

The Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central America and the Dominican Republic: Three Years of Impact

A successful initiative for enhancing regional expertise

During the first phase of its operation (2023–2026), the Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency for Central America and the Dominican Republic strengthened its member countries' capacity to meet their climate transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement and take evidence-based climate action.

Thanks to support received through the Hub, member countries **improved their transparency frameworks**, including greenhouse gas inventories, and national climate plans and reports under the Paris Agreement.

Through its targeted activities and convening power, the Hub helped **build lasting technical capacity within national institutions**, including expertise in mitigation across sectors (energy, agriculture, forestry, land-use, waste) and adaptation, while strengthening the connection between international transparency requirements and national processes.

Beyond supporting its individual member countries, the Hub created a **regional community of practice**, enabling countries to learn from one another, share solutions and access expertise within the region.

About the Hub

The Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency for Central America and the Dominican Republic was established under the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) to strengthen climate transparency across the Central American Integration System (SICA) countries. Cuba formally joined the Hub in 2025.

The hub provided its support through rapid, tailored technical assistance, capacity building and regional peer exchange.

Member countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Cuba



Hosted by: Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)



Implementing partners: Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, Libélula



90+

Trained professionals



7

Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) supported*



5

Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*



83%

Confirmed impact on BTRs and NDCs



*Numbers for SICA countries until the end of the first phase of the Hub (March 2026)

Belize

The Hub provided Belize with immediate technical support that contributed to the submission of its first BTR in December 2024, the completion of its national inventory improvement plan and the review of its national inventory QA/QC plan. It also helped strengthen technical capacity, expanding expertise in the energy, agriculture, forestry, land-use, and waste sectors.



Having immediate technical support, within a week or two, made a huge difference. Normally, hiring a consulting firm takes four months, and we didn't have that kind of time. – **Edalmi Pinelo, Climate Change Director, Belize**



Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, the Hub provided technical assistance to strengthen the connection and integration of the National Environmental Information System with the National Climate Change Metrics System, and supported the development of a digital tool for tracking NDC progress. The Hub also supported preparations for the 2026 BTR and implementation of the NDC 3.0.



Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, the Hub provided support in various areas, with an emphasis on the evaluation of policies and measures and climate vulnerability assessment. Through the Hub, the country applied policy evaluation tools to national instruments and identified key indicators. This work led to a deeper institutional reflection on climate policies and how their evaluation could be improved.



One of the biggest eye-openers was taking the time to rethink and reflect on the policies we've been implementing and asking: 'How can we improve their evaluation?' – **César Cáceres, Head of the REDD+ Coordination Office, Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic**



El Salvador

The Hub supported El Salvador in strengthening data quality control for greenhouse gas inventories and procedures for the sustainability of data records, as well as in establishing a system for tracking sectoral climate commitments. These efforts contributed to stronger institutional capacity and supported the preparation of El Salvador's updated NDC.



If there is a challenge at the national level, we can always turn to the Hub for more strategic international guidance on how to resolve these issues. – **Jessica Laguardia, Head of the Technical Unit, Ministry of Environment, El Salvador**



Guatemala

In Guatemala, the Hub contributed to the development of a protocol for greenhouse gas projections and supported the preparation of a high-quality BTR and the country's NDC 3.0. Work under the Hub enhanced capacity to improve climate policies through a better understanding of the country's strategic priorities for Paris Agreement-aligned action.



Climate transparency translates into climate finance. With better reporting, we can knock on doors to help the country move forward and invest. Investing in transparency means investing in knowledge, capacity, and strengthening.

– Andrea Fión, Climate Change Director, Ministry of the Environment, Guatemala



Honduras

The Hub supported Honduras in strengthening its greenhouse gas inventory and the tools and capacity needed for climate reporting. The Hub's technical assistance and capacity-building efforts helped strengthen institutional and technical expertise and contributed to the submission of Honduras's BTR with an improved national greenhouse gas inventory.



Panama

In Panama, the Hub provided technical assistance to incorporate water adaptation data into transparency reports and strengthened technical expertise in agricultural inventories, including by connecting agricultural-sector actors with the climate reporting processes. The Hub's work contributed to the submission of Panama's BTR 1 and NDC 3.0, and preliminary preparations for BTR 2.



The exchange among colleagues in the region – the coffees you don't get a chance to share by email – that human connection that comes from understanding that we're all going through the same thing. Because aside from being professionals, we're also human beings behind all that work. – Melania Acosta, Transparency Report Coordinator, Ministry of the Environment, Panama



Cuba

Cuban specialists in different sectors, including agriculture, energy and forests, participated in the Hub's workshops, while institutional collaboration was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2025. Cuba submitted both its BTR 1 and NDC 3.0, and the Hub's support helped the country identify challenges and gaps prior to the UNFCCC's official review process.



Sharing experiences with consultants from the region itself is extremely important. Sometimes it's not about bringing in outside consultants; the experience of the countries themselves can be just as valuable. – Wenceslao Carrera, BTR/NDC Coordinator, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba



What made the Hub unique



Regional support network: The Hub created a regional community of practice where colleagues could exchange experiences, share challenges and find support from peers and experts.



Rapid and agile response: The Hub responded quickly to technical needs and connected international requirements with national processes.



Practical tools and technical resources: The Hub facilitated easy access to practical resources such as roadmaps, templates, recorded webinars and technical assistance guides.



Learning from countries' experiences: Experiences from countries across the region became a direct source of learning, with countries sharing solutions and expertise with one another.



Sector-specific technical capacity and continuous improvement: The Hub helped progressively strengthen technical capacity across areas including inventories, NDC tracking, adaptation and climate finance.



The only initiative that addressed all topics comprehensively: adaptation, NDC tracking, finance, and inventories. The countries' views were listened to very carefully, and their concerns were addressed diligently. – **Feedback from group evaluation at the Hub's closing workshop**



Looking ahead: sustaining progress and meeting new needs

The first phase of the Hub laid a strong foundation, but continued support is needed to sustain ongoing **technical assistance**, preserve the **regional network** and address emerging priorities. The next phase would allow the Hub to continue supporting its member countries in areas such as NDC 3.0 implementation, greenhouse gas projections and vulnerability assessments. It would also allow the Hub to expand its role in **climate finance**, regional project development and **South-South cooperation**, responding to the needs identified by countries.

Partner with us

Explore opportunities to collaborate, invest and support the Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency in Central America and the Dominican Republic.



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