

# THE CLIMATE HELPDESK IMPACT STORIES

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APRIL 2021



**Partnership on Transparency**  
in the Paris Agreement



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## P.1

ABOUT THE CLIMATE HELPDESK

## P.2

THE CLIMATE HELPDESK IN ACTION

## P.3

IMPACT STORIES FROM THE LEDS GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

## P.9

IMPACT STORIES FROM PATPA



## WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

Do you need support in designing, implementing or updating your Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Long-term Strategy (LTS) or transparency systems? **The Climate Helpdesk is available for your support. It is a global advisory network providing rapid, high-quality, short-term technical assistance for developing countries.**

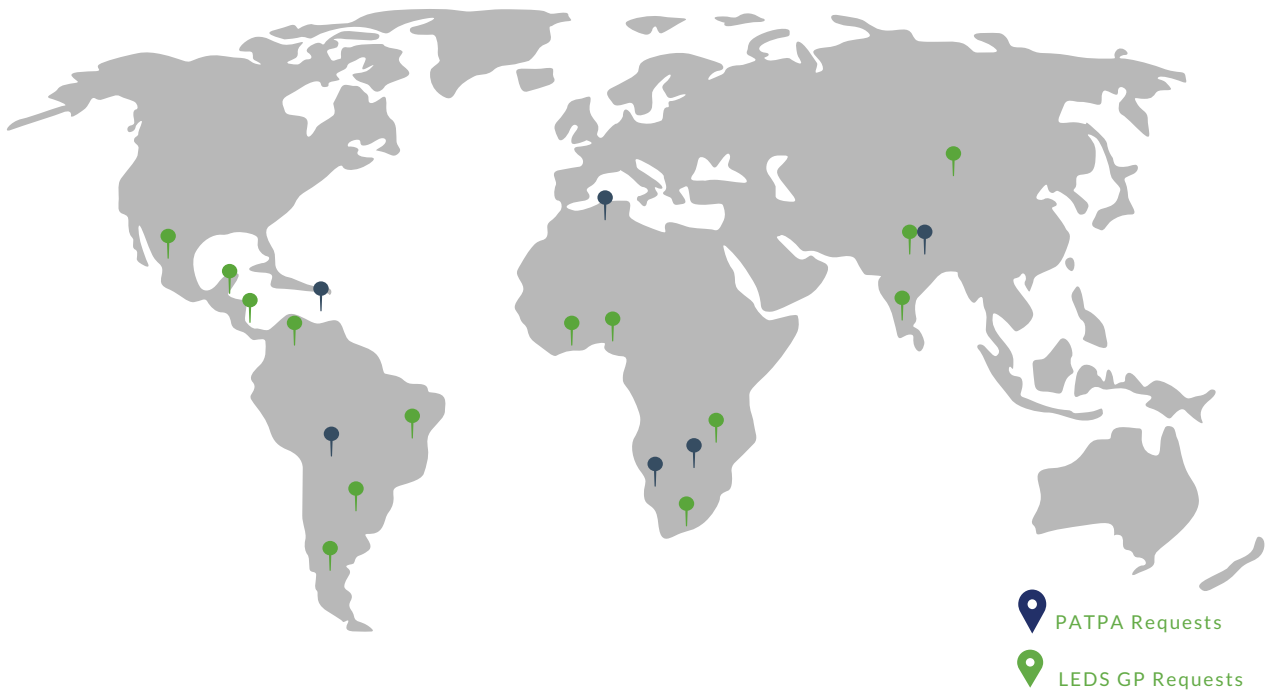
The Climate Helpdesk is a joint service offered by two global initiatives: The Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP) and the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA). The Secretariat of the Climate Helpdesk is hosted by the GIZ Support Project for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPA).

ABOUT THE  
CLIMATE  
HELPDESK

Requesting  
ASSISTANCE

To download the concept note,  
please scan this QR code or visit  
<https://bit.ly/2JCSkVu>.





**39**

REQUESTS RECEIVED\*

**18**

COMPLETED REQUESTS

**21**

ONGOING REQUESTS

\*Requests received between 2019-2020

## THE CLIMATE HELPDESK IN ACTION

The Climate Helpdesk provides assistance to partner countries on the following topics:

- Expert guidance and technical review of climate related policies, plans and programs
- Sharing studies, analyses, reports, and guidance documents on NDC updates and implementation
- Strategies and measures for **mobilising private and public investment** in NDC and LTS priorities
- Methods and resources for **linking national and subnational governments in the LTS and NDC planning** and implementation processes
- Policies and programs for **implementing climate-resilient low-emission measures** in agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU), energy and transport sectors
- Methods and tools for assessing LTS baselines, technology and policy options, as well as pathways and impacts
- Technical assistance to **align NDC and LTS measures**
- **Review of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories** for specific sectors
- **Establishing sustainable and robust transparency systems**, including appropriate institutional arrangements
- **Preparation for the submission of Biennial Update Report (BUR)** and in the future Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)
- Support of **M&E** in the field of **adaptation**

# SELECTED IMPACT STORIES

## MONGOLIA: A TOOL TO MEASURE EMISSION REDUCTIONS IN THE BANKING SECTOR

As part of its NDC, Mongolia committed to reducing emissions by 14% by 2030 and will implement climate actions in its largest emitting sectors including energy, industry, agriculture and waste. To support this effort, Mongolia has launched the Business Loan Program to incentivize energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy solutions. In this regard, the Trade and Development Bank Mongolia (TDBM) has been implementing the Sustainable Finance Principles and aims to finance green projects in sectors including energy, agriculture, industry and waste to generate high impacts and benefits at the national level to reduce GHG emissions. As part of the loan approval process, companies must demonstrate that their projects will reduce their emissions by at least 20%.

In collaboration with the Mongolian Ministry of Environment, the Climate Helpdesk is developing an important emission reduction assessment tool for use in these projects. This includes Excel-based tools that will list and quantify vital information such as fuel type and quantity, existing and estimated emissions, and calculations of the project's overall energy reduction.



Additionally, a user interface will be created which will be integrated into the TDBM banking architecture which will help the staff of the bank during the loan approval process. In addition, experts working on the project will also conduct a series of virtual training sessions with bank employees, where an explanation will be given on the tool and how to use it best.

This project is anticipated to be completed by May 2020. The Ministry of Environment is eager to see the application of this tool and evaluate the possibility of using it across the commercial banking sector in Mongolia.



## MEXICO: THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN ACHIEVING NDC TARGETS

Leaders in Mexico value the role the private sector is playing in helping the country reach its NDC goals of reducing GHG emissions by 22% by 2030. One strategy to reduce emissions is to improve resource efficiency by prolonging the life of raw materials and ensuring they circle back through production instead of ending up in landfills – this process is termed a “circular economy.”



Recently, the Argentine Chapter of the World Business Council of Sustainable Development (CEADS) implemented a circular economy tool (CE tool) that allows companies to better measure their contribution to climate targets. Drawing on the success of this program, the Mexican Commission of Private Sector Studies for Sustainable

Development (CESPEDES) aims to adapt this helpful tool to reflect the Mexican context.

In collaboration with the Climate Helpdesk, CESPEDES will develop this CE tool with the well-defined indicators and criteria companies need to better assess their contribution to Mexico’s circular economy and its GHG reduction targets. Climate Helpdesk experts will also develop a user manual and provide important information about how to scale up circular economy initiatives, improve resource efficiency, and implement low-carbon solutions across various sectors and industries.

Their neighbor to the South, Guatemala, has expressed interest in developing a similar CE tool in collaboration with the Climate Helpdesk. Good news travels fast and we look forward to supporting these important initiatives throughout Latin America and other regions where a CE tool can be applied.



## ARGENTINA: ENHANCING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR

Similar to other countries, Argentina's transport sector accounts for 15% of total GHG emissions and leaders aim to significantly reduce emissions in this sector. The Covid-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of safe and sustainable transportation for all citizens and it's against this backdrop that the Argentinian Ministry of Transport is revising its NDC National Transport Sectoral Plan that considers both economic and social equity objectives.

In March 2020, Argentina's Ministry of Transport requested technical support from the Climate Helpdesk to update its Transport Sectoral Plan.



Our role is to organize interviews and virtual meetings with leaders from the public and private sectors and to ensure that the updated plan reflects their input, is feasible and accepted by all major stakeholders.



Argentina's NDC goal is to not exceed 483 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, and we believe updating plans across major sectors is key to helping countries achieve their objectives. When countries like Argentina engage with the Climate Helpdesk on developing sectoral plans, their successes will ripple across the region. Findings from similarly successful projects are shared throughout the LEDSGP community through our many peer-to-peer learning activities.



## SRI LANKA: TRANSITIONING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

As many climate stakeholders around the world have acknowledged, electric vehicles (EVs) offer tremendous potential to help countries meet their NDC targets. In Sri Lanka, the transport sector accounts for 16% of total GHG emissions and consumes nearly 70% of the nation's oil and petroleum. The government understands that a transition to EVs is both important and attainable.



Recently, the Sri Lankan government announced a plan to replace its state-owned fleet, including buses, with EVs by 2025. Also, it intends to help its population transition to electric or hybrid vehicles by 2040. Evolving a transport sector built atop fossil-fuel infrastructure to one that promotes and facilitates the widespread use of EVs is never easy, and a lot of careful planning and analysis is required.

In 2019, the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation began collaborating with the Asia LEADS Partnership and the Climate Helpdesk to develop a Framework on Electric Mobility.

This document, developed with the participation of various stakeholders, includes many of the most important aspects of transitioning to EV infrastructure including manufacturing capabilities and import, vehicle charging infrastructure, technological tools and strategies, policy and regulations, institutional capacity, incentives and subsidies to consider, possible funding sources, among other important considerations. The government of Sri Lanka continues to collaborate with Asia LEADS Partnership and Climate Helpdesk as they begin the implementation phase of their plan, an exciting stage for any project.





## ZIMBABWE: A NEW NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION STRATEGY

Historically, the main strategy to increase energy access across Zimbabwe has been grid extension. Today, the government is looking increasingly to off-grid electrification technologies, particularly solar PV. In 2019, the government endorsed the Rural Electrification Master Plan (REMP) which outlines cost-effective solutions to full electrification that include both on- and off-grid technologies and give priority to public institutions including schools, hospitals and community centers.



The Zimbabwe Rural Electrification Fund (REF) is responsible for implementing electrification projects in rural areas with rural households

and small businesses. The Ministry of Energy and Power Development has tasked the REF to help in the design of an updated national electrification strategy (NEF) building on the REF's success to date. The most recent focus has been on public projects. Hence, the REF shall aim to attract private sector investments to support energy access for households and businesses—especially for productive users of energy.

The LEDSGP, specifically its Energy Working Group and Climate Helpdesk, supported the REF in designing the updated national electrification strategy. The plan's main goal is to achieve 60% of rural electrification by 2030 and includes estimated funding requirements and strategies on how to attract private sector investment. The results of this project were highlighted in a LEDSGP public webinar in September 2020.



## LATIN AMERICA: ADVANCING BIOENERGY SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE REGION

Bioenergy (electricity and gas derived from organic matter) is seen as one of the many technologies that can help reduce fossil fuel consumption. The LEDES LAC Bioenergy Community of Practice (BioE-CoP) is a peer-to-peer learning network representing governments, the private sector and civil society, working together to advance the development of bioenergy solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2016, BioE-CoP members have mainly focused on identifying opportunities for bioelectricity deployment, developing market analyses to promote investment in the sector, and defining the role of bioenergy in future development.



In 2020, the Climate Helpdesk provided technical assistance to BioE-CoP members in several countries in Latin America through the following initiatives:

**Guatemala:** Agrogenadora, S.A., a subsidiary of Grupo Central Agrícola, received support in the validation of technologies selected to advance the efficient production of biogas. The results of this analysis have been summarized in a report that was shared with other BioE-CoP members.

**Costa Rica:** Asobiogas, a network of institutions and companies promoting anaerobic biodigestion technology used to produce biogas, recently joined the Working Table on Bioenergy led by the Vice Ministers of Agriculture, Energy and Health. With support from experts at the Climate Helpdesk, Asobiogas strengthened its capacities on climate finance, became an important actor in public policy discussions on the potential of bioenergy, and developed project proposals to mobilize funds and expand their operations.

**Colombia:** In support of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Climate Helpdesk is helping government institutions develop a roadmap for viable bioenergy pilot projects with the goal of contributing to Colombia's unconditional 20% GHG emissions reduction by 2030.



## NEPAL: KICK-STARTING GHG INVENTORY IMPROVEMENTS

Nepal is working hard on further strengthening its national transparency system in the context of the NDC update process. To facilitate this process, in the framework of the Climate Helpdesk, PATPA supported Nepal in the beginning of 2020 to review its inventory and make recommendations for improvement. Why use Climate Helpdesk expertise? Complete and accurate national GHG inventories are important for countries to make confident statements about GHG emission levels, filter out GHG emission trends, and detect mitigation potentials.



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The Climate Helpdesk team assessed the completeness and quality of data. These findings, gathered through desk-based research and interviews with sectoral experts, were validated

in a virtual event hosted by the Ministry of Forests and Environment.

Here, participants agreed to further build on its extensive experience in setting up GHG inventories. Specifically, crucial actions now focus on the development of emission factors for buffaloes and other cattle. Additional areas of potential improvement include data collection processes in relevant sectors and the institutionalization of cooperation between actors involved in the inventory's development.

To ensure implementation of the suggested measures, the Climate Helpdesk developed a roadmap in close coordination with the Ministry and UNDP, who will lead future inventory improvement measures. With its support, the Climate Helpdesk kick-started the work of committed political actors and international partners, contributing toward Nepal's preparation for the more stringent reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).



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## BOLIVIA: INCREASING NDC AMBITIONS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR THROUGH THE GHG INVENTORY/TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Energy is a key factor for Bolivia's economic development. Bolivia updated over 10 years of its GHG inventory. The country approached the Climate Helpdesk seeking recommendations to increase the ambition of its NDC in the energy sector, which should be based on a review of an updated inventory. The Climate Helpdesk is supporting the request with a two-stage approach, implemented in cooperation with the GIZ project "Renewable Energy Programme" (PEERR II) in Bolivia.

The first stage involved the revision of the country's National Energy Balance (NEB) and GHG inventory in the energy sector. The GHG inventory provided a basis to show the country, where the emissions come from and where the countries could improve their ambitions. Moreover, both play a crucial role in the development of ambitious mitigation and adaptation targets in the energy sector.

The review concluded that both documents offer complete and valuable data on Bolivia's energy sector and its GHG emissions.

Proposals for improvement include recommendations on the display and verifiability of data and on the enhancement of transparency of the information presented in both documents.



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Building on the findings of the inventory review, stage two is currently underway. The Helpdesk is assessing Bolivia's NDC in the energy sector and will provide recommendations regarding its achievability and ambition. With this stage ending in early 2021, the valuable information and recommendations provided by the Helpdesk will aid Bolivia in its current NDC updating process.



## NAMIBIA: IMPROVING PRIVATE SECTOR NDC ENGAGEMENT

Namibia is very committed to climate reporting and its obligations under the UNFCCC and has submitted four National Communications (NC), while the fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR) is underway. Yet, the lack of information on private sector GHG emissions affects the accuracy of Namibia's GHG inventories and reporting. In view of this, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism requested support from the Climate Helpdesk to raise awareness in the private sector for the importance of their engagement in data collection and provision.

The Climate Helpdesk support was two-fold. In July 2020, 30 private sector and strategic actors participated in a hybrid workshop (virtual and face-to-face meeting) in Windhoek. The workshop included discussions on confidentiality and challenges to data access and sharing. It was followed by three targeted virtual discussions in August with key stakeholders from rail, aviation, shipping and cement

industries. Thus, the Climate Helpdesk created a platform for discussion with the private sector.

The knowledge gathered will be used for the improvement of Namibia's national GHG inventory and in the next BURs. As a result of the Climate Helpdesk support, the Ministry will now work to maintain the momentum and continue to liaise with key stakeholders. As a next step, it will prepare memorandums of understanding to discuss with companies. Additionally, the Climate Helpdesk recommended that the Ministry should build systems for dealing with sensitive data and data supply agreements to address the concerns voiced by the private sector. Several participants confirmed that they are willing to be more engaged and feel optimistic about providing the required data.

Overall, new synergies have been sparked which contribute towards developing a climate-savvy private sector in Namibia.



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## ALGERIA: STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY IN THE WASTE SECTOR

Many countries face challenges compiling GHG inventories in the waste sector. Algeria aimed at improving its knowledge in this sector and wanted to capacitate a new generation of national trainers. Thus, within the framework of the Climate Helpdesk, PATPA supported Algeria in strengthening institutional and technical capacities for the compilation of GHG emission inventories in the waste sector. The offered support contained two elements.

Firstly, the Climate Helpdesk implemented a Training-of-Trainers workshop for six Algerian experts from national agencies directly involved in the development of the inventory. They were educated to conduct trainings themselves, reducing Algeria's dependence on consultants and creating a new generation of experts within the country. Secondly, the trainees implemented a three-day capacity building workshop on the development of GHG inventories and the identification of mitigation options

in the waste sector for over 40 peers from several national agencies. This workshop also kicked off the work on the waste sector inventory for Algeria's third NC and first BUR.

The trainees led the workshop with confidence and effectively assisted the participants. Moreover, plans were made for additional workshops in the Algerian provinces. A data questionnaire prepared by the trainees, which was discussed in the workshops, has been further used by the National Agency for Waste. A great achievement is the effect of the project beyond the waste sector. One trainee from the National Agency for Climate Change shared his data questionnaire template with experts working in other sectors, including the energy sector, that went on to draft its transparency concept based on the example of the waste sector. After the trainings, transparency gained greater attention from the government and international agencies, with further workshops on transparency issues being planned in the country.

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## LAYOUT

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## SOURCES

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