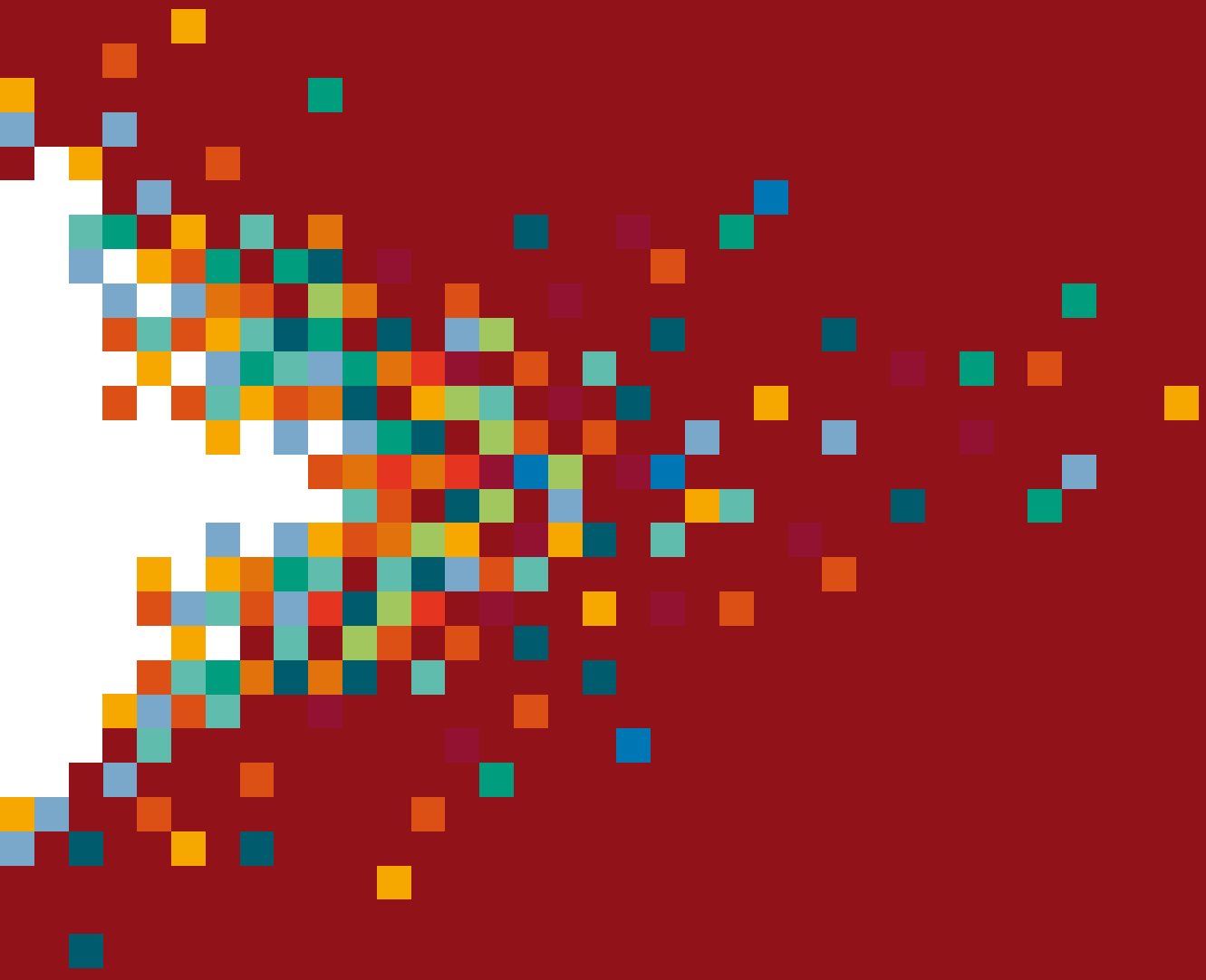
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Delivering sustainability through climate action:

The NDC Support Programme (2017-2025)



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Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, forestry and other land use
CoP	Conference of Parties
GHG	Greenhouse gas
ITMO	Internationally transferrable mitigation outcomes
LEDS	Low-emission Development Strategies
LTS	Long-term Strategy
LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry
MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDC SP	Nationally Determined Contribution Support Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small- and medium-sized enterprise
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive summary

Since its establishment in 2017, the **Nationally Determined Contribution Support Programme** (NDC SP) has worked through a nationally-driven and inclusive process to **support developing countries to contribute to the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement** and, through this, achieve sustainable development gains. This report captures the programme's work and highlights how it has enabled 47 countries and territories across every region of the globe to implement and enhance their climate action plans under the Paris Agreement, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The programme initially focused on **five key work areas: ambitious leadership, integrated climate governance, NDC mitigation actions, climate finance, and private sector engagement.** Demonstrating adaptability to emerging needs, a sixth work area was added after the COVID-19 pandemic to support countries with a **green recovery** that reinforces climate resilience.

Programme countries are demonstrated climate leaders. Of the 46 that submitted revised NDCs between 2019 and 2023, 81 percent raised mitigation ambition intentions, while 94 percent enhanced their adaptation goal. The NDC SP delivered direct technical assistance to 27 of these countries on their NDC revision process and supported one country to become a party to the Paris Agreement.

Programme countries were encouraged to use whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to NDC implementation, leading to 37 of them incorporating new strategies, new sectors, and new partners into their climate goals. The programme further assisted 40 countries to define achievable mitigation actions and integrate them into existing plans and strategies. Twenty-one countries worked to create favourable environments for sustainable and climate-friendly investing by addressing market barriers, while 25 engaged the private sector in climate action through initiatives like public-private partnerships. Lastly, seven countries were supported to implement post-COVID strategies to align their economic and climate goals in pursuit of a green recovery.

This document explores the **NCD SP's impact over its eight-year implementation timeframe** – first exploring programme's accomplishments in six thematic work areas, with myriad examples of the ways in which participating countries worked toward making their climate goals a reality, followed by examples addressing the cross-cutting themes of the programme, including gender equity, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and global partnerships and country-level synergies.

Through the initiatives and impact outlined in this report, the **NDC SP has demonstrated viable pathways for transformative climate action** while laying a strong foundation for countries and development partners to build upon. It has proven that long-term support to national governments can sustainably enhance multi-sectoral coordination, foster stakeholder engagement, strengthen institutional capacities and mobilize resources. In doing so, the programme has advanced national and global efforts to fulfil climate commitments and drive meaningful, lasting change.

Introduction

Climate change, coupled with biodiversity loss and the pollution crisis, stands as the most significant environmental challenge of our time to global sustainable development, with far-reaching consequences for economies, societies and ecosystems. Climate change impacts, such as rising global temperatures and sea levels and extreme weather events and food insecurity, exacerbate pollution and land degradation, which disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations. To address these challenges, the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to restrict it to 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement requires countries to submit and update climate action plans – known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – every five years that outline their commitments to emissions reduction and climate resilience. Each update should act as a 'rachet mechanism' that sets more ambitious climate goals.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the $74.7M NDC Support Programme (NDC SP) in November 2017 at a high-level event at the UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP23). The objective was to help countries advance integrated climate and development solutions, and revise and implement their NDCs as a tool for realizing low-emission and climate-resilient development that is also sustainable and fully inclusive.

As a nationally driven initiative, the programme ensured country ownership of climate action, based on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, to support countries to build an environment that fosters NDC enhancement and implementation. Through complementary and interlinked work areas such as integrated governance, climate-friendly finance, private sector engagement, mitigation actions and capacity-building, the programme created a cohesive and effective response to climate challenges.

> *"The NDC Support Programme will help countries create an integrated approach."*
>
> **Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator, at the NDC SP's launch in 2017.**

In addition to its national work, the NDC SP leveraged regional and global support by engaging with international partners and frameworks, ensuring that countries were able to speak to key climate topics at high-level events, and that they shared lessons learned and successful approaches that could be adapted and scaled across different regions. The programme actively promoted knowledge-sharing and South-South collaboration, enabling countries to exchange best practices, experiences and innovative solutions to accelerate NDC implementation.

A key principle was an emphasis on gender and inclusivity, ensuring that women and vulnerable groups were fully engaged in climate action and would benefit from climate investments. The NDC SP also focused on providing long-term support, recognizing that transformational change requires sustained investment, technical assistance and institutional strengthening over multiple years.

Thanks to the continuous support and shared commitment of the programme's donors, the European Union and the governments of Germany and Spain,[1] the NDC SP has achieved remarkable milestones. By creating a strong foundation of NDC-related support, the NDC SP served as a catalyst for UNDP's Climate Promise, which was launched in 2019 with a bold target to support at least 100 developing countries to prepare more ambitious NDCs in the lead-up to COP26. A second phase of the Climate Promise, From Pledge to Impact, which is helping countries to turn their targets into action, is now serving as an important transition vehicle for NDC SP countries to continue moving forward on NDC priorities. The programme has also delivered key contributions for UNDP to the NDC Partnership, which supports effective intergovernmental and partner coordination on NDC implementation.

This publication highlights the key achievements of the NDC SP over its eight years of implementation. The NDC SP placed particular emphasis on the critical role of NDCs as the primary policy tool for countries to address the extensive consequences of climate change and the interconnected crises they face as well as to identify opportunities for a climate-resilient economy that prioritizes low-emission growth trajectories. This report underscores how the NDC SP has supported countries in setting more ambitious national climate targets and advanced their implementation by fostering an enabling environment and an integrated approach to climate governance, policy and investment.

1 Specifically, the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

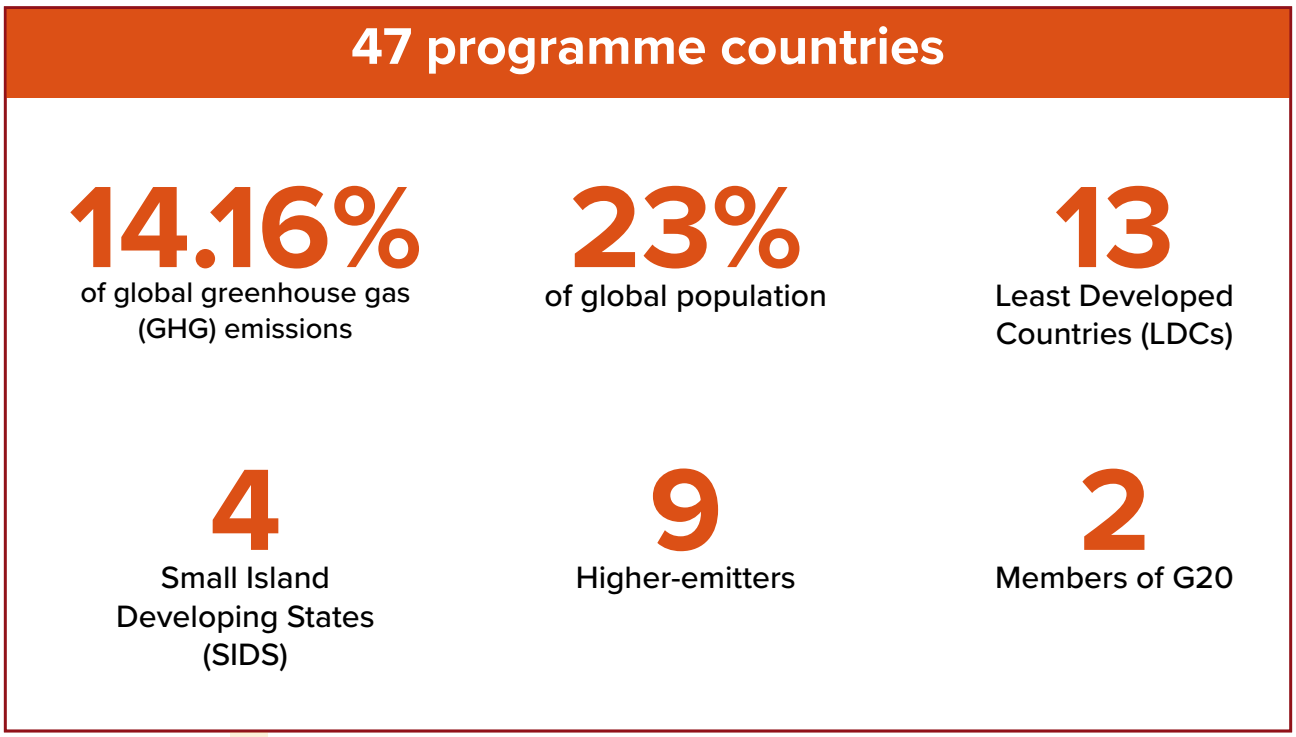
With concrete examples of the ways this initiative has pushed NDC enhancement and implementation forward at both national and global levels, this publication contributes to ongoing discussions on climate action. In doing so, it sheds light on a diverse range of options and solutions for scaling up ambition, strengthening implementation and fostering collaboration across sectors and stakeholders to drive greater results in the future.

This analytical exercise, made possible through a thorough desk review and consultation process, carries particular significance in today's context. The **knowledge captured in this document aims to support climate and development practitioners** in addressing the critical tasks ahead in a world that must respond to intensifying climate and nature crises and their extensive socio-economic and developmental consequences, which demand urgent and coordinated action on an unprecedented scale.

Delivering impact

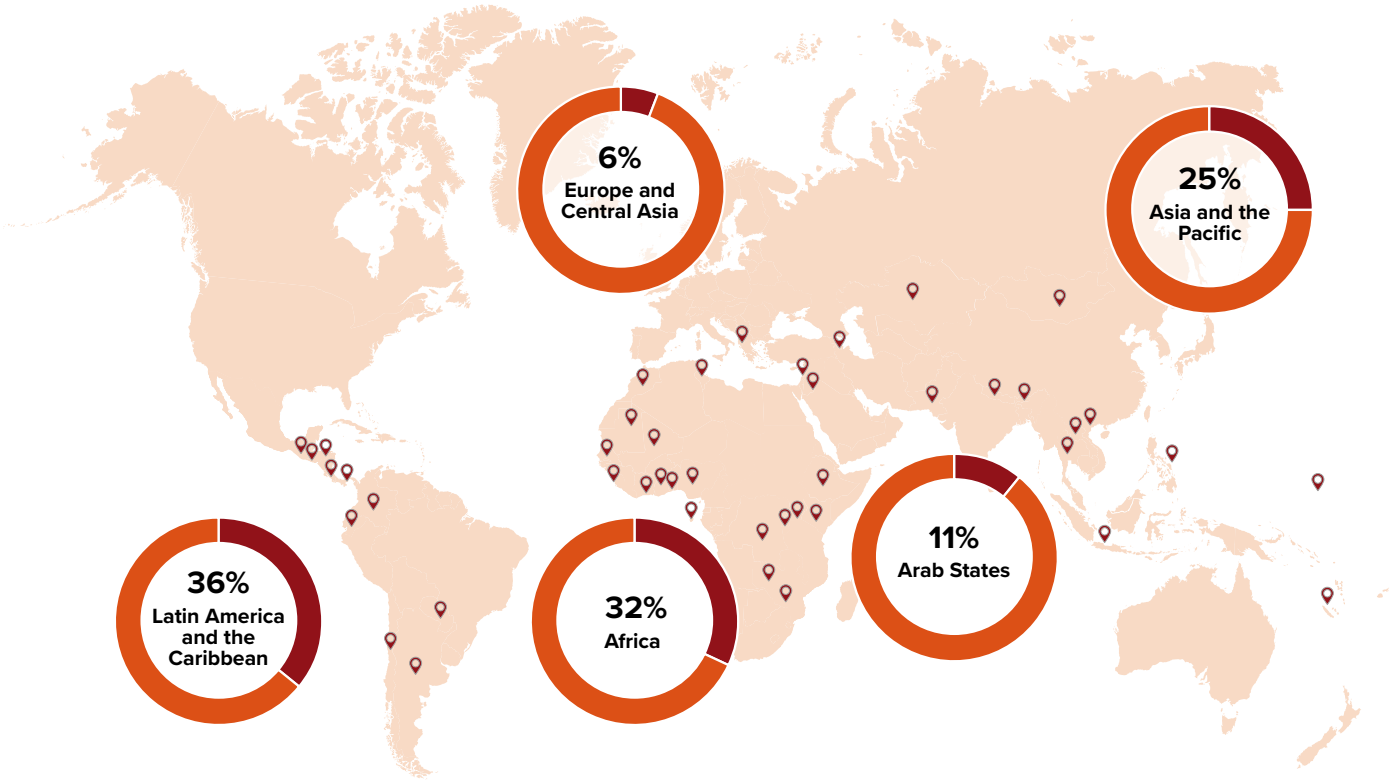
The $74.7 million NDC SP has delivered a wealth of key results and impacts due to its broad scope of climate work and participation of ambitious countries. In total, **the programme supported 46 countries and 1 territory**[2] across the globe (Figure 1) – ranging from 13 Least Developed Countries and 4 Small Island Developing States to 9 higher-emitters and 2 members of the G20 (Figures 1 and 2). In addition, the Morocco Climate Change Competence Center (4C Maroc) advanced both national and regional achievements.

Figure 1: Programme countries "by the numbers"



2 Hereafter referred to as countries.

Figure 2: Map of programme countries, including regional distribution



Latin America and the Caribbean	Africa	Europe and Central Asia	Arab States	Asia and the Pacific
Argentina	Benin	Albania	Jordan	Bhutan
Chile	Côte d´Ivoire	Armenia	Lebanon	Indonesia
Colombia	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Kazakhstan	Morocco	Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)
Costa Rica	Ethiopia		Occupied Palestinian territory[3]	Marshall Islands
Ecuador	Ghana		Tunisia	Mongolia
El Salvador	Kenya			Nepal
Guatemala	Mali			Pakistan
Honduras	Mauritania			Philippines
Panama	Nigeria			Thailand
Paraguay	Rwanda			Vanuatu
Peru	Sao Tome and Principe			Viet Nam
Trinidad and Tobago	Senegal			
	Togo			
	Uganda			
	Zambia			
	Zimbabwe			
12	**16**	**3**	**5**	**11**

3 Hereafter referred to as ¨Palestine¨.

The programme provided a range of **complementary and interlinked work areas** that responded to country needs and adapted over time – for example, introducing a green recovery component in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic (Figure 3). Technical support to countries was underpinned by regional and global peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing and advocacy efforts.

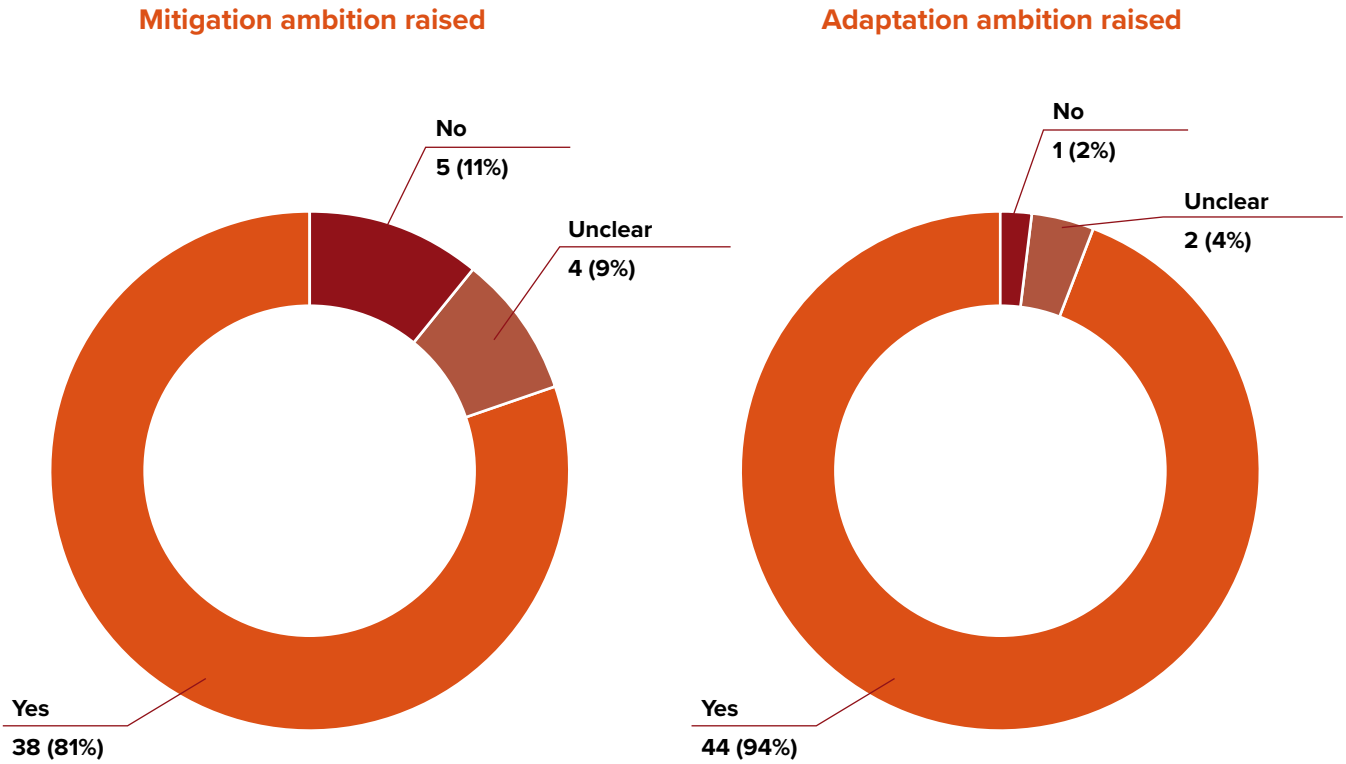
Figure 3: Key programme work areas

Driven by countries' needs and priorities, and thanks to the shared commitment and engagement of national, regional, and global stakeholders, the NDC SP has achieved significant milestones across its six work areas. Figure 4 highlights key results for each.

Figure 4: Key results across programme work areas

Programme countries are demonstrated climate leaders. Of the 46 that submitted revised NDCs between 2019 and 2023, 81 percent raised mitigation ambition intentions, while 94 percent enhanced their adaptation goal (Figure 5).

Figure 5: NDC ambition intentions of programme countries



The NDC SP has helped to illustrate that while the primary objective of NDCs is to raise and advance climate ambition and action within each country, the resulting investments and accomplishments yielded benefits that extend beyond climate-specific outcomes. This wider development impact arises from implementing the climate strategies outlined in the NDCs, generating positive ripple effects that support sustainable development across multiple sectors.

1 Climate leadership and integrated climate governance

At a glance

23 countries submitted more ambitious NDCs with direct support of NDC SP.

79 percent of programme countries (37 out of 47) advanced integrated climate governance measures, including climate change coordination frameworks and monitoring and transparency systems.

1 country supported to become Party to the Paris Agreement.

1.1 ▪ Leadership for ambitious climate action

The **NDC SP promoted effective national leadership and stakeholder engagement to define ambitious climate change targets.** This work area was primarily focused on government actors but also engaged other relevant stakeholders such as private sector, civil society, academia, youth and media.

Of the 27 countries that received direct support to prepare revised NDCs as part of the 2020 revision cycle, 23 (85 percent) submitted more ambitious NDCs to the UNFCCC, including eight NDCs in Africa, seven in Asia and the Pacific, seven in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one in the Arab States region[4]. Meanwhile, **Lebanon** was supported to deposit its instrument of ratification to officially become a Party to the Paris Agreement. This demonstration of ambition was achieved even against the backdrop of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which required countries to identify ways to engage constituents virtually to ensure inclusivity.

Enhanced or updated NDCs submitted by **programme countries raised mitigation ambition by incorporating additional GHG emission reductions. Côte d'Ivoire** significantly increased its unconditional GHG emission reduction target to 30.41 percent and set an ambitious conditional reduction target of 98.95 percent. **The Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC) strengthened its NDC by providing a more detailed assessment of mitigation and adaptation actions and raising its emissions reduction target to 21 percent by 2030. **Ethiopia** enhanced its ambition by committing to a 68.8 percent reduction in emissions, while **Ghana** transitioned from a baseline scenario target to a trajectory target, aiming for absolute reductions of 64 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030. **Uganda** also strengthened its commitment with a target of reducing emissions by 24.7 percent by 2030.

What increasing ambition means for NDCs

Increasing ambition involves not only setting bolder targets and including new sectors for mitigation but also enhancing the quality of NDCs. This can include incorporating robust adaptation strategies, with Just Transition considerations, improving transparency and accountability mechanisms, and strengthening the integration of climate goals with broader sustainable development priorities.

Several countries also introduced **innovative approaches to climate action,** broadening the scope of their commitments to encompass new sectors, non-GHG targets, long-term climate goals and improvements in strategies and processes. Table 1 highlights a few examples of these enhanced NDC outcomes.

4 The countries were: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

Table 1: NDC ambition in various sectors and approaches

	**Green jobs, just transition, gender and subnational action** **Côte d'Ivoire's** updated NDC in 2022 added ambitious measures in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector, and addressed cross-cutting aspects like gender, just transition and subnational action.
	**Waste sector** **DRC's** revised NDC in 2021 included a more detailed assessment of adaptation actions and committed to accelerating forestry, land tenure and land-use reforms to enhance its contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable development.
	**Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)/monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** **Ethiopia's** updated NDC in 2021 committed to exploring further ambition increases during the commitment period, improving flexibility to adapt to policy changes and external shocks, and strengthening its ability to track progress through enhanced MRV and M&E systems.
	**Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)** **Mali's** updated NDC in 2021 included a detailed plan for monitoring, reporting and verifying progress, increased ambition in the LULUCF sector and included the waste sector for the first time.
	**Gender considerations** **Ghana's** updated NDC in 2021 integrated gender considerations, following inclusive consultative processes.
	**Long-term strategy (LTS)** **Uganda's** updated NDC in 2022 set a net zero-emission target by 2050 through its long-term strategy, prioritizing key sectors such as AFOLU, transport, energy, waste and industrial processes and product use.
	**Intersectoral and multilevel approach** **El Salvador's** updated NDC in 2021 transitioned from an action-only commitment to one that specifies clear mitigation targets in the energy and AFOLU sectors. It also prioritized reducing vulnerability to climate impacts by enhancing adaptation and resilience in human and environmental systems. It adopted an intersectoral and multilevel approach, integrating national technical, scientific and financial resources with public policies, supported by international cooperation.
	**Carbon neutrality and national action plan on climate change adaptation** **Indonesia's** updated NDC in 2022 committed to carbon neutrality by 2060. The update also enhanced adaptation efforts, supported by a national action plan on climate change adaptation that was integrated into the national development plan.
	**Circular economy** **Lao PDR's** revised NDC in 2021 incorporated circular economy as a key strategy to support low-carbon development, particularly in the agricultural sector. Circular economy has also been prioritized in the National Socioeconomic Development Plan 2021-2025.
	**Loss and damage** **Viet Nam's** updated NDC in 2022 was aligned with Viet Nam's net-zero target by 2050. It also addressed economic and non-economic losses and damages and highlighted financing needs, including the $27.5–64.16 billion needed for adaptation by 2030.

Beyond the NDC revision process, the programme also played a pivotal role in **empowering leaders and change-makers,** disseminating results through **UNDP's global network** to build momentum for ambitious, inclusive and cross-sectoral climate action. To further drive increased ambition, the **NDC SP** supported a range of **stakeholder engagement activities,** including **consultations, political dialogues and advocacy campaigns.** Using preparatory events, workshops, and side events, the programme supported countries to position key climate topics and promote ambitious visions during the UN climate conferences (known as COPs) and other international meetings. Box 1 highlights some achievements in engagement.

Box 1

NDC SP support for local and youth engagement in climate action: Mongolia and the Marshall Islands

The Government of **Mongolia** conducted a "Climate Change and City" NDC Forum on 30-31 May, 2022 in Erdenet, in Orkhon Province. It was the first time that a climate change forum was held in a rural area with high-level representatives of line ministries, international organizations, provinces, local communities and the private sector. In total, over 200 representatives and more than 100 youth participated in-person and virtually. The focus of the forum was to raise awareness of climate change and the NDC among youth and promote behavioural change towards low-carbon lifestyles.

The forum was co-organized by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development, the Governor's Office of Orkhon Province, the NDC Partnership, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the Global Green Growth Institute, the Food and Agriculture Association (FAO) and UNDP.

Since 2022, the **Marshall Islands** has employed a youth-centered approach to NDC ambition. This included eight youth-targeted workshops to increase awareness on climate change with a focus on climate information and local impacts in communities. Led by the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs and the nonprofit organization Jojikum, these workshops were conducted on remote outer islands and in vulnerable communities.

Additionally, five workshops targeting school dropouts were conducted on the main islands of Majuro and Ebeye. The focus on this vulnerable group was important given the limited access to attend workshops conducted in the urban centres and created a space for them to discuss climate impacts in the country and how they could contribute to solutions.

1.2 ▪ Integrated climate governance for NDC implementation

Policymakers in **37 countries used whole-of-government and inclusive approaches to improve climate governance frameworks.** These countries strengthened capacities, institutions and systems to engage, plan, coordinate, track and deliver climate and sustainable development targets. This was mainly achieved through the establishment or strengthening of climate change coordination structures and mechanisms and through improved measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems to enhance transparency.

1.2.1 Integrated climate governance for NDC implementation

The **NDC SP helped 22 countries build institutional capacity and strengthen governance frameworks** to support effective NDC implementation. Efforts focused on establishing and reinforcing coordination mechanisms such as interministerial committees, climate change working groups and financing committees to promote alignment across sectors and facilitate collaborative decision-making. The programme also emphasized the need to strengthen legal and policy frameworks, when relevant.

For NDC implementation, leaders must bridge institutional silos, establish common priorities, and create mechanisms for interministerial, multilevel and inclusive collaboration. They must also adopt long-term perspectives that embed climate goals in governance structures, legal frameworks, and decision-making processes, ensuring continuity even amid political shifts or pressures.

The programme applied a range of strategies such as:

- **Establishing and strengthening coordination bodies.** The NDC SP supported **Argentina's** National Climate Change Cabinet to elaborate and validate the country's National Climate Change Plan and LTS and assess mitigation options to be incorporated into Argentina's enhanced NDC in 2021. The NDC SP also contributed to the Working Group on Climate Finance established under the Cabinet, which worked on the update of Argentina's NDC by drawing up estimates of the investments required to implement NDC measures.

- **Formalizing governance structures through legal frameworks and institutional processes. Chile's** climate change coordination mechanism was strengthened and formalized through the "Framework Law on Climate Change". This law mandates that the Ministry of Environment, in coordination with relevant authorities and ministries, is responsible for developing the NDC and LTS. The process must include citizen participation, a report from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change, and a review by the Council of Ministers for Sustainability and Climate Change.

- **Conducting tailored capacity-building and fostering stakeholder engagement.** In 2022, **Mongolia** developed an assessment report to reinforce the coordination capacity of the newly established National Climate Change Committee, while **Costa Rica** completed a training for council advisers at the Legislative Assembly on climate crisis data, policies and information. **Morocco** (through 4C Maroc) provided a series of capacity-building activities in 2021 that achieved outstanding milestones, including training for 435 recent higher education graduates and 124 representatives of NGOs from Morocco and other African countries on a range of climate change topics, as well as integration of climate change into Master's degrees at Moroccan universities.

- **Integrating climate and gender-sensitive considerations into development planning. Trinidad and Tobago** prepared guidelines for incorporating gender equality in climate change policy and conducted trainings. **Bhutan** successfully mainstreamed gender into its climate policy by strengthening the National Climate Change Committee through the inclusion of the National Commission for Women and Children. The country further advanced gender integration by publishing gender mainstreaming toolkits and guidelines for the agriculture, energy and waste sectors, accompanied by capacity-building programmes.

Box 2 provides further insights referring to climate change coordination mechanisms.

Box 2 Climate change coordination mechanisms: Key insights

The NDC SP has outlined the importance of climate change coordination mechanisms in ensuring that climate actions are well-coordinated, effective, and aligned with national and sectoral NDC and development goals.

These coordination mechanisms must be tailored to each country's specific needs and context and, thus, their composition can vary significantly, ranging from formal bodies like climate change commissions or interministerial committees to more ad hoc groups. Regardless of their form, their core purpose remains the same: bringing together all actors involved in climate action, including government ministries, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and development partners.

Some countries successfully aligned their coordination mechanisms with existing governance frameworks, while others needed to develop new structures or strengthen existing ones to meet ambitious climate targets. While some governments formalize these mechanisms into legally binding entities, others maintain flexible, informal systems that can better adapt to evolving challenges and contexts. Achieving this balance of flexibility and structure according to national circumstances is essential for addressing the dynamic nature of climate change and ensuring the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms.

Finally, successful climate change coordination requires attention to practical aspects such as ensuring ownership, technical and financial support and appropriate governance structures.

1.2.2 MRV systems

Twenty **countries undertook targeted actions addressing institutional frameworks, including gender-responsive approaches, related to transparency.** These efforts focused on the development of integrated MRV systems, as well as project registries and other tracking methodologies to strengthen data collection, transparency and decision-making processes. **Guatemala** piloted a digital model for managing marine-coastal zone data while **Kazakhstan** improved its national MRV system by developing 19 GHG inventory methodologies across key sectors such as energy, industry, and oil and gas.

Other **countries have focused on strengthening existing MRV frameworks.** In **Kenya,** the programme supported a national integrated MRV tool to track climate change actions and support for domestic and international reporting and decision-making, covering GHG inventories, climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate finance and sustainable development. In **Trinidad and Tobago,** an implementation plan for the MRV system identified institutional roles and responsibilities and offered templates to guide emissions inventory management. A knowledge management system was installed at the national regulatory authority for public access of calculated emissions files. **Mongolia** made significant strides in developing an MRV system for the transportation sector that integrates GHG inventory methodologies and conducts cost-benefit analyses for key mitigation actions. Similarly, **Costa Rica** strengthened the National Climate Change Metrics System by integrating a life cycle climate finance module. The programme also trained financial regulators on how to integrate climate finance considerations into national economic planning.

Efficient and transparent MRV systems that track progress of NDC targets, including linkages to SDGs, reinforce institutional coordination and enable NDC planning and implementation. Moreover, MRV systems are fundamental to climate finance mobilization, providing information and data to partners, investors and stakeholders, thereby enhancing confidence and trust in climate action.

Several programme **countries developed project registries and tracking methodologies to further enhance transparency and climate finance tracking. Morocco** developed a monitoring system for climate-relevant public expenditures, ensuring climate finance is allocated transparently. **Ecuador** introduced four climate finance tracking methodologies, including Climate Budget Tagging, while **Chile** established a climate expenditure framework for the National Budget Office and the Ministry of Finance.

Countries have also advanced digital tools to improve transparency: Uganda launched an online MRV registry, **Vanuatu** established an Internationally Transferrable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMO) registry, and **Nigeria** created a registry of mitigation and adaptation data for key NDC sectors. **The Philippines** strengthened its national MRV plan by upgrading its National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Exchange System with new modules on local climate change expenditure tagging and a personal carbon footprint calculator, while **Mongolia** developed a virtual public platform and an online registry for NDC policies, measures and actions.

Box 3 explores how data on climate spending can inform better decision making.

Box 3

Data on climate spending in Chile informs better decision-making

Extreme weather was on the rise in Chile in 2020. Rainfall shortages and extreme heat led to an unprecedented megadrought in Chile with direct consequences for agricultural livelihoods and food security, and the health and overall quality of life of rural communities.

The Chilean Ministry for Finance and the Budget Office, at the forefront of the government's response, lead several key initiatives, including an effort to better understand public spending on climate change-related programmes and investments (adaptation and mitigation).

For example, according to data from the National System of Investment, 170 rural drinking water projects were developed between 2016 and 2020 across regions that faced severe water scarcity and were recently declared to be under an agricultural emergency. These kinds of data helped identify the gaps, investment priorities and policies which will allow Chile to continue addressing climate change impacts in the years ahead.

"By classifying public spending and its contribution to climate change, it is possible to evaluate the effect of policies and activities carried out at the national level... This classification enables the alignment of environmental objectives, national objectives and international commitments."

Cristobal Gamboni,
Macroeconomic and International Finance Coordinator at the Ministry of Finance

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2 Evidence-based design and planning of mitigation actions

At a glance

85 per cent of programme countries (40 out of 47) strengthened the evidence base for **mitigation actions.** Most countries strengthened NDC inputs or integrated NDC priorities in development plans and LTS, while 18 designed mitigation actions.

The programme has **translated mitigation ambitions into effective climate action** by supporting key elements that drive the design and implementation of impactful evidence-based mitigation action and strategies. Under this work area, the NDC SP supported **40 countries** apply a comprehensive set of approaches to establish a clear pathway to reduce emissions and achieve their NDC targets. These included **preparing technical analyses for NDC updates, integrating NDCs into national, subnational and sectoral plans and policies,** and **preparing national and sectoral LTS** while also strengthening and promoting **prioritized mitigation actions.** The NDC SP has also emphasized **gender considerations in the design and implementation of NDCs,** ensuring that climate strategies are inclusive and account for the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and other social groups.

2.1 ▪ NDC integration in planning and LTS

Integrating climate targets into national and sectoral development plans, as well aligning to LTS, provides countries with a clear roadmap for informed decision-making and efficient resource allocation and progress tracking. Beyond climate benefits, robust technical planning drives broader development outcomes by fostering innovation, productivity and capacity for evidence-based policymaking.

2.1.1 NDCs updated and reflected in national, subnational and/or sectoral plans and policies

According to the 2024 NDC Synthesis Report, only "48 percent of Parties indicated that they have integrated their NDC targets, goals and policies into national legislative, regulatory and planning processes as a means of ensuring implementation." The NDC SP supported 38 countries to integrate NDCs into existing planning frameworks such as national, subnational or sectoral plans and policies.

Under this work area, NDC SP-supported **countries developed and refined sectoral climate change management plans, roadmaps, and mitigation scenarios,** which guided adaptation and mitigation measures across sectors such as energy, transportation, forestry and waste. These efforts involved extensive stakeholder consultations to validate actions and targets, ensuring alignment across national and subnational levels. Countries also created financial strategies to optimize resource mobilization and incentivize private sector investments. Some countries drafted subnational implementation roadmaps to integrate NDC priorities into sectoral development plans, while inclusive and gender-responsive strategies were prepared to ensure equity in implementation processes.

In 2022, six countries—DRC, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Paraguay and Uganda – developed NDC implementation roadmaps or financial assessments. **DRC** finalized an implementation roadmap, a financing strategy and private sector engagement plan. **El Salvador** developed 12 sectoral NDC plans and launched awareness campaigns. **Guatemala** finalized its NDC roadmap by aligning sectoral priorities with legal mandates and conducting extensive consultations through participatory processes that integrated gender and Indigenous perspectives, while **Paraguay** validated its NDC financial strategy through stakeholder engagement. **Uganda** finalized its NDC implementation and resource mobilization plan and also validated them through stakeholder consultations.

NDC implementation plans or roadmaps help prioritize actions across key sectors, such as energy, transportation, agriculture and industry, aligning mitigation efforts with national development priorities.

Box 4 highlights various components of an NDC implementation plan.

Box 4 Components of an NDC implementation plan

An NDC implementation plan can be used to identify:

- timing and sequence of actions and measures to be implemented;
- roles and responsibilities of key bodies (e.g., coordination mechanisms, ministries, civil society, private sector, etc.);
- available resources (both technical and financial) to implement NDC actions;
- expected impacts of implemented policies and actions, as well as the feasibility and risks of those policies and actions;
- capacity needs and knowledge and data gaps;
- necessary regulatory and legal frameworks;
- relevant stakeholders and the plan for stakeholder engagement;
- coordination mechanisms for stakeholders in and outside of government;
- how progress will be monitored, verified and reported; and
- linkages between the policies and actions implemented to achieve the NDC and the SDGs.

Source: UNDP and UNEP (2020). NDC implementation guide.

Similarly, **technical analyses** ensure that actions are grounded in evidence and tailored to national and sectoral contexts. These analyses provide critical data on emissions sources, reduction potential, and cost-benefit assessments, enabling policymakers to identify the most impactful and feasible mitigation opportunities.

Twenty-one countries – Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d´Ivoire, DRC, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda, Tunisia, Uganda, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe – undertook technical analyses to enhance and implement their NDCs. These included sectoral mitigation and adaptation analyses, such as validating and costing mitigation options, conducting circular economy assessments and preparing technical studies to address barriers and maximize co-benefits. Financial and economic assessments analysed investment needs, financial flows and climate finance requirements, complemented by economic modelling to evaluate policy impacts on growth, poverty and employment.

Box 5 explores NDC planning processes in-depth in Argentina and El Salvador.

Box 5 Driving climate action through planning: Argentina and El Salvador

In 2020, **Argentina,** with support from the NDC SP, developed **17 GHG emission scenarios** across key sectors such as energy, agriculture, transportation, industry and forestry within the National Climate Change Commission and in conjunction with sectoral ministries and stakeholders. Building on this work and incorporating contributions from diverse stakeholders, in 2022, Argentina published its National Adaptation and Mitigation Plan to Climate Change.

The commitment of subnational governments was key in this process, facilitating the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures and leading to the preparation of climate plans by several Argentinian provinces. Two provinces, Santa Fe and Jujuy, developed **regional climate action policies.** Jujuy developed an adaptation and mitigation plan that prioritized renewable energy projects, sustainable land use and enhanced water resource management to address vulnerabilities in agriculture and urban infrastructure. Santa Fe focused its plan on fostering a circular economy, reducing emissions from agro-industrial activities, and improving resilience through sustainable water management and disaster risk reduction strategies.

Ultimately, Argentina delivered technically improved analysis, reflected in 22 provincial climate change response plans, with the support of the national team of the Climate Change Directorate. In July 2023, the provinces and the national government agreed on the procedures and criteria to evaluate and validate the response plans, stipulated in the Law 27520 on Minimum Budgets for Adaptation and Mitigation to Global Climate Change and its regulatory decree.

In **El Salvador,** the programme provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource (MARN, in its Spanish acronym) and the Ministry of Finance to implement the NDC. With this aim, a catalogue of climate finance needs was developed in 2023. MARN carried out a series of workshops with various sectors to prepare 30 sectoral matrices with proposals for each of the sectors, including energy, AFOLU, agriculture, hydroelectric generation, infrastructure, health, sanitation and solid waste and transportation. It also developed priorities to promote adaptation in the sectors of biodiversity and ecosystems, cities and water resources. The matrices were included in the sectoral plans for the implementation of the NDC in El Salvador. Based on the catalogue, MARN is leading the cooperation dialogue strategy with partners to develop and mobilize technical and financial cooperation.

2.1.2 National or sectoral LTS

Under the NDC SP, **11 countries** – Argentina, Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Paraguay, Tunisia and Viet Nam – **advanced their LTS development.** These strategies integrated gender equity, just transition and considerations for vulnerable communities, resulting in national decarbonization plans, sector-specific LTS and resilience-focused strategies.

LTS provide a long-term vision for transitioning to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. They align short-term NDC targets with national development goals, ensuring strategic and sustainable mitigation efforts. Additionally, LTS provide a framework for international cooperation, aligning national priorities with global decarbonization goals while addressing domestic needs like poverty reduction, clean energy access and economic diversification.

In 2019, **Costa Rica** developed its National Decarbonization Plan and analysed tax exemptions to support decarbonization, while **Colombia** engaged sectoral ministries in gender-responsive climate planning. **Bhutan** updated sectoral LEDS for human settlements and industries, integrating costings and investment plans, while **Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal** and **Viet Nam** worked on LTS: Kenya's strategy, announced at COP26, outlined priority actions for net-zero by 2050. Lao PDR completed a policy-driven low-carbon strategy, and Nepal finalized its LTS for

Net-Zero Emissions, integrating sectoral implementation and monitoring plans. Viet Nam developed a strategy for sustainable agricultural research, contributing to the approval of its National Green Growth Strategy (2021–2030, vision to 2050).

Kazakhstan proposed a Carbon Neutral Strategy in 2022, aligning with its updated NDC. **Argentina, Chile, Paraguay** and **Tunisia** designed or strengthened LTS by 2023. Argentina approved its Strategy for Resilient Development with Low Emissions and launched a National Programme for Long-Term Scenarios. Chile published an assessment of carbon neutrality costs in the energy sector. Paraguay developed low-carbon scenarios for 2050, integrating sectoral mitigation measures. Tunisia updated GHG simulations for the energy sector, contributing to its National Low-Carbon Strategy and advancing its climate vision towards carbon neutrality.

Box 6 features LTS processes in Argentina and Bhutan.

Box 6 Advancing long-term mitigation planning across whole of government

Argentina's long-term national strategy and sub-national response plans

In 2023, Argentina's Strategy for Resilient Development with Low Emissions in the Long Term to 2050 was approved through Ministerial Resolution 218/2023 and a National Program of Long Term Scenarios was created under the leadership of the Secretariat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation of the National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Supported throughout development by the NDC SP, the strategy is considered a key instrument of national climate policy, which deepens and continues efforts of the Second NDC of 2020 and Argentina's updated 2021 mitigation target.

The strategy created a key linkage to 22 provincial climate change response plans, also supported by the NDC SP, which define each province's approach to addressing climate action in alignment with national targets.

Bhutan's sectoral priorities for mitigation action

Although carbon neutral, Bhutan faces challenges with growing GHG emissions in urban areas and industry. With NDC SP support, and through a participatory process, Bhutan updated two key sectoral strategies with costings and implementation and investment plans. The Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) for Human Settlements provides an overarching framework for low-emission development in the human settlement sector, while the LEDS for Industries identifies relevant mitigation measures and recommends the establishment of a revolving fund mechanism to provide favourable financial packages to stimulate climate-friendly investment in the country. The two LEDS also informed ambition setting during the development of Bhutan's second NDC, which was submitted in 2021.

2.2 ▪ Strengthened NDC mitigation actions

Prioritizing mitigation actions ensures that resources and efforts are directed towards measures that deliver the greatest climate impact while addressing national development priorities and pathways.
Prioritization also helps streamline coordination across sectors and between stakeholders, ensuring that mitigation efforts are scalable and aligned with broader policy frameworks.

Between 2019 and 2023, 18 programme **countries advanced various NDC mitigation efforts and developed bankable climate-focused projects and feasibility studies** to leverage national and international support for achieving appropriate, effective and transformational GHG mitigation and sustainable development targets.

In 2018, **Zambia** submitted three mitigation actions to the Mitigation Action facility. In 2019, **Colombia** strengthened 14 prioritized mitigation actions, focusing on key aspects like mitigation targets, MRV systems, emission factors and financing mechanisms. **Bhutan** advanced its flagship waste mitigation action through a collaboration between the government and private sector, including the construction of an organic waste composting facility in Thimphu. In 2021, **Kenya** worked to advance its Circular Economy Solid Waste Management Mitigation Action by engaging in legal, financial and technical assessments to involve the private sector, while **Zambia** developed a charcoal mitigation action proposal aimed at sustainable charcoal production.

Other countries such as **Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda** and **Viet Nam** opted to identify and develop **bankable proposals** to secure financial and institutional support for NDC implementation. These initiatives focused on key areas like energy efficiency, agriculture, clean cooking solutions and private sector engagement. Notably, Morocco and Uganda developed multiple concept notes and project proposals, while Ethiopia and Rwanda have worked on financing mechanisms for green business initiatives.

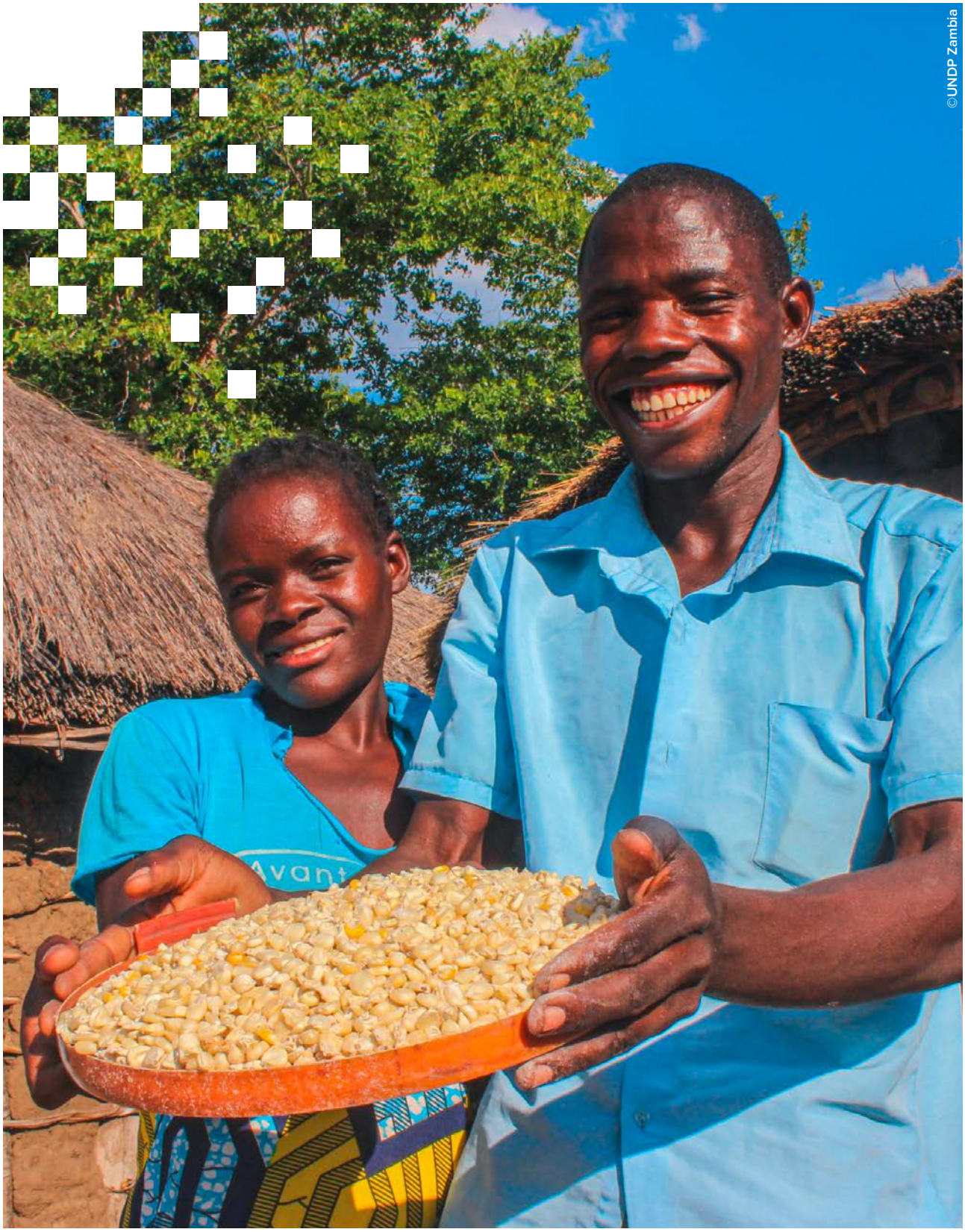
Ecuador, the Marshall Islands, Palestine, Peru, Tunisia and Vanuatu also conducted **feasibility studies** to assess opportunities for investment in renewable energy, circular economy and biomethanization. Vanuatu explored innovative rural electrification technologies, while the Marshall Islands focused on aligning energy policies with mitigation goals, and Palestine addressed the cattle dairy subsector in the West Bank to create a circular business model (Box 7).

Box 7 Greening the farming value chain in Palestine

A circular business model, grounded in a value chain analysis, was proposed to green the dairy production value chain at al Mushroua al Arabi in Palestine. This innovative model aims to foster climate-resilient cattle farming by generating and capturing value for farmers through greening practices, while simultaneously reducing waste and costs, and enhancing productivity.

In 2022, extensive consultations were held with stakeholders to identify greening interventions in the cattle value chain, aimed at providing green loans to small and medium-scale dairy farmers, across various areas: economic resilience, environmental preservation, policy and regulatory framework, and access to essential support services.

Together these actions highlight a comprehensive effort to mobilize financial, technical and policy support for mitigation strategies, ensuring more effective NDC implementation. Integrating the broader benefits of mitigation actions into the prioritization criteria ensures that measures not only accelerate progress towards NDC targets but also promote broader development co-benefits such as poverty reduction, gender equity and increased resilience for vulnerable communities. This strategic approach also leverages synergies between climate action and development goals, ensuring that mitigation delivers transformative and lasting benefits for both the climate and society.



3 Climate-friendly investment and private sector engagement

At a glance

32 programme countries (68 percent) engaged in at least one of these two work areas:

22 countries (47 percent) undertook de-risking efforts or advanced sustainable finance or market-based mechanisms.

25 countries (53 percent) systematically engaged private sector.

The NDC SP supported **countries to create an enabling environment for sustainable investments by addressing financial, policy and market barriers, as well as fostering collaboration between public and private stakeholders.** From conducting risk and finance assessments to establishing public and private investment mechanisms, project portfolio approaches, market-based solutions and private sector platforms or forums, each element played a role in enhancing countries' capacity to attract, direct, and scale investments.

3.1 ▪ De-risking or private sector NDC investment strategies

Under this area of work, **countries were supported in developing de-risking strategies and investment plans to advance NDC actions, overcome funding barriers and reduce investor risks.** Recognizing the need for tailored approaches to address the unique climate finance challenges of each country, a range of strategies were applied, including de-risking assessments, investment and financial flows analyses and climate finance landscape assessments.

Fourteen **de-risking strategies or policy briefs** were prepared in nine countries – **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Senegal, Tunisia** and **Uganda.** Risk assessments explored on climate-related risks in key sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture and industry, ensuring that financial strategies and risk mitigation efforts were tailored to sector-specific challenges and opportunities. For example, in 2021, **Nigeria** developed five dedicated policy briefs targeting its NDC priority sectors: oil and gas, power, industry, transport and agriculture. These policy briefs proposed targeted risk mitigation strategies, including policy reforms and financial instruments. In **Senegal,** a 2022 study on de-risking investments in renewable energy, particularly mini-grids, identified barriers to private sector investment, such as policy uncertainty, market risks or financial constraints.

De-risking frameworks help drive market-transformation initiatives and demonstrate the business case for zero-carbon, climate-resilient investment.
By promoting sustainable finance, increased investor confidence drives economic growth, strengthens the financial sector, and supports national development, creating a cycle of investment and progress.

Meanwhile, eight countries – **Chile, Ecuador, the Marshall Islands, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Rwanda,** and **Thailand** – prepared 10 **finance assessments** that covered various aspects of climate finance, including investment and financial flows evaluations, public expenditure tracking and the identification of financing barriers. This was the case in **Chile,** which focused on strengthening capacities for identifying and measuring public climate change expenditures, while **Panama** developed a strategy to integrate climate finance into public investment planning. **Morocco** also conducted comprehensive investment and financial flows assessments across two sectors, and **Rwanda** produced three in-depth reports on resource mobilization, financial flows and risk mapping for mitigation measures. These assessments examined the scale of financial resources required to meet NDC targets, assessing whether current investment trends align with national climate goals and identifying funding shortfalls. Box 8 describes the impact of an investment and financial flows analysis in **Thailand.** Finally, the **Marshall Islands** produced a **climate finance landscape** assessment for a comprehensive overview of both existing and potential sources of climate finance within the country, mapping key financial actors, investment flows and funding gaps.

Box 8

What is the level of investment needed to climate-proof transportation infrastructure in Thailand?

While transportation in Thailand has great potential to reduce GHG emissions, the sector is also vulnerable to natural hazards that are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, such as flash floods and landslides. The assessment, "Identified investment needed for climate-proof transport infrastructure in Thailand", found that Thailand needs 13-14 billion Thai Baht (around US$386 million) to make transportation infrastructure more resilient against climate change.

This analysis, developed with UNDP's Investment and Financial Flow assessment methodology, helped make the business case for action regarding Thailand's need to increase investments and finance for the transport sector. It looked at the changes in investments needed for two groups: the government and corporations.

Using baseline and adaptation scenarios, the analysis determined the flows of investments and finance required to undertake priority measures from 2022-2030 (progressive adaptation case) and 2022-2050 (moderate adaptation case). The summary tables of incremental investment showed that the implementation of adaptation in the sector leads to savings and, ultimately, reduces the need for a national emergency budget in the long term.

3.2 ▪ Sustainable finance mechanisms

The NDC SP worked in **12 countries to foster sustainable finance mechanisms,** including the design of public frameworks and the formulation of private investment funds or project portfolios. These mechanisms included tools such as green bonds, climate funds and impact-driven investment frameworks to make climate-friendly projects more attractive to private investors. By offering incentives and reducing barriers to entry, private investment mechanisms helped unlock capital for climate action.

Sustainable finance and investment mechanisms mobilize financial resources and unlock innovation potential, enabling the achievement of climate goals.
By enhancing cooperation between public and private sectors, robust and diversified mechanisms unlock the financial flows needed to achieve both climate goals and the SDGs, reducing reliance on public funds and promoting social equity and inclusive growth.

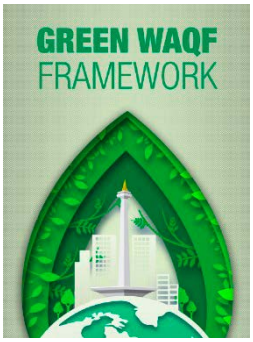
Public investment funds and frameworks

Public investment funds allocate government resources to priority climate projects, signalling strong public sector commitment and reducing the financial risks for private investors. Similarly, public investment frameworks catalyse private sector involvement, creating a dynamic and resilient investment environment that supports long-term, sustainable and inclusive growth. The NDC SP supported a wide range of public instruments, including:

- a climate finance fiscal framework in **Chile,** created for quantifying and monitoring climate expenditures
- the **Indonesian** Green Waqf Framework, which serves as a financing instrument for the green sukuk (a type of green bond), which has been key to attracting climate-related investments (Box 9);
- a national climate change fund in **Kenya,** which was operationalized by the National Treasury with seed funding; and
- the Congo Blue Fund for 16 countries in the **Congo Basin,** which was designed through 4C Maroc and includes a portfolio of 270 priority projects.

Box 9 Innovative Islamic Finance for Climate Action in Indonesia

Indonesia has pioneered innovative Islamic finance instruments to support its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. The Green Waqf Framework reimagines traditional Islamic endowments as tools for ecological balance and sustainability and channels waqf assets into projects that reduce climate impacts while promoting social welfare, such as renewable energy installations and sustainable agriculture. The framework integrates Islamic principles with modern environmental and social goals, offering a blueprint for scaling green waqf globally. For example, a proposed pilot project involves tamanu plantations, which restore degraded land while producing biofuels, demonstrating the dual environmental and economic benefits of this approach. The green sukuk**,** a sharia-compliant green bond, exclusively channels proceeds towards eligible green projects, such as renewable energy, sustainable transportation and waste-to-energy initiatives. Since the first issuance in 2018, green sukuks have raised significant international and domestic investment, mobilizing public and private sectors to fund Indonesia's transition to a low-carbon economy. Green projects from the Ministry of Agriculture were included for the first time in 2020, reflecting enhanced interministerial collaboration. The NDC SP provided key support by building the capacity of 98 participants from line ministries and enhancing coordination and impact reporting processes. These initiatives exemplify the potential of blending faith-based finance with climate action.



Project portfolio approaches

A project portfolio approach involves developing and managing a diverse set of climate-related projects that align with national priorities and NDC targets, allowing countries to balance risks, optimize resources and maximize the impact of their investments. This strategy enables flexible investments based on context and emerging opportunities and fosters stakeholder cooperation.

Four countries – **Costa Rica, Peru, Rwanda** and **Tunisia** – developed **portfolios of bankable projects** to support NDC implementation. In 2021, **Costa Rica** created a portfolio featuring 200 bankable initiatives aligned with NDC goals, identifying challenges faced by small businesses, such as costly and complex formalities, permit requirements and gender-related barriers. **Peru** developed a portfolio comprising 72 initiatives aimed at advancing NDC implementation. **Rwanda** established five bankable climate-resilient agricultural projects, incorporating training and coaching programmes for youth, women, private sector stakeholders and civil society actors in the agricultural sector. In 2022, **Tunisia** focused its portfolio on the energy sector, reinforcing the country's commitment to transitioning towards cleaner, more sustainable energy sources.

These project portfolios highlight a strategic and integrated approach to addressing complex environmental and economic challenges, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, innovation and collaboration.

Private investment funds

Private investment mechanisms were advanced under the NDC SP through partnerships and frameworks designed to mobilize capital. **Côte d'Ivoire** began laying the groundwork for a green bond issuance to finance NDC measures in 2020, with the programme supporting the development of an impact reporting framework. This framework was deemed crucial to assure investors of Côte d'Ivoire's ability to report on the impact of the proceeds and to include indicators that reflect Côte d'Ivoire's NDC. The impact reporting methodology, which included indicators, process flow and potential tools for facilitating the collection and reporting of data, was completed in 2022.

Ghana developed an operational framework for Performance-Based Payments for GHG reductions in the food and beverage industry. The framework identified four key entry points: (a) boiler replacement, (b) retrofitting, overhauling or refurbishment, (c) boiler house component replacement and (d) fuel replacement. Five food and beverage companies participated in the performance-based payments facility aimed at increasing industrial energy efficiency.

3.3 ▪ Measures to address barriers to market-based mechanisms

Between 2021 and 2023, several NDC SP countries made progress in this area. **Ghana** and **Vanuatu** entered **bilateral agreements under article 6.2:** Ghana signed Memoranda of Understanding with Switzerland and Sweden to operationalize carbon trading, while Vanuatu developed Mitigation Action Design Documents[5] and an ITMO registry. In 2022, **Bhutan** explored methodologies for calculating its electricity grid emission factor to assess carbon market opportunities, and Ghana established a Carbon Markets Policy Framework supported by a dedicated office to facilitate transactions.

By 2023, **Côte d'Ivoire** and Ghana continued advancing their **carbon market initiatives.** Côte d'Ivoire assessed its readiness to participate in article 6 and identified institutional arrangements to facilitate ITMO transfers. Ghana developed a strategy and operational manual for Ghana's engagement under article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement contributing to the development of Ghana's framework on international carbon markets and non-market approaches.

Market-based mechanisms play a crucial role in reducing GHG emissions by enabling carbon trading and cooperative approaches under article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Countries have taken significant steps to develop frameworks, establish agreements and build institutional capacity to engage in international carbon markets effectively.

Also in 2023, **Peru's** High-Level Commission on Climate Change advanced work on **cooperative approaches,** refining guidelines for eligible technologies and integrating efforts into its National Registry of Mitigation Measures.

These initiatives highlight the growing commitment of countries to leverage market-based mechanisms for climate action, enhancing transparency, investment opportunities and cross-border collaboration in reducing emissions.

3.4 ▪ Private sector engagement

The NDC SP supported 25 countries in this work area, ensuring that these frameworks were tailored to specific national contexts and objectives. The strategies included business forums or working groups, private sector voluntary reporting and targeted capacity-building and technical studies.

Public-private partnerships mobilize private capital and foster collaboration for climate projects. By combining public sector support with private sector innovation, these partnerships drive investments that benefit climate action and national development.

Structured platforms such as business forums and private sector working groups helped foster dialogue and coordination, identify investment opportunities, address barriers and outline strategic pathways for private sector involvement in NDC implementation. Roadmaps developed through these platforms provided sector-specific milestones and actionable steps, ensuring alignment between business activities and national climate priorities.

Between 2020 and 2023, countries systematically engaged the private sector across a range of sustainability and climate-related initiatives:

- In **Latin America,** while **Colombia** secured private commitments for Zero Deforestation Agreements and **Ecuador** organized business roundtables and developed a financial strategy report in 2020, Argentina launched a public-private platform for sustainable development in 2023.

- In **Africa,** in 2021, **Mali** implemented a private sector engagement strategy and **Kenya** focused on co-designing waste management solutions and later developed engagement strategies, frameworks and roadmaps. **Morocco** formed private sector working groups in 2022 through a partnership with the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises to develop a decarbonization guide for industries. **Zambia** hosted a Green Investment Conference in 2022, and **Ethiopia** completed its private sector engagement strategy in 2023.

- In **Asia,** in 2020, **Lao PDR** collaborated with the private sector to co-design circular economy solutions and **Thailand** conducted a private climate expenditure review and institutional assessment for energy efficiency.

5 A Mitigation Action Design Document refers to a comprehensive plan that outlines specific measures aimed at reducing GHG emissions within a particular project or initiative.

Promoting transparency and accountability has also been central to building investor confidence and fostering responsible business practices. **Voluntary reporting frameworks** supported by the NDC SP have enabled businesses to disclose climate risks, mitigation efforts and contributions to NDC targets. These frameworks have strengthened trust in the private sector's commitment to sustainability, improved market reputations and prepared businesses for future regulatory requirements, while contributing to broader national climate objectives.

Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay and **Viet Nam** have been particularly successful under the NDC SP in developing voluntary reporting platforms. In Latin America, **Chile** launched HuellaChile in 2018, which now has over 800 participating companies, which inspired Peru to launch HuellaPeru (Box 10). **Ecuador** introduced Programa Ecuador Carbono Cero as part of its private sector engagement for NDC implementation and **Paraguay** also launched private sector voluntary reporting in 2022, which included a carbon footprint tool, six company incentives and case studies on businesses with low GHG emissions in the industry and LULUCF sectors.

Box 10 Monitoring carbon footprints in Chile and Peru

The **HuellaChile** programme is a transformative platform enabling organizations in Chile to voluntarily measure, report and reduce their GHG emissions. Operated by the Ministry of Environment, the programme serves as a cornerstone for achieving Chile's NDCs, with tools for emissions accounting, project validation and impact measurement. The MRV system became fully operational in January 2021. The programme further expanded its scope by incorporating circular economy principles and fostering private sector collaboration. Notable advancements included the development of methodological rules to quantify GHG reductions from circular economy projects, encouraging businesses to adopt low-carbon practices. Additionally, the programme introduced "Recognition Seals" that are supported by guidelines to prevent greenwashing, fostering trust in sustainable initiatives. In 2022, Chile expanded its private sector voluntary reporting with a new platform supporting mid- and small-scale projects. To date, HuellaChile has registered 2,378 organizations, awarded nearly 1,500 recognition seals and trained 5,000 stakeholders.

HuellaPeru, another flagship initiative supported by the NDC SP, is central to Peru's MRV system, as mandated by its climate change law. Managed by the Ministry of Environment, this platform also allows organizations to voluntarily report mitigation actions and GHG emissions and serves as a comprehensive GHG emissions registry. With its user-friendly interface, HuellaPeru facilitates accountability and provides critical data for policy development and emissions tracking. The platform prioritized inclusivity by including small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and providing capacity-building sessions to ensure widespread participation. The Ministry also launched a citizen awareness campaign to encourage the public to spread the message of two ambassadors – a bear and a sloth – and encourage greater uptake of the platform by public and private organizations.

In 2022, **Viet Nam** introduced private sector voluntary reporting through a direct lending mechanism under the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Fund. The initiative also established an alliance between Agribank, agricultural cooperatives and the Ministry of Finance to create a green financing framework in two provinces. A high-level workshop was also held in August 2022 to promote community co-management models.

Capacity-building proved crucial to empowering the private sector to participate in climate action. Training programmes, technical workshops and knowledge-sharing initiatives helped businesses understand climate policies, financial mechanisms and the benefits of low-carbon investments. By enhancing their technical expertise, companies can better identify and seize opportunities which arise from climate action. Capacity-building efforts also support the participation of SMEs, which often face challenges in accessing climate finance due to limited resources or knowledge.

Between 2018 and 2024, several countries embarked on various initiatives to promote sustainable development, capacity-building and private sector engagement, particularly in the context of climate action and green business practices. In 2021, **Morocco** trained 98 private sector representatives on the challenges and opportunities of carbon neutrality, while in 2022, **Bhutan** conducted a capacity-building workshop that trained 17 women and 2 men in earthen pottery design and production, alongside a technical study aimed at reviewing policies and legal frameworks for green businesses, identifying opportunities for SMEs. In 2023, **Guatemala** worked on decarbonization guide, a step towards carbon reduction efforts. **Vanuatu** engaged in a metabolic analysis to explore circular economy opportunities, aiming to enhance sustainability in the region.

Across these countries, the focus remained on fostering green business practices, supporting private sector involvement in climate action, and building local capacity for sustainable development.

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4 COVID-19 green recovery and NDC alignment

At a glance

7 countries made alignment between COVID-19 recovery efforts and NDC enhancement and implementation.

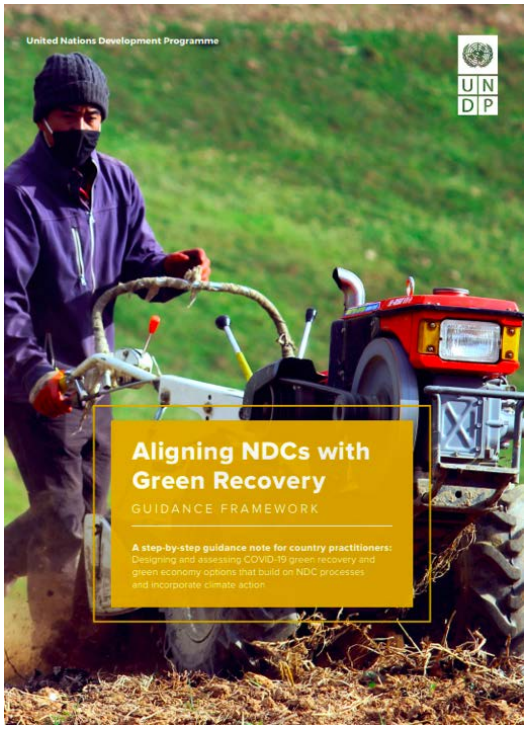
The NDC SP **green recovery targeted support in countries was implemented** through a variety of strategies, from **advocacy and socioeconomic assessments to public/private financial mechanisms and gender-responsive green recovery measures.** Countries also engaged in **south-south knowledge exchanges** and **capacity-building** programmes to strengthen their approach to sustainable recovery, while others focused on improving inter-institutional agreements and coordination processes to further enhance their efforts.

This integrated approach helped countries "build back better" from the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic while simultaneously advancing their climate goals.

> *"Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and related climate change plans (e.g., National Adaptation Plans and Long-Term Low GHG Emission Development Strategies) can guide countries' recovery efforts by helping to green these economic stimulus plans."*
>
> **Source:** Aligning NDCs with green recovery: Guidance framework.

4.1 ▪ Advocacy and socio-economic assessments and capacity-building

Between 2022 and 2023, Albania, Benin, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Jordan and Viet Nam undertook **socio-economic and advocacy assessments** to integrate green recovery into their NDC processes. These assessments focused on sector-specific impacts and policy alignment, such as **Albania's** forestry sector analysis (later expanded by a cross-sectoral assessment of the energy-forestry nexus), **Costa Rica's** decarbonization investment study and **Ecuador's** scoping study for green recovery opportunities. In **Jordan,** green jobs assessment's recommendations were successfully integrated into the updated Transport Strategy and further refined, in collaboration with GIZ and Cambridge Econometrics, by integrating new scenario modelling.



Meanwhile, **Viet Nam** assessed the socio-economic impact of the clean transportation value chain, including job creation potential and e-mobility solutions, and **Benin** conducted a green recovery assessment to strengthen dialogue with the Ministry of Economy and contribute to the global guidance on "Aligning NDCs with Green Recovery."

UNDP, as a member of the Green Recovery Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group led by the World Bank, also supported the development of the Green Recovery M&E Technical Note, which was launched in January 2022 and further disseminated through webinars and outreach.

In 2022 and 2023, several initiatives strengthened **capacity-building, knowledge exchange and training** on NDC and green recovery alignment.

These efforts included **capacity-building** for ministries in several countries. In **Albania,** both national and local forestry institutions received training sessions on topics like sustainable forest management, legal frameworks and carbon sequestration. In **Ecuador,** an e-learning programme on climate finance was launched and integrated into the Ministry of Economic and Finance platform. **Jordan** focused on the transportation sector, conducting a capacity needs assessment and delivering climate finance training on mobilizing private investment for sustainable transport.

4.2 ▪ Finance mobilization, inter-institutional coordination and inclusive measures

In 2022 and 2023, Albania, Ecuador, Jordan, and Viet Nam advanced **efforts to mobilize finance for green recovery and strengthen inter-institutional coordination** through initiatives such as micro capital grants, fiscal policy reforms, and financial incentives.

Albania developed a grant programme to support green jobs in the forestry sector, through which five Civil Society Organizations entered into Low Value Grants agreements with UNDP to develop several green recovery initiatives. **Benin** formulated a green finance action plan, and **Ecuador** redefined its public budget process to integrate climate considerations. Jordan promoted four startup incubation through pilot projects in the **Jordan** valley to encourage the adoption of innovative climate solutions within the local communities. **Viet Nam** worked on financial proposals for climate-resilient transport focusing on incentives for electric vehicle adoption, supporting the Ministry of Transport in shaping a national e-mobility programme.

Inter-institutional coordination was strengthened in Albania and Ecuador through new agreements between ministries of finance, planning and the environment. In **Albania,** a National Forestry Agency was operationalized to collaborate with key ministries on green recovery, and key decrees were prepared to implement the Law on Forests and establish rules for ecosystem services compensation and forest fund management. In **Ecuador,** the Ministry of Finance integrated climate considerations into fiscal planning and budgetary guidelines.

These measures collectively enhanced institutional collaboration and financial mechanisms to accelerate green recovery efforts.

In 2022 and 2023, countries worked in promoting gender-responsive and **inclusive green recovery,** ensuring women, youth and vulnerable groups are actively engaged in shaping climate-resilient economies.

In **Jordan,** a social dialogue ensured that the transportation sector strategy was gender-inclusive. The country also developed a climate finance proposal for a strategic transportation project and launched three pilot projects for water resilience in Amman. Additionally, UNDP backed startups and SMEs in water and agriculture, promoting smart irrigation, water conservation and agritech solutions. A youth network was also established to advocate for sustainable solutions beyond the project's lifespan.

In **Albania,** gender perspectives were mainstreamed into forestry and energy sectors, emphasizing data collection, research and gender-sensitive policy recommendations. Meanwhile, **Benin** integrated gender considerations into its three local climate action plans and developed a post-COVID-19 recovery plan, aligning economic revitalization with climate mitigation and adaptation.

In **Viet Nam,** efforts focused on sustainable transportation, with the submission of e-bike sharing policy recommendations and peer-to-peer technical workshops.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5 Cross-cutting approaches to bolster climate ambition

At the core of the programme's implementation strategy was an **interconnected approach,** which enhanced governance, transparency and financial mobilization to advance ambitious and sustained climate action. This integrated model ensured that NDC implementation was not treated as a stand-alone effort, but embedded within national governance systems, fostering policy coherence and institutional collaboration. Through **long-term, tailored and country-led strategies,** the programme provided specialized technical assistance, strengthened institutional capacity and promoted stakeholder engagement to accelerate climate action at the national, subnational and sectoral levels. Moreover, the programme focused on other strong areas of interest and core building blocks, including the integration of **gender considerations into NDC planning and implementation** as well as the promotion of **evidence-based learning, advocacy and knowledge, country-level synergies and global partnerships.**


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5.1 ▪ Advancing gender equality in NDC implementation

A UNDP analysis conducted in 2016 found that of 161 (Intended) NDCs, only 40 percent referenced gender equality. To address this gap, the programme allocated funding to **integrate gender considerations into NDC planning** in 10 target countries **(Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, the Philippines, Uganda and Zambia).** Between 2019 and 2021, these countries conducted gender analyses to assess key sectors and inform policy decisions, and advanced gender integration in the enhancement and implementation of their NDCs through various other approaches. An additional 14 countries also undertook similar efforts.

Chile applied a gender approach in its Climate Change Framework Law and an adaptation plan for tourism, while **Ghana** conducted a gender audit of its National Energy Policy and developed a national action plan. **The Philippines** established gender-responsiveness indicators for sectoral NDC implementation plans and **Bhutan** finalized a gender mainstreaming toolkit and adopted a gender-responsive climate policy. **Ecuador** integrated gender into coastal zone planning. Six countries **(Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda)** trained over 640 people on gender and climate approaches.

Broader gender mainstreaming efforts were extended throughout the initiative and non-target counties, including **Chile, Colombia, Nigeria, Tunisia** and **Uganda** also undertook similar efforts.

Box 11 highlights several examples of gender-focused initiatives in these countries.

Box 11 Gender-responsive governance and inclusive planning

Gender-responsive coordination structures

Chile facilitated the creation of a Climate Change and Gender Interinstitutional Working Group and a Gender and Climate Change Roundtable in 2019-2020, which resulted in the creation of a check list to incorporate the gender approach in climate change instruments.

Gender and climate change capacity-building

Colombia produced guidelines for enhancing gender mainstreaming in the climate change management for six sectoral ministries, which were rolled out with a comprehensive capacity-building program in 2020-2021.

Consultations with women's organizations

Nigeria completed a series of consultations in 2021 with women's business groups to discuss various climate topics such as: access to climate finance for women, financial inclusion for climate action and women in the extractive industry and their role in climate action.

National action plan on gender and climate change

Tunisia developed a national action plan on gender and climate change in 2021 – in line with the updated Tunisian NDC – which included considerations of economic empowerment for women, particularly in rural areas.

Gender-responsive MRV system

Uganda developed an integrated MRV tool in 2020 which includes gender indicators in all its components for monitoring climate impacts from a perspective gendered.

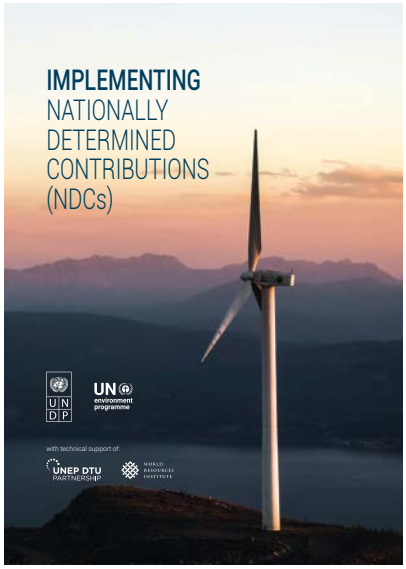
5.2 ▪ Evidence-based learning, advocacy and knowledge

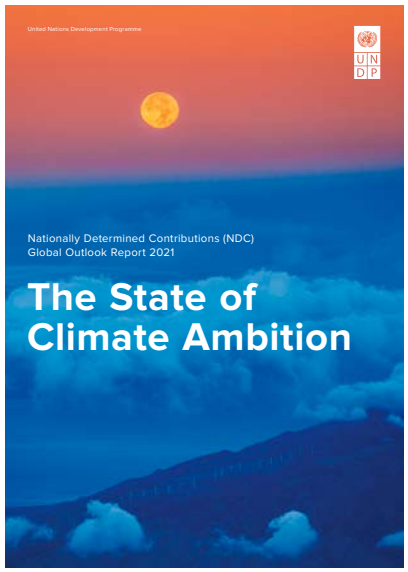
The NDC SP applied a dynamic approach to evidence-based learning, advocacy and exchange of knowledge and experiences, ensuring that climate professionals, policymakers and stakeholders are equipped with the latest insights, tools and strategies for effective NDC implementation. These efforts resulted in capacity-building and greater collaboration, and amplified climate action globally.

By developing comprehensive **flagship publications, technical reports, policy briefs, toolkits and case studies,** the programme ensured that practical and scalable insights informed climate decision-making and policy development. Publications, blogs and photo stories covering key themes such as the state of climate ambition, just transition, youth engagement, gender mainstreaming, green recovery, and NDC investments, were disseminated via UNDP's Climate Promise website.

Additionally, through structured South-South knowledge exchanges, thematic regional dialogues and high-impact training workshops, the programme fostered **knowledge-sharing networks** that empowered countries to adopt and adapt successful climate strategies. Digital platforms and interactive webinars further broadened the reach of this knowledge, ensuring that lessons learned at the national level were systematically captured and applied to strengthen global climate action efforts.

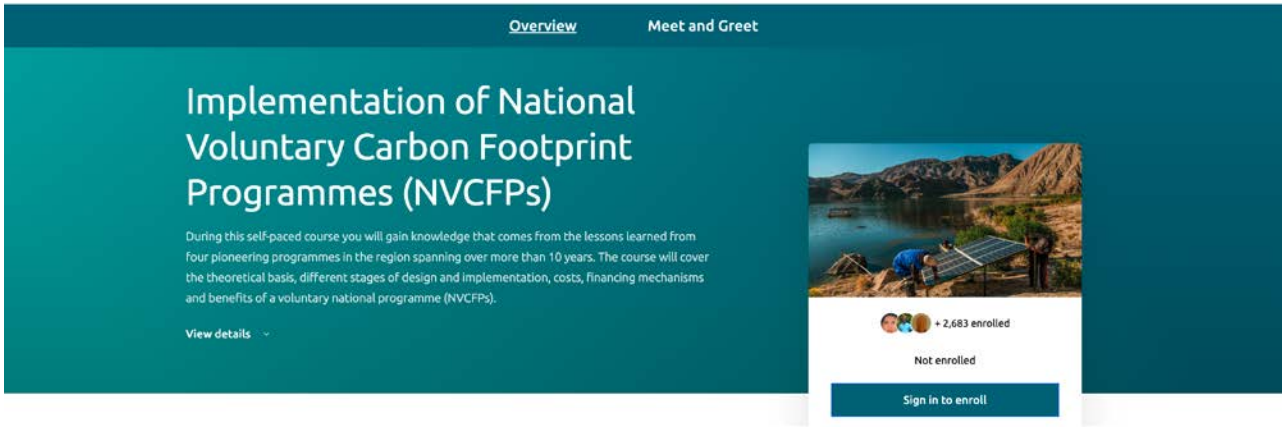
Flagship publications



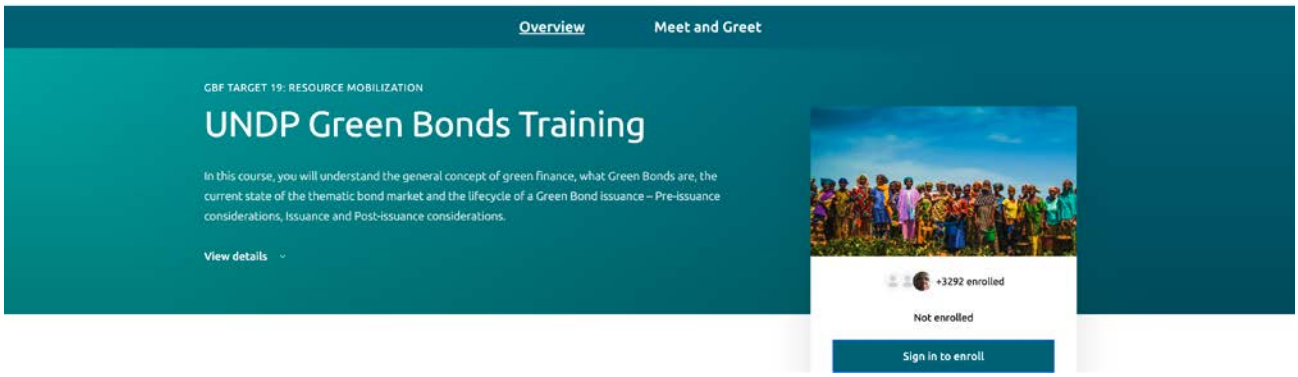


E-learning

[Course on National Voluntary Carbon Footprint Programmes](#)



[Course on Green bonds](#)



UNDP also fostered **engagement through targeted social media campaigns,** primarily on Twitter (now, X) and LinkedIn, to disseminate the NDC SP's work and experiences keeping the conversation alive beyond formal events and workshops. These platforms were used to share reports, updates, success stories, and key insights, ensuring that climate discussions reached a broad audience, including policymakers, private sector actors and the general public.

Each of these tools played complementary roles in amplifying climate action: publications and trainings provided in-depth technical knowledge and expertise, **South-South exchanges** fostered collaboration and shared learning, and social media ensured widespread engagement that kept knowledge accessible and discussions active. Together, these strategies created an ecosystem of learning and action, ensuring that climate professionals and decision makers are provided with the right knowledge, at the right time, in the right format.

5.3 ▪ Country-level synergies and global partnerships

At the national level, **the programme focused on maximizing coordination among development partners supporting NDC implementation,** ensuring a systematic and programmatic approach. UNDP leveraged synergies with other climate change initiatives, including the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme and UN REDD+ Programme, to increase efficiency and delivery of support.

Additionally, the programme collaborated with different **national and international organizations on the ground** on energy access, gender, and national climate policies to align NDCs with national development plans, ensuring a comprehensive approach to climate change.

The programme maintained, and built upon, the **strategic regional ang global partnerships** initiated under the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme. Key partnerships included the IKI NDC Support Cluster and the UNFCCC, to advance improved coordination and provide technical and financial support for NDCs. UNDP also collaborated with several global initiatives such as the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, the Global Climate Action Partnership (formerly LEDS Global Partnership), the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency and the Global Gender and Climate Alliance to advance climate action and gender-responsiveness in climate policies. These partnerships ensured knowledge exchange, dissemination of best practices and enhanced technical assistance to countries.

The **NDC Partnership** – launched in November 2016 to help countries achieve their national climate commitments – has been key for the NDC SP. As a member of the NDC Partnership steering committee and one of five core implementing partners, UNDP has leveraged this platform to identify and deliver on the climate pledges in countries. Thanks to this coordination, monitoring and transparency systems were enhanced in several countries and support was given to develop Partnership Plans for NDC implementation. Technical assistance was provided for priority activities identified in Partnership Plans. Overall, these efforts reflect a commitment to strengthening existing national structures for a more effective and efficient implementation of climate actions through greater coherence and coordination.

NDC Partnership in-country facilitators and plans

The NDC Partnership facilitates collaboration between governments, international institutions, non-state actors and other partners to provide timely support and accelerate NDC implementation, increasing overall ambition.

One key way in which the programme contributed to the NDC Partnership was through the funding of in-country facilitators in 16 countries: **Armenia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Lebanon, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Panama, the Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Tunisia** and **Zimbabwe.** A key function of the facilitators was to strengthen coordination between partners and government institutions and foster the elaboration of Partnership Plans based on government's request letters to the NDC Partnership. Four countries received technical support for priorities identified in their Partnership Plans – **Benin, Marshall Islands, Panama, and Sao Tome** and **Principe.**

In response to the Partnership's call for support for NDC revisions in the 2020 submission cycle (via the Climate Action Enhancement Package), the programme also supported 12 countries on a range of technical support requests. The countries were: **Armenia, Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Uganda, Vanuatu** and **Zambia.**

Conclusions

As global temperatures continue to rise, with 2024 recorded as the warmest year on record, and the escalating nature crisis further exacerbates climate change and endangers communities worldwide, **the goals and challenges that the NDC SP aimed to address remain critical.** Through six key areas of technical support aligned with national priorities and UNFCCC developments, the NDC SP has driven significant progress in NDC enhancement and implementation. Underpinned by research, advocacy and knowledge, the programme helped governments scale up climate mitigation and adaptation by strengthening institutional capacities, enabling policy reforms and fostering collaboration among stakeholders and partners.

The programme has played a pivotal role in **advancing climate ambition and strengthening integrated governance** around national climate pledges. Governments have made significant strides in enhancing their NDCs, broadening their ambitions with stronger commitments to mitigation, adaptation and climate finance, along with clearer implementation strategies. This progress reflects effective leadership in driving sectoral ambition, aligning national priorities and sector-specific goals, and ensuring multilevel collaboration while engaging subnational governments, civil society and private sector actors in these endeavours. Effective leadership is also central to an environment that supports bolder and more transformative commitments in subsequent cycles. As highlighted in the 2024 NDC Synthesis Report, NDCs remain crucial to achieving global climate goals and mitigating widespread risks. Despite NDC SP achievements, further efforts are needed to strengthen NDCs 3.0 with a focus on enhancing transparency systems and ensuring the implementation and feasibility of their targets.

As countries advance towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future, the effective implementation of NDCs remains central to the global climate agenda. At the core of this process is **evidence-based planning and prioritizing mitigation actions.** The NDC SP has helped governments strengthen planning processes, design evidence-based policies and put forward NDC mitigation measures. While climate targets outline a national vision, realizing this vision requires robust implementation approaches for mitigation and adaptation, translated into plans and long-term strategies that align NDCs with climate and development goals. Countries must also have the confidence that their actions will deliver the transformative change necessary to achieve zero-carbon development. This confidence can be bolstered by identifying adaptive, robust and evidence-based mitigation actions that guide national and international resources and efforts towards high-impact climate measures.

However, **none of these actions can be realized without the necessary financial investments.** Transforming economies into climate-resilient, zero-carbon systems requires substantial funding from diverse sources. The NDC SP has been at the forefront of this challenge, supporting countries in **climate-friendly investments and private sector engagement.** By developing financing strategies towards climate investments and unlocking the private sector's potential while fostering innovative financial solutions and public-private partnerships, the NDC SP has helped create an enabling environment to facilitate the capital needed to meet climate goals in countries. Multiple reports have highlighted that the estimated costs of climate action remain high and continue to rely heavily on both international and domestic sources. Moving forward, governments – especially in least developed countries and SIDS – must intensify efforts to overcome barriers to climate investment, build investor confidence and foster market-based solutions to drive long-term, sustainable climate finance.

In a world marked by complexity and uncertainty, including the existence or emergence of crises and conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic taught us an important lesson: green recovery principles and measures can be used to accelerate economic revitalization. **The NDC SP demonstrated that aligning green recovery with NDCs presents a unique opportunity to reshape economies** in a way that supports both environmental sustainability and social equity. This approach can also create jobs, drive innovation and strengthen resilience to future economic or environmental shocks. In short, by supporting green recovery, countries can address immediate economic challenges while advancing long-term environmental and social goals. This strategy not only helps nations meet their NDC targets but also attracts sustainable investments and enhances economic resilience.

In advancing these priorities, it is crucial to focus **the principles that will enable countries to accelerate their progress towards meeting climate targets,** especially at a time when urgent action is required. **Gender equality and social** inclusion are fundamental to comprehensive and inclusive climate action, ensuring that climate policies promote equitable development outcomes. **Evidence-based knowledge and advocacy** are essential for guiding these efforts, supporting informed decision-making and fostering stronger climate policies and measures. On a global scale, **partnerships** are vital to transforming climate solutions into reality and achieving the SDGs. The NDC SP has embedded these principles at the heart of its implementation. This publication aims to foster ongoing engagement with these priorities and principles to drive climate action, paving the way towards a more sustainable, equitable and resilient world for all. Through its efforts, the NDC SP emphasized that NDCs are not a distant goal, but an immediate and feasible priority for a more sustainable future.

Annex 1: NDC SP countries and work areas

Countries determined priority work areas according to their needs and national circumstances, with NDC mitigation actions and integrated climate governance undertaken by nearly every programme country.

	Climate leadership	Integrated climate governance	NDC mitigation actions	Climate-friendly investment	Private sector engagement	Covid-19 green recovery
Albania						■
Argentina	■	■	■	■	■	
Armenia		■				
Benin		■				■
Bhutan		■	■	■	■	
Chile	■	■	■	■	■	
Colombia	■	■	■	■	■	
Costa Rica		■	■	■		■
Côte d´Ivoire	■	■	■		■	
Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)	■	■	■		■	
Ecuador	■	■	■	■	■	■
El Salvador	■	■	■			
Ethiopia	■		■		■	
Ghana	■	■	■	■	■	
Guatemala		■	■		■	
Honduras		■				
Indonesia	■		■	■		■
Jordan						■
Kazakhstan		■	■			
Kenya	■	■	■	■	■	
Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	■		■		■	
Lebanon	■	■	■	■		
Mali	■	■	■		■	
Marshall Islands (the)		■	■	■		
Mauritania			■			
Mongolia	■	■	■			
Morocco		■	■	■	■	
Nepal	■		■			
Nigeria		■	■	■	■	
Pakistan		■	■			

	Climate leadership	Integrated climate governance	NDC mitigation actions	Climate-friendly investment	Private sector engagement	Covid-19 green recovery
Palestine			■			
Panama	■	■	■	■		
Paraguay		■	■	■	■	
Peru	■	■	■	■	■	
Philippines (the)	■	■	■	■	■	
Rwanda		■	■	■		
Sao Tome and Principe		■				
Senegal				■		
Thailand		■	■	■	■	
Togo	■		■			
Trinidad and Tobago		■	■		■	
Tunisia	■	■	■	■	■	
Uganda	■	■	■	■	■	
Vanuatu	■	■	■		■	■
Viet Nam	■	■	■		■	■
Zambia		■	■		■	
Zimbabwe		■	■			
No. of countries	24	37	40	22	25	7

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