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# Climate Ambitions: An analysis of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the ACP Group of States

Report Summary



# Report Overview

## Enhancing priority-driven support to NDC implementation in the ACP Region

As part of the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries agreed to produce Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), outlining their national strategies to tackle climate change. For the 79 Member States of the ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) Group, NDC implementation is a priority. First, **the ACP Group represents some of the world's most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Second, the Group intends to emerge as a dynamic force in the international arena**, capable of influencing the global agenda on climate change.

## Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Programme

Initiated in 2017 with funding from the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) is part of the European Union's wider GCCA+ flagship programme. It aims to **increase the resilience of ACP regions and countries to climate change. In doing so, it will help these countries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development.**

The Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme operates by strengthening capacity within ACP countries and regions for climate adaptation and mitigation. As part of this effort, one of the key areas of intervention of the Programme is to support **ACP countries with the development and implementation of their NDCs.**

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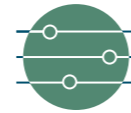
# The Report

The ACP Secretariat commissioned an in-depth, comparative study of all 79 ACP NDCs. No other attempt has been made previously to analyse the NDCs from an ACP-wide perspective. The study collects and compares key data as expressed by countries themselves. It focuses on the following six key topics:

1. Basic features of the NDC (i.e. targets, reference points, conditions for implementation)
2. Institutional context, including preparation and domestic planning for implementation
3. Mitigation and adaptation actions
4. Support needs for NDC implementation, including climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer
5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
6. Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)



# Mitigation



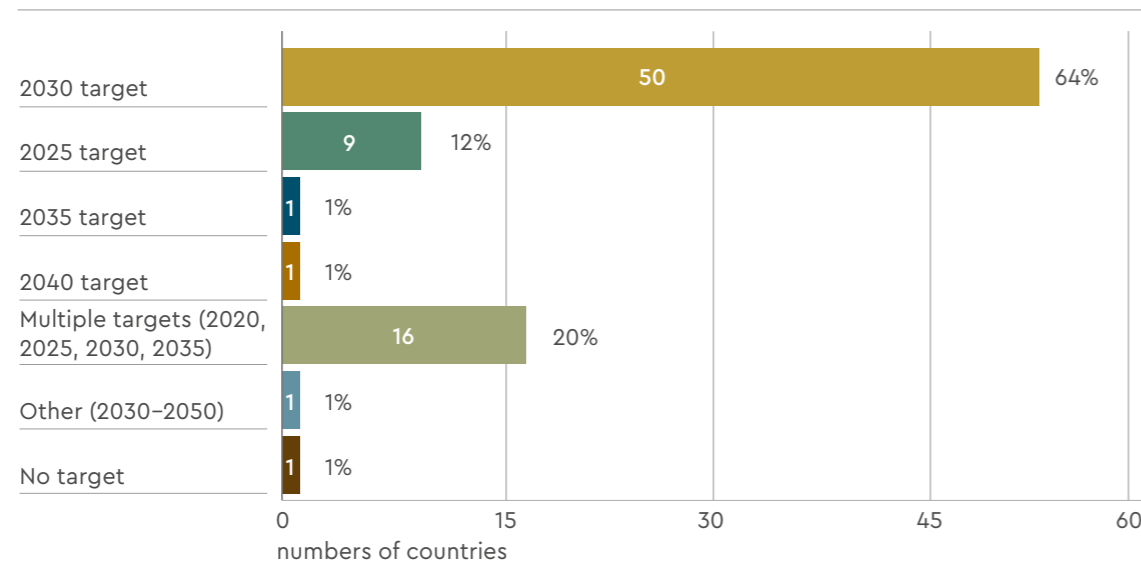
## CONTRIBUTION TYPES

All 79 ACP NDCs contain mitigation measures, including targets, actions, or a combination of both.

## TIMEFRAMES

Most ACP NDCs indicate a five or ten-year implementation, running from 2020 to 2025 or 2030. Or they included multiple target years.

Time-frames for ACP NDCs (number of countries and percentages)



## CONDITIONALITY

Most ACP NDCs (68 countries, 86%) include an element of conditionality.<sup>1</sup> This means that – with adequate support – ACP countries could ratchet up their ambitions for climate action. At the same time, the number of unspecified or partially specified mitigation contributions (47 countries, 60%) means that several ACP countries may clarify conditionalities in their next NDCs.

## SECTORS

All three ACP regions broadly recognise the

potential of the **ENERGY** sector for a low-carbon transition (76 countries).

**LULUCF** (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) is the second most covered sector in the African and Caribbean regions (40 and 10 countries). In the Pacific region, **TRANSPORT** is the second most covered sector (8 Pacific countries). Pacific countries depend heavily on transport, linked to their geographic dispersion, remoteness, and small populations

**WASTE** is the third most covered sector (44 countries).

<sup>1</sup> This includes the contributions categorised as "conditional only", "unconditional and conditional" and "partially specified".

# Adaptation



## CONTRIBUTION TYPES

All 79 ACP countries have incorporated an adaptation component in their NDCs, but not all components present the same features. Adaptation is a high priority for the ACP region.

The large majority of ACP NDCs (68 countries, 86%) include adaptation commitments in terms of quantified and/or time-bounds targets or specified actions (including policies, plans and projects).

It is recommended that all ACP countries improve the transparency and coherence of their adaptation efforts in their next NDCs.

Water security is a key development priority for ACP countries. This is evidenced by the positioning of **Water** as the second most prioritised sector in the African and Caribbean region (39 African countries and 11 Caribbean countries) and one of the most covered in the Pacific region (7 countries).

**Disaster Risk Management** was found to be the third most prominent sector in the African region (32 countries) and one of the most present in the NDCs of Caribbean and Pacific countries (9 Caribbean countries and 6 Pacific countries).

## CONDITIONALITY

Some 30 ACP countries (38%) have formulated conditional adaptation contributions. This is a lower number than the 68 countries (86%) that included conditionality in their mitigation contributions.

ACP countries are thus more advanced with their **mitigation planning than with their planning for adaptation.**

## SECTORS

**Agriculture** is the most prominent sector in the African region (46 countries), and one of the most covered sectors in the Caribbean and Pacific regions (9 Caribbean countries and 7 Pacific countries).

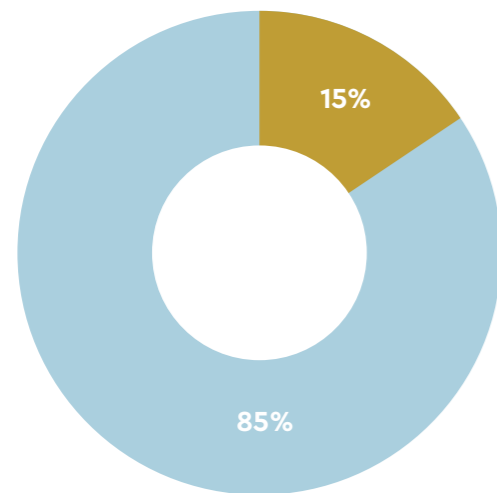


# Support Needs



The vast majority of ACP countries require support to implement the conditional policies and to achieve their enhanced levels of ambition in climate action.

**Inclusion of capacity building and technology transfer needs in ACP countries' NDCs (in percentages and number of countries)**



- Capacity building and technology transfer needs included.
- Capacity building and technology transfer needs not included

## CLIMATE FINANCE

**59 ACP countries (75%) included financial estimates for implementing their NDCs.**

Of these, 38 countries (48%) provide full estimates for their financial needs, while 21 countries (27%) provide only partial estimates. The remaining 20 countries (25%) did not include any financial estimates in their NDCs.

Total cumulated financial figures in the NDCs of the 59 ACP countries that quantified their financial needs amount approximately to **USD 2,317 billion**.

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

**Besides climate finance, the ACP NDCs request support with capacity building and technology transfer.** Such requests came from **the majority of countries (67 countries, 85%)**, including: 39 African countries, 14 Caribbean countries and 14 Pacific countries. Only 12 countries (15%) did not include such information.



# Additional Features

**Less than half of all ACP NDCs (34 countries, 43%) explain existing or planned institutional arrangements to support the NDC process.**

**The overwhelming majority of ACP NDCs (72 countries, 91%) do not refer to the development of an NDC implementation plan.** On the contrary, **3 countries (4%) said they had prepared one, while 4 countries (5%) said theirs was being prepared.**

**Some 34 ACP NDCs (43%) provided information on the status of their NAPs (National Adaptation Plans).** No data was found for the remaining 45 countries (57%). **By June 2018, 5 ACP countries had submitted their NAPs to the UNFCCC.** The remaining 29 countries are presumably still preparing their NAPs.

**The Caribbean and Pacific regions need assistance with the formulation and development of NAPs.** Just 3 Caribbean and 2 Pacific countries have begun preparing their NAPs, compared with 24 African countries.

# Sustainable Development Goals

Very few ACP NDCs (14 countries, 18%) include reference to the SDGs. Most ACP countries are still exploring the links between their NDCs and the SDGs.

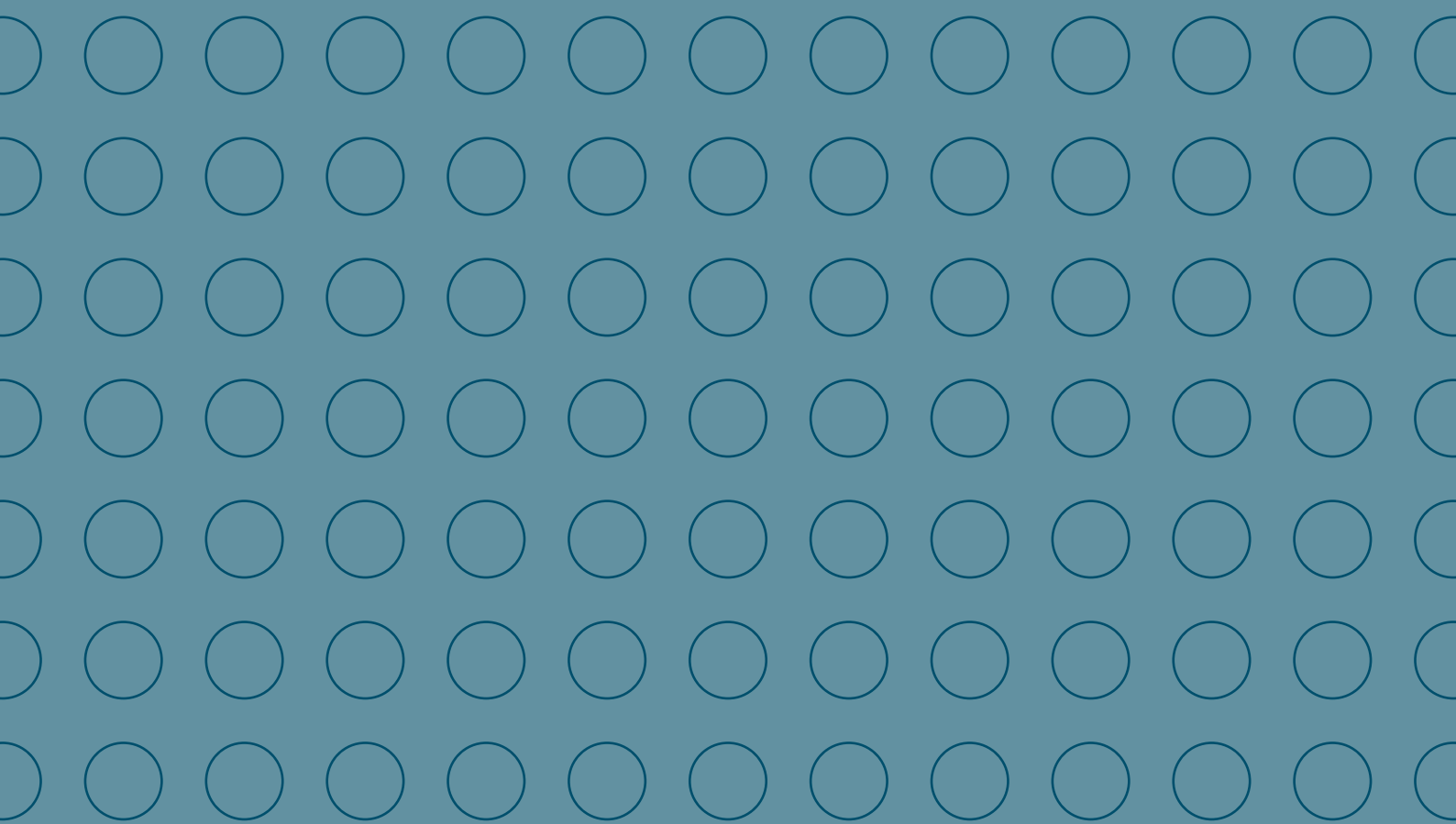
**The report envisages two ways to help ACP countries link the SDG and NDC processes.** (1) Identify the synergies and potential trade-offs between the NDCs and SDGs, by linking the relevant individuals and institutions, and (2) Support domestic actions to promote both the NDCs and SDGs.



# Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)

Almost half of the ACP NDCs (38 countries, 48%) included some form of pledge to monitor, report, and verify their NDC implementation.

The establishment and operationalisation of MRV systems is a predominantly domestic matter. Any support to ACP countries in this field should be tailored to their individual needs. A useful first step could be a situation assessment to identify the needs for capacity building and to formulate specific support.



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