



ICAT'S WORK IN BRAZIL

Since ratifying the UNFCCC in 1994, Brazil has taken a number of steps to increase its climate action. In 2010 it became one of the first developing countries to put forward an emissions reduction target. Brazil also scaled up the ambition of its climate efforts leading up to the 2015 Paris climate change summit.

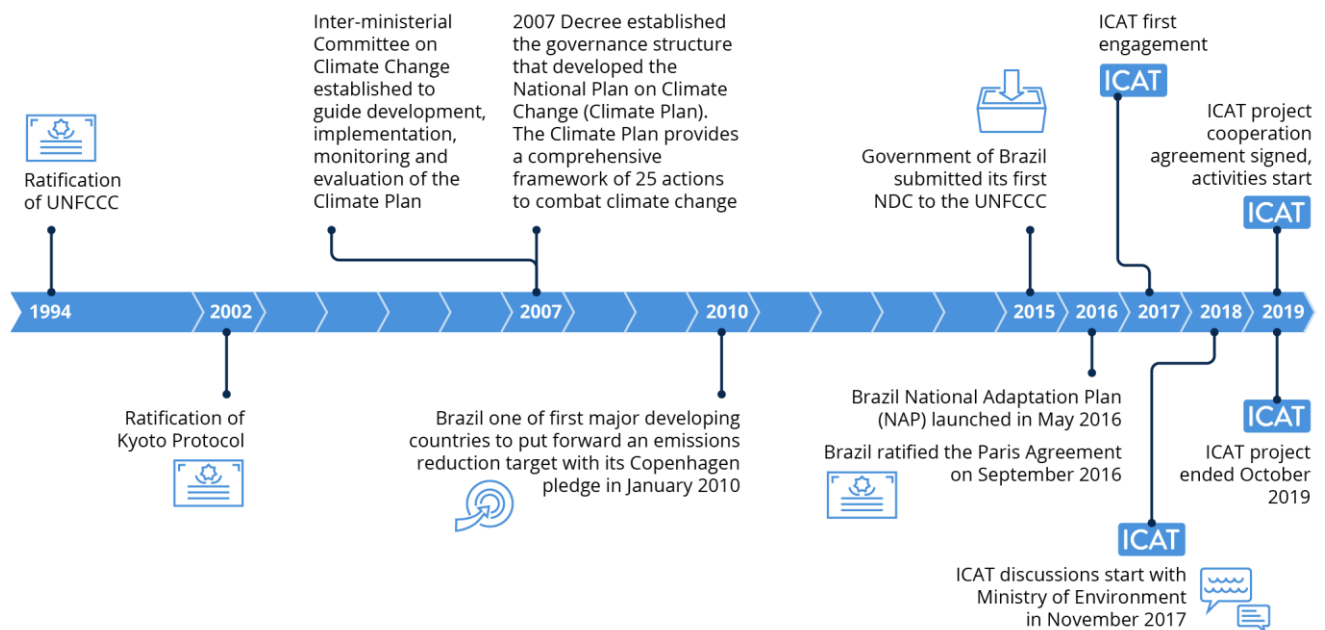
However, Brazil remains one of the world's largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters, with its largest source of emissions being unsustainable land use and the forestry sector.¹ Recent political change has also led to progress on climate and energy policy slowing. Brazil's current presidency has expressed its opposition to many of Brazil's existing climate policies, including dissatisfaction with the current terms of the Paris Agreement. This makes Brazil an important partner for continued work on climate action transparency.



Headline NDC commitments (2016):²

Mitigation commitments: Brazil has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 37% below 25 levels by 2025, with a further reduction to 43% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Adaptation commitments: Brazil considers adaptation to be a fundamental element of the global effort to tackle climate change. It commits to strengthening the country's adaptation capacity, assessing climate risks and managing vulnerabilities through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), published in 2016.



¹ Timperley, J (2018) *The Carbon Brief Profile: Brazil*, [link](#).

² Government of Brazil (2016) *Federative Republic of Brazil intended Nationally Determined Contribution*, [link](#).

ICAT is supporting Brazil to assess the impact of its mitigation actions and to develop a robust methodology for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

The initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) supports improved transparency and capacity building under the Paris Agreement. ICAT integrates guidance, capacity building and knowledge sharing to engage countries in the use of a common framework to assess the impacts of their policies and actions and report progress, fostering greater transparency, effectiveness and ambition. The initiative will improve the availability and quality of climate related data and enable countries to promote efficient, cost-effective policies. ICAT's approach is country led.

ICAT began working with Brazil in early 2018. The initiative is partnering with the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change (FBMC), mandated to promote dialogue and consultation on the mitigation and adaptation actions needed to implement Brazil's NDC. The forum includes participation from government, civil society, the private sector and academia. FBMC is working closely with the Centro Clima COPPE of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro to implement the ICAT project. The purpose of the project is to develop a more comprehensive methodology and framework for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Brazil's ambitious NDC commitments. It builds on Brazil's existing MRV process, designed to support monitoring and reporting against the country's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

A first step for the ICAT project was to assess Brazil's current situation in relation to NDC implementation, including a review of both existing and additional mitigation actions and their expected GHG emission reductions up to 2030. This formed the basis for Brazil to develop a methodology for assessing ongoing progress against its NDC commitments, including indicators of progress. These indicators provide an initial step towards establishing a robust and transparent MRV process for the country. A

proposed executive decree, including new technical and transparency guidelines for national level MRV, has also been drafted. If passed, this decree is expected to expand the regulation of the national climate change policy to embrace follow up of the NDCs.



To strengthen ICAT's work in the country, the project has also had a significant focus on capacity building. ICAT has worked closely with both the FBMC and Centro Clima COPPE to provide regular support on all technical work and reports undertaken through the project. ICAT has also supported a number of national stakeholder workshops to help Brazilian stakeholders conceptualize a national level MRV process. These workshops have had a strong focus on the transparency mechanisms and definition of indicators required to monitor and track NDC implementation, helping to sensitize national stakeholders to the transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. Workshop attendees included technical staff from key ministries responsible for protecting Brazil's environment and for monitoring national emissions, as well as private sector representatives.

"Discussions held by stakeholders during ICAT workshops have supported increased awareness on climate action transparency"

Prof. Emilio Lebre La Rovere, Head of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory, University of Rio de Janeiro

³ Image by NakNakNak, [link](#).

Overall, work undertaken with support from ICAT has made a significant contribution to Brazil's NDC planning process and ambition. The project has enabled Brazil to refine its reference scenario and to propose new mitigation scenarios, which factor in additional mitigation actions and opportunities. These mitigation actions have been estimated in terms of GHG emissions, taking into account national factors such as population and economic growth. The development of proposed progress indicators for tracking implementation of the Brazilian NDC should also be considered an important first step towards establishing a robust and transparent MRV process.

"ICAT helps countries to put together a diagnostic toolkit to better understand if their climate related actions are making a difference and supporting progress towards their NDC targets"

Alfredo Sirkis, Executive Director, Centro Brasil no Clima

As one of the first countries to develop progress indicators for tracking NDC implementation, Brazil is now well positioned to offer valuable first hand experience to other countries. Many developing countries have stated their interest in developing indicators to track their NDCs, thus positioning Brazil as a potential expert in this

area. Brazil could actively seek opportunities to exchange its knowledge and experience on MRV with other country stakeholders at global or regional forums, or directly through peer-to-peer learning. ICAT stakeholders have expressed a strong desire for this kind of learning and knowledge exchange.

Moving forward, however, a key challenge for Brazil will be balancing the momentum and ambition created by the ICAT project against an increasingly restrictive political environment for climate action at the national level. ICAT is currently in discussion with interested stakeholders to explore ongoing technical issues relating to MRV in Brazil and to identify whether a second phase of ICAT support could continue to support the MRV process. A potential second phase of ICAT could, for example, support MRV at the sub-national level. These discussions are currently ongoing.

