

Dominican Republic

Developing a national climate compatible development plan (CCDP)

Activity	Conceptualization, stakeholder consultation, technical development and initial policy impact of a national climate compatible development plan
Country	Dominican Republic
Sector(s) involved	Energy; Transport; Waste; Cement; Tourism; Forestry
Time frame	2011–2012

Case summary The Dominican Republic, through the leadership of the President's Office, developed a Climate Compatible Development Plan (CCDP) that presents a roadmap to double the size of the economy in twenty years while at the same time cutting emissions by half (a reduction of around 18 MtCO₂e). The Plan was endorsed and launched by the President in September 2011 and presented at the UNFCCC-COP 17 in Durban¹ that same year.

Development of the plan involved extensive stakeholder participation and strong government leadership. The consultation process was led by the Office of the President and actively involved around 40 institutions from government, private sector and civil society.

It has had immediate impact, leading to the inclusion of a legally mandated goal of reducing GHG emissions by 25 % in twenty years in the country's Long Term National Development Plan and the introduction of a tax on vehicles related to their level of CO₂ emissions, the first of its kind in the country.

The plan has received positive international recognition with the German government agreeing to provide EUR 4.5 million to support a second phase of implementation of the CCDP focused on developing NAMAs with MRV systems covering the cement and waste sectors².



Parque Eólico Los Cocos, Dominican Republic

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- www.bmub.bund.de/en/bmu/press-and-speeches/current-press-releases/pm/artikel/dominican-republic-assumes-leading-role-in-climate-protection-1/
- www.mitigationpartnership.net/germany-and-dominican-republic-will-implement-second-phase-climate-compatible-development-plan-ccdp

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Background

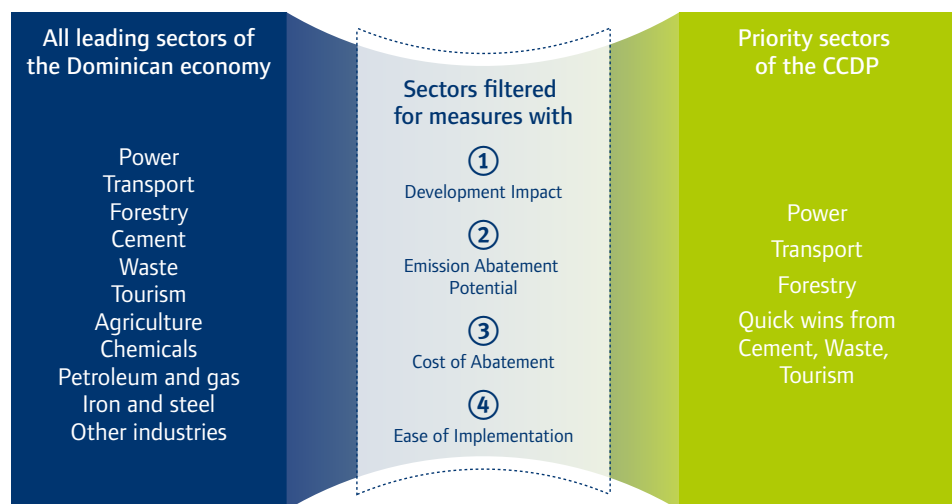
In 2008 the government of the Dominican Republic created, by Presidential Decree, the National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (NCCC-CDM). The Council was established with the President of the country as its institutional head and included a board of 15 climate-related ministries, including the Ministries of Environment, Economy, Tourism, Finance and Agriculture, among others. Moreover, the Council provided the first institutional structure to promote climate mitigation policies.

Later in 2010 the government began a process to develop a Long Term Development Plan for the country (END 2030) and around the same time, in 2011 development of the National Climate Compatible Development Plan (CCDP) was initiated. The END 2030 was approved by Congress to become Law in early 2012.

Activities

- » **Wide consultation meetings hosted in the national palace by the President's Office:** Five consultation meetings for the CCDP were held at the National Presidential Palace between February and June 2011, engaging approximately forty institutions. Also sixteen additional bilateral and working group meetings were held in the NCCC-CDM, the Ministry of Economy and other ministries.
- » **Establishment of a technical team composed of national and international experts:** Two national experts were hired for stakeholder coordination and data collection. The core analysis of the data and the scenario modeling was undertaken by a team of international consultants (McKinsey and Co.) hired by the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CfRN), which retained all the authorship rights.
- » **Creation of Energy, Transport and Forestry sub-committees:** Due to the complexity of the data collection and analysis, three sub-committees were created appointing four to five institutions (mostly governmental) to deliver specific technical tasks.

The CCDP focuses on measures in 3 priority sectors and a set of quick wins that stands out for their development impact, high abatement potential at low cost, and relatively easy implementation. (Figure 1)



Source: »Selection of priority sectors and quick wins«, page 24, available at theredddesk.org/resources/journey-sustainable-growth-draft-climate-compatible-development-plan-dominican-republic

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- » **Endorsement by the President and launch in the national palace:** Once the CCDP was finalized, it received the approval of the President who agreed to provide the foreword and be the keynote speaker at the official launch in the National Presidential Palace.
- » **International presentation at UNFCCC-COP 17 in Durban:** Following the country's public commitment at the previous COP, they presented the results of the CCDP in a side event during the UNFCCC conference of Parties in Durban, South Africa.
- » **Insertion of a mitigation goal in the National Development Strategy:** In January 2012 the National Congress approved as a Law the National Development Strategy 2030. Based on the CCDP, the strategy includes the target of reducing emissions by 25 % in the period 2010–2030.
- » **Proposal of a CO₂ tax on vehicles approved:** Under the rule of a new government and as part of a fiscal reform, the NCCC-CDM, based on the CCDP, submitted and secured approval for a policy that taxes vehicles based on their level of CO₂ emissions.
- » **Design of NAMA in "quick win" sectors:** In December 2012, the Government of Germany approved a four year, EUR 4.5 million project for implementation of a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) with a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system in the waste and cement sectors. These sectors represent a combined 15 % of national GHG emissions and were identified as "quick wins" in the CCDP. The project became operational in September 2013.

Impact of Sector Action Plans (Figure 2)

	Power	Transport	Forestry	Quick Wins
Abatement impact MtCO ₂ e	-9	-5	-6	-5
Share of abatement vs. technical abatement potential Percentage	11	6	7	5
New permanent jobs, 2030 Number	82	94	81	100
Economic impact USD millions p.a.	-35,000	-25,000	-13,000	-25,000
Capex required, 2010 - 2030 USD billions	-1,000	-1,500	-50	-230
Capex required, 2010 - 2030 USD billions	7.0	7.0	0.3	1.0

Source: »Impact of sector action plans«, page 46,
<http://thereddesk.org/resources/journey-sustainable-growth-draft-climate-compatible-development-plan-dominican-republic>

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Institutions involved	Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN); McKinsey and Company; The Office of the President of the Dominican Republic; The National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (NCCC-CDM); The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.
Cooperation with	USAID; UNDP; GIZ; Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the DR; British Embassy in the DR; Embassy of the Netherlands in the DR.
Finance	The Plan was financed by The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMUB) with approximately USD 1.8 million provided through the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CfRN). The project was part of BMUB's International Climate Initiative (IKI).
Impact of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improving national long-term planning: The CCDP became a technically rigorous policy instrument to orient low carbon decision making processes at a sectorial level. This Plan became not only the first climate change related long term plan of the country, but also one of the first long term plans regardless of sector or topic in the country. » Providing key input for the National Development Strategy (END 2030): To incorporate the indicator of reducing per capita carbon emissions 25 % by 2030 compared to 2010 (3.6 to 2.8 tCO₂e per capita). The END 2030 is the first long term planning policy instrument of the Dominican Republic, approved as an organic law (high priority laws that require two thirds of votes in Congress) in January 2012³. » International commitments: Based on the previous point the Dominican Republic made an international commitment at COP 18 in Doha to cut 25 % of GHG emissions by 2030⁴. » Implementation of vehicle carbon tax: A specific policy that can be already attributed to this plan is the carbon tax on vehicles by CO₂ emissions approved in October 2012, which sets a precedent in the country in term of low carbon fiscal policies and opens opportunities for more progressive policies in the future. » Improving capacity for mitigation: It provides a road map for the highest contributing sectors of GHG emissions and it has already attracted international funding to support mitigation action. Also, although not directly attributable to the CCDP process, institutional strengthening has subsequently become evident in some of the key government institutions that were active in the consultations. Less than one year after the CCDP launch, the Ministries of Economy, Tourism and Agriculture created climate change departments with at least three full time staff, and the National Commission on Energy appointed a permanent climate change focal point. » Facilitated collaboration: The development process of the CCDP implied a very intense consultation and collaborative process of many government institutions that facilitated a wide exchange of data and information that was previously inaccessible. » Attracting international support: Based on "quick win" sectors identified in the CCDP, the Government of Germany approved a four year project to design and implement two NAMAs on the cement and waste sectors, following the emission reduction recommendations of the CCDP on those sectors.
Why is it good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The CCDP was endorsed and launched by the president demonstrating commitment and leadership from highest level. Also, the consultation process was hosted and coordinated by the Office of the President under the direct leadership of the Vice-president, who personally launched it internationally at COP 16 in Cancún.

³ www.consultoria.gov.do/spaw2/uploads/files/Ley%20No.%201-12.pdf

⁴ <http://mitigationpartnership.net/dominican-republic-commits-25-reduction-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2030>

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- » The CCDP process was a **country driven process**, completely aligned to the then ongoing initiative of developing a National Development Strategy. The former ended up being approved by law and included an official mitigation goal of reducing GHG emissions in 25% by 2030, a direct input from the CCDP.
- » Around 20 ministries and government institutions (including the President's office as host) were actively collaborating in an intense participatory consultation process requiring **coordination across these different ministries**.
- » The development of this Plan **involved stakeholders across sectors** including NGOs from the forestry, agriculture and environment sector, which interacted with energy, waste and cement private sector actors in a fluid and cooperative way.
- » The CCDP sets a very clear **long-term vision combined with clear definition of short and medium-term policy goals and measures**. It explicitly identifies "quick win" sectors where in the short term relevant emissions cuts are more feasible, in this case the cement and waste sectors.

Success factors

- » **The highest level of political leadership**: This is the most relevant success factor identified and was reflected in an active commitment of the Office of the President which directly hosted the consultation meetings (many of them introduced by the Vice-president in person) in the National Palace, on average once a month over a five month period. This enabled the CCDP to have a very fluid coordination process with the ministries and provided enough legitimacy for private sector and civil society organizations to engage. The leadership and commitment exerted by the National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development was also very significant.
- » **International visibility**: Showcasing the initiative in different international fora provided an incentive for national actors (especially the government) to maintain momentum and deliver a significant result.
- » **High-quality technical support**: A team of consultants (hired by CfRN) provided robust methodologies that allowed the national team to follow through very complex technical analyses in a relatively short time. Another output was the added value of enhanced national capacity at the end of the technical process.

Overcoming barriers/
challenges

Capacity

Financial

What were the main barriers/challenges to delivery?

How were these barriers/challenges overcome?

There was a **lack of capacity and training in several stakeholders covering topics under consultation**.

The meetings themselves served as training spaces where stakeholders gained new conceptual and technical knowledge.

The financial arrangements of the initiative only allowed hiring two full time personnel in the national technical team. This contrasted with the three-fold presence of international consultants.

The difficulty of a limited national technical team was overcome by establishing an intensively participatory approach with the stakeholders through different sectorial working groups. These working groups contributed especially with data collection and validation.

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Information	<p>Weaknesses existed in the databases of many sectors and the institutional culture of the country doesn't easily facilitate information access and sharing.</p> <p>The national technical team decided to engage in more information gathering directly from raw databases in different ministries than originally expected. This implied visiting institutions directly and making expert interviews to double check sources and information. Also, the international consultants used very sophisticated estimation methodologies, including support from statistical experts based in India using specialised software, and data proxys.</p>
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Facilitate more capacity building in these kinds of international sponsored initiatives: Even though the country gained considerable institutional cohesion under the Presidential Office's multi-stakeholder consultation process, and some government institutions enhanced their technical capacity, dependence on international consultants was still relatively high. » Actively involve academia: Given the capacity of higher learning institutions to absorb new and complex technical knowledge and its ability to then support future initiatives, the potential existed to engage more national experts and technicians, which could have increased the effectiveness of the capacity building. » Secure data ownership and access to all details of the methodology: The project didn't establish that the data collected was to remain with the Dominican government and also the national team couldn't access all details of the methodology used to make the complex scenario calculations. Therefore the product was indeed of high technical quality but for future updates and revisions it remains a technical challenge for national institutions.
How to replicate this practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Secure the highest level of political commitment from the outset: This facilitates other critical activities that have to be implemented, particularly in terms of engaging key ministries and stakeholders. » Engage key decision-makers in ministries responsible for drafting economic and development policy: Ensure they are sensitised and convinced of the feasibility of achieving high economic growth with emission reductions. Such ministries can also play a key role in engaging other sectors and stakeholders important for success. » Include national talent in the technical team, involve academia and foster national ownership of the data collected.
Contact for enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mr. Omar Ramirez Tejada, Executive Vice-president, National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism, despacho@cambioclimatico.gob.do
Further key resources	<p>National Climate Compatible Development Plan (CCDP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Spanish Version - www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/Documents/tagged/Hacia%20un%20crecimiento%20sostenible%20-%20El%20Plan%20DECCC%20de%20RD%20-%20Vers.pdf » English version - http://thereddesk.org/resources/journey-sustainable-growth-draft-climate-compatible-development-plan-dominican-republic
Website(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » http://cambioclimatico.gob.do/2013/06/12/hacia-un-crecimiento-sostenible/



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Case study author(s)

Daniel Abreu Mejía

Edited by: Nicholas Harrison (Ecofys)

Editorial support: Ana María Majano (INCAE) and María José Gutiérrez (INCAE);
Frauke Röser, Thomas Day, Daniel Lafond, Niklas Höhne and Katja Eisbrenner (Ecofys).

Coordination by: Ecofys www.ecofys.com and CLACDS, INCAE Business School

Case study contributor(s)

- » Omar Ramirez, Executive Vice-president of the National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism
- » Nelly Cuello, independent consultant
- » Julian Despradel, International & Inter-institutional Relations Coordinator, National Energy Commission

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