

Adaptation Governance and Green Climate Fund Readiness in Latin America and the Caribbean

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are working to ensure that they are well-positioned to implement adaptation. Many have made use of the Green Climate Fund Readiness program to develop in-country governance and strengthen capacities for receiving finance. These efforts demonstrate a regional strategy toward broad participation, stakeholder coordination, and cross-sector planning that promotes transparency and accountability on adaptation.

Policy Pointers

- Countries should work to put public policy instruments and good governance structures into place for effective adaptation implementation.
- The GCF Readiness program can be an important source of funds and information for preparing to receive and utilize climate finance.
- Broad participation, stakeholder coordination, and cross-sector planning are critical elements of strong public policymaking.
- Monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation implementation can ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have been very active in the preparation and adoption of the Paris Agreement. Despite some uncertainty, the impacts of climate change in this region on critical sectors and important areas of the economy are already well known and are expected to intensify in the coming years, putting at risk the livelihoods of families and local economies, infrastructure, and ecosystems that support the wellbeing of the population.

LAC countries have been putting increasingly sophisticated public policy instruments for climate change adaptation in place. All countries in the region currently have climate change strategies that include adaptation goals in strategic sectors. The majority of LAC countries have also put policies and governance systems for climate change adaptation in place; The Climate Change Law in Guatemala and the Mother Earth Framework Law in Bolivia are good examples of this. In addition, almost all have begun to implement their National Adaptation Plans.

Countries in this region are also working to position themselves to make the best use of international adaptation finance. One financial mechanism, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has made available a preparation mechanism (GCF Readiness) to help countries in their efforts to access GCF funds and build their capacities to achieve their NDCs. In connection with the Paris Agreement mandate, GCF Readiness has the potential to put in place novel institutional settings that enhance participation and coordination among different stakeholders, including the participation of society's most vulnerable groups, and thus support the development of governance structures that bring more transparency and accountability at different levels.

The GCF Readiness process should serve, among other things, to inform different stakeholders – including academia, civil society groups, and the private sector, about the different funding options available under the GCF, and to establish a coordination mechanism and administrative procedures to prioritize and endorse GCF project and program proposals.

The GCF Readiness Program provides up to USD 1 million per country per year in five activity areas:

- (1) Strengthening of the focal point and designated national authorities
- (2) Support for the development of strategic frameworks
- (3) Selection of intermediary and/or implementing entities
- (4) Development of program and project proposals, and
- (5) Exchange of information and experiences.

Of this amount, the Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) or focal points can request up to USD 300,000 per year to help establish or strengthen an NDA or focal point to meet the requirements of the Fund. In addition, the fund can provide on request up to USD 3 million per country for the formulation of adaptation plans.

LAC countries have been approaching GCF Readiness in different ways, including strengthening capacity in their NDAs and putting in place a set of rules aimed at enhancing stakeholder participation and coordination (See table below).

The LAC region is making solid progress towards setting up institutional frameworks and rules that can foster adaptation. Some countries in the region are doing early work to build adaptation capacity. This, combined with GCF Readiness, has the potential to help drive up standards of governance to a level that would allow greater participation, and encourage increased transparency in decision-making, more effective public policies, and better accountability. Stakeholder coordination, sector-wide planning, and monitoring and evaluation are key elements for progress on adaptation.

To read the full chapter on this research, look for the 2017 Adaptation Watch Report, to be released at COP23 in November 2017.

Author

Javier Gonzales Iwanciw
Nur University, Bolivia

AdaptationWatch Partners

- Adaptify (Netherlands)
- Both ENDS (Netherlands)
- Brown University's Climate and Development Lab (USA)
- Centre d'Etudes du Développement durable, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)
- ENDA Tiers Monde (Senegal)
- Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe (LAC Region)
- International Centre for Climate Change and Development (Bangladesh)
- Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (Nepal & USA)
- Nur University (Bolivia)
- Oxford Climate Policy (UK)
- Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (Kenya)
- Stockholm Environment Institute (Sweden)
- Transparency International (Germany)
- University of Colorado-Boulder's Environmental Studies Program (USA)



Publication and outreach support provided by the Stockholm Environment Institute.

GCF Readiness In Selected LAC Countries

COUNTRIES	GCF READINESS ACTIVITIES					IMPLEMENTING ENTITY
	1	2	3	4	5	
Bolivia	×	×				NDA
Colombia			×	×	×	UNDP
El Salvador	×		×	×	×	NDA
Guatemala	×	×		×		UNDP
Honduras	×	×		×		UNDP
Peru			×	×		GIZ
Rep. Dominicana	×	×	×			UNDP