The European Union and most vulnerable developing countries working together to tackle climate change

What are the Objective and Priority Areas of the GCCA?

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) is an initiative of the European Union (EU) to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on climate change with developing countries most vulnerable to climate change. The GCCA focuses on the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, which are often the most affected by climate change but have the fewest resources to tackle it. The initiative was launched in 2007 and is coordinated by the European Commission.
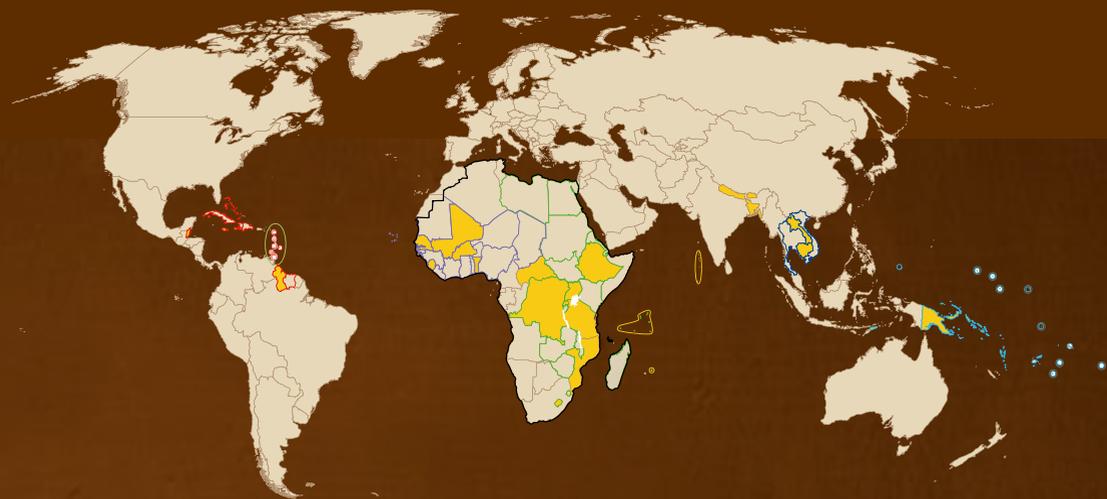
The five GCCA priority areas are:
- **Mainstreaming climate change** into poverty reduction and development strategies
- **Adaptation** building on the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and other national plans
- **Disaster Risk Reduction** (DRR)
- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation** (REDD)
- Enhancing participation in the **Clean Development Mechanism** (CDM)

GCCA
Global Climate Change Alliance

Asia Pacific Caribbean Africa

www.gcca.eu

What is the GCCA about?

The GCCA fosters dialogue and exchange of experiences between the EU and developing countries on climate policy and on practical approaches to integrate climate change into development policies and budgets. The results of the dialogue and exchange feed into the discussions on the new climate agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in the technical and financial cooperation supported by the GCCA. The dialogue takes places at global, regional and national levels.

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION

The GCCA provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets and to implement adaptation and mitigation interventions. The technical and financial cooperation in turn informs the policy dialogue and exchange of experiences between the EU and partner countries.

What has been achieved to date?

From 2008 to 2013, the GCCA has committed and earmarked over €285 million from the European Commission budget, the 10th European Development Fund, and contributions from Ireland, Sweden, Estonia, Cyprus and the Czech Republic, including fast-start finance pledged at the UNFCCC 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in 2009.

Across regions, the GCCA promotes innovative and effective approaches to delivering climate finance, as illustrated by these projects:

In The Gambia, the GCCA supports a €3.96 million project, to strengthen the knowledge and institutional capacities of the government to coordinate and mainstream climate change into development planning, and support coastal adaptation to climate change. The project has benefited from combining institutional, policy and field work, stakeholder engagement and applied research to support mainstreaming and improved both inter-sectoral and national/regional coordination.

In the Pacific, the GCCA contributes €8 million to a regional programme with the University of South Pacific aimed at supporting the governments of Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu through capacity building through formal and informal training, on the ground adaptation at community level and applied research. Synergies between these three components have enhanced the understanding of climate change and adaptive capacity in the region.

In Bhutan, the GCCA contributes €4.4 million, including a €0.8 million contribution via fast-start finance from Estonia, to mainstream climate change into the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) sector through sector budget support. This will be achieved through the development of a RNR Climate Action Plan, the mainstreaming of this plan into Bhutan's

11th Five Year Plan, and a strengthened institutional framework through, for example, an improved national planning and monitoring system. The experience from Bhutan highlights the importance of selecting concrete and nationally owned indicators and the value of complementing budget support with targeted technical assistance.

In Belize, the GCCA contributes €2.9 million to a €3.2 million project, aimed at enhancing the adaptive capacity and resilience of the country to the effects of climate change, with a particular focus on the water sector. The project has a strong emphasis on supporting evidence-based decision making to complement the strategic institutional and policy work within the water sector.

The GCCA currently has national programmes in more than 30 countries, including Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guyana, Jamaica, Laos, Lesotho, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Uganda, and Vanuatu. Additionally the GCCA is supporting 8 regional interventions in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific through regional bodies. In 2013, we expect another nine countries to benefit from the GCCA. Regional and country programmes have been complemented by a series of workshops for decision-makers on mainstreaming climate change into national development planning and budgeting.

Over the last three years, GCCA dialogue has also resulted in Joint Declarations between the EU and regional groups such as the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community, the Africa Group, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, and specific countries in Asia. These outcomes have contributed to the international dialogue on climate change.

How does the GCCA complement other efforts?

The GCCA cooperates with individual countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific as well as regional bodies such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Caribbean Forum, and the ACP Secretariat. Following the principles of aid effectiveness, the GCCA interventions are implemented in close coordination with and through national and international organisations as well as EU Member State development agencies such as the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in Mozambique, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in Nepal, German International Cooperation (GIZ) and Portuguese international cooperation (IPAD) in Timor-Leste and the French Agency for Development (AFD) in the Central African Republic.

EU Member States are also invited to contribute financially to the GCCA. To date Ireland, Cyprus, Sweden, the Czech Republic, and Estonia have contributed a total of €37 million, of which €32 million was fast-start finance.

MANAGING KNOWLEDGE AND PROMOTING LEARNING

As experience accumulates across the globe, it is vital that the GCCA ensures lesson learning is an integral part of the process and that the knowledge generated from its implementation is shared across countries and regions and with development partners. A number of specific tools and activities support this effort:
- A Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy and Work Plan was developed in a consultative manner in 2012
- The First GCCA Global Learning Event was held in September 2012, bringing together over 160 delegates to share experiences, network and look forward to the future of the GCCA
- The GCCA organised side events at UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Cancun, Durban and Doha
- The GCCA launched a community of practice on the EuropeAid platform capacity4development (http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/gcca-community)

For more information, please visit

www.GCCA.eu or email **info@gcca.eu**.