

CLIMATE ACTION IN ARGENTINA

Country context

Argentina's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been growing steadily over the last decade, which, unfortunately has also resulted in an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to Argentina's National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2014) the largest share of emissions is driven by their energy sector (53 per cent), followed by agriculture and livestock (39 per cent).

Climate change in Argentina, both in mitigation and adaptation, became relevant at the highest level after the creation of the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC) in 2016. The GNCC, comprised of 12 ministries, is an example of inter-ministerial coordination that stems from the highest level. The GNCC has been given a presidential mandate to formulate policies that enable the country to face the consequences of climate change and to design appropriate response mechanisms to help mitigate its risks.

It is within the framework of the GNCC that the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) was reviewed and presented before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2016. Six sectors were identified on which to focus mitigation efforts (energy, forest, transport, industry, agriculture

and livestock, infrastructure and land), in addition to designing and validating the National Plans for Adaptation and Mitigation, and the National Climate Change Response Plan.

Since 2016 the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) project has been instrumental to supporting and sustaining the Cabinet's working structure, including sector-based and cross-cutting roundtables (on energy efficiency, agriculture, industry, transport, finance and infrastructure) and strengthening capacities at the sub-national level in all 24 provinces into which Argentina's territory is divided.

Prior to 2016, the government prioritized mitigation efforts mainly in the petrochemical and fertilizers sectors, because of the significant incidence of agricultural activities on total emissions and an agreement to move forward on these issues by private companies. LECB Argentina's capacity building efforts included the development of an emissions inventory system, identification of mitigation measures and designing a draft monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for these two sectors.



LECB ARGENTINA at a glance



Total financing
US \$1,175,900



Timeframe
6 years (2012-2018)
implemented over 2 phases



Sectors
Agriculture and industry



Counterpart
Ministry of Environment and
Sustainable Development
(MAyDS)



Thematic areas

- Institutional frameworks
- GHG inventory systems
- NAMAs
- LEDS
- INDC support
- MRV systems
- Private sector involvement
- Climate finance

LECB LATIN AMERICA

Strengthened capacities in the private sector for GHG reporting

Through the LECB project, the GHG inventory system for the petrochemical and fertilizer sectors was revised and strengthened, including a methodology and calculation tool specifically for both sectors which allows updating their inventory in the future. The calculation tool was calibrated by using available data and validated at selected pilot plants. In addition, considering the information from the inventory and the available data, LECB proposed mitigation measures according to their economic effects, mitigation potential and co-benefits, which resulted in pilot energy efficiency and industrial waste reduction programs being adopted by some companies (e.g. Dow Chemicals). LECB also developed a MRV system that allows uploading data from a given plant and to have the GHG emissions inventory calculated automatically for the production of petrochemicals and fertilizers.

Introduction of online national GHG inventory reporting

LECB played a central role in strengthening capacities for the national GHG inventory, specifically on the issue of dissemination through the creation of the GHG visualization platform (<https://inventariogei.ambiente.gob.ar/>), which involved translating the results of the 2014 GHG inventory into a friendly and accessible format.

Strengthened capacities in sub-national governments

Argentina expects the active involvement of sub-national governments will provide a basis and incentives to contribute to NDC implementation. To support this aim, LECB trained personnel in over 90 per cent of Argentina's provinces (22 provinces plus the city of Buenos Aires) to develop their provincial GHG emission inventories, identify mitigation measures and prioritize these measures based on the province's development priorities.

25 mitigation measures

have been identified at the provincial level in line with NDC goal

Institutional strengthening through the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC)

LECB contributed substantially with the institutional strengthening of MAyDS in charge of guiding the NDC review process, and supported its role as technical coordinator of 12 ministries and 23 provinces through the GNCC. Thanks to the strengthening of the inter-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional coordination, climate change policy in Argentina is being defined and agreed with all the actors at the table.

RESULTS

Enhanced Argentina's INDC

The INDC presented to the UNFCCC in 2015 was reviewed by MAyDS and relevant sectors with the support of the LECB team. As a result, Argentina's INDC was reformulated, numbers were adjusted and the potential for emissions reduction was recalculated and increased, thereby raising ambition. Through this process capacities were developed in the National Climate Change Office, the body in charge of ensuring a continuous review of NDC aspects, guaranteeing that sectoral agencies contribute to its implementation. The NDC includes the necessary policies to achieve its implementation; public and private financing schemes; and regulatory instruments.

Designed and developed sectoral action plans under the NDC

Sectoral action plans on energy, forests and transport were finished and presented internationally at COP23 in Bonn (Germany) in 2017. These plans represent 90 per cent of the country's GHG emission reduction goals to be achieved by 2030. Sectoral plans on industry, agriculture and livestock, and infrastructure and land are under development and will be finished during 2018. These plans identify barriers for implementing the mitigation measures and tools to overcome them, and include a MRV system for the measures, and for monitoring to ensure meeting the goals by the due date.

IMPACTS



Empowerment of different ministries to work on climate change

Twelve ministries understand that climate change is more than an environmental issue and are committed to addressing it in their arena. Each ministry has the responsibility to implement concrete mitigation measures and follow-up on the implementation of measures.



Civil society involvement in national process

Instances of dialogue and participation were created with members of civil society, NGOs, environmental associations, academia, and public and private sector representatives from the scientific and technological sectors, through meetings of the Extended National Cabinet where the proposals of the different sectors were socialized and validated.



Enhancement of international commitments

The technical support provided by LECB to the Cabinet was instrumental to the process of ratifying the Paris Agreement and enhancing Argentina's NDC ambition.



Integration of new methodologies into government decision-making and sectoral ministries

LECB's capacity building activities assisted the government in the review and adoption of the NDC in terms of new actions and economic policies. This work facilitated an open exchange with other government sectors with positive results at the technical and political level of each ministry.



General overview of the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme

Since its inception, the UNDP LECB programme has paved the way for effective and lasting climate action by building capacities of government staff to develop policies, strategies and tools that help implement their climate change goals. Focusing specifically on essential building blocks such as strengthening GHG inventory data and systems; formalization of institutional arrangement for climate actions; development and alignment of low emission development strategies (LEDS); and the creation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), LECB provided much of the enabling environment necessary for countries to respond quickly to emerging needs, such as the submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and socialization of the Paris Agreement. Given its flexible nature and strong country ownership, often the originally-envisaged and measurable LECB outputs have been exceeded, leading to some unplanned but highly welcomed additional impacts.

CASE STUDY

BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL IN ARGENTINA

Through the involvement of the provinces in Argentina, ownership of the climate action has been achieved in a way that has very important ramifications on how the country is defining its National Climate Change Response Plan.

The Federal Council of the Environment (COFEMA) was a key player in the successful implementation of LECB Argentina at the sub-national level. COFEMA brings together the environmental authorities of 23 provinces, the City of Buenos Aires, and national (federal) government. For many years COFEMA requested bringing the results of the Biennial Update Report (BUR) - which reports the national GHG emissions - to the provinces; thanks to the support provided by the LECB project, since

2016 when the National Climate Change Cabinet (GNCC) was created, government started to work closely with COFEMA.

This close relation has facilitated the identification of needs and opportunities to strengthen the work with the provinces. Through training provided by LECB capacities were built on GHG emission reporting, and a methodology was adapted to segregate emissions at the provincial level. Each province is now able to: determine how their emissions contribute to the share of national emissions; identify their mitigation potentials; identify a portfolio of potential mitigation projects; and calculate emission reductions and abatement costs.

As a result of this capacity building and broad inter-governmental participation, long-term impacts include the following:

- » Provinces are “on the same page” regarding their contribution to the national GHG inventories and their role in the implementation of the NDC through their potential contribution to the reduction of GHG emissions.
- » Provinces are able to see their emissions in the official online platform; and some provinces, including Córdoba, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, Chaco and Ushuaia, among others have started to develop their own GHG emissions inventories.

“

Reaching almost 100 per cent of the provinces of Argentina was a key result accomplished by the Ministry thanks to the LECB project. It is not easy to finance the work throughout the country, and especially in a topic such as climate change; this was fundamental.

”

Elena Palacios

Coordinator at the National Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAYDS)

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. It is a global programme that helps countries build the public and private sector capacities needed to scale up country-driven mitigation actions.

LECB Argentina made possible by:



Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

