



United Nations
Climate Change

Enabling Long-term Impact

The Role of Regional Collaboration Centres in Catalyzing Climate Action



Regional Collaboration Centres (RCC) Annual Report 2019

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE SECRETARIAT



Regional Collaboration Centre – Bangkok
Enabling Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai
Promoting Climate Action in the
Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa

Regional Collaboration Centre – Kampala
Promoting Climate Action in East and Southern Africa

Regional Collaboration Centre – Lomé
Promoting Climate Action in West and Central Africa

Regional Collaboration Centre – Panama
Promoting Climate Action in Latin America

Regional Collaboration Centre – St. George's
Promoting Climate Action in the Caribbean

Foreword

The regional collaboration centres (RCCs) facilitated a wide range of activities and delivered a long list of achievements in support of Parties' climate action in 2019.

Feedback from stakeholders with whom the RCCs worked during the year reinforced the reporting team's view that the RCCs have matured into efficient and effective centres that contribute substantially to awareness raising, enhanced capacity on the ground, and regional cooperation.

Beyond the numerous outputs described in this report, the reporting team sought to assess the value the RCCs bring to the international response to climate change in the short-medium term and understand the impact of the RCC initiative in the long-term. In other words, one needs to assess whether the RCCs are creating an enabling environment that can deliver the action and ambition required meet the goal of the Paris Agreement.

Thus, this report can serve as a baseline of key topics and functions against which to judge the impact of the RCCs in the years to come. This report presents what was exemplary in the RCC in 2019, their capacity to engage stakeholders, catalyze action and support implementation. The report also attempts to define the role the RCC initiative needs to take in future to continue to make a meaningful contribution to the fight against climate change.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AFB	Adaptation Fund Board
BOAD	West African Development Bank
BUR	Biennial update report
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CER	Certified emission reductions
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	Clean development mechanism
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
EADB	East African Development Bank
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IEA	International Energy Agency
IGO	Intergovernmental organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union

LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification
NAP	National adaptation plan
NC	National communication
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
RCC	Regional collaboration centre
REDD-plus	Reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (decision 1/CP.16, para. 70)
SB	Sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
TNA	Technology needs assessment
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UN Alliance	United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness
UN CC:Learn	One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WINDREF	Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WGEO	World Green Economy Organization

A. Message from Management



*Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary
United Nations Climate Change Secretariat*

“LET ME EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO ALL OF YOU – DONORS, RCC HOST PARTNERS, REGIONAL PARTNERS, INCLUDING UN AGENCIES AND STAFF FROM BOTH HOST PARTNERS AS WELL AS UNFCCC SECRETARIAT – FOR YOUR HARD WORK TO ACHIEVE THE SUCCESSES OF THE RCCs OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. WITH THE CDM REMAINING A MAJOR FOCUS OF THE

RCCs, I AM IMPRESSED BY THE BROAD RANGE OF SUPPORT BEING OFFERED BY THE RCCs, INCLUDING ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, NATIONALLY-DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS, TRANSPARENCY, CLIMATE FINANCE, TECHNOLOGY, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND NON-PARTY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT. I AM CONVINCED THE INVOLVEMENT OF RCCs IN THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM THROUGH REGIONALLY-BASED UN AGENCIES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A REALITY.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS YOU HAVE DEVELOPED IN JUST UNDER A DECADE HAVE HELPED BUILD A STRONG PATHWAY TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE VALUABLE LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY WILL HELP RCCs BETTER SUPPORT COUNTRIES AS THEY WORK TO IMPLEMENT COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION, THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT. REST ASSURED, UN CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN YOUR REGION TO SUPPORT YOU. LIKewise, WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON YOUR EXPERTISE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AS WE, ALONG WITH ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY, CONTINUE WORKING TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. I AM OPTIMISTIC, JUST AS I AM WITH RESPECT TO OTHER AREAS OF SUPPORT TO THE UNFCCC PROCESS, THAT OUR WORK IN EACH REGION WILL CONTINUE IN NEW AND INNOVATIVE WAYS, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE PRODUCTIVE OUTCOMES OF THE RCCs IN THE COMING YEARS.

Message on the publication of the RCC Annual Report 2019

“WE MUST SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS, OUR CARBON FOOTPRINTS. AND WE MUST SEEK WAYS TO INCREASE OUR RESILIENCE TO THE NOW PRESENT EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. NOT TOMORROW. NOT FIVE YEARS FROM NOW—TODAY. AS WE CAN PLAINLY SEE, THE WEATHER WILL NOT WAIT FOR US TO ACT. IF WE ARE TO MAKE THE NEEDED CHANGES, WE MUST HAVE UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND, YES, CONFIDENCE. IT MAY NOT GRAB THE HEADLINES, BUT RCCs ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, OR RATHER THEY MUST CONTINUALLY STRIVE TO BE SO. THE CLIMATE CRISIS, AND PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, DEMAND IT. TO THOSE HERE REPRESENTING RCCs, I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS.



*Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Climate Change secretariat*

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.”

From opening speech at the Regional Collaboration Centre Global Forum 2019



*James Grabert, Director
United Nations Climate Change secretariat*

“THIS IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL CENTRE IN DUBAI WILL HELP TURN CLIMATE AMBITION, SO URGENTLY NEEDED, INTO CLIMATE ACTION ON THE GROUND IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

SINCE THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IN 2013 THE RCCs HAVE BEEN GROWING IN RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRIES THEY ARE MEANT TO SUPPORT. THEIR MANDATE HAS GROWN FROM ASSISTING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CDM PROJECTS TO PROVIDE OVERALL SUPPORT TO PARTIES IN STRENGTHENING THEIR CAPACITIES TO RAISE THEIR AMBITION TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THEY DO SO IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS WHOSE ESTABLISHED REGIONAL PRESENCE PROVIDES SOLID FOUNDATION FOR LONG LASTING IMPACT”.

From speech at the signing of the MOU establishing RCC Dubai

B. Background

OBJECTIVE

This report provides information about the activities implemented by the six regional collaboration centres (RCCs) in 2019. It serves as a management tool for the UN Climate Change and its collaborators in managing RCCs and setting the strategic direction of the RCC initiative. This report is also meant to enhance communication with internal and external stakeholders by providing general information on the RCC initiative and planned activities in 2020.

This full-year report adds to the permanent record of the RCC initiative and will be used in future monitoring and evaluation. The report highlights challenges and opportunities for the RCC Initiative in supporting regional efforts.

Methodology and Structure of the report

The report is based on information collected from RCCs' resource planners, monitoring reports, data volumes, regular activity and progress reports and articles, including information developed before 2019. Some of the monitoring tools also gather inputs from stakeholders involved in the RCC activities. The information was analyzed by the support team in Bonn and, when applicable, quantified and translated into statistics. The report covers the following:

- The role the RCCs can play in supporting regional climate action;
- The RCC organizational structure;
- Key achievements in areas such as the clean development mechanism (CDM), adaptation, climate finance, youth and gender;
- Communication, event delivery, capacity-building and implementation of the RCC workplans;
- Next steps for the RCCs, including the 2020 workplan;
- Appendices on the strategic development of the RCCs, as well as manuals and other managerial documents.

OUTCOMES: Role of RCC in catalyzing action

The analysis of the achievements in 2019 indicates that the RCCs continue to play an important role in supporting climate action globally by enhancing the delivery of regional activities from

a variety of government and non-state stakeholders alike. This conclusion is further supported by the growing interest in the RCC initiative, as demonstrated through the establishment of the sixth RCC, based in Dubai, UAE, and in the reporting in section F below which features 78 events delivered, 200 CDM projects supported, as well as the USD 1.5 million mobilized.

The CDM remains a major focus of the RCCs; however, since adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the scope of the RCCs has broadened to cover a range of mitigation and adaptation activities, funded from various sources, delivered at the request of Parties and donors, in coordination with UN Climate Change divisions and sometimes in collaboration with other UN agencies at the national, regional and global level.

Thus, the RCCs' have become an additional tool of UN Climate Change for catalyzing, supporting, coordinating and accelerating participation and action by Parties and non-state actors under the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, across the secretariat's various substantive areas of work .

The case for UN Climate Change's regional presence in supporting action comprises the following: (a) mandates from Parties requiring on-the-ground support, (b) the secretariat's role as an unbiased custodian of the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, (c) the secretariat's responsibility serving the UN's global response to climate change, (d) the secretariat comprehensive network of global and regional climate change stakeholders and requests from those stakeholders for support and (e) the secretariat's knowledge of and capacity to help stakeholders meet the technical and political challenges related to climate change.

The RCCs support climate action in the following ways:

-Engaging with a diverse range of actors to nurture action and keep climate action at the top of the political agenda:

- o Identifying and assessing possible actions;
- o Advocating and mobilizing enhanced implementation.

-Identifying gaps and constraints that prevent climate action;

-Developing and implementing strategies and actions for overcoming constraints /gaps:

- o Direct technical assistance in the preparation of action plans and strategies;
- o Technical support for implementation, through capacity-building and training;
- o Facilitating access to various sources of support;
- o Support to transparent reporting.

-Identifying and benefiting from synergies in climate action while avoiding overlaps:

- o Liaising with key actors involved in support and implementation;

- o Ensuring efficiency in delivery of action, including by supporting collaboration, partnerships and mutual learning;
- o Monitoring policies and measures.

-Keeping track of implementation:

- o Providing technical assistance for reporting;
- o Supporting the communication of results;
- o Collecting and disseminating information on climate action.

The RCCs capitalize on the following infrastructure and strengths:

a) **Large regional network:** UN Climate Change has a well-developed network of partners at different levels in all the regions. Partners recognize the RCCs for their ability to organize and coordinate activities, provide a direct communication channel to the UNFCCC process and serve as an information hub on climate related matters;

b) **Monitoring and tracking tools:** In 2019 tools were put in place to track progress of RCC activities, ensure transparent management, continually monitor progress and performance, and produce operational and management information;

c) **Strength of partners:** The RCCs' local partners and partner UN organizations are well established and have in-depth knowledge of the local context—in most cases, RCC partners have long standing regional presence and rely on broad regional networks. The RCCs' proximity and on-the-ground experience have appealed to local and regional donors;

d) **Human resources:** Efficient and flexible RCC arrangements enable a fast deployment of staff in the regions, for short- or long-term missions, whether UN Climate Change staff or seconded staff from collaborating organizations. In 2019, staff members were seconded from UNV and GIZ;

e) **Flexible scope:** RCC work plans are flexible and can be adapted to support new activities and target areas;

f) **RCC communication plans and CO collaboration:** The UN Climate Change Communication and Outreach Programme (CO) supports the secretariat's regional presence through the RCC initiative. Stories and news items about RCC activities are conveyed on the UN Climate Change website, in e-newsletters and other platforms;

g) **Operating resources in RCCs:** In 2019 the seven UN Climate Change staff members assigned to the RCCs were complemented by a total of 17 RCC host partner staff members to deliver against the joint workplans. Experience has shown that significant savings were achieved through RCCs handling the work locally and regionally instead of staff travelling from Bonn. The six RCCs host partners contributed in-kind logistical support and funds to support

implementation of the workplans. Funds for the operations of the RCCs were received from the CDM Executive Board, donors and partners.

In 2019, the RCCs deepened their relationship with local stakeholders and international organizations operating at the regional level. These relationships reveal unique features that better position RCCs in answering emerging needs:

- **Proximity:** The RCCs are well placed to facilitate local activities, provide a more accessible communication channel to UN Climate Change, and serve as a local information hub on climate related issues;
- **Knowledge of the local context:** The RCCs possess on-the-ground understanding of local circumstances and are able to communicate in the local language (i.e. Arabic, French, Spanish) using the appropriate local means and channels, which has enabled the development of strong regional networks of partners;
- **Ability to connect local and global expertise:** The RCCs bridge the complexity gap between international climate policy under the Convention and real implementation of action on the ground. Both levels see added value: the high level is informed about the reality on the ground, while practitioners receive support for climate action under the Convention. This is achieved by bringing together, in the RCCs, experts from Bonn and local experts from partner organizations;
- **Strength as arms of a specialized entity:** UN Climate Change is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to climate change. As the regional arms of UN Climate Change, the RCCs facilitate the various regional climate action work streams of the secretariat. Further, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges UN Climate Change as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiations on the global response to climate change. Noting this uniqueness, partners and stakeholders are keen to partner and share information with the RCCs on catalyzing climate action. United Nations entities and other international/regional organizations have extended their close cooperation to the RCCs to help countries achieve the SDGs in a coherent and collaborative way. This cooperation is expected to provide another efficient and effective means to deliver secretariat support to implementation of its mandates at the country and regional levels;
- **Role as central hub:** From their inception, the RCCs have continually evolved as information hubs for a broad and growing range of climate-related matters in the regions where they are operating. Work in many areas came to RCCs based on proactive requests from stakeholders. This demonstrates the need for local support on a broad range of issues. This also demonstrates the benefits of a local central hub able to act as one-stop-shop to support and coordinate climate action at the regional level.

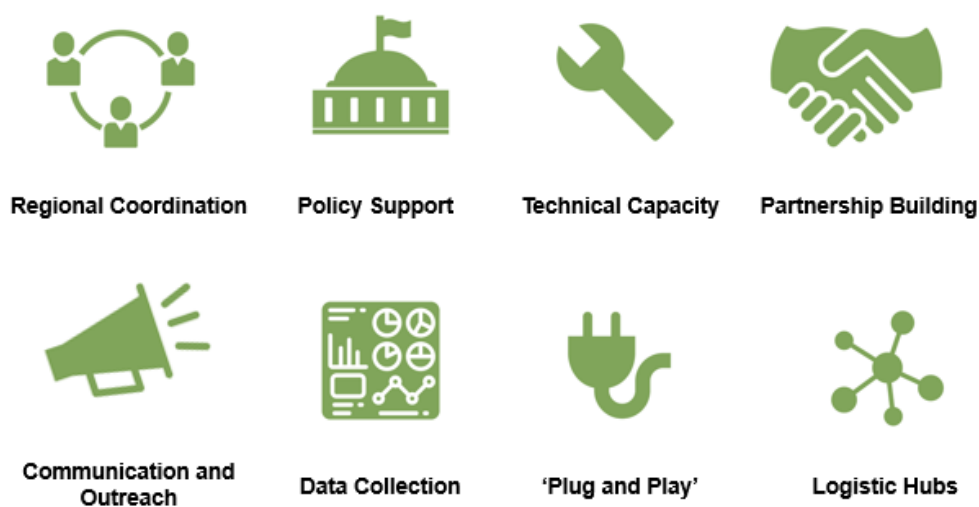


Figure 1: RCC roles

The RCC initiative timeline and structure

The first Regional Collaboration Centre began operation in January 2013 in Lomé with the West African Development Bank (BOAD) and by August 2013 four RCCs were operational with the additions of Kampala with the East African Development Bank (EADB), St George's with WINDREF at the University of St George's, and Bogotá with the Latin American Development Bank (CAF). RCCs were established to help Parties, stakeholders and project participants overcome barriers to the development and implementation of CDM project activities and programmes of activities (PoAs). With adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 and calls for more ambitious climate action, the RCCs were called on to support a broader range of work, on mitigation and adaptation in the context of Parties nationally determined contributions.

- **2011-2012**: Concept development; Selection of staff and first 2 training session for selected staff in collaboration with UNDP and UN ethics office.
- **2013**: 4 RCC set up. Work of RCC initiative recognized by UN Climate Change secretariat with the awarding of a Change for Good Award in the category Impact.
- **2014**: Communication strategy launched with e-newsletters, dedicated webpages, articles for external and internal audiences, and media engagement to increase RCC visibility.

- **2015:** Bangkok RCC set up. Independent evaluation of RCCs confirms RCCs are effective in delivering against their mandate. RCC host partners highlight need for support to cover a broad range of climate issues.
- **2016-2018:** Initiative enhanced with launch of monitoring and evaluation system, scaled-up communication and outreach activities, broadened range of subject areas and donor support. Four RCCs led by female team leads.
- **2017:** Note delivered to senior secretary management on strengthening UN Climate Change’s regional presence. Pilot project to explore wider support of RCC to UNFCCC given green light by UN Climate Change Management Team (MT).
- **2019:** RCC Dubai established, the sixth RCC. Internal audit conducted. RCC governance enhanced. Further investment made in management tools. Progress on pilot project reported to MT.

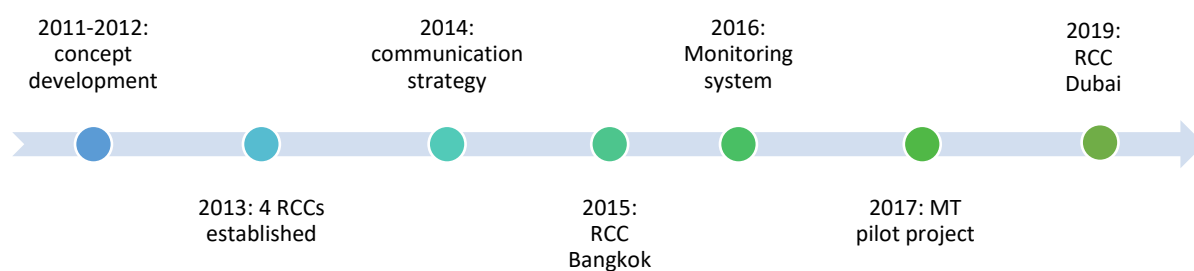


Figure 2: RCC timeline

In terms of *structure*, the RCC initiative is a collaboration between UN Climate Change and six host partners. The secretariat provides one or two staff members in each RCC, who once relocated to the RCC, are assisted by three to four staff members provided by the host partner. In 2019, seven UN Climate Change staff members were relocated to the RCCs (note that Table 1 refers to current staff levels) and a total of 17 RCC-host-partner or seconded staff members were working with them. The host partners cover all the administrative and logistics (office space, equipment, meeting rooms and utility charges) costs incurred by its participation in this partnership. No financial support is provided by the secretariat for the establishment and administration of an individual RCC. RCCs are currently sponsored by partners, donors and the CDM Executive Board (CDM-EB).

In terms of *coverage*, countries in the Eastern Europe region are currently outside RCC coverage, although there are requests from some of these countries to have an RCC focused on this region. The RCC initiative’s flexible model allows expertise from one RCC to help address the needs of other RCCs.

Table 1: RCC teams on the ground and RCC support team in Bonn in February 2020

RCCs, partners and date of establishment
<p>RCC Bangkok, Thailand</p> <p>Partner: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</p> <p>Est.: September 2015</p>
<p>RCC Dubai, UAE</p> <p>Partner: World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)</p> <p>Est: October 2019</p>
<p>RCC Kampala, Uganda</p> <p>Partner: East African Development Bank (EADB)</p> <p>Est.: May 2013</p>
<p>RCC Lomé, Togo</p> <p>Partner: West African Development Bank (BOAD)</p> <p>Est.: January 2013</p>
<p>RCC Panama¹, Panama</p> <p>Partner: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)</p> <p>Est.: March 2017 until 30th June 2020</p>
<p>RCC St. George's, Grenada</p> <p>Partner: Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF)</p> <p>Est.: July 2013</p>

C. RCC Highlights/Achievements

This “RCC Highlights” section provides an overview of the different areas of work that the RCCs targeted in 2019 and highlights some of the specific deliverables as exemplary of the results achieved.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

ADVANCING MULTI-LATERALISM

Supporting the Doha Agreement

COP23 (FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1) noted that all Parties share the view that pre-2020 implementation and ambition are of utmost importance. It also emphasized that enhanced pre-2020 ambition can lay a solid foundation for enhanced post-2020 ambition. Entering into legal force of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol is a valuable part of the momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020 and critical for the rigorous and successful implementation of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. As support to the intergovernmental process, in 2019 **RCCs supported Parties** in the regions either by responding to their ad-hoc requests for relevant information or by collaborating with UNFCCC Legal Affairs programme to follow-up with Parties and updating status of the Doha Amendment ratification process.

MITIGATION

CDM Capacity-Building

In 2019, RCCs co-organized **17 events to build capacity on the CDM**, which were attended by a total of 600 stakeholders. The events provided an opportunity to share up-to-date information on the status of negotiations, information on 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). RCCs provided technical support to 275 CDM project activities and Programmes 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 **5 top-down standardized baselines** were supported. Consequently, seven proposed standardized baselines were submitted for approval, and four standardized baselines received approval from the CDM Executive Board. 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 RCCs further developed the capacity of CDM stakeholders and maintained interest and use of the CDM and/or CERs in the regions.

Table 2: RCC support to clean development mechanism project activities (PA), programmes of activities (PoA) and standardized baselines (SB) in 2019

PA-PoA support in 2019	Bangkok	Kampala	Lomé	Panama	St Georges'
275	86	54	53	54	28

SB support in 2019	Bangkok	Kampala	Lomé	Panama	St Georges'
45	8	9	7	6	15

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 Hub**² which should lead to stronger policies to assess and monitor the Caribbean region's contributions to addressing climate change. RCC Dubai while working with Mitigation Division, is supporting the Dubai Carbon Centre to pilot the CDM digitized methodologies platform of the UN Climate Change secretariat in the MENA region.

ADAPTATION

Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

The RCCs are supporting the efforts of the **Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI)**. RCC Dubai while working with the adaptation programme is supporting efforts of LAKI in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and North African sub-regions by **identifying and engaging** with relevant institutions and experts in closing identified priority knowledge gaps and **developing and disseminating** knowledge outputs for the intended knowledge users. RCC Dubai has conducted an extensive mapping exercise to identify relevant stakeholders in the region and is currently undertaking a stock take of the regional adaptation landscape. See the video on developments on LAKI in the MENA region.³

¹ Former RCC Bogotá that was established in August 2015.

² <https://ghginstitute.org/ccmrhv/>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czp8BctEeVA>

Online courses, publications and capacity-building

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 health**.⁴ More than 800 students from 21 countries participated in the four-week course. In the context of the NBF Project in Latin-American, a number of virtual meetings were conducted with the FTC team, the NDC-Partnership team and with UNFCCC in Bonn to move the NBF project forward. Some results were presented during the pre-COP in Costa Rica in October 2019. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in coordination with the RCC Panama worked together to strengthen the integration of issues related to human mobility in Climate change strategies in countries of the Americas. The two organisations published a study "Human Mobility in Latin America in the Climate Change Agenda needs and opportunities".

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Needs-based Finance Project

The RCCs are supporting implementation of the **Needs-based Finance Project** (NBF)⁵ 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, Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), Small Island Developing States in the Indian Ocean, Southern and Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia. See the video on NBF in the MENA region.⁶ Specific events supported by RCCs in 2019 included: a) Validation of the draft Climate Finance Strategy for four Melanesian island States in Port Vila, Vanuatu; b) Launch of the first phase of the NBF for the Southern Africa region in Johannesburg, South Africa, and for the Arab States in Manama, Bahrain; c) Inception workshop to launch the first phase of the NBF for the Arab States in Manama, Bahrain; and d) Inception workshop to launch the first phase of the NBF for Southeast Asian countries in Manila, the Philippines.

CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

⁴ Biannual reports on RCC operation are available at: <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>

⁵ <https://ghginstitute.org/ccmrhv/>

<https://unfccc.int/news/new-hub-launched-to-increase-transparency-of-climate-action-in-the-caribbean>

<http://www.un-gsp.org/event/enhancing-mrvtransparency-processes-climate-action-english-speaking-caribbean>

[https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/details/project/caribbean-cooperative-mrv-hub-ccmrhv-18 I 328-2964](https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/details/project/caribbean-cooperative-mrv-hub-ccmrhv-18-I-328-2964)

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-ciaca-initiative>

RCC Global Forum and Green Economy Conferences

The **annual RCC Global Forum** meeting was held on 20-21 October in Dubai concurrent with the World Green Economy Summit.⁷ RCC Dubai hosted the RCC Global Forum. The RCC Global Forum saw the official launch of the newest entrant to the RCC network, RCC Dubai, which will support countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. 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 GLZ, among others. As proposed by partners, in addition to the continuous support to the CDM, support to Article 6, adaptation, facilitating the mobilizing of climate finance, regional capacity-building on transparency, climate finance and NDCs under the Paris Agreement will be major areas of work for all six RCCs in 2020.

A special **high-level plenary session** was organized at all five WGEO conferences, facilitated through extensive engagement by RCC Dubai, which acted as a platform for the RCCs to showcase their work in the regions and to enable the potential for concrete regional action on a green economy:

- Bangkok, Thailand for the Asia-Pacific (10-12 June 2019)
- Fortaleza, Brazil for the Americas (24-26 June 2019)
- Cairo, Egypt for Africa (17-19 June 2019)
- Manama, Bahrain for Middle East and North Africa region (02-04 July 2019)
- Tashkent, Uzbekistan for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region (08-10 July 2019).

RCC Dubai and RCC Bangkok, with input from the other RCCs, with support of FTC programme produced a synthesis report entitled "From Climate Ambition to Climate Action: Highlights and Key Insights" which compiles the insights on climate finance emerging from these five sessions. The synthesis report was distributed at the "High-level Forum on Climate Finance Strategies for NDC Implementation" at COP 25.

Climate Finance

The **Needs-based Climate Finance (NBF) project** was developed by UN Climate Change in response to a COP mandate whereby Parties requested the secretariat "to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, and in translating climate finance needs into action" (6/CP.23, para 10). In addition, the CMP and CMA requested the secretariat to support the financing of climate projects (3/CMP.1, 6/CMP.11 and 12/CMA.1). Collectively, these mandates form the basis for assisting developing countries in assessing their needs and for mobilizing support to address these needs.

⁷<https://unfccc.int/news/regional-collaboration-centre-dubai-hosts-annual-rcc-global-forum>

The RCCs have underpinned initiatives in Climate Finance providing administrative, logistical and substantive support to workshops, , liaising with regional integration organizations and UN agencies, business development in the case of the Asian and Arab regions, and intelligence gathering in the case of Africa. There has been a very efficient collaboration between the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CIACA)⁸ project and the Alliances, which are presented in the next section. Though there are different approaches used for different RCC hosts to support the initiatives partners have boosted the efforts in the mobilization of and access to finance to address priority climate needs of the various regions. A case in point is the Climate Finance session at the WGEO regional events, organized and supported by the RCCs: RCC Panama delivered a key note presentation at the "V Regional Dialogue on Climate Finance" held on 19-20 March 2019 in San José, Costa Rica. The aim of the event was to analyze the opportunities and challenges presented by financing mechanisms and fiscal policies to meet the climate commitments of the countries in Latin America, as well as the role of development banks in channeling and injecting resources. The activity, organized by the EUROCLIMA + (European Union) and with the support of the Government of Costa Rica, brought together representatives of the financial sector, such as national, regional and international development banks, and officials from the finance and finance ministries responsible for the implementation of public policies related to the sources and resources available to face climate change in the region.

East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance

In June 2019, RCC Kampala in collaboration with GIZ, established the **East African Alliance on Carbon Markets** and Climate Finance,⁹ building on the similar initiative in in West Africa.¹⁰ The Alliance advances potential use of carbon markets, promotes a common vision to foster the establishment of a regional carbon markets and climate finance, and fosters coordinated participation of delegates from the East African region in UNFCCC negotiations. Membership to the Alliance 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 (NDCs)

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

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-collaborative-instruments-for-ambitious-climate-action-ciaca-initiative>

⁹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Launch%20of%20the%20East%20African%20Alliance_final.pdf
<https://www.carbon-mechanisms.de/en/initiatives/market-development/east-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance/>

¹⁰ <https://www.carbon-mechanisms.de/en/initiatives/market-development/west-african-alliance-on-carbon-markets-and-climate-finance/>

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 (NDC-P)** to support implementation of Belize's NDC¹¹. The RCCs have been recognized by the NDC-P as important logistical and networking resources. Exchange of intelligence between NDC-P and RCCs through regular team meetings is guiding organization of events, calls, etc, including NDC-P events during the regional climate weeks. RCCs' efforts in mobilizing resources on the ground to implement NDCs (e.g. RCC partner BOAD's proposal of funding a local expert) are viewed positively by donors. Many RCC activities aim to facilitate Parties implementation of their NDCs – not just delivering workshops and events but beyond that. .

Engagement with the 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, including through the establishment of a collaboration platform with a focus on climate change information in Latin America for UN agencies as response to a request more coordination and more centralized access to information on the outcome of the annual UN climate conferences (COPs), . RCC Bangkok provided the UN National Resident Coordinator and other UN Agencies of Thailand briefing on the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019, and closely worked with the regional UNDS office (UN Development System) for Asia-Pacific region on implementation of the new UN system and 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. The RCC Bangkok participated in the Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific and supports UN ESCAP in organizing round tables during the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in order to be able to submit regional inputs to High Level Political Forum (HLPF). RCC Dubai supported the signing of Letters of Engagement between the UNFCCC and League of Arab States (LAS) secretariat and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Africa (UN ESCWA) to create a foundation framework which can support the implementation of the Arab climate finance strategy . Other RCCs are expected to engage with the UN system in 2020.

Local Capacity Development, Gender and Youth Engagement

Local capacity-building was a key focus. The post-Paris climate regime will require all countries to significantly increase their efforts to reduce emissions while at the same time strengthening their resilience to the impacts of climate change. However, despite this common challenge, not all countries are at the same stage of development, nor do they have the same capability. This reality must be considered when building a low-carbon and climate-resilient world

¹¹ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/RCC%20St.pdf>

equitably. For the new international climate agreement to be universal, effective capacity-building is vital for enabling developing countries to contribute to the global effort to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. The 2019 report of the CDM Executive Board highlights the important role the RCCs played in capacity-building during the reporting period. They provide capacity-building and training on standardized baselines through direct technical support at the national level and via events at the regional and sub-regional levels in Africa, Asia-Pacific, South Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Workshops were provided for designated national authorities on the topics of climate finance instruments and implementation of NDCs. RCC Dubai supported the FTC programme on capacity-building for key high-level stakeholders in the Arab states in an ongoing manner, in part through special briefings to Arab negotiators regarding the Arab States Climate Finance work during sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) and during COP25. RCC Panama collaborated with UNDP to publish the "Guideline for Latin American climate change negotiators: towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement". The purpose of this guideline is to provide a solid base of information to the negotiators in the region, to facilitate their participation in international climate change negotiations. Latin America is highly vulnerable and has enormous potential to contribute to the reduction and absorption of GHG emissions, and to the discussion about the transformation towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development models. The guide seeks to complement other tools developed to guide climate change negotiators. For example, the UN Climate Change has developed an online guide for new negotiators to get the full picture or big picture of the negotiation process. RCC Panama collaborated with technical inputs to the guideline. The RCCs have supported the creation of local capacity, with most of the RCCs engaging local RCC staff, in the following capacity-building initiatives:

- RCC Retreat
- Summer Academy
- DNA Forum
- CDM Executive Board
- LMA Access to Local Capacity
- RCC Global Forum.

Gender - RCCs have worked consistently in coordination with the Gender Team at the secretariat to ensure that special attention was given to ensure equal participation in capacity training activities, workshops and seminars organized by the RCCs in collaboration with partners. The focus of gender work at RCCs level was developed in line with the Enhanced Lima Work Plan Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) agreed at COP 25 (Decision 3/CP.25) The coordination of gender sessions within the NDC Dialogue in LAC co-organized by the RCC Panama at the margins of the LACCW in close collaboration with the UNDP's gender focal point is a clear example of how RCCs have also reached out to other UN agencies, such as UNDP and UN Women at country and regional level to strengthen coordination on gender related matters. In the Asia Pacific region, Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) has been identified as one of the six work streams of the upcoming Climate Finance Network (CFN).

Upon discussion with UNDP, RCC Bangkok was invited to participate in the “Climate Finance Network Gender and Social Inclusion Workstream Reference Group Meeting”.

Youth – In 2019 RCC Panama collaborated with MIAMBIENTE, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), and UNDP Panama office, to create the “Panama Climate Change Youth Network” (Spanish Red de Jóvenes frente al Cambio Climático de Panamá (RJCCP)), supported the Second edition of the Youth Leadership Academy on Climate Change and also supported the Launch of the third version of the academy (to be held in 2020). More than 60 youth have been instructed about climate change, Climate Neutral Now (CNN) and how to structure GHG mitigation projects. All received CNN certificates. In addition, one of the co-founders of the network won one of the 100 green tickets and attended Climate Summit 2019 in New York City. Currently, the network is collaborating with Panama Canal and local Universities on national consultations and conferences about climate change. RCC Dubai has begun rolling out a unique initiative across all RCCs, in collaboration with its host partner, to establish a Regional Coordinator Network, comprised of youth coordinators. The network will place a regional youth coordinator at each RCC to act as a hub of green economy knowledge and action thereby supporting the region in providing coherence and coordination on green economy activities and building local capacity. RCC Dubai is additionally moving forward on establishing an Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment (AGYLE) for the MENA and South Asia region as the project relating to AGYLE has been successfully approved by the RCC Dubai Steering Committee. Moreover, RCC Dubai has conducted a gap analysis of ACE focal points in the region and initiated an outreach campaign to receive nominations for ACE focal points from countries that may not have nominated them yet to increase ACE coverage in the region and promote the creation of ACE strategy.

D. Projects and Initiatives

D.1. CiACA:

Since 2016, UN Climate Change has been providing technical support to jurisdictions considering adopting carbon pricing instruments under its **Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action** (CiACA)¹¹ workstream.



Photo 1: 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

- Elaborated the second phase of **CiACA** 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), CiACA held an event focused on the role of regional platforms, which covered the relevance of regional collaboration 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
- **Pakistan**, with support from RCC Dubai and 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.

D.2. MRV Hub:

Regional cooperation for Transparency has been catalyzed by the RCCs. Increased attention is placed on high-level of transparency to achieve ambitious climate targets under the Paris Agreement. Besides the national GHG emissions inventories, all Parties are also required to report on progress towards their climate targets as well as on support received at a regular frequency. Robust MRV systems for these countries are important not only for reporting to the UNFCCC, but also

Photo 2: Participants of meeting to discuss MRV in St. George's, Grenada. Image: GHG Management Institute



for accessing climate change resources like Green Climate Fund and, establishing and monitoring national policies and measures, as well as meeting other international reporting needs like SDG performance having robust data collection. Reporting systems are important for these countries. While all Parties wish for a maximum of transparency, concrete implementation is often hindered by a lack of domestic capacity, especially in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centers have identified this challenge and work together with other regional and international partners to support developing country Parties in addressing these challenges, by establishing regional MRV platforms. By reducing the barriers and strengthening regional capacity, and sharing experiences and expertise in a cooperative manner, the MRV platforms are expected to enhance participation and transparency of activities under the Paris Agreement.

RCC Lomé together with UNDP-UNEP Global Support Programme for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (GSP), and ECOWAS secretariat established in 2017 the ECOWAS MRV Network to support countries in the region. The network was successful in training sectoral experts, creating a network of experts and providing a platform for regular sharing of experiences and best practices within the region, supported by technical expertise of the RCC and other international experts. RCC Kampala, learning from the positive experience of ECOWAS MRV Network, is working on establishing a similar network for East Africa.

RCC St. George's, together with GHGMI, established the **Caribbean Cooperative Measurement, Reporting and Verification Hub** (CCMRVH), which is an initiative supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and International Climate Initiative (IKI), for the first five years of its operation. UNDP-UNEP GSP are also a partner for this project and the secretariat of the CCMRVH is hosted at the RCC offices in Grenada. The CCMRVH is built on a model of sustainable and country-driven partnership that enables countries to cooperate on technical challenges underlying climate

change reporting. Now a year into its operation, the Hub is continually working to foster regional and technical excellence while generating stronger policy-relevant MRV reporting aimed at empowering English-speaking CARICOM countries to efficiently develop Greenhouse Gas inventories and mitigation assessments and track their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

RCC Bangkok on the other hand has conducted several activities to strengthen the MRV systems in the region. It operates under various partnerships. Under the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA) Initiative of UNFCCC, it conducted a study on cooperative MRV as a foundation for a potential regional carbon market within ASEAN. The study was conducted in cooperation with the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Changes. A working group under the ASEAN Secretariat. The report has been widely recognized as a first comprehensive status and comparison on MRV systems within ASEAN member states. It also undertook an International Market Mechanisms and Transparency project under the Paris Agreement with its RCC host partner IGES. Building on the lessons from the CCMRVH, RCC Bangkok worked with the AWGCC and the CCMRVH partners to replicate the CCMRVH model in the Pacific Islands.

D.3. Climate Weeks:

The RCCs have supported the Regional Climate Weeks by securing high level participation, bringing relevant speakers and ensuring that local and regional organizations are adequately represented and engaged. This was possible thanks to their strong networks on the ground and their ability to identify and engage relevant stakeholders. In addition, the RCCs have been instrumental in driving CDM and market mechanism related discussions during the Regional Climate Weeks in 2019. During the **Africa Climate Week 2019**, RCC Kampala organized three sessions dedicated to further promote the CDM in Africa. One session showcased the most successful countries (Republic of South Africa, Kenya and Uganda) in terms of implementing the CDM Programme of Activities. An additional session provided an overview of the CDM Loan Scheme statistics and experience, its unique pilot character, adaptive approach and technical/market challenges (including Certified Emission Reductions price). Finally, a dedicated session was honored with the presence of a former CDM Executive Board member, Arthur Rolle, who touched upon the importance of the CDM and the current situation of the intergovernmental negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. All sessions were very well attended. In the **Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2019**, RCC Panama delivered a dedicated session focused on how the CDM CERs in the region have served in the development of carbon-pricing strategies and the expectations for future developments. Approximately 60 people attended the session. Finally, during the **Asia Pacific Climate Week 2019** RCC Bangkok hosted a dedicated session entitled “Climate Action in Waste Sector – Standardized Baseline Development” to highlight the opportunities offered by CDM standardized baselines to scale up and replicate mitigation projects, contributing to the achievement of the countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions and the use for different

purposes, such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, climate finance, result based finance, etc.

In 2019, it was also announced that MENA Climate Week would be added to the annual Regional Climate Weeks. The first ever edition of MENA Climate Week 2020 would be organized in Dubai, UAE in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and WGEO, with the support of RCC Dubai.



Photo 3: Opening of the LACCW2019

E. 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 Spanish**.¹³ 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.

2019 saw the development and publishing of various **RCC brochures** as well as initiating the process to revamp the different RCCs websites with each RCC having a website that has brochures which highlight overview of RCC work. During COP24 a 2-page brochure was printed presenting the RCC initiatives and one focusing on CiACA were circulated to all the Ministers and National Focal points present.

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

THE NEED
Countries in the MENA area under severe water stress. Climate change will likely exacerbate this condition and further intensification will have severe implications on ecosystems, land degradation and agricultural yields, in a region whose population is mostly agricultural and already dependent on food imports. Many countries in the region are making progress on issue of sustainable development by addressing energy needs and providing renewable, enabled through diversified domestic financial markets and investments, in the region and beyond.

As encapsulated in the Paris Agreement, there is an urgent need to enhance the provision of finance, technology and capacity-building that is known, predictable and alignment of finance for nationally defined climate and sustainable development goals.

OBJECTIVES
The project is designed to deliver regional clarity on mobilization and access of climate finance to support the needs identified by countries. Regarding the implementation of priority adaptation projects and investments with mitigation co-benefits in accordance with the goals outlined in the National Adaptation Communication (NAC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and other relevant national policies and/or strategies. The project builds on and complements, existing climate finance work underway and helps to establish collaborations, frameworks and avoid duplication.

The project aims to facilitate a country-driven needs assessment and a resulting climate finance mobilization and access strategy for the Arab region. This will be achieved by operationalizing the following phases:

1. Assessment of the strategy at the highest political level
2. Develop an all-inclusive Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy as a country-driven matter, to be led by a group of countries through, for instance, a regional organization for benefitting the needs assessment.
3. Operationalization of the strategy at the highest political level
4. Support the translation of climate finance into finance action by a rigorous and bottom-up oriented. Utilization of climate finance, including through private sector driven.
5. Investment in the region and beyond.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION
Project Overview
This project employs a country-driven approach to develop a regional climate finance mobilization and access strategy endorsed at the highest political level and to facilitate catalysing project finance, particularly for adaptation projects with mitigation co-benefits.

KEY EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Assessment of climate finance needs and utilization of financial institutions climate finance in the region
- Developed and endorsed regional climate finance mobilization and access strategy at the highest political level
- Consultation and validation of Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy for the region, including mainstreaming and green finance mainstreaming
- Project pipelines matched to finance with the public and private financing institutions, both domestic and international in the Arab, Greater in-region, Central, Southwestern and other relevant engagements in the region
- An important network of local points and champions established to oversee the project and long-term climate finance strategy

GET INVOLVED
The project offers several opportunities for collaborative action, whether individual or as a group.

- Regional climate finance assessment
- Project assessment and technical assistance
- Engagement and participation of Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy

By the way, you can visit the website: www.arab-climate-finance.org

Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy

Figure 3: Sample of RCC brochure

UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres
Catalyse Climate Action

The United Nations Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) and five prominent partners are catalysing action on the ground through regional collaboration centres (RCCs) combining climate change expertise with in-depth local knowledge.

Set up to spread the benefits of the clean development mechanism (CDM), the RCCs have broadened their role since adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change in December 2015, supporting the development and implementation of countries' nationally determined contributions to climate action under that agreement, with a particular focus on markets and mechanisms.

Key benefits

- Direct support, partnerships and outreach
- Enhanced participation in UNFCCC processes
- Technical expertise and experience in the regional context
- Close collaboration with informed public and private officials
- Active network of non-party stakeholders, including project owners
- Close partnerships with financial institutions
- Broad coverage – at regional, national and sub-national levels
- Matching of actions with sources of funding
- Decreased risk, shorter time to launch of activities
- Support from initial idea to recognition of results
- Enhanced recognition of mitigation outcomes, actions and climate neutrality for non-party stakeholders

The RCCs work with

- Governments and government agencies
- Subnational jurisdictions – provinces, cities, towns
- International organizations and institutions
- National, regional and multilateral development and funding agencies
- Businesses
- Private, public and multilateral banks
- NGOs
- Research and academia

Identification and assessment

- CDM projects and programmes
- Policies, carbon markets, carbon pricing, renewable energy support schemes, etc.

Technical support

- Plan development – nationally determined contributions, low emission development plans, national adaptation plans, policies, etc.
- Tools to assess climate action – monitoring reporting and verification, standardized baselines
- Promotion and support to nationally appropriate mitigation actions, sectoral policies, CDM projects, etc.

Capacity building

- Enhancing capacity of policymakers and public and private sector officials
- Supporting participation in the UNFCCC process
- Measuring, reporting and promoting successful, replicable outcomes

Climate Finance

- Project assessment to inform potential investors
- Development of bankable project proposals
- Support in preparation of funding and investment proposals
- Matching activities with sources of finance

The RCCs welcome collaboration proposals and requests for technical assistance.

West Africa
RCC Lagos
West African Development Bank (BAD)
68, Av. de la Libération, B.P. 1172 Lagos, Togo
Tel: +228 2223 1779
Fax: +228 2223 2300
Email: rccwaf@unfccc.int
Skype: rcc.lagos
Website: <http://www.rcc-wa.com>

East Africa
RCC Kampala
East African Development Bank (EADB)
4 Mill Avenue, P.O. Box 7128, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 417 112 900
Email: rcckampala@unfccc.int
Skype: rcc.kampala
Website: <http://www.rcc-ke.com>

Latin America
RCC Bogota
CAF Development Bank of Latin America
Carrión 8, No. 76-49, Edificio ING
Bogotá, Colombia
Tel: +571 743 73 26/29
Email: rccbogota@unfccc.int
Skype: rcc.bogota
Website: <http://www.rcc-la.com>

Caribbean
RCC St. George's
Winward Island Research and Education Foundation (WINREF), P.O. Box 7 Grenada, West Indies
Tel: +1 473 489 2000 Ext.3020
Fax: +1 473 484 3219
Email: rccstgeorges@unfccc.int
Skype: rcc.stgeorges
Website: <http://www.rcc-cs.com>

Asia and Pacific
RCC Bangkok
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), 604-86 Tower 6F, 36-1-15 Minatohikokubo 3-chome, Nishi-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +66 2 6518784 to 8799
Fax: +66 2 651 8796
Email: rccbangkok@unfccc.int
Skype: rcc.bangkok
Website: <http://www.rcc-asia.com>

UNFCCC
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Website: <http://unfccc.org>

The RCCs are supported by partners, donors and the CDM Executive Board.

Figure 4: Sample of RCC brochure (continued)

F. RCC in Numbers

F.1. Resource Planner

RCCs use Excel based **Resource Planners** to ensure **results-based planning, monitoring and reporting on** implementation of their workplans. The Results Based Management (RBM) approach has improved on **Planning**, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on results from RCC activities and gauge value addition in the regions. Through the Resources Planner, all RCC operations are constantly tracked, regular reports are generated, and dashboards are available that show general progress on the workplan (with KPIs and activity status), partnerships, resource mobilization and RCC resource contributions. All RCCs list a range of priorities and workstream-related activities. Accompanying notes or issues logged in the issue tracker are updated to indicate the status of the activities. Continuous monitoring of quarterly milestones or success rates of those tasks are done in order to ascertain the implementation status at any given time. Data and information from the Resource Planner is used to prepare half-year and year-end management reports using an established Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E Framework). The M&E Framework is designed to continuously assess whether the activities being carried out in the RCCs meet the defined objectives and are in line with the MOUs signed with Host Partner institutions..

The RCCs, have a good balance of support to CDM work and other areas of the secretariat's work, including diverse capacity-building/ events organized by the RCCs.

The chart below shows the percentage of Goal distribution per RCC, with 41% of efforts focused on **Goal 1**, 35% on **Goal 2** and 24% on **Goal 3**.

RCC Dubai which was recently launched follows a project-oriented approach to accomplish its work. RCC Dubai's project portfolio consists of a range of projects designed to: fill knowledge gaps in adaptation to climate change, create strategies to access climate finance, increase regional participation in global climate action, strengthen the capacity of youth to contribute to the regional and global response to climate change, and introduce new methodologies and tools to address climate change. Each project a detailed Project Initiation Note with clear actionable steps and measurable KPIs. These projects also closely relate to the goals mentioned above and are also aligned to the Resource Planner.

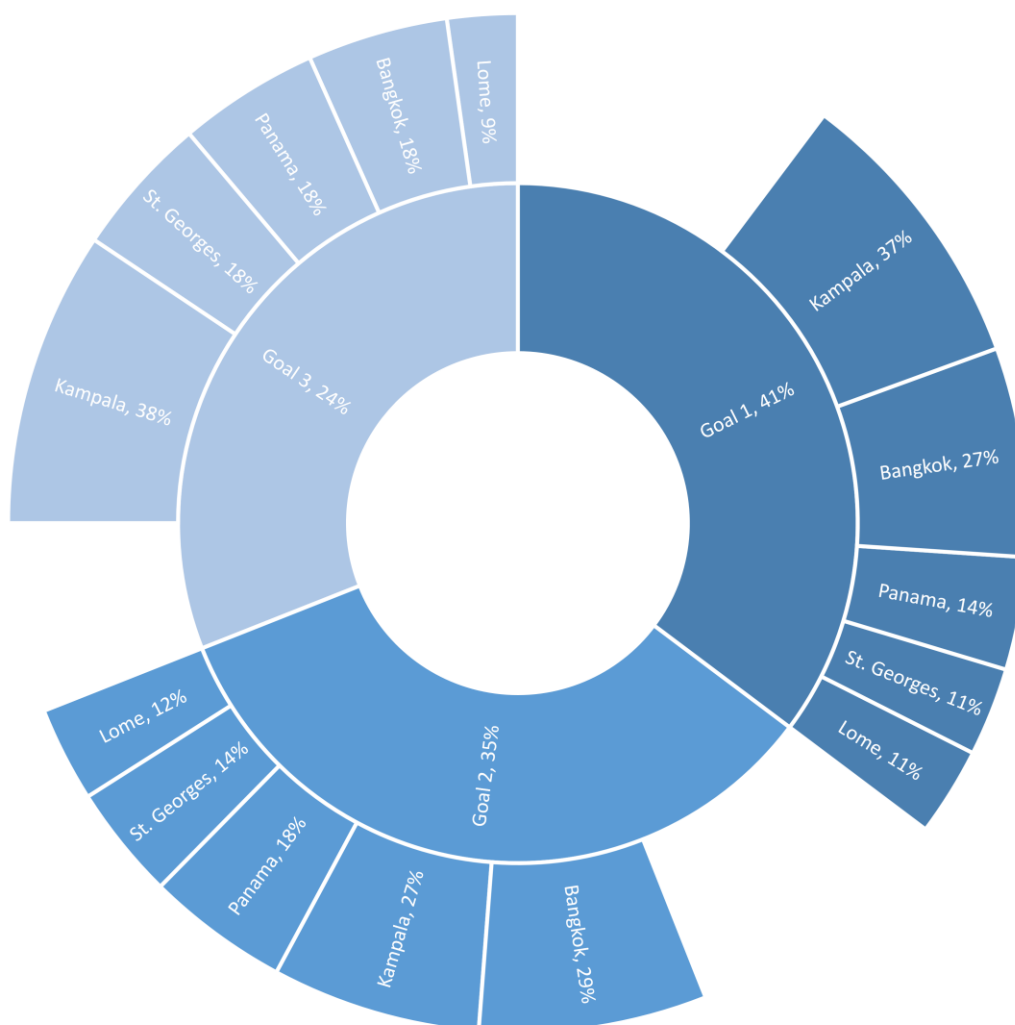


Figure 5:RCC goal distribution

F.2. Articles and Newsletters Published

This report,also contains a high-level overview of articles that are published on two major information sharing portals: the UNFCCC’s internal portal, **SIA**, where news items are published regularly and the **RCC websites** where newsletters on the various activities implemented by the RCCs are published on a quarterly basis.

For this reporting period, the RCCs hadwritten 58 articleswhich were published either on their website and other online publications. Eleven newsletters have been posted on the RCC websites highlighting key achievements of RCC initiatives. Lomé and Panama have posted Newsletters in French and Spanish to ensure a wider audience receives the information. There

are several themes that feature in all the articles, such as climate finance, partnerships, youth engagement, capacity-building, climate finance and the climate weeks.

The dominant theme is **Regional Collaboration**, where the RCCs bring together different partners, governments, development agencies to work together towards meeting the challenge of climate change. The collaborations convene a diverse group of stakeholders from around the region to seek their recommendations on what is needed to accelerate climate action and to discuss solutions to challenges faced by the specific region. The RCCs implement these actions in collaboration with several partners.

Capacity-building is another key theme in the work of RCCs which provides an important avenue toward enhancing climate action. Despite a wide range of multilateral and bilateral efforts, most partners continue to face significant capacity challenges, subsequently undermining their ability to effectively or fully carry out climate actions. It is therefore important for RCCs to continually support regions through capacity-building. Capacity has been built on establishing a carbon registry, MRVs hubs, development and managing of CDM activities, building resilience to climate change and preparing for Article 6 implementation.

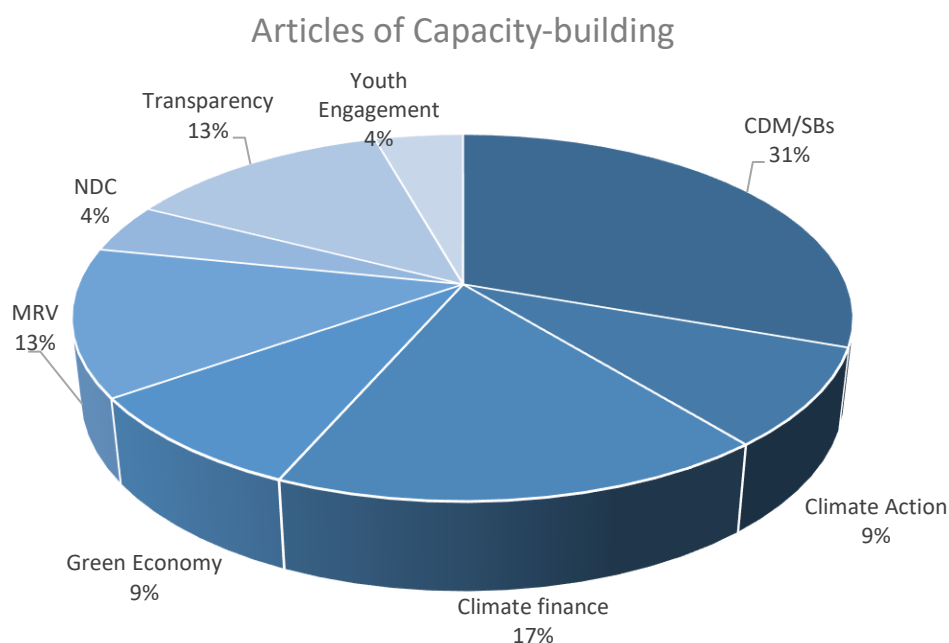


Figure 7: Communications on Capacity-building Activities

F.3. RCC Events

In 2019, the RCCs conducted a total of **78 events**. The events varied from workshops to conferences, forums, trainings and seminars. These events targeted various CDM stakeholders, International organizations, UN agencies, NGO, University/School and the Private sector. Modalities of implementing these events range from being directly organized by the RCCs or as co-organizers, participants, contributors, presenters and facilitators during the events.

In **33% of these events**, the RCCs acted as co-organizers, highlighting their important role in these strategic partnership initiatives.

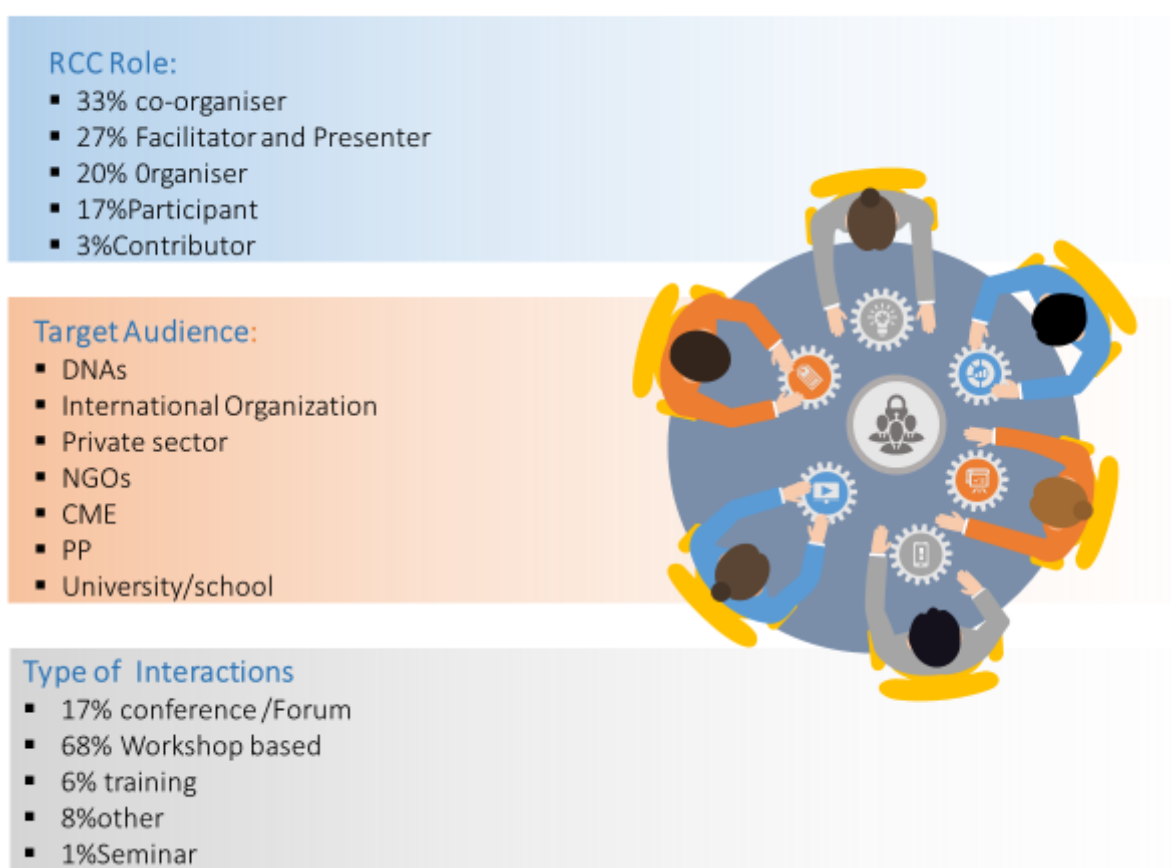


Figure 8: RCC Role, Target Audience, and Types of Interactions in RCC events

Prominent themes that featured in the events were **Climate Action, CDM, Youth Engagement, NDCs, National communications, Gender, Climate Finance** and the **Climate Weeks**.



Photo 4: Participants Technical Workshop on Needs Based Finance for the southern Africa (SADC) region (Technical Workshop on Climate Finance in in Johannesburg, South Africa, 4-5 November 2019

Most dominant were events on the **CDM**, where RCCS held events that centered around **CDM projects and PoAs, CDM processes**, Compliance Markets, Non-compliance Markets/ Voluntary Markets, Climate Change Finance, **SBL**, NAMA, **SD tool**, INDCs, Adaptation, RCC outreach, **CDM Funding / Investment**.

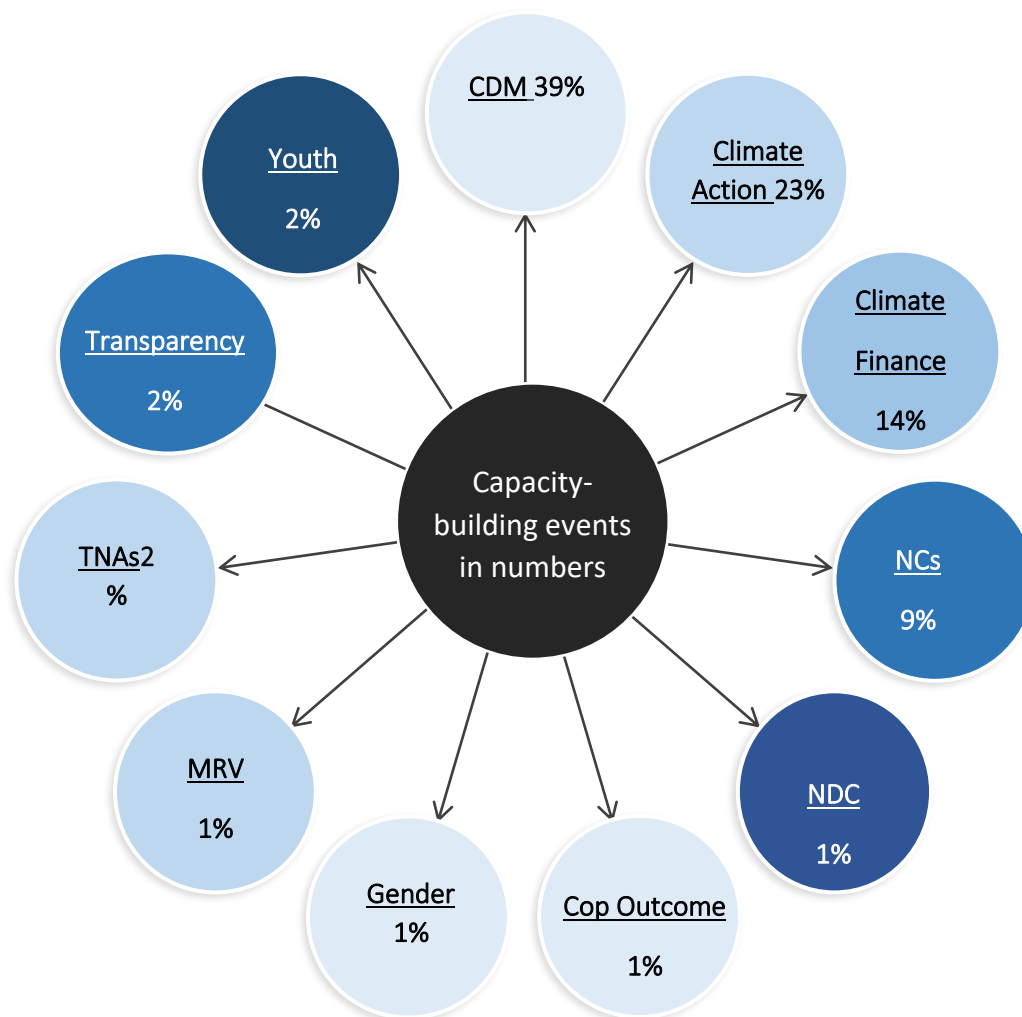


Figure 9: Prominent themes delivered through the 78 workshops, trainings, gatherings by RCCs in 2019 (underlined are links to examples of capacity-building report)

RCC events bring together Partners, Governments and **Developing Partners** to work together in order to tackle challenges related to climate change. The collaborations in these events involve a diverse group of stakeholders from around the region to seek their recommendations on what is needed to speed up Climate Action and discuss solutions to related challenges faced by the specific region.

Events also revolve heavily around **Climate Action** and the enhancement of Climate Action, one of the mandates of the RCCs. Capacity-building events which were directly organized or

co-organized by RCCs were mostly centered on the CDM and National communications. RCCs ensure optimum impact out of these capacity-building events by creating the environment within which capacity-building takes place naturally rather than the traditional top-down capacity-building. The programmes are designed to provide more opportunity to listen to what **Ministries and local authorities** want, in order to give them a sense of ownership and make the event demand driven. Where appropriate, local resource persons are invited and collaboration amongst participants are encouraged. Thus, the six RCCs have been building capacity in mobilizing CDM and other competencies, as shown in the figure below, in various regions through collaborative arrangements between UN Climate Change and regional development banks or academic/training institutions of different regions, with emphasis on retaining capacity to achieve long-term impact from the capacity built.

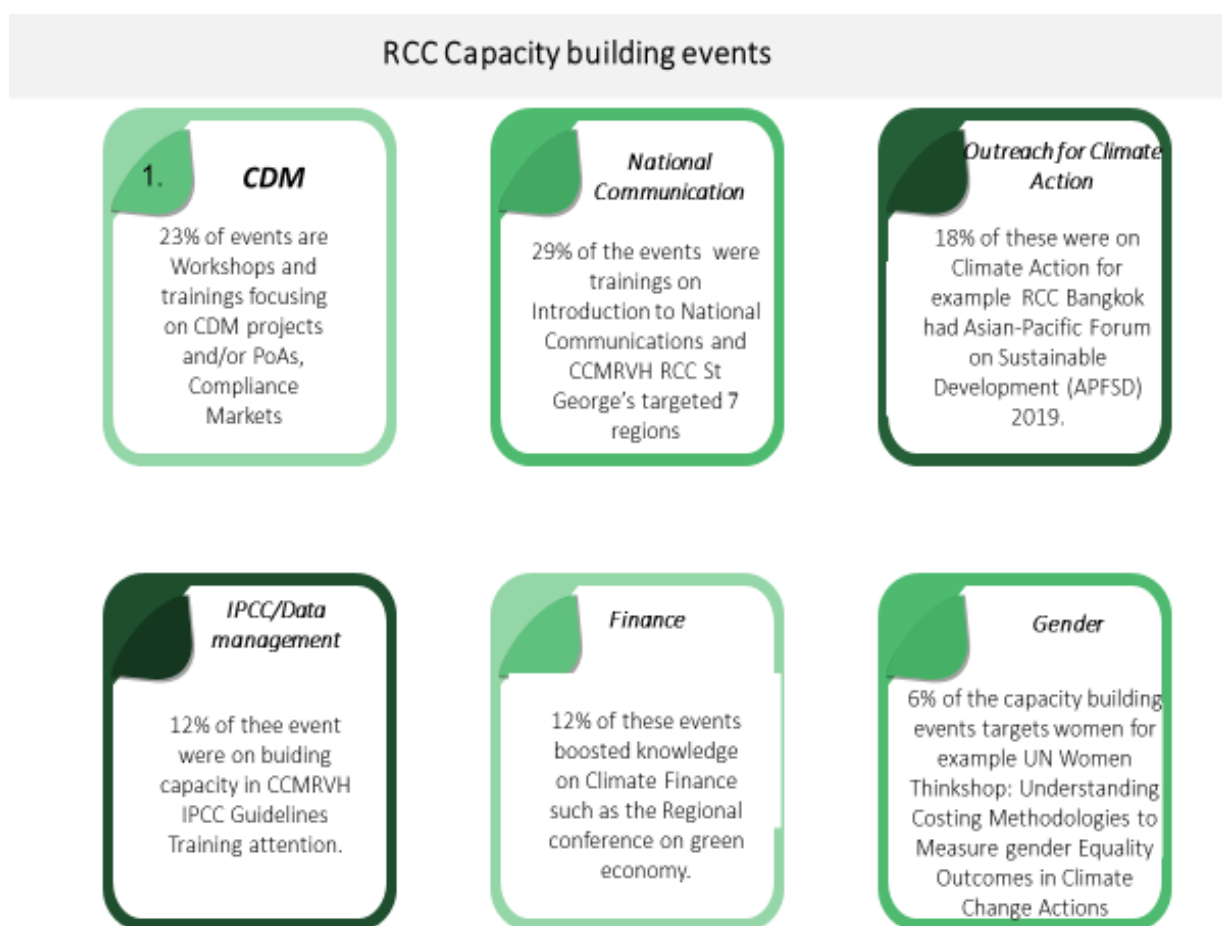


Figure 10: Six types of Capacity-building Events held by RCCs in 2019

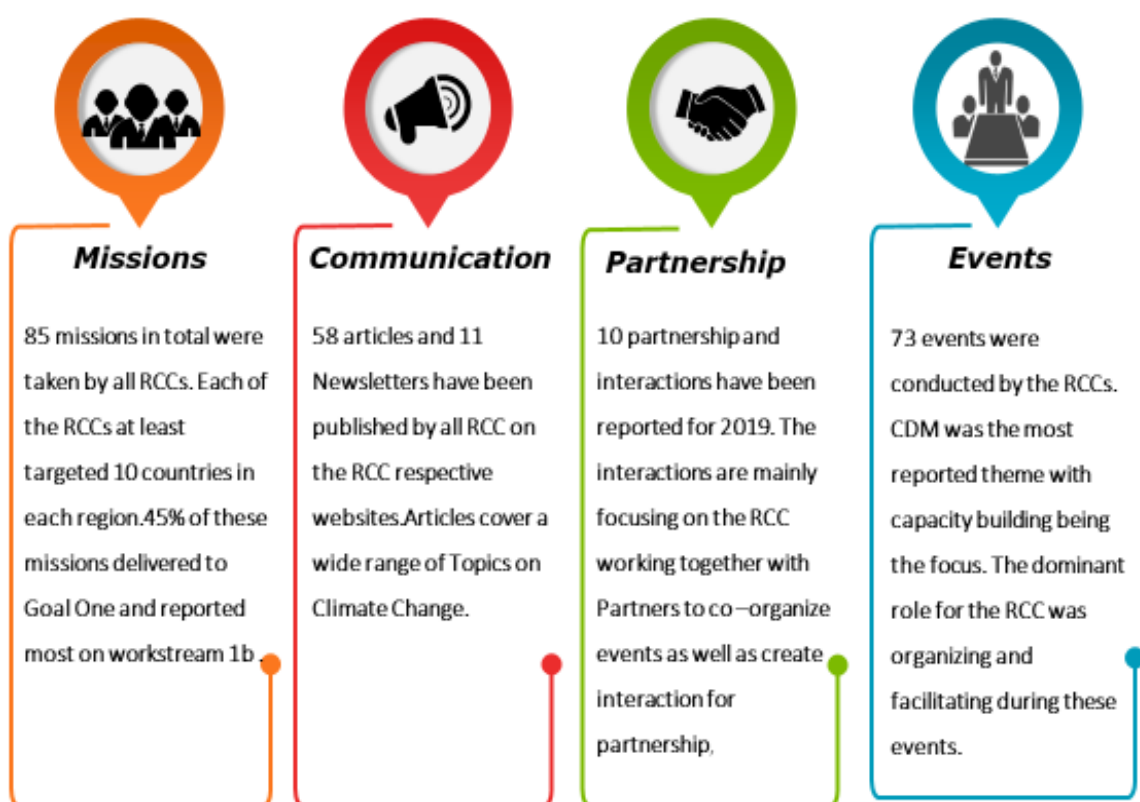


Figure11: Breakdown of RCC Numbers

F.4. Partnerships and Interactions

Working with partners lends RCCs greater credibility and broadens the scope of what the RCC approach can achieve. Partnerships serve as an answer to the needs of greater interaction, varied skills and sharing of risks. It is important to have several partners at the table to give different viewpoints and help incorporate the RCC goals into a much broader agenda. From

exposure to knowledge sharing, pooling resources to adding credibility, partnering with other organizations adds value. Regardless of who RCCs partner with, partnerships can help unlock access to an entirely new community of prospective Climate Action supporters through RCCs' partners' network.

Below are the range of partnerships the RCCs are involved in:

Partnership between RCC Panama and ParlAmericas

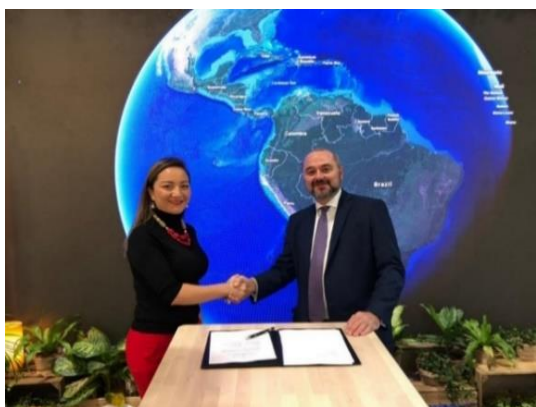


Photo 5: At COP 25, H.E. Ana Belén Marín (President of the Parliamentary Network of Climate Change) along with James Grabert (SDM Director) formalizing the cooperation between ParlAmericas and the UNFCCC. Marín: “articulated work will allow us to continue

Partnership between RCC Dubai and WGEO

Photo 6: Images courtesy of Emirates247.com:

(L-R) James Grabert; H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Cabinet Member and Minister of Climate Change and Environment, the United Arab Emirates; H.E. Saeed Mohamed Al Tayer, Chair, WGEO



Example of RCC partners in 2019



Figure 11: Partnerships with Individual RCCs

RCC Partnership interactions tended to relate to **partnership building**, **funding** resources, **joint project implementation**, funding of events, communications and outreach, and co-organising events. Most of the interactions were focused on co-organising events and partnership development.

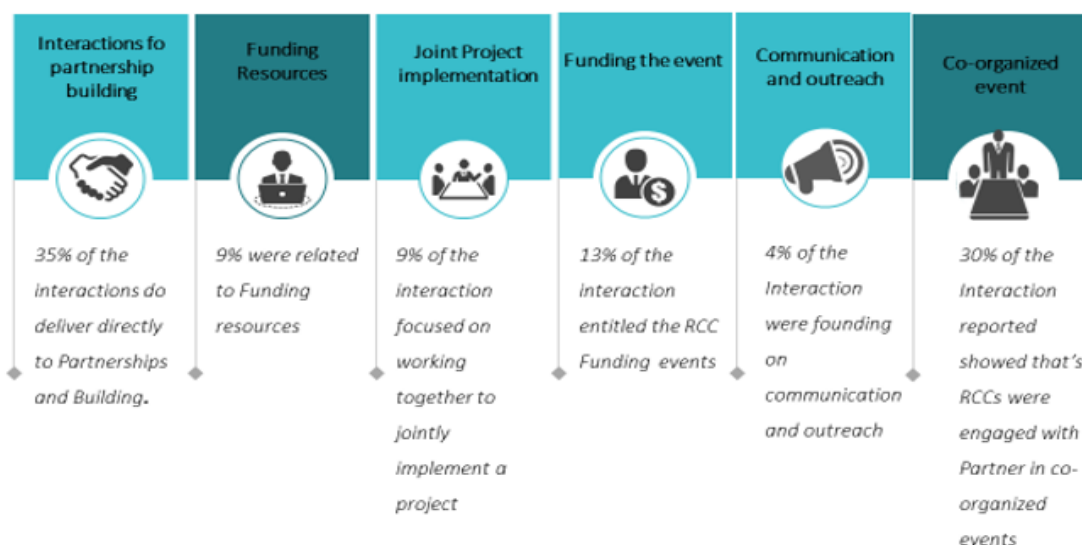


Figure 12: Breakdown of RCC Interactions

F.5. Missions

The RCC missions contributed most to Goal One, which is to provide effective technical and substantive support to CDM stakeholders by developing bottom-up and top-down standardized baselines (SBLs), use of the CDM tool, finance for CDM projects and responding to CDM Queries); and to Goal Two, which focuses on facilitating regional engagement to promote action towards achieving the objectives and goals of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, in collaboration with UNFCCC programmes, RCC host institutions, and partnerships.

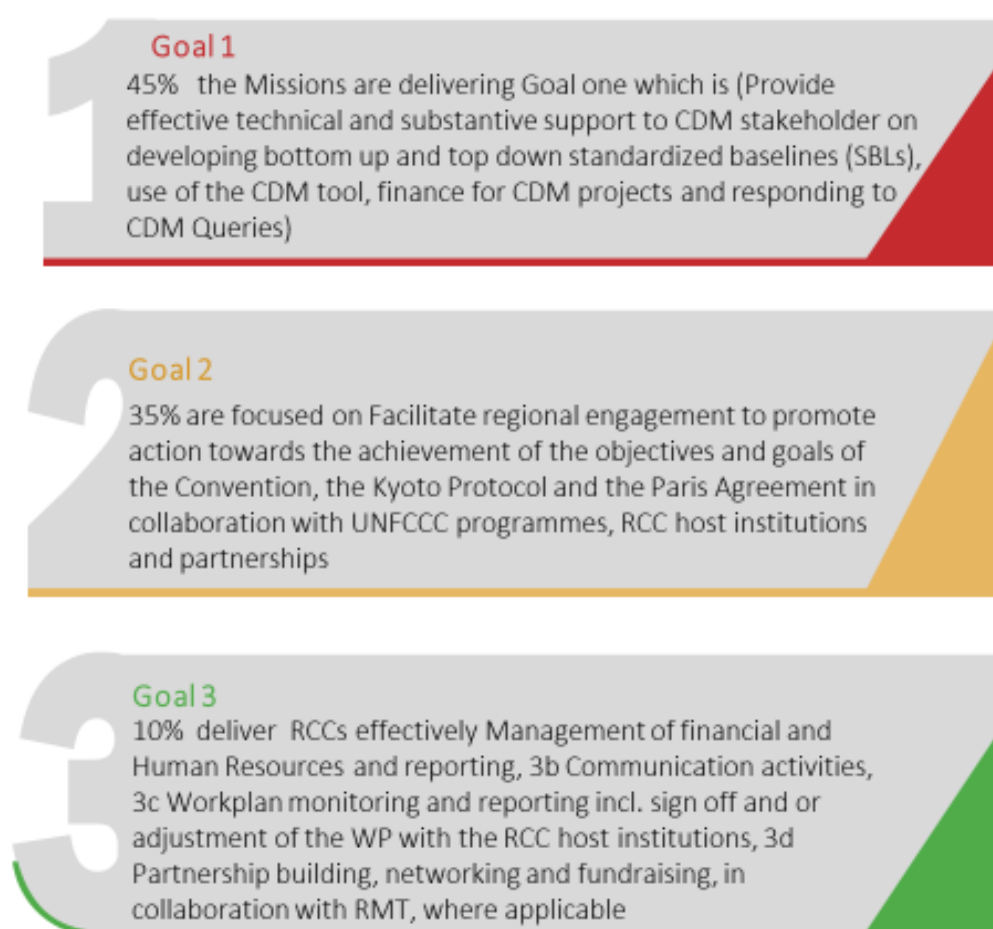


Figure 13: Goals of RCCs

While 56 countries were targeted by all RCCs, please note that some RCCs targeted the same country with different missions taken on by different staff. St George's targeted the most

countries; it had 13 missions out of the 56 countries, or 23% of the countries. Bangkok had the least countries targeted 10 and the rest all targeted 11 countries each as per the chart below.

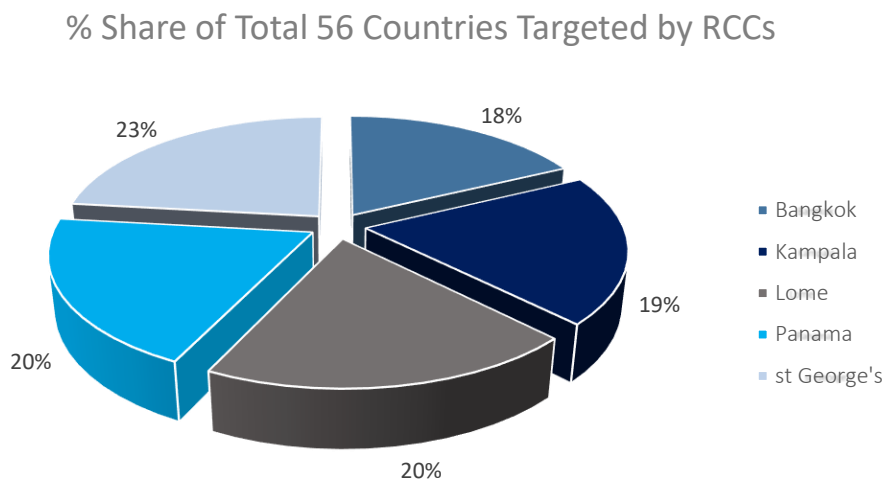


Figure 14: % Share of Total 56 Countries Targeted by RCCs

G. Moving on to 2020

The 2020-21 RCC Strategy indicates that for the Paris Agreement to succeed RCCs must leverage the convening power of the UNFCCC process to connect stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness and impact of their efforts. This role requires developing synergies among similar activities and having a more coherent approach that breaks barriers between traditional organisations- based workstreams to a more subject-based approach in fulfilling climate change related mandates. The envisaged outcome of the RCC Strategy is to seamlessly provide guidance and support on climate action and strategic direction in the regions to both Party and Non-Party stakeholders. With this in mind, the RCCs will (a) fill potential gaps between UNFCCC mandates and their concrete implementation by working directly in the regions with the many international and regional development support organizations and development banks; (b) Engage the Regional Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams and invite them to use the already established RCCs to strengthen support at the country level as the world moves towards effective implementation of the Paris Agreement; (c) Creating public and private partnerships to ensure a needs-based, country-driven approach to scale, accelerate and increase ambitious action to address climate change and increase resilience; (d) Future of non-state climate action becoming more and more relevant: potential of climate weeks is enormous and so RCCs will continue to support to them; (e) The CMP and its Presidents, as well as the COP, have repeatedly urged KP Parties intending to ratify the Doha Amendment to expedite their domestic procedures to deposit their instruments of acceptance with the Depositary as soon as possible.

Following the development of the strategy, the 2020 RCC workplan has tried to put in place concrete activities for the current year.

The 2020 Workplan has three broad goals with identified outcomes and KPIs. The workplan outlines the support provided by the regional presence of UN Climate Change (secretariat), in collaboration with its host institutions, in facilitating, catalyzing and supporting local and regional climate action across all the climate secretariat's substantive areas of work providing strategic direction, using a network of effective public and private partnerships, which ensure a needs-based country-driven approach to scale, and accelerate and increase ambitious action to address climate change and increase resilience.

The three goals¹² aim to create synergies among similar activities under different workstreams and have a more coherent approach that focuses key areas of work of the secretariat. Those

¹² In the case of newly established RCC Dubai, the three goals for the RCC's for 2020 are deeply linked to the project approach being operationalized by RCC Dubai in the MENA and South Asia regions. RCC Dubai's projects encompass the support RCCs are expected to provide under the three goals for the implementation of

areas of work include Mitigation, Adaptation, Transparency, Finance, Technology & Capacity-building. This role of the RCCs is to ensure seamless guidance and support to Party and non-Party stakeholders on climate action and strategic direction in the regions with the main objective of:

Ensure effective support to promote Mitigation and Sustainable Development.

*Goal 1 supports the implementation of the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** of the Kyoto Protocol.*

Goal 1 includes communication, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, technical support, regional coordination and any other activity performed that are necessary to keep the CDM active in the RCC regions and ensure geographical distribution.



Take lead and collaborate with other UNFCCC Divisions, RCC host institutions, partners, NDC-Partnership, GCF etc. to support implementation of the Paris Agreement, regional and national climate strategies and policies on Adaptation, Transparency, Finance, Technology & Capacity-building



Goal 2 facilitates the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the areas of Adaptation, Transparency, Finance, Technology and Capacity-building, as well as, supporting the development and effective implementation of innovative market-based approaches building on the lessons learnt from the CDM to

broaden the engagement in and effectiveness of action to mitigate climate change and drive sustainable development. This goal also aims at facilitating the operationalization of the cooperative approaches established by Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and broader efforts to engage non-Party stakeholders in climate action.

Management, Business Development and regional climate change coordination

Goal 3 is about the mobilization and coordination of Climate Action in the Regions and putting measure in place to ensure continued engagement with the host partner, UN Regional teams, international agencies and other partners. This goal is key in identifying potential new areas of work and prudent management of resources by aligning resources to defined deliverables, reporting on activities and value add of the RCC which in turn helps attract other partners and resources. Communication of RCC



the Paris Agreement, in the areas of mitigation and sustainable development (Goal 1) and adaptation, transparency, finance, technology and capacity-building (Goal 2). RCC Dubai is operationalizing this approach through close coordination with the host partner, UN regional teams, international agencies and other partners (Goal 3).

activities and highlights via different platforms are an important aspect of this goal to ensure visibility and level of engagement with Party and non-Party stakeholders in climate action, as an extended arm of the secretariat.

H. Annexes

H.1. [CIACA Report](#)

H.2. [Report on CapacityBuilding](#)

H.3. [Nairobi Framework Partnerships](#)

H.4. [CIACA Brochure](#)

H.5. [RCC Highlight 2018](#)

H.6. [RCC Highlights 2019](#)

H.7. [Regular Reports to the CDM EB](#)

H.8. [Annual Report of the EB to the CMP](#)

H.9. [Co-operative activities with UN entities](#)