

Regional Collaboration Centre for Latin America

March 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre for
Latin America (RCC Panama)

hosted by UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

Dear RCC Stakeholder,

We hope many of you joined for the initiating event of the roundtable discussions for the Regional Climate Week, successfully held with a unified call for climate action that engages all actors in the society. In case you missed it the recording is to be found in an article below.

Several other events of the centre this month evolves around two central themes, both vital for the region. Firstly, on the role of nature and agriculture we are excited and hope all will be inspired by the events the UNFCCC and the regional centre are hosting at the SDG Global Festival of Action on March 25-26, with a panel on the potential of nature-based solutions. On a similar topics we organized a webinar together with SE-CAC to connect the national focal points in agricultural sector in Central America with climate change negotiations .

Secondly, the role of innovation for solving the climate crisis is the focus for a workshop we are hosting at the above mentioned SDG Festival. Innovation was also key for the webinar earlier in March when creating linkages to governmental actors to the technical assistance available through the CTCN Latin American office on innovation. These pieces together with other highlights from the secretariat you will find in this March edition.

The RCC Panama Team

Highlights

Virtual Roundtables Kick Off 2021 Regional Climate Weeks

The 2021 editions of the Regional Climate Weeks kicked off in March with virtual regional roundtables designed to set the scene for regional climate action in the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in November.

The roundtables for Latin America and the Caribbean on 3. and 4. March helped identify priorities and opportunities for the three regions, crucial for the full implementation of the [Paris Agreement](#).



Regional stakeholders framed their discussions on how to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic and how to scale up and speed up climate action capitalizing on the efforts already ongoing in the regions. Common calls made in all the regions related to:

- The importance of efficiently engaging all actors in climate action, particularly youth and women;
- The imperative of citizen- and community-led efforts to change behaviours, which is essential for more sustainable production and consumption patterns;
- The importance of nature-based solutions and of “bringing Earth back into the equation.”

The role of governments in providing clear direction and targets for climate action was also a common message in all the roundtables, with many stakeholders calling for a clear price on carbon and recognition of the value of nature and the costs of its destruction.

Participants agreed that climate finance is still a key factor in all regions to implement climate plans and policies. Whilst substantial financial resources are available, they must be channeled to build carbon neutral and resilient societies, especially in developing countries. There was also a shared understanding that financial tools such as green bonds increasingly need to be used to finance future infrastructure.

A report with specific key takeaways and conclusions of the virtual roundtables will be published within shortly.

Read the full article [here](#)

Léalo en español

#TurnItAround at the SDG Global Festival of Action

SDG GLOBAL FESTIVAL OF ACTION
#TurnItAround

A RACE FOR NATURE: WINNING THE CLIMATE CRISIS THROUGH ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY, RESTORATION AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Hosted by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

LIVE
25 MARCH 2021
17:15 - 18:00 CET

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| NISREEN ELSAÏM CHAIR, UNSG YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE | NATHALIE SEDDON DIRECTOR, NATURE-BASED SOLUTION INITIATIVE | LIGIA CASTRO DE DOENS ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER AND DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE, PANAMA |
| PINA GERVASSI GLOBAL CLIMATE DIRECTOR, FSC | HEETA LAKHANI GLOBAL FOCAL POINT, YOUNGO | OVAIS SARMAH DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNFCCC |

ACTION CAMPAIGN globalfestivalofaction.org

How can we make 2021 a turning point for a more green and more sustainable world & ensure no-one is left behind? These questions will be addressed at the SDG Global Festival of Action on March 25-26. During the festival the UNFCCC is hosting two events in which RCC Panama has supported the preparations. The first event, [*A Race FOR Nature: Winning the Climate Crisis through Ecosystem Recovery, Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions*](#) features two regional actors Ms. Ligia Castro de Doens, Ministry of Environment of Panama and Ms. Pina Gervassi from FSC.

AN EXPANDED INNOVATION SPACE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Hosted by UNFCCC

An Expanded Innovation Space for Climate Action will explore an idea of a human centric solution agenda for an equitable future with >10 billion citizens

REGISTER NOW globalfestivalofaction.org/workshops

Pre-registration for active participation is required. Reserve your slot!

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS
**ACTION
CAMPAIGN**

At the second event [An expanded innovation space for climate action](#) we will be hearing from youth representatives in Panama among experts from organizations working globally for innovative solutions that will support the achievement of the goals in the Paris Agreement.

Join us and [register](#) for the [festival](#) to mobilize, inspire, connect & **#TurnItAround** for **#ForPeopleForPlanet**. Please note the festival will provide simultaneous translation to Spanish.

NDCs submission in time for the initial synthesis report

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Suriname submitted their new or updated NDCs before 31th December 2020. These NDCs have been included in the assessments contained in the [initial NDC synthesis report](#). Argentina, Columbia and Panama committed, in their NDCs, to submit Long-Term Strategies with carbon-neutral goal by 2050.

[Click here](#) for NDCs submissions

Léalo en español

Message from Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, for those countries who have not submitted a new/updated NDC:

Regarding the final version of the Synthesis report, the secretariat is planning to publish it in advance of the pre-COP meeting, scheduled for 30 September – 2 October 2021. The report will be prepared on the basis of the NDCs recorded in the interim NDC registry as **at 30 July 2021**. To facilitate timely preparation of the report, I strongly urge Parties to submit their new or updated NDCs as soon as possible.

New regional publications and recent events

**CDM Executive Board
successfully**

completes its
109th meeting.



The CDM Executive Board carried out its 109th meeting virtually due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The meeting was chaired by the newly elected Chair, Mr. Olivier Kassi of Belgium and Vice-Chair, Mr. Omar Alcock of Jamaica. The agenda covered multiple topics ranging from the consideration of requests for registration of project activities, clarification of temporary measures to enable the operation of CDM until CMP 16, guidance on technical options to support voluntary cancellations of Certified Emission Reductions, and reporting of the Board's 2020 activities to the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP).

It also included the approving of changes to standards for CDM project activities and programme of activities, taking note of updates on policy development, work by the relevant panels and working groups, interactions with the DOE/Accredited Independent Entity Coordination Forum, and providing guidance on the on the ICAP Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) of the International Civil Aviation organization (ICAO). The meeting report is available [here](#)

More information [here](#)



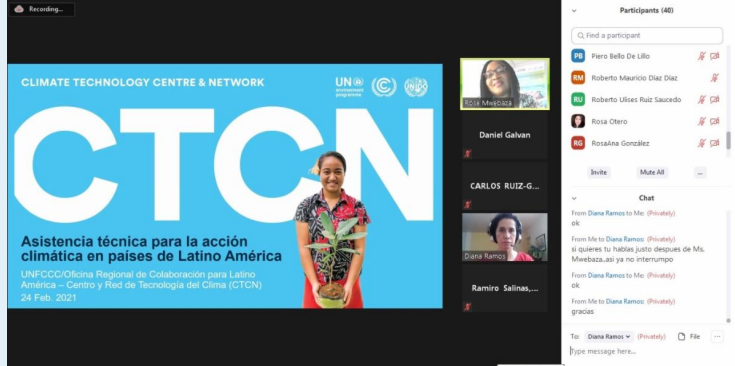
A Kickoff of NBF Honduras project: "Climate Finance Tools for Honduran NDC"

On March 1, 2021, a kickoff meeting of the NBF project, ***"Climate Finance Tools for the National Determined Contribution (NDC) of Honduras"***, was held virtually by the Presidential Office of Climate Change (Clima Plus), the Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines of Honduras (MiAmbiente), and the RCC Panama of UNFCCC.

This project is part of the **Need-Based Finance (NBF) approach** launched by the UNFCCC with the objective of facilitating access and mobilization of climate finance for the implementation of priority mitigation and adaptation projects to address the needs identified by developing countries. After the kickoff meeting, discussions on climate finance for prioritized sectors of Honduras were initiated, including the agriculture and livestock, coffee, forestry, and energy sectors.

Latin America interest grows for CTCN technical support

On February 24, 2021, the [CTCN](#) Latin America office and RCC Panama organized



an informative webinar on “*How to access to technical assistance for climate action in Latin American countries*”.

This session, presented the link between the CTCN support and the NDCs, shared information on applying for CTCN technical assistance and outlined how

countries can participate in the second call of the [Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator \(AFCIA\)](#). More than 40 participants joined the webinar, including representatives from Ministries of Environment of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Paraguay. The session was moderated by the RCC Panama team.

The webinar featured a Q&A focused on how countries that are not eligible for AFCIA can still apply for project and programme funding through the [innovation grant funding window](#) of the Adaptation Fund. Note that eligible countries include developing countries that do not have National Implementing Entities. The CTCN LAC team also highlighted that they offer technical assistance up to \$250,000 USD to at least two countries every year, with regional multi-country proposals accepted.

Léalo en español (PDF)

Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) developed 2021 workplan laying out activities to enhance technical capacity of developing countries



The [5th Meeting of the CGE](#) took place virtually on 2-3 March 2021 and elected Ms. Virginia SENA (Uruguay) as the Chair and Ms. Sandra Boitumelo MOTSHWANEDI (South Africa) as the Rapporteur for this year.

Reiterating its commitment to provide technical support and advice to developing countries to continue implementing the existing MRV arrangements and preparations to implement the ETF, the CGE developed its [workplan for 2021](#), including organizing regional training workshops and webinars. Learn more about [CGE](#).

Find full article [here](#)

Léalo en español

The role of agriculture in climate negotiations - webinar with SE-CAC



On March 9, RCC Panama together with the Executive Secretary of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) held the webinar "Planning climate action and the role of agriculture in climate negotiations", with the participation of more than 50 attendees.

This space was developed with the purpose of promoting an update and discussion of technical issues, related to the development of the climate agenda and its implication in the context of the agricultural sector of the region. RCC Panama presented the mechanisms established by the UNFCCC laying the foundation of the current climate action as well as the importance of the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Additionally, the role that agriculture can play within the Global Climate Agenda was discussed. It was mentioned the forums such as the Koronivia Working Group, which allows opening the dialogue on the importance of agriculture in the fight against change. climate, and how the sector can generate promising opportunities that allow promoting initiatives in a connecting both adaptation and mitigation, as well as the linkage of the sector with the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAP), which must be consistent with the interests and needs of each country.

Read full article **(in Spanish)** [here](#)

Opportunities to get involved!

Apply Now for the 2021 UN Global Climate Action Awards!



United Nations Climate Change
Global Climate Action Awards

Global Climate Action Awards

APPLY NOW

momentum.unfccc.int

We're one month into the call for applications for the 2021 UN Global Climate Action Awards. If you haven't done so already, be sure to [submit your climate action project](#). We want to hear from you!

The United Nations Climate Change secretariat is accepting applications for the 2021 Awards until 30 April to showcase action and ambition from around the world.

Read about it [here](#)

Léalo en español

Institutional Arrangements Toolbox: Guide to strengthening national institutional arrangements for transparency of climate action and support

Transparency of action and support is critical to achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Well-functioning institutional arrangement is key to transition to the enhanced transparency framework by 2024. In that context, [the toolbox on institutional arrangements](#), developed by the [Consultative Group of Experts \(CGE\)](#), is a one-stop shop that offers a technical handbook (available in all UN languages), video interviews and case stories presenting experiences of developing countries in improving and sustaining national MRV process, and a list of relevant technical resources.

Survey: The CGE will continue to update the toolbox, please complete this short [survey](#) to identify and respond to evolving needs of developing countries.

Open call: Those interested in sharing country experience and lessons learned, please contact tisu@unfccc.int.

A webinar series organized by the World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR) to celebrate a decade of collective work on carbon pricing

PMR PERSPECTIVES SERIES

**Pricing Carbon: Looking Back
To Move Forward**

 APRIL 13 TO MAY 27

In this series of webinars and virtual events, the PMR celebrates 10 years of serving as a knowledge forum for collective innovation and action, and a cooperative technical assistance vehicle to support capacity building to advance carbon pricing policy solutions and carbon markets infrastructures. The global PMR community of senior government representatives, national policy champions, international leading experts, and World Bank specialists will present and discuss a wide range of topics from countries' experiences on carbon pricing and next steps, to the launch of new technical reports aimed to support the advancement of carbon pricing.

Regional event: Carbon Markets Across Latin America: Status and outlook

Wednesday May 12th, 2021 – [Register Here](#)

More events:

Carbon Pricing Assessment & Decision Making: A guide to adopting a carbon price:

Tuesday April 13th, 2021 – [Register Here](#)

From Theory to Practice: Launch of the ETS Handbook (Revised and Updated)

Wednesday April 14th, 2021 – [Register Here](#)

Extra Credit: Designing domestic crediting mechanisms

Wednesday April 21st, 2021 – [Register Here](#)

Paving the Way for Carbon Pricing: Lessons from the PMR experience

Wednesday April 28th, 2021 – [Register Here](#)

Looking Ahead: Partner dialogue on carbon pricing, enabling environment, and capacity development

Thursday April 29th, 2021 – [Register Here](#)

[Visit our website](#)

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IN ENGLISH



EN ESPAÑOL



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