



**United Nations**  
Climate Change

# **Regional Collaboration Centres 2020 Highlights**

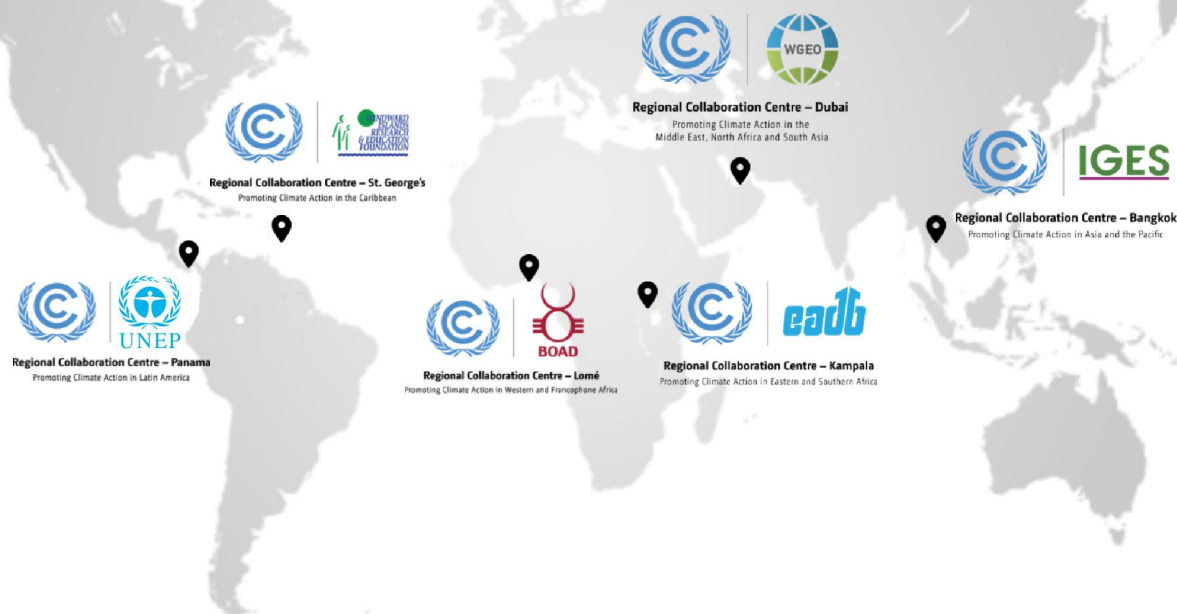




# BACKGROUND

The Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) initiative<sup>1</sup> was launched in 2013 with the establishment of four RCCs in Lomé, Togo; Kampala, Uganda; St. George's, Grenada; and Bogotá, Colombia. RCC Bogotá was moved to Panama City, Panama in 2017. In 2015, an RCC was established in Bangkok, Thailand, and in February 2019, a sixth RCC was established, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to serve the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and South Asia. RCCs are collaborations between UN Climate Change and regional host partners, local and regional agencies and multilateral development banks<sup>2</sup>, focused on supporting national climate action on the ground.

## 6 Regional Collaboration Centres



Launched to increase projects under the Clean Development Mechanism, the RCCs have since 2015 broadened their work to support countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation, and cross-cutting matters.

The main objectives of RCCs are to:

- Facilitate country driven approaches, which are consistent with the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement
- Give more visibility to the regional and national climate action efforts of stakeholders
- Provide strategic direction based in line with the inter-governmental climate change process
- Support the recognition of action, pledges, commitments/initiatives
- Provide stakeholders a possibility to report on their climate action in the UNFCCC context
- Provide a platform for sharing experience and interacting with UN implementing agencies

<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres>

<sup>2</sup> West African Development Bank, Lomé; East African Development Bank, Kampala; Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, St. George's; UNEP, Panama; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Bangkok; and World Green Economy Organization, Dubai, UAE.

# IMPACT OF THE RCCS

Since establishment of the first RCC, in Lomé in 2013, the regions in which they work have seen positive impacts on the ground, in particular:

- Strengthened collaboration between national and international actors to foster dialogue, coordination and coherence towards green development and climate action
- Direct support and guidance to countries on green policy and the creation of an enabling environment for action on climate change
- Local capacity on cooperative approaches to addressing climate change, such as use of carbon markets and mechanisms
- New partnerships making climate action more effective and efficient, by finding synergy and avoiding duplication of effort.

## Benefits RCCs Bring to the Region



Regional  
Collaboration



Policy  
Support



Technical  
Capacity



Partnership  
Building



Communication  
and Outreach



Data  
Collection



'Plug and  
Play'



Logistics  
Hubs

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

### Adaptation

• RCC Bangkok collaborated with Adaptation division on IBC Resilience; regular communication and feedback to the IBC provided, also contacted for IOM work (study). Also, joined and represents UNFCCC in the Asia-Pacific UN Issue Based Coalition on Building Resilience, in regular exchange and facilitating contributions and input with the Adaptation team

• RCC Panama supported capacity-building on adaptation (decision 9/CMA.1) – 15 countries, 100 country rep. and launching of the Health and Climate Change Sub Regional Plan of 7 Andean Countries, PAHO/WHO.

• RCC St. George's facilitated the engagement of the Adaptation division in a regional event on "Integrating Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Agendas" targeting the Americas and Caribbean regions, organized under the Climate:Red Summit 2020.

• RCC Dubai, in collaboration with Nairobi Work Programme Unit, Adaptation division of the UNFCCC Secretariat, supported the design, preparation, and delivery of the First Virtual Technical Meeting to Close Priority Knowledge Gaps in the MENA under LAKI, which brought together experts from organizations working on closing adaptation knowledge gaps in GCC and North Africa.

• Outreached to regional stakeholders on the Adaptation division events and activities

### Means of Implementation

#### Needs-based Finance Project

The RCCs are supporting implementation of the Needs-based Finance Project (NBF)<sup>3</sup> in 10 regions and sub-regions, covering 92 countries. In 2020:

• RCC Bangkok supported Finance team on the implementation of 4 NBF projects in 2020 in the Asia-Pacific region: ASEAN, Asia LDCs, ISIO (Island States in the Indian Ocean), initiation of CASC (Central Asia and South Caucasus).

• RCC Lome supported the Needs-based Finance Project in WAEMU: initiate discussions; ECOWAS: Initiate discussions; and West African Alliance: Initiate discussions for the second phase.

• The RCCs prepared draft strategy and shared with the NBF team in MOI division. Also provided content for ISIO section on the NBF website.

<sup>3</sup> [https://unfccc.int/NBF\\_Project](https://unfccc.int/NBF_Project)



- RCC Kampala supported the organization of NBF EAC inception workshop including preparation of workshop report and related articles. RCC Kampala contributed to the work on the NBF project – administratively (the consultants are hired through the RCC Kampala) and in substance (providing comments and inputs to the documents). For East Africa, the Technical Assessment was largely completed.



- RCC Panama worked with the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay to elaborate the scope of work of the NBF project. (in collaboration with NDC-PS). Supported development of National Climate Finance Strategies for Honduras (Guatemala and Bolivia: some conversations).



- RCC Dubai, in collaboration with the Means of Implementation Division, and in partnership with League of Arab States secretariat and UN ESCWA, organized a technical workshop with climate finance experts from 22 Arab countries (experts from Ministry of Finance, Central Banks) and private sector organizations. A technical assessment to assess and identify the needs and priorities for Arab countries s been developed, based on input from two workshops conducted in November 2019 and February 2020. The Technical Assessment is under review at the end of 2020.

## Climate Finance

- RCC Lomé supported Finance team in MOI division in gathering information on finance needs in West Africa. RCC Lomé is also supporting the Finance team to develop Finance strategy for West Africa.
- RCC Panama supported the SCF Report on the determination of financial needs of Developing Country Parties and GCF readiness “Advancing a regional approach to e-mobility in Latin America”, which aims to support 10 Latin American countries – supporting UNEP. Further RCC Panama supported Climate and Sustainable Finance Week in LAC - Mobilizing financing to accelerate climate action and drive a transformative, just and sustainable recovery (GFLAC).
- The RCCs updated the climate finance database.

## Mitigation

### Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions

By hosting and supporting the regional NDC Coordinators of the NDC Partnership, RCCs continued their support to the global coalition of countries and international institutions working to mobilize support for and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development.

- Gathered intelligence on the status of the preparation and submission of NDCs through surveys.
- Organized NDC capacity-building events for example, virtual events on developing new, enhancing NDCs.
- Supported Parties in NDC’s further elaboration for achieving revised, more specific and more ambitious NDCs in West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).





## Ci-ACA Initiative

Since 2016, the UNFCCC secretariat has been providing technical support to jurisdictions considering adopting carbon pricing instruments under its Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CI-ACA)<sup>4</sup>workstream.



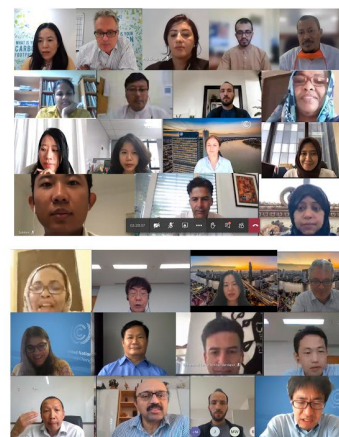
RCC Lomé supports Ghana to explore collaborative instruments | CiACA workshop in Accra, Ghana, 24-25 February

- This workstream continued to increase and broaden engagements at country level and regionally through the CiACA projects in Pakistan, ASEAN countries, Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Panama, Honduras and Uruguay.
- East and West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance made advancement in their activities in 2020. For example, RCC Lome supported the West African Alliance to close the first phase and got approval from IKI on the project for the second phase of Alliance activities which are under implementation.

- Collaborations between the finance team in MOI and the CiACA team in Mitigation resulted in several activities jointly delivered. While most of these activities were already taking place before the 2020 workplan, the new approach to the work planning has brought already some important changes with new activities in support of technology work.

## CDM Support

- In 2020, the RCCs continued to prioritize the work in least developed countries (LDCs) and underrepresented countries (i.e. with 10 or less registered CDM projects as at 31 December 2010).
- During 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020, the RCCs supported 123 CDM projects/PoAs and development of 13 bottom-up standardized baselines. These efforts by the RCCs<sup>5</sup> further developed the capacity of CDM stakeholders and maintained interest and use of the CDM and or CERs in the regions.
- In response to COVID-19 pandemic, a regional virtual platform<sup>6</sup> was launched that provide a list of virtual meetings, including on CDM, either already taken place or will be taking place in the six RCC regions and organized by the RCCs, the UNFCCC secretariat and their partners. The RCCs supported DNA Forum meetings in 2020 by organizing CDM side events. RCC Bangkok and RCC Dubai organized series of webinars for DNAs on the CDM



## Transparency

### Measurement, Reporting and Verification Network

- RCC Bangkok, in coordination with the Transparency team, facilitated the launch of the ASEAN MRV network with UN-DTU and the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC).
- RCC Kampala organized webinars on lessons learned and good practices regarding national MRV systems for example from Eastern and Southern Africa.

## Capacity-building in Transparency

- The RCCs supported Transparency division in delivering all the virtual CGE regional training workshops in 2020.
- RCC Panama contributed to two sessions in Applying the Katowice Guidance on ICTU and Adaptation to NDCs in Latin America. ETF Readiness: (UNFCCC, UNEP, NDC-P). 23 to 25 June and 07 to 09 July. Also supported Virtual training on IPCC 2006 Guidance (CGE/UNFCCC), Latin America. August 7 -9, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/the-ci-aca-initiative>

<sup>5</sup> Biannual reports on RCC operation are available at: <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships/regional-collaboration-centres/regional-virtual-platform>

# Cross-cutting Areas

## Climate Action

- Supported engagement in Climate Action activities related to ACE, MfC, NAZCA, MPGCA, YB as identified by the Engagement Sub-division.
- The RCCs collaborated with Gender team by providing information related to the inclusion of gender actions into NDCs.



Participants celebrate the outcome of the youth ACE hub workshop in Ghana | 25-26 February 2020

## Partnerships

Notable inter-agency partnerships developed/continued in 2020 include:



UN-IOM: To mark the start of the year of climate action and climate emergency, members of the inter-agency Migration and Climate Change working group, convened in Nairobi on 31 January 2020. RCC Kampala team lead was invited as guest speaker.



UNDP and GHGMI: RCC St. George's continued partnership with UNDP and the GHG Management Institute to implement activities relating to nationally appropriate mitigation actions and the MRV Hub in the Caribbean.



Euroclima+: RCC Panama collaborated with Euroclima+ to ensure alignment between the UNFCCC NDC-Registry and the Euroclima+ NDC-LAC platform.

UNDP and World Bank: RCC Panama supported Alliance of Voluntary GHG Management Programs. Ready to Promote Private Sector Involvement. (6 participating countries from Latina America)



UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: RCC Dubai facilitated the signing of a framework MoU between UNFCCC secretariat and UNESCWA to guide collaboration in the region



## RCC Global Forum

The annual RCC Global Forum for 2020, which was held virtually on 15 October 2020, where RCC partners shared the advances made on the areas of work identified at the annual RCC Global Forum for 2019 despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual meeting also helped partners to keep abreast of achievements, share mid-year progress and report on planned continuing work by the RCCs in 2020 and beyond, amid the challenging environment posed by the pandemic.

## Engagement with UN system

- In 2020, RCCs continued to liaise with UN National and Regional Resident Coordinators to seek synergy, especially on issues related to SDG 13 – Climate Action. For example, RCC Panama led an informal Collaboration Platform on adaptation for UN Agencies in Latin America (UNDP, UNEP, OIM, UNDRR, PAHO/WHO, FAO, UNICEF).
- UN Women: The RCCs supported regional GAP D.6. – Gender integration into national policies – Regional workshops.

## Communication and Outreach

There were 5 articles in the UNFCCC newsroom in 2020. In total 51 articles and 32 newsletters were produced in 2020. Topics covered in the 51 articles were: NDC, climate action, transparency, COVID-19, CDM, climate finance, climate weeks, CiACA, multilateralism and RCC in general. These materials increased visibility for the RCC's effort both internally and externally.