, for coalescing support, and further boosting SIDS efforts in combating climate change. It also helpfully pinpoints some of the major challenges especially arising with COVID-19 and provides impetus for innovating ways to address those challenges.

AOSIS thanks the UNFCCC RCC – St. George's and the UNFCCC for its continued support and looks forward to our ongoing collaboration. Together we can do more, and, for the sake of humanity and the only planet we call home, we should!



Vintura Silva
UNFCCC Regional Lead
RCCC-St. George's

The work involved in the NDC update review process is often complex and require an arduous amount of effort and presents many challenges. The UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) St. Georges is therefore grateful for the tremendous amount of support provided by development partners as we work with governments to develop ambitious NDCs to meet their commitments to the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

We appreciate the transparency of participants and their willingness to provide such important data provided in this report. We are also grateful for the contribution of the NDC Partnership and the following partners: Climate Analytics (CA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Vivid Economics. The data collected provides important information that will help the RCC St. Georges and its partners develop a targeted approach to effectively support each country.

The RCC St. George's is committed to continue to collaborate with partners and provide support to all 16 Caribbean islands as we work together to combat climate change.

ACRONYMS

AFD	The Agence Française de Développement
AFOLU	Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use
CA	Climate Analytics
CAEP	Climate Action Enhancement Package
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CRRP	Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan
CTCN	Commonwealth Secretariat, Climate Technology Center & Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIZ	The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
iNDC	intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IRENA	The International Renewable Energy Agency
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LT-LEDS	Long-term Low Emissions and Development Strategies
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measure Report Verify
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDCP	NDC Partnership
NDRS	National Resilience Development Strategy
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
RCC	Regional Collaborative Center
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RMI	Rocky Mountain Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SREP	The Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP-CEP	United Nations Environment: Caribbean Environment Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WB	World Bank
WTE	Waste to Energy
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Survey Respondents

15
Countries

This report presents the results of a survey conducted by the RCC St. George's Aug-Sept, 2020. Two options were made available to respondents: electronic, and telephone interview. Participants represented 15 of the 16 countries supported by the RCC St. George's.

Countries were contacted through their UNFCCC National Focal Points. At the time of creation of this report, Barbados had not yet responded.

Unless otherwise indicated, there were 19 survey respondents with one individual from each of the 15 islands.

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Belize
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad & Tobago

Disclaimer:

The information presented in this report only reflects data gathered during the survey period (between Aug-Sept, 2020). Therefore, this report may contain information that have since been changed/updated.

NDC PROGRESS: 2015 AND THE PATH TO 2020

The overall purpose of this survey was two-fold.

- (I) We wanted to understand the progress made since countries submitted their first NDCs.
- (II) We wanted to understand the approach taken by each country through the NDC review process, challenges experienced, and support needed for implementation.

Progress Since 2015

Numerous studies show that the Energy and Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors are the sectors responsible for the highest amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The majority of Caribbean countries have listed these sectors as main targets for mitigation intervention in their first NDCs[1]. We therefore wanted to investigate the progress made in these sectors as it relates to Mitigation Actions.

Mitigation Actions - The Energy Sector

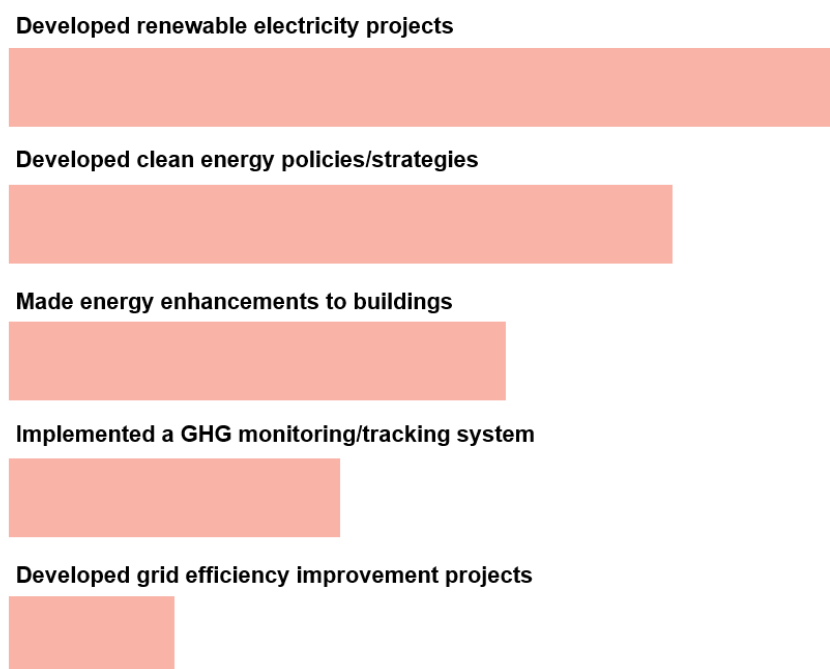


Figure 1: Progress made in mitigation actions in the Energy Sector. Bars are arranged in the order of progress made.

Countries were asked to rate the level of progress in mitigation actions pertaining to the Energy Sector. They were asked to rate progress from 0-5 with 5 representing the highest level of progress. Development of renewable electricity projects received the highest ratings with the majority (10) of respondents selecting ratings between 4 and 5. About half of the respondents (8) selected ratings between 3 and 4 to indicate progress made in

developing clean energy policies/strategies. Countries indicated that the least amount of progress was made in developing grid efficiency improvement projects and implementing a GHG monitoring/tracking system (Figure 1).

Mitigation actions - The Transport Sector

Transportation, often accounted for under the energy sector, is also a major contributor of GHG emissions. Countries were asked as in the previous question, to indicate the level of progress in areas related to the transport sector. The creation of vehicle emission policies was ranked highest with the reformation of vehicle importation policies ranking the lowest. These results are illustrated in Figure 2.

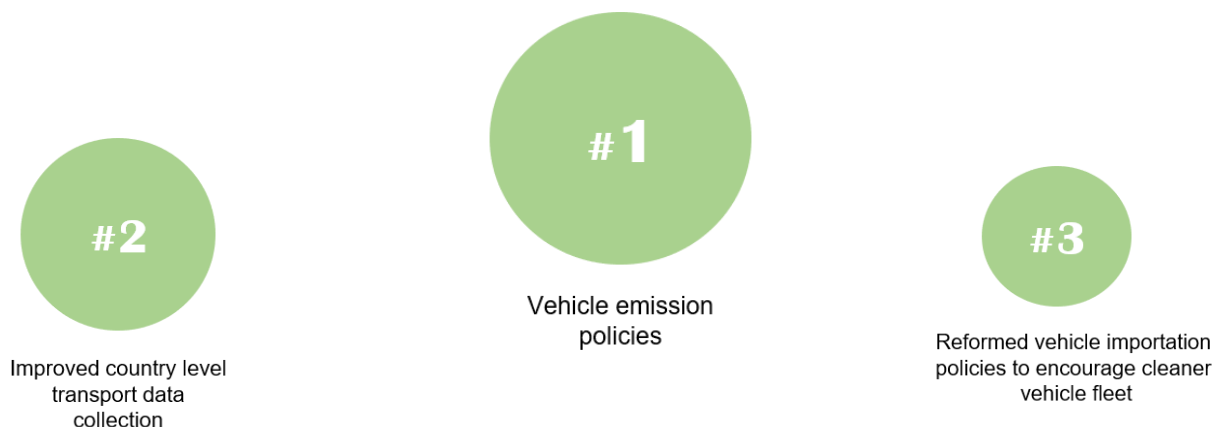


Figure 2: Progress made in mitigation actions in the Transportation Sector

Mitigation Actions - The AFOLU Sector

Finally, countries were asked to rate progress in the AFOLU sector. The results are illustrated in Figure 3. They were asked to rate progress from 1-5 with 5 representing the highest level of progress. protection and conservation of existing forests received the highest ratings while participation in REDD+ received the lowest ratings. However, overall, very little progress was made in this sector.

Protection and conservation of existing forests



Develop sustainable forest management strategies



Develop deforestation policies and strengthen enforcement



Develop land rehabilitation projects



Develop afforestation projects



Participation in REDD+



Figure 3: Progress made in mitigation actions in the AFOLU Sector. Bars are arranged in the order of progress made.

In general, progress as it relates to mitigation actions committed to in initial NDCs, countries indicated that little progress was made in all sectors. Proper implementation plans, financial resources, inability to collect quality data and lack of capacity and infrastructure, were cited as reasons for such low achievements.

Adaptation Actions

Due to the vulnerability of Caribbean islands to climate change, Adaptation Measures are as important as mitigation.

Countries were therefore asked about adaptation-related progress. Of the 17 respondents, 10, indicated that most progress was made in creating climate change adaptation policies and 9 indicated progress in the development of a NAP or equivalent national plan (Figure 4). The least amount of progress was reported in the development of water resource management programs and the creation of food security programs. Again, respondents cited the same reasons for lack of significant progress .



Figure 4: Progress made in Adaptation actions

The NDC Update Revision Process

By the end of 2020, countries are expected to update their NDCs or submit new ones that reflect more ambitious towards the Paris Agreement long term targets[2]. One challenge indicated by respondents was that preparation of initial NDCs were rushed and there was therefore not enough time for adequate planning.

In the preparation for updated or new NDCs, we therefore wanted to know when countries started their planning process. Figure 5 illustrates the estimated times countries started their planning process. Belize indicated that they started in August 2019 while the majority of the countries started planning in September 2019. The latest start date was reported by Haiti (August 2020). As of the date of the survey (Aug-Sept 2020), Bahamas indicated that the planning process had not yet commenced.

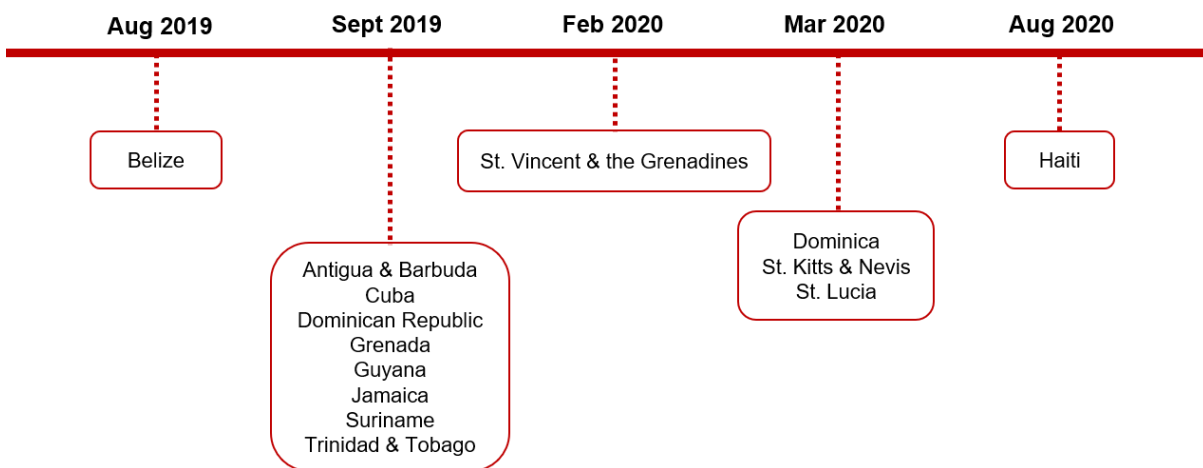


Figure 5: Estimated/start of NDC revision update planning

Three countries, Suriname, Jamaica, and Cuba have already submitted their updated NDCs with Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti and St. Lucia scheduled to submit by the end of 2020. Overall, it appears that most countries started the review process one year prior to submission to the UNFCCC. Figure 6 shows the tentative NDC submission dates as indicated by countries during the survey period. It is important to note that those dates are tentative.

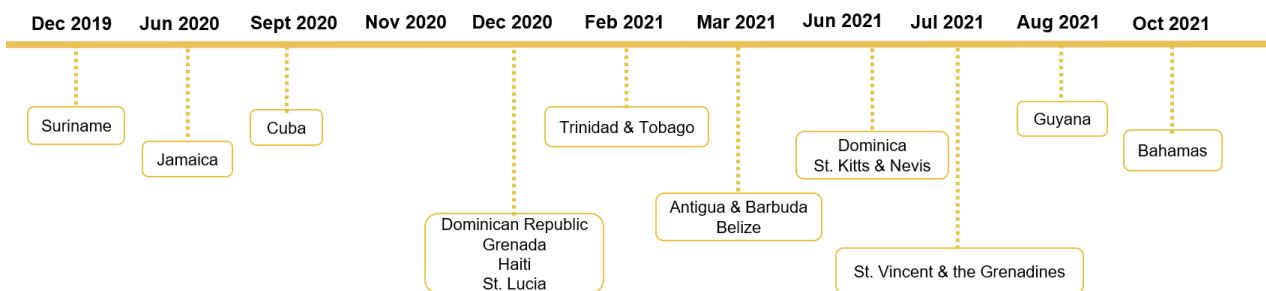


Figure 6: Tentative/revision dates (as received during the survey period).

2. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>.

Countries were asked the reason for revising their NDCs and were asked to select reasons related to Mitigation Components. 11 respondents indicated that the inclusion of additional sectors was the primary reason. Other reasons included more ambitious targets (8) and improved data collection systems (9). Additional sectors included waste, AFOLU, and IPPU. This information is illustrated in Figure 7.

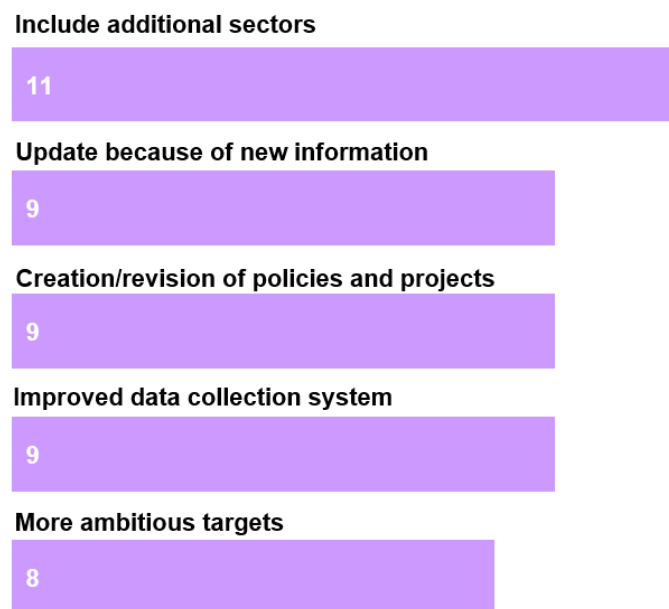


Figure 7: Reasons given for revising NDCs - Mitigation Components

Countries were also asked to give reasons related to adaptation measures, for updating their NDCs. 9 respondents indicated that alignment to other national frameworks was the primary reason for updating the NDC. This was followed by gender responsive adaptation action.

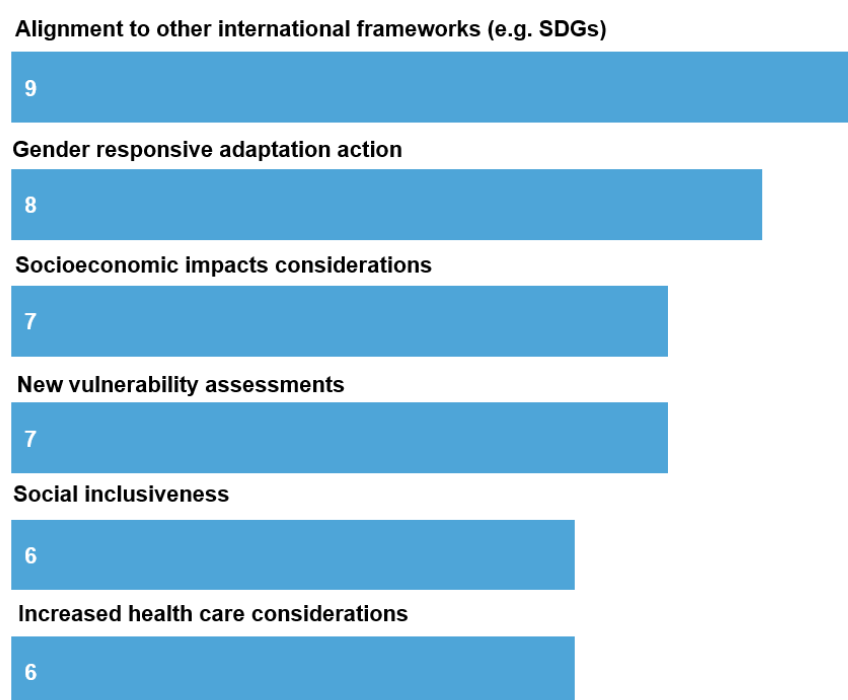


Figure 8: Reasons given for revising NDCs - Adaptation Components

Participants were asked to select **factors that prevented countries from further raising ambition** in revised NDCs. Responses are illustrated in Figure 9. Nine respondents indicated that anticipated financial resources was the primary reason for not further raising ambition. 8 indicated that insufficient data and government's capacity to implement were key reasons. 5 indicated that external barriers were key reasons. 3 indicated that insufficient time was a key reason.

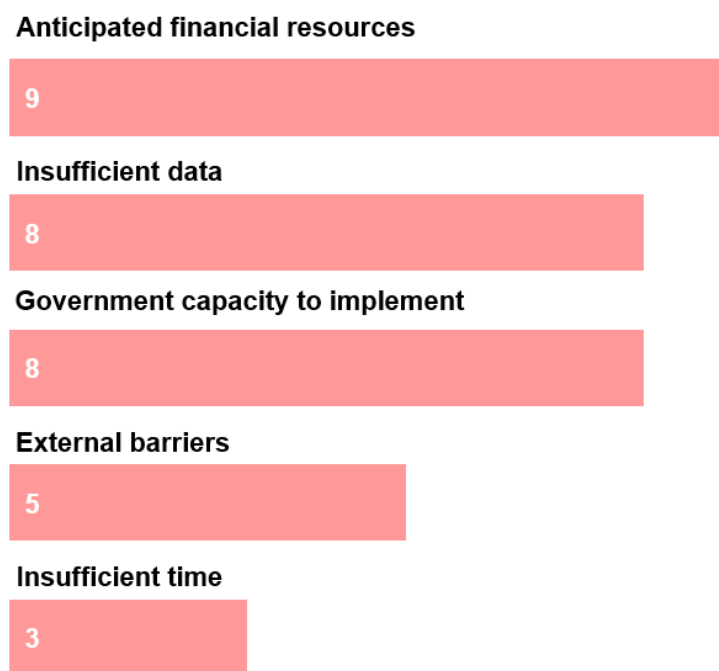


Figure 9: Factors that prevented countries from further raising ambition in new/revised NDCs.

We were interested in knowing **how the Covid-19 pandemic affected countries** as it relates to the NDC review process. 17 responded with 58% of them indicating that the main impact was not being able to have in-person stakeholder engagements. As a result, these events were either cancelled, delayed, or conducted at a reduced capacity due Covid-19 restrictions. 47% indicated that submission dates were pushed back (Figure 10).

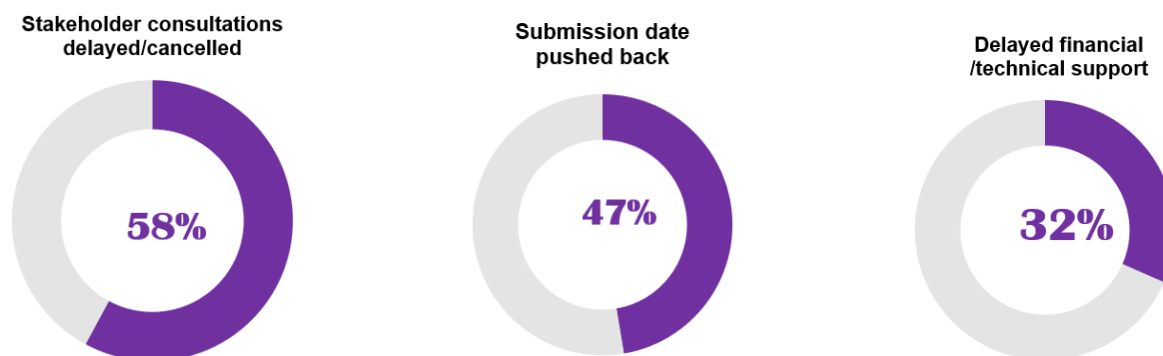


Figure 10: Impacts of Covid-19 on the NDC review process.

Support Needs

With the economic impact of Covid-19 on countries. It is anticipated that implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures will be much more challenging.

Countries were therefore asked to indicate mitigation and adaptation needs. The results are illustrated in Figures 11 and 12, respectively.

Technology transfer; support for MRV; capacity building and technical and financial support for public transport systems were rated among the highest mitigation needs.

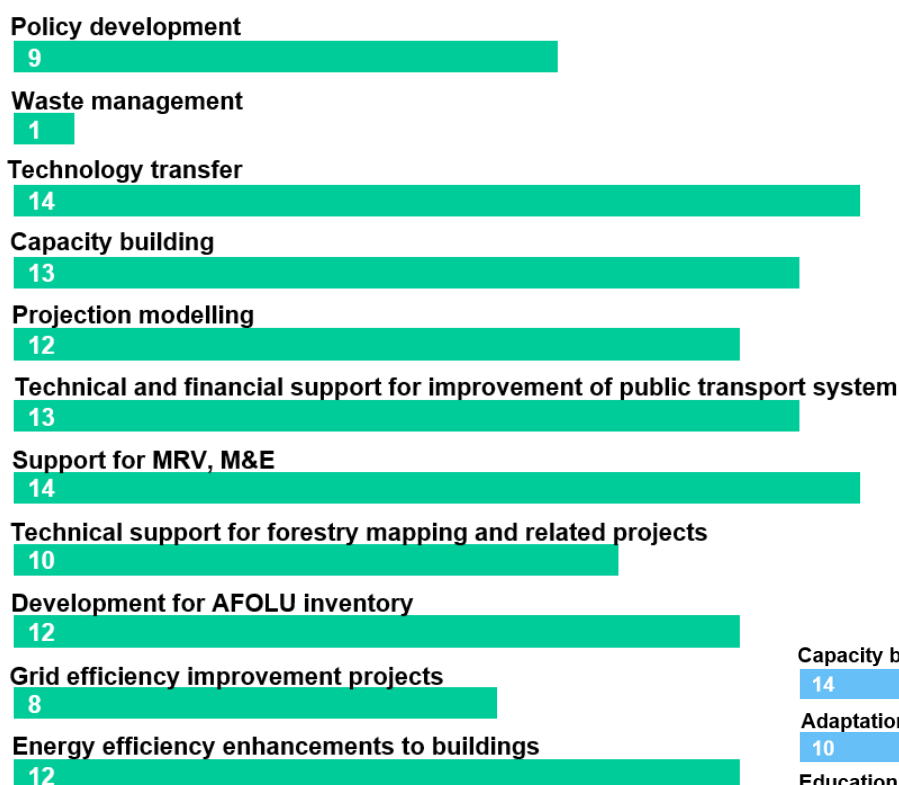


Figure 11: Mitigation support needs

Highest rated adaptation needs included flood risk management plans/programs, education and training of locals, capacity building, water resource management, and technical support for vulnerability assessments (Figure 12).



Figure 12: Adaptation support needs

Challenges Revising NDCs

Countries were asked about challenges throughout the NDC planning process.

Figure 13 illustrates challenges faced overall. Access to data for establishing baseline; modelling for projections; and insufficient resources are areas that were reported as being most challenging.

Insufficient resources

5

Other socio-political complications

2

Other technical complications

3

Coordination and approval complications due to political or other situations

2

Coordination complications due to COVID-19 related issues

4

Modelling for projections

6

Access to data for establishing baseline

7

Figure 13: Challenges raised when planning NDC

Figure 14 illustrates some challenges faced when considering raising ambition. Of the 17 respondents, 9 indicated that identifying financial resources for implementation was the most challenging. Other challenges included cost of implementation, and understanding technical options.

Cost of implementation

8

Balancing political priorities

2

Securing high-level political support

2

Understanding wider economic impacts

6

Identifying most appropriate policy options

4

Identifying financial resources for implementation

9

Understanding technical options

7

Securing public sector stakeholder buy-in

4

Securing private sector stakeholder buy-in

6

Figure 14: Challenges faced when considering raising ambition

Countries were also asked about challenges faced with accessing international funds. The results are shown in Figure 15. The biggest challenge indicated was the lack of capacity to prepare proposals and knowledge about funding sources.

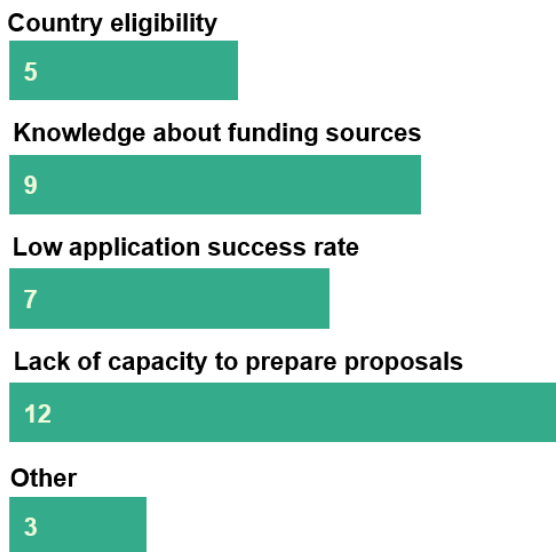


Figure 15: Challenges accessing international funds

Related to future support, countries were asked how future support can be made more effective. The majority of respondents selected a larger budget as their number one choice. A longer timeframe and earlier availability were also top choices. The results are illustrated in Figure 16.

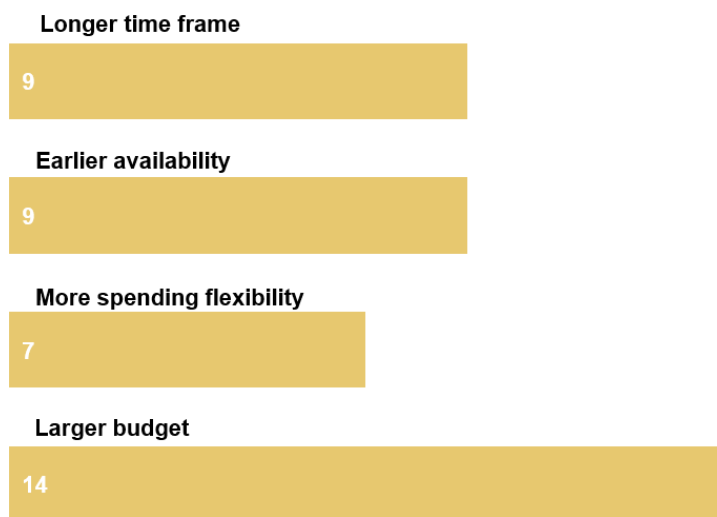


Figure 16: Ways in which future support can be made more effective

Long Term Low Emissions Development Strategy

LT-LEDS are pivotal in the fight against climate change. When asked if LT-LEDS are currently being developed, the responses varied but the majority (8) indicated that a plan was either being developed or is already in place (Table 1).

Table 1: Responses to the development of LT-LEDS

Yes, already developed/approved	Yes, in progress/will start soon	No, no plans to do so	To be determined
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Lucia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahamas • Belize • Cuba • Dominica • Dominican Republic • Grenada • Jamaica • Trinidad & Tobago 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua & Barbuda • Haiti • St. Vincent & the Grenadines • Suriname 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guyana • St. Kitts & Nevis

Countries were then asked if a special committee or task force has been set up to develop the LT-LEDS. Table 2 summarizes the responses of 11 countries.

Table 2: Is there a task force or committee in place for the LT-LEDS development?

Country	
Antigua and Barbuda	No, that has not been considered
Bahamas	No, that has not been considered
Belize	Yes, a committee has been formed and planning is ongoing
Dominica	No, that has not been considered
Dominican Republic	Yes, a committee has been formed and planning is ongoing
Grenada	Don't know
Haiti	NA
Jamaica	Yes, that is currently being considered
St. Lucia	Yes, a committee has been formed and planning is ongoing
Suriname	No, that has not been considered
Trinidad and Tobago	Yes, a committee has been formed and planning is ongoing

Support Instruments

Countries were asked about existing plans and strategies that are in place to support the NDC implementation. Below is a list of existing plans and strategies currently in place in the different countries (Table 3).

Table 3: Existing plans or strategies to support the NDC implementation.

Country	Existing plans and strategies to support NDC implementation
Antigua & Barbuda	National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Energy policies Environmental management and protection Act
Bahamas	National Climate Change Plan Energy policies
Belize	National Climate Change Plan Energy policies
Dominica	Low Carbon Climate Resilience Development Strategy National Resilience Development Strategy (NDRS) Sustainable and Resilience Energy Plan (SREP) Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP)
Dominican Republic	National Climate Change Plan NAP Energy policies LT-LEDS
Grenada	National Climate Change Plan Energy policies
Guyana	A draft national Climate Change Policy Forest Policy and Action Plan Draft Energy Policy
Haiti	National Climate Change Plan NAP Energy policies
Jamaica	Energy policies
St. Kitts & Nevis	National Climate Change Plan Energy Policy
St. Lucia	NAP
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	National Climate Change Policy NAP Energy Policy
Suriname	NAP
Trinidad & Tobago	The National Climate Change Policy