



# CLIMATE ACTION STOCKTAKE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*Summary of results from the Regional  
Diagnosis and Country Profiles developed by  
the iGST LAC Hub*



## iGST

Independent Global Stocktake





## Background

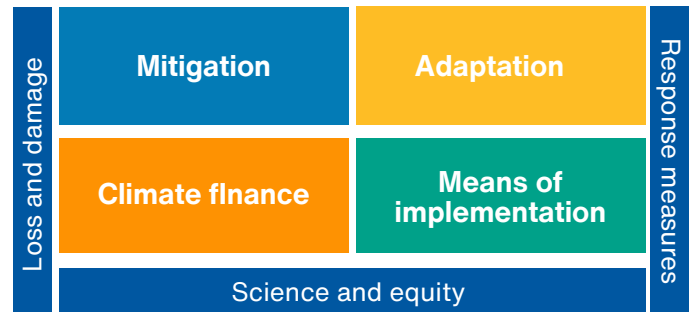
### What is the Global Stocktake (GST)?

The Global Stocktake (GST) is a mechanism that is part of an ambition cycle occurring every 5 years to assess the collective progress of countries toward achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

It consists of three phases:

1. **Gathering of information.**
2. **Technical evaluation of the information** based on the best available scientific knowledge.
3. Consideration of results, focusing on **discussions among Parties**, experts and non-state actors regarding the findings from the previous phases.

It addresses the following topics:



The iGST (Independent Global Stocktake) is a civil society initiative that convenes organizations and climate change specialists to enhance the Global Stocktake processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The iGST's efforts have focused on gathering, integrating and disseminating diagnostic information on the regional situation, including both society and key decision-makers. The primary goal of the iGST is to ensure that the results of the Global Stocktake are translated into concrete actions, such as encouraging countries to present more ambitious and equitable Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

### Development of the iGST Regional Hub for LAC

Before the formation of the iGST Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Hub, Mexico Climate Initiative (ICM for its acronym in Spanish) carried out a collaborative consultation with regional climate civil society in 2021 to identify opportunities and challenges in creating a regional hub.

Although there are significant differences between countries in terms of reach, organizational structure, and political and financial challenges, the consultation findings indicate that regional NGOs support the climate agenda and are eager to coordinate their efforts to enhance climate action in line with GST outcomes.

### Relevance of the regional stocktake and country profiles for LAC

The Independent Global Stocktake led by the Latin America and the Caribbean Hub aims to highlight the region's needs and priorities within the official Global Stocktake processes and to provide a regional assessment that helps governments and non-governmental actors evaluate their performance in climate action. LAC is considered a priority as it is a region that, despite its high vulnerability to global warming, possesses significant potential to raise ambition and fulfill its climate commitments.

The information from the **Regional Stocktake** and the **country profiles** developed by the LAC Hub provides a diagnosis of the region's situation regarding climate change impacts and GHG emissions, taking into account the socioeconomic and environmental context, with publicly available information. These analyses are crucial for strengthening commitments and strategies to address the climate crisis and represent a first step in the region, as they allow for the identification of challenges to advancing the implementation of climate commitments.

### Country profiles\*



### Regional Stocktake\*



*\*Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese*

## Regional situation

### Trends in climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Context in which climate action takes place

#### **Social context**

Latin America and the Caribbean is a highly unequal region, which makes it more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Inequality in the region is evident in the marginalization of Indigenous communities, Afro-descendant communities, women, and girls, who face greater risks and burdens resulting from climate change, as well as disparities in access to safe drinking water among the population (Aguilar, 2021; IPCC, 2022a).

#### **Environmental context**

Rural areas in LAC host 50% of the world's biodiversity and 21% of terrestrial ecoregions, and concentrate 22% of freshwater, 16% of marine water resources, 23% of forests, 57% of primary forests and 26% of forests dedicated to biodiversity conservation (ECLAC, 2018).

#### **Economic context**

LAC shows high levels of disparity in the distribution of wealth, land and income. This deepens inequality gaps both among and within countries. Poverty disproportionately affects children and adolescents, Indigenous people, Afro-descendants, rural dwellers and women (ECLAC, 2022).

#### Regional challenges in addressing climate change

LAC faces significant economic challenges in responding to climate change, with a declining share of global GDP (World Bank, 2022c). In addition to stagnant GDP growth, the region maintains high levels of external debt, both in nominal terms (US\$2.385 trillion in 2021) and as a percentage of GDP (48% in 2021) (CEPALSTAT, 2022).

## Opportunities for just climate action

Certain geographical and ecosystemic conditions in LAC -such as the territorial proportion of protected natural areas and biodiversity- offer the region an opportunity to serve as a laboratory for climate action from a climate justice perspective. A justice-based energy transition involves ensuring an equitable and transparent distribution of the costs and benefits of renewable energy projects, thereby contributing to reducing inequalities and power asymmetries among groups and sectors. In this regard, it is essential to prioritize the needs of people and the protection of ecosystems when making climate and energy decisions, as well as to establish mechanisms that ensure transparency and accountability in planning, developing and implementing renewable energy projects.

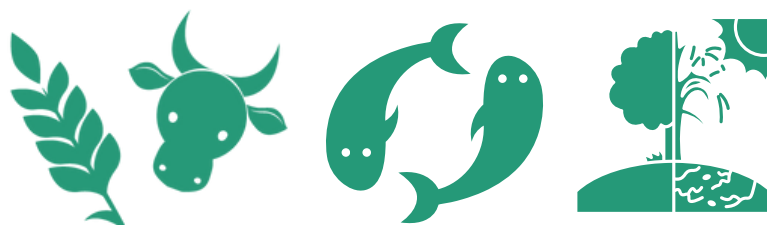
## State of vulnerability in the region: observed and projected impacts

The impacts of climate change in the region are varied but show an increasing trend, exacerbating pre-existing structural socioeconomic issues.



The number of **climate-related extreme weather events** in LAC increased on average across most countries between 2001 and 2022, compared to the previous two decades. Climate-related disasters such as hurricanes, droughts, fires, and floods are becoming increasingly frequent and severe in the region, causing enormous economic losses (World Bank, 2022).

The greatest impacts are expected to continue in countries such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Suriname, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Bolivia, among others, as well as in **economic sectors related to agriculture, particularly cereal cultivation, and fisheries** (IPCC, 2022), as climate change effects disrupt planting and harvesting periods, damage key crops and cause water shortages, destabilizing food security.



The consequences of climate change disproportionately affect the most vulnerable population groups, such as children and marginalized communities. **It is projected that about 2.6% of the region's total population** -17 million people- **will be forced to migrate due to climate change** (WorldBank, 2022c). Adaptation plans are therefore critical to reducing climate change impacts and addressing significant challenges such as inequality and poverty.



## Mitigation: transitions needed to achieve socially just and inclusive low-carbon development in LAC

The region is making slow progress in decarbonization, while dependence on fossil fuels persists.

Emissions from Latin America and the Caribbean account for

# 10%

of global GHG emissions, remaining constant over the period 2010-2019.

Only countries such as Chile (77%), Mexico (64%), Panama (63%), Ecuador and Argentina (51%) have the energy sector as their primary source of emissions (EDGARD, 2022).



Due to LAC's productive profile, **emissions from the agriculture**, forestry and other land-use sector (AFOLU) represent 59% of total emissions.

The region is home to one of the **largest carbon reserves in the world**, which are **at risk** due to deforestation over the past three decades (ECLAC, 2021).

Mitigating emissions **cannot rely solely on transitioning to natural gas**, as methane, its primary component, has a warming potential 80 times greater than carbon dioxide.

**LAC countries have the opportunity to guide their transition to more diversified energy matrices** by leveraging their vast renewable energy resources. By combining large-scale renewable energy projects with small- and medium-scale local projects, it is possible to achieve a just energy transition that promotes universal access to clean energy and fosters local development.

## Financing: a precondition for advancing climate action

Currently, global financial flows are not directed toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fostering resilience, or achieving socially inclusive low-carbon development. For these flows to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement, governments need to reduce their investments in hydrocarbons and redirect them to projects that contribute to implementing mitigation and adaptation measures in the region.

## Key actors in Climate Finance

Governments have a significant opportunity to redirect resources to address projects aligned with their mitigation and adaptation goals, through their enabling and coordinating capacity to incentivize the transition and regulate their national economies. In this regard, **LAC governments have implemented various policies and programs to mobilize financial resources** and support mitigation and adaptation measures through national climate finance funds. On the other hand, **the private sector plays a key role** in mobilizing the capital needed to decarbonize the economy and diversify funding sources through new financial instruments and mechanisms.

## International cooperation

To address climate change impacts and implement mitigation measures, **LAC relies heavily on international cooperation.** Regarding international financial flows to support climate action in LAC, GFLAC determined that only 14% of the international financing received is allocated to climate change issues (GFLAC, 2022).

FUND	SIGNED-OFF FUNDS (MILLION USD)	SIGNED-OFF PROJECTS
Green Climate Fund (GCF-IRM, GCF-1)	1906.1	29
Clean Technology Fund (CTF)	762.8	42
Amazon Fund	705.3	102
Global Environment Fund (GEF-4, 5, 6, and 7)	569.7	127
Forest Investment Program (FIP)	245.8	22
Adaptation Fund (AF)	165.2	42
Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)	126.0	19
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)	89.1	13
Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low-Income Countries (SREP)	60.4	14
Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)	49.9	12
BioCarbon Fund	49.3	2
UN-REDD Program	46.6	10
Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Fund (GEEREF)	30.8	2
Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Program (ASAP)	30.4	5
Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR)	25.9	15
Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F)3	24.4	7
Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)	24.1	2

Source: Own elaboration with information from CFU, 2022.

## Balancing climate finance

Climate finance in LAC does not respond equitably to the region's climate action needs, as most of the funding is allocated to projects focused on mitigation and forest conservation (REDD+) while less is directed toward adaptation projects.

Climate finance received by LAC for mitigation over the past decade from various international organizations represents only between 0.05% and 0.15% of the region's estimated needs until 2030.

In addition to the high level of external debt in LAC countries, which limits their capacity for domestic climate investment, **climate finance from developed countries**, along with technological and capacity-building support, **remains insufficient for the region to adapt** to climate change impacts and mitigate its GHG emissions.

## Country context

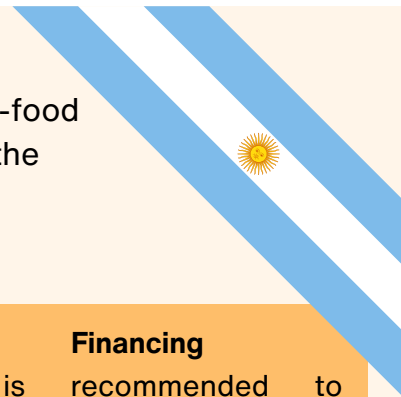
The Global Stocktake, together with the Independent Regional Stocktake, **invites UNFCCC Parties to collectively reflect on the need to increase ambition** in updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025 to accelerate climate action at both global and regional levels.





## Argentina

This country has a historic opportunity to transform its energy and agri-food systems by strengthening its climate resilience and advancing toward the achievement of more SDGs. It is crucial to integrate and promote this agenda in public debate and in every decision-making space.



### Adaptation and vulnerability

Argentina must continue advancing its levels of preparedness to reduce its vulnerability to the intensification of climate patterns.

### Mitigation

The country must focus on reducing GHG emissions in the energy sector to drive the energy transition and eliminate its high dependence on fossil fuels.

### Financing

It is recommended to reorient the national budget to accelerate the energy sector transition and attract more international financing to achieve a diversified, low-emission system.

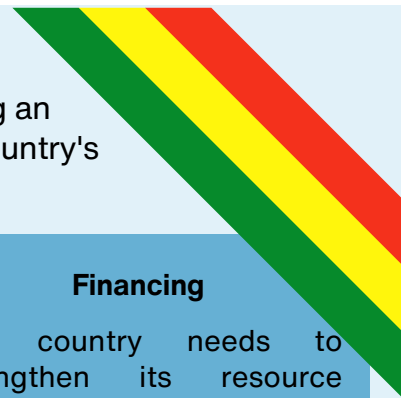


*We identified that Argentina is in a position to increase its ambition to significantly reduce emissions and achieve its goals.*

*Victoria Laguzzi - Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales: FARN  
(Environment and Natural Resources Foundation)*

## Bolivia

It must prioritize the most vulnerable people to the climate crisis, ensuring an inclusive transparency framework that promotes accountability for the country's commitments; it is time to act for a more just future.



### Adaptation and vulnerability

Bolivia should integrate sustainable adaptation strategies into its development policies to strengthen productive resilience and update its NDC to prioritize adaptation efforts and reduce agricultural vulnerability.

### Mitigation

Despite its low GHG emissions, Bolivia is highly vulnerable to climate change. Its mitigation efforts should focus on agriculture, livestock, and forestry, while transitioning to renewable energy to create a clean and sustainable energy matrix.

### Financing

The country needs to strengthen its resource planning and management to estimate costs and secure funding for climate action, reducing its dependence on international funds and ensuring the implementation of its NDC with international support.



*Bolivia is highly vulnerable with low preparedness to face the effects of climate change.*

*Juan Carlos Alarcón - Plataforma Boliviana (Bolivian Platform)*

## Brazil

As a country highly vulnerable to climate change, Brazil has the opportunity to become a laboratory for ambitious climate action by leveraging its vast natural potential through nature-based solutions. It is essential to promote policies with a climate justice perspective to achieve a sustainable and equitable future.



### Adaptation and vulnerability

Brazil has the opportunity to advance the urgent implementation of adaptation measures, requiring a minimum annual investment of 0.2% of its GDP until 2030.

### Mitigation

The country can reduce its GHG emissions by sustainably managing its Amazon biome and involving Indigenous populations and traditional communities in the management of these resources.

### Financing

Forests have the potential to become major recipients of international financing programs through carbon market mechanisms and REDD+.



*What should Brazil's new NDC include? Greater ambition in absolute GHG reduction targets, aiming for a resilient and renewable energy-based future.*

*Raissa Saré - Carbon Disclosure Project: CDP*

## Chile

It has the opportunity to reduce social inequalities by investing in and mobilizing resources toward a just transition to renewable energy, improving the country's climate resilience to climate change.



### Adaptation and vulnerability

Chile must strengthen its resilience to the climate emergency by ensuring access to accurate and timely information for the most vulnerable groups, especially those in marginalized conditions.

### Mitigation

Although it accounts for only 0.2% of global emissions, Chile must increase the use of renewable energy to decarbonize its economy and lead regional mitigation actions against climate change.

### Financing

Chile should implement progressive and green fiscal policies to close financing gaps, discourage polluting activities, and promote sustainable development, supported by regional and international cooperation.



*In Chile, we are generating a lot of climate policy, but we are not implementing that policy. Compliance with our NDC and Framework Law on Climate Change still has many fundamental gaps.*

*Felipe Pino - FIMA*

## Colombia

The country must encourage active social participation, ensuring that its NDCs establish a coherent pathway toward emissions reduction. It is time to mobilize all stakeholders and move together toward a sustainable and resilient future.

### Adaptation and vulnerability

56% of Colombian territory faces a high level of vulnerability, making it crucial to invest national GDP in adaptation measures that promote effective transformation.

### Mitigation

Colombia should reduce its emissions by 77 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030, requiring the strengthening of its monitoring and evaluation systems to meet the commitments established in its NDC.

### Financing

Greater transparency is needed regarding the country's economic resource flows to begin transitioning and committing to a more sustainable budget.

“ Colombia has a total of 30 adaptation goals that are being incorporated into various levels of national planning, where risk management is a cross-cutting issue.

*Andrea Prieto - Ambiente y Sociedad (Environment and Society)*

## Costa Rica

The country must recognize its high exposure and vulnerability to climate change, focusing its efforts on developing synergies that drive energy efficiency and investment in technology and innovation, ensuring a fairer future for all people.

### Adaptation and vulnerability

It is crucial to include adaptation criteria in land-use planning, prioritize ecosystem-based sectors, and advance a Green and Inclusive Development strategy to increase forest cover and consolidate key environmental protection programs.

### Mitigation

To achieve 100% renewable energy generation, NDCs must be transformed into a clear investment plan, boosting adaptive capacity through innovation, improved productive practices, and eco-competitiveness.

### Financing

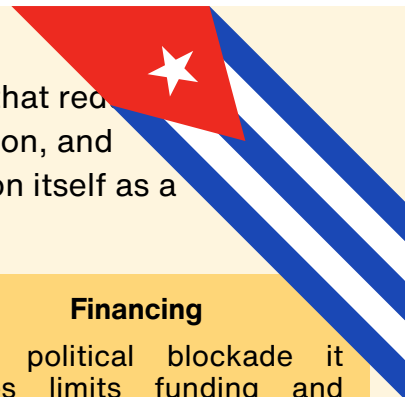
The current fiscal deficit poses a challenge to implementing climate solutions. It is essential to adopt payment schemes and other financial mechanisms that encourage investments in emissions reductions and ensure financial sustainability.

“ In terms of mitigation, Costa Rica has one of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions rates in the region, reflecting its ability to maintain a balance between its growth model and mitigation efforts.

*Florencia García - COLMEX*

## Cuba

The country needs to invest in sustainable development technologies that reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, improve the quality of life of its population, and promote innovation. Thanks to its climatic conditions, Cuba can position itself as a regional leader in renewable energy.



### Adaptation and vulnerability

Cuba must implement environmentally sustainable urban planning that protects its historical and cultural heritage and reduces vulnerability to extreme weather events in coastal areas.

### Mitigation

Given the increase in gas and oil consumption, the country must promote a local model of natural resource management and formulate long-term strategies for low-carbon development to address climate change.

### Financing

The political blockade it faces limits funding and support for its climate agenda. To advance its goals, Cuba requires international cooperation, technical assistance, and technology from organizations such as the World Bank and the IDB.

“ There is not only a problem with the lack of ambition in climate change policies, but also issues such as the significant absence of organized civil society and transparency.

Náin Martínez - COLMEX

## Mexico

It must prioritize strengthening and developing capacities for the design and implementation of public policies that enable more ambitious and equitable NDCs. It is essential to act now to ensure a fair and sustainable future.



### Adaptation and vulnerability

Mexico is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and it must strengthen its preparedness by incorporating a preventive and inclusive approach into its adaptation policies.

### Mitigation

The country must advance toward a fair and progressive energy transition that guarantees human rights and equitably distributes the costs and benefits of the transition.

### Financing

It must integrate a climate change perspective into the allocation of public and private resources, redirecting subsidies toward low- or zero-emission activities to foster a just energy transition.

“ Transparency and accountability in climate change matters is a milestone that our countries must address and comply with. Countries have international obligations in this area, and we need to make progress toward fulfilling them.

Vania Montalvo - Transparencia Mexicana (Mexican Transparency)

## Next steps

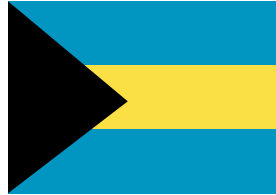
At the iGST LAC Hub, we aim to finalize the remaining country profiles with the support of subject matter specialists. Do not hesitate to contact our team if you have experience in climate action and are from one of the following countries:



Ecuador



Trinidad and Tobago



Bahamas



Nicaragua

## Contact information

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## Other resources

[Implications of Global Stocktake \(GST\) for Latin America and the Caribbean\\*](#)



[History and integration of the iGST LAC Hub and other resources generated\\*](#)



*\*Only available in Spanish*



## Acknowledgments

The Independent Regional Stocktake, as well as the country profiles and other inputs generated by the iGST LAC Hub, would not have been possible without the collaboration of:



**REACCIONA**  
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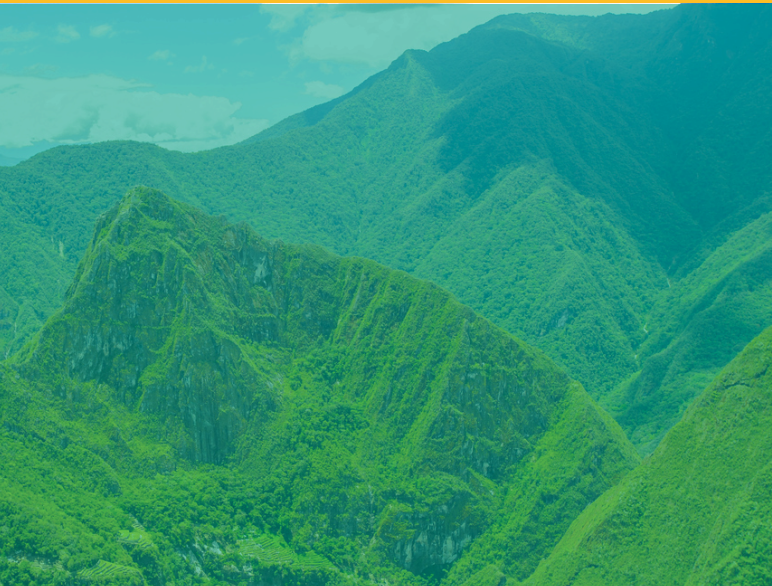






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