



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT EUROCLIMA+ 2022

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This document includes the main exchanges between the countries of Latin America and the various actors of the EUROCLIMA+ Programme carried out at the Annual Meeting held in Montevideo (Uruguay) from 28th – 30th September 2022. The document describes the formal sessions held that sought to share the balance of the Program's achievements to date and outline perspectives for the future.

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Chapter I – Introduction

As every year, the partners of the EUROCLIMA+ Programme have met in the last quarter of 2022 to take stock of the results achieved and plan for the future. This year's Annual Meeting has been marked by the expansion of the Program to the Caribbean, increasing the number of partner countries from 19 to 33, and increasing its sectoral focus in the area of biodiversity and circular economy.

The Annual Meeting has been a privileged occasion to welcome the new partners, share with them experiences and visions for the future, and agree on an approach focused on meeting the increased ambitions.

Accepting the invitation of the Government of Uruguay, the meeting was held in Montevideo from 28th to 30th of September, also taking advantage of the meeting of beneficiaries of the EUROCLIMA+ Urban Mobility projects, which took place in the same week, to share some spaces and learnings.

After two years (2020-2021) during which the EUROCLIMA+ Annual Meeting has been held virtually, the face-to-face modality has resumed in 2022, however maintaining the possibility to participate remotely for all participants who have not been able to travel to Montevideo, thanks to the hybrid modality that has been adopted throughout the entire meeting.

Objetivos

- a) share and analyze with partners and interested parties the main results of the Programme;
- b) exchange experiences, lessons learnt, and best practices;
- c) jointly agree on the priorities of the Programme for the period 2023-2024 and beyond.

With the participation of representatives from more than 30 countries in the region, the event gave an account of its main impacts and addressed the challenges and projections for the future.

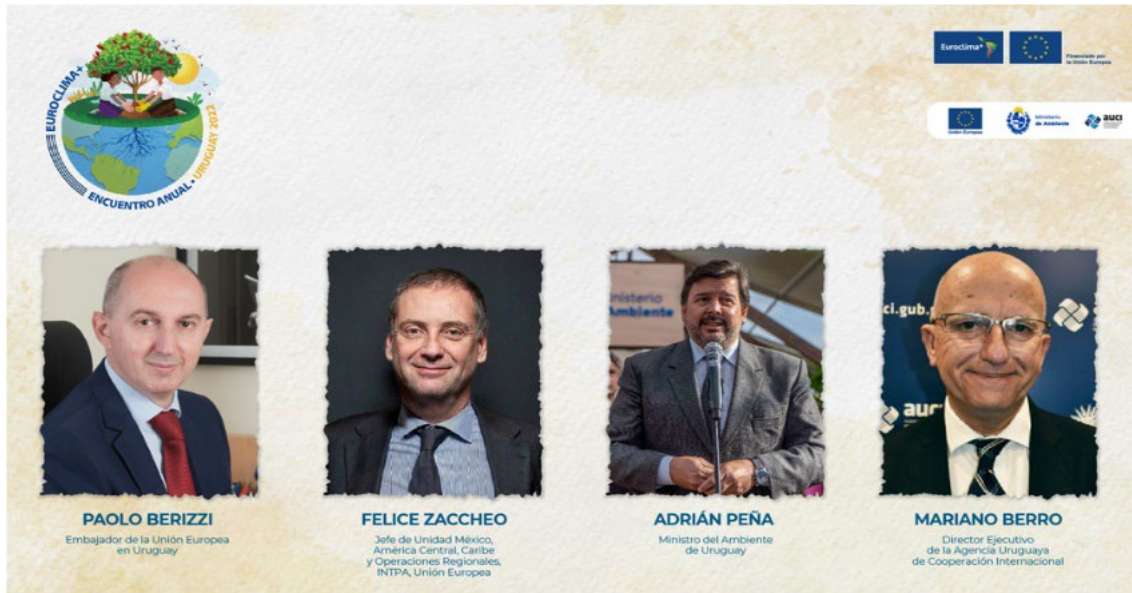
The EUROCLIMA+ 2022 Annual Meeting has been a key space where the National Focal Points of the partner countries of the Programme, the European Union, the Delegations of the European Union and the implementing agencies have shared, exchanged and analyzed the results obtained by the Programme.

After two years of pandemic and virtual events, this meeting was a space of great relevance, since it allowed the face-to-face exchange among the members of the Programme, as well as the discussion on the way forward, with a view to the sustainable transformation of Latin America.



Chapter II – Development of the Annual Event

The meeting was inaugurated by the Minister of the Environment of Uruguay, Adrián Peña, the Ambassador of the European Union in Uruguay, Paolo Berizzi, the Head of Unit Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and Regional Operations of the European Union, Felice Zaccheo, and the Executive Director of the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation, Mariano Berro.



In this space, Minister Peña highlighted that "EUROCLIMA is an emblematic Programme that helps to implement national policies and its flexibility has allowed us to work according to our needs and demands, and we have been able to develop policies for sustainable urban mobility, tourism, resilient livestock, care of our watercourses such as the Santa Lucía basin and support the joint work that we have been developing between the environmental and productive dimensions".

During this event there was also a [virtual intervention by Simon Stiell](#) , Executive Secretary of the UN Climate Change.

Paolo Berizzi pointed out that it was not surprising that Uruguay wanted to organize the meeting, due to the dynamism and development of the initiatives adopted, and congratulated the country for the recent issuance of bonds linked to emissions and conservation, a really important step.

In his speech, Felice Zaccheo, assured that "Latin America and the Caribbean share with the European Union the vision that climate and sectoral policies are the main engine of sustainable development, since they can contribute to a transformative recovery, and bi-regional cooperation programs such as EUROCLIMA are the concrete instruments of this shared vision".

Mariano Berro from AUCI highlighted that "Uruguay has things to solve for which we need help, and we can provide good practices and solutions that we have incorporated. This event puts the country in the spotlight at a regional and international level".



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Round table

The inaugural speeches were followed by the Round Table "**Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, together for the climate, from Montevideo to Sharm el Sheikh**", a dialogue moderated by Mariana Castaño Cano with the participation of

- i. Minister Adrián Peña, Representative Uruguay,
- ii. Isabella Ávila, Special Advisor to the Undersecretary of Green Economy, Brazil,
- iii. Amrikha Singh, Representative of the Caribbean (CARICOM/OECs),
- iv. Luca Pérez, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Environment and
- v. Bruno Julien-Malvy, Policy Officer at DG CLIMA.



Below is the transcript of their interventions::

The **minister of Environment of Uruguay, Adrián Peña**, spoke about the main lines of action for the **sustainability of the agricultural sector** in his country. He stressed that Uruguay has great potential to contribute to the planet's food security since it has the capacity to produce 20 times the amount of food required by its inhabitants.

At the same time, Uruguay is committed to demonstrating that it is a sustainable country and it wants to **prove it scientifically**. For example, in terms of methane, Uruguay is committed to a 57 % reduction compared to the year 90, which is the base year. This is related to agricultural management, pasture rotation and animal nutrition. To this end, **a tool for measuring the effects of livestock and farming in terms of environmental footprint** has been developed in Uruguay, which is measuring the impact of livestock farming on air, water, soil, and biodiversity.

In these three variables, Uruguay has enough information to generate a set of indicators that allow going down to earth and disaggregating at the territorial level. This tool allows establishing measures to improve and correct aspects of livestock production. For Uruguay, however, it is very important that efforts towards sustainability are tied to some benefits from economic point of view, mainly of commercial nature (incentives for sustainable production).

Amrikha Singh, Representative of the Caribbean (CARICOM/OEC) has started her intervention by recalling that most of the member states of CARICOM have already presented their revised NDCs.

The mitigation priority for CARICOM members is **forest resource management**, taking into account that two of the largest continental members (Suriname and Guyana) have forest cover up to 90% of their territory. But even among small island states, forestry is a priority for soil protection, as well as food security.

The Caribbean also has an ambitious goal to improve food security and reduce food import bills by 25 % by 2025.

Renewable energy is another critical priority, with ambitious targets and various ongoing investments in most member states, including geothermal. Renewable energy is essential to become independent from the international energy market.

Furthermore, sustainability and electric transport are crucial, with some countries having already converted parts of their government fleets to electric vehicles. This is part of the overall solution to improve transportation in general in the Caribbean region, keeping in mind that for all small islands and coastal states transportation is a critical issue.

Small island states came to Paris strongly supporting the 1.5 degree target. All our studies have shown that if it exceeds 1.5 degrees, life on small islands will become almost unbearable.

Entering Sharm el Sheikh, the Caribbean priority focuses on the issues of **adaptation** and **loss and damage**. The Caribbean countries are the ones that already in 1994 said: climate change is a serious problem for the international community and the loss and damage is critical because there is a lot of adaptation that needs to be done.

Clearly, **disaster risk reduction** is the other issue. Caribbean countries were used to dealing with storms in the region, but the intensity and frequency of hurricanes has increased enormously in the last ten years. So, we have to grapple and face it, and we need to adapt and prepare.

The **protection of the coastal ecosystem** has always been essential for the Caribbean. Most of the industries that power their economies are based on the coasts, such as tourism, fishing, food production, and services.

Therefore, careful management and protection of coastal resources remains a priority that is linked to the next priority, which deals with **managing water resources**, having to deal with too much or too little water. Countries need to ensure they have enough water for agriculture, industry, and health, as well as for food security.

Part of the indebtedness of the Caribbean countries is due to the amount of investment they make in development. It is a challenge when you borrow, you invest, you develop infrastructure, and then every two or three years you have to do it again because it disappears. So, ahead of COP 27, these continue to be the priorities of the Caribbean - the issue of **climate finance**, with more investment and improving the ability to access climate finance.

Isabela Ávila – Special Advisor – Undersecretary of Green Economy – BRAZIL, explained that the context of Brazil is very complex. In the federal Executive there are many ministries and bodies involved in the question of the green agenda. There are **more than ten ministries involved in this agenda**: economy, environment, mines and energy, science and technology, and agriculture and livestock, among others. The Ministry of Economy is a gigantic structure. It is present in the 27 provinces (states) of Brazil. **Coordination is a challenge**, since it results from the merger of four of five ministries from before (Planning, Federal reserve, foreign trade, Industry, Competitiveness, National Treasury).

These institutions coordinate internally to carry out the **green transition agenda**. A couple of months ago, a Green Economy Undersecretary was created within the Ministry of Economy, which is responsible for coordinating the discussions on the agenda, the regulatory framework, guiding the debate, public policy meetings together with the other ministries, towards the green transition and **promote policies and initiatives with a global impact** that favor sustainable development.

Brazil is part of the solution to the challenges of sustainable development in the world. It is not a green power, but it has to work cooperatively, with sustainable alliances and also with a lot of transparency, with all the partners of all the programs. Brazil is in all the forums, in many of which it brings the lines promoted by the Green transition.

Brazil is the country with the **cleanest energy matrix in the world** (84%) while the G-20 countries will only achieve it in the year 2040. It also has biomass, biofuels, programs to promote the use of sustainable energy, as well as solar energy, which is perhaps the cheapest.

There is a potential to further stimulate and promote this agenda of a sustainable energy vector in Brazil and also of urban mobility. About **70-75% of the light vehicle fleet is already compatible with biofuels**, such as ethanol. Very strong policies are also being developed for the use of **biofuels in heavy vehicles**, considering that Brazil is a country of continental distances and much of the logistic is done by land.

Another challenge for Brazil is the great potential of being an exporter and **a great supplier of carbon credits to the world**. Progress is being made in the regulatory frameworks and norms of the carbon market. Work is being done to have an effective carbon market in Brazil and so that credits can be exchanged with the rest of the world.

There is also **advanced legislation** in Brazil for a long time, based on the 2009 national climate change policy. There is the 2011 National Solid Waste Policy and many other recently approved legal frameworks, of which many will contribute to for that transition, such as for example: the framework for public sanitation, the framework for fairs, legislation to promote technologies and support programs for biofuels, sustainable energy, etc.

Brazil is very prepared to continue advancing on that agenda. In a few weeks the **National Green Growth Plan**, will be launched, with a package of initiatives to finance, to promote sustainable development and also the creation of green jobs.

It is also well advanced in the legal environment, in the **green securities market**, with experience in programs to promote renewable energy, biofuels, low carbon and regenerative agriculture.

The National Green Hydrogen Plan in Brazil will also be launched by December for the growth of sustainable hydrogen market as an energy vector and also as an industrial input.

The adoption of sustainable practices in production processes is also supported, especially in the sectors that emit the most carbon dioxide. There is a responsible administration of solid waste that advanced and is regulated over years.

Brazil has great potential, but it also has **great challenges**.

LUCA PEREZ Deputy Head of Unit – DG Environment/EC – expressed that he was **looking forward to work with all partners in Latin America and the Caribbean** in the implementation of EUROCLIMA Programme, welcoming the excellent decision of the programme to also expand covering key priorities such as biodiversity and the circular economy.

The **triple planetary crises** (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution) are interconnected and are driven by issues such as unsustainable consumption and production and, in general, the **broken relationship we have with nature**. That is why we must act urgently and the best way to act is in an integrated way.

We need to achieve carbon neutrality, but we also need to protect our natural capital. We know from science that nature will only allow us to stay below the 1,5 limit agreed in Paris. And we **need to fundamentally transform our economic model**.

Minister Peña spoke a lot about sustainable food systems. It is not just about carbon neutral agriculture, we really need to fundamentally change the farming system. We need a stronger and more ambitious framework to address the biodiversity crisis and **prevent a sixth mass extinction**.

It is not just about conserving, protection species and ecosystems, it is about protection our own well-being and our economies. **More than 50% of world GDP depends on nature**. We are so dependent on natural resources for our lives and for our economies that we need to cooperate internationally to achieve these internationally agreed goals.

The EU has been taking actions internally: last year we adopted our **new biodiversity strategy for 2030** and we hope that these will be replicated in the new international ecosystem protection framework. The **30x30 target** is a crucial goal on which we hope the international community will agree.

Restoring the ecosystem is a key way to achieve multiple benefits in terms of climate mitigation, climate adaptation, but also improving livelihood opportunities in different sectors, disaster risk reduction, etc.

What we must also push for (the links to the climate agenda are very clear) is also the **full incorporation of nature-friendly practices in all sectors**, including agriculture, water management, deforestation, supply chains.

The point is really to **transform the way out economies and our different sectors work**. In a previous speech they explained to us the ambition that a country like Brazil has when it comes to promoting the green economy. This is also very much at the center of our effort with the circular economy action plans that we have adopted, in the actions that we have been taking in plastics, textiles, e-waste, batteries, construction.

We just **need to change the way we think about our economy**, maximize the benefits we get from resources, and expand our cooperation in this regard. And I believe that the EUROCLIMA+ Programme is going to offer us many opportunities to do it together with our Latin American and Caribbean partners.

The Annual Meeting was the opportunity to learn (Session 1) some emblematic success stories through which it was possible to deepen the impacts and lessons learned from EUROCLIMA's actions, a space where the consolidation of the Country Dialogue was also highlighted as the instrument Program center for partner countries to identify priorities and strategic areas of cooperation. To date, EUROCLIMA has a total of 17 ongoing dialogues.

During the first months of 2022, the EUROCLIMA team concentrated on preparing a new phase of the Program, with new resources, expanded objectives and fully incorporating the Caribbean countries into its horizon of action until 2027. The new approaches of the Program included in the "Way Forward" document, among which the area of biodiversity stands out, will guide the dissemination that will be carried out at the next COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt).



Extension of the EUROCLIMA family

This year, 2022, the Program has welcomed the Caribbean countries at its 2022 Annual Meeting, an incorporation with which they increase from 19 to 33 partner countries and which will become official at the beginning of 2023.

The representatives of the Caribbean region have shared experiences and visions of the future in a meeting during which the incorporation of the biodiversity approach in a global context led by the health, social and economic crisis has also been highlighted. In this sense, the components of the Program highlighted the need to strengthen the bi-regional articulation to formulate joint responses to the crisis.

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Emblematic case 1: “Mitigation of the agricultural sector of Uruguay”

First, an overview of the resilient livestock project in Uruguay was presented and how it is inserted in EUROCLIMA+ (resilient food production sector). Next, the keys that have made the project an emblematic case were presented, which is inserted within the national Family Livestock program and is articulated as a roadmap to establish the actions and tools to achieve the objectives of mitigation and adaptation.



From the National Commission for Rural Development, the technical characteristics of the project were explained, as well as the creation of the necessary trust between technicians and farmers to achieve the implementation of good practices. From the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, the keys that give sustainability to what has been achieved were explained, such as inter-institutional coordination, articulation within sectoral policies, work with territorial agents, among others.

In the space for questions, an interest on the part of the public was reflected in learning, on the one hand, the challenge of making communities aware of the commitments acquired as a nation, but that require individual actions, and on the other hand, the importance of ensuring the dignified life in a just society, in a rural context and climate change. The project manages to create capacities and expectations for future generations to consider the countryside, agriculture, rurality, as a decent option for life.

Emblematic case 2: “Contributions of the industrial sector to the energy transition”

Followed by an introduction about the energy transition or just transition, which was born with the idea of decarbonization that incorporates social and economic aspects, the actions developed within the framework of EUROCLIMA+ in the field of energy efficiency in the industrial sector were presented. have been developed in 9 countries.



Next, they moved on to a space for debate based on the cases supported by the Energy Efficiency Program in the industrial sector of Chile, Argentina, Ecuador and Colombia. These initiatives open a door towards scalability and the new components of the energy transition that is proposed for the following phases of EUROCLIMA+.

Emblematic case 3: “Climate change and adaptation measures in Guatemala and Costa Rica”

In this case, the efforts of the Programme regarding Forests, Biodiversity, Ecosystems were presented. The notion of multifunctionality of the forest and the experiences that consolidate good practices, processes and methodologies that have contributed to different levels in the design and implementation of related public policies were highlighted.



The advances in the existing community forestry concessions (CFC) within the multiple use zone (ZUM) of the Maya Biosphere Reserve (RBM) in Petén, Guatemala were presented, highlighting the solidity of the governance of this model and the benefits socioeconomic benefits provided, as well as the capitalization of community forestry companies (EFC). This initiative made it possible to show the articulation of the project's achievements with public policies, which shows the great potential for replicability, opening opportunities for the following phases of EUROCLIMA+.

In addition, they exchanged about the work that is being carried out in Costa Rica, with a view to the future "Country Window" that supports the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) to achieve its international commitments and initiatives.

At the end of the 3 cases, the participants were asked to complete an **online questionnaire**, the purpose of which was, once the Programme and its global achievements were presented, as well as some significant examples, to gather the opinion of the country representatives on how relevant the interventions of the EUROCLIMA Programme have been to date. The results of this survey are presented in **Annex 1** of this report.

Subsequently, **3 Agoras** or parallel working groups were organized, one for each priority climate challenge for the region, to which the Programme is contributing. In each agora, through different participatory dynamics, points of view were exchanged in the sector chosen by each participant. These were:

Agora 1 – Natural resources, forests and agriculture

In this group, they exchanged about how to promote the access of small farmers to national and international value chains; on how to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources (including water, soil, forests), and on how to better articulate the implementation of actions and projects at the field level with public policies.

Agora 2 – Water and vulnerability

An exchange was held on the progress in the regions and the challenges experienced individually and collectively by the regions in terms of urban water and disaster risks. In the group, collaboration between the participants was encouraged in order to exchange and seek solutions from different perspectives to a common problem.

Agora 3 – Governance, focused on Long-Term Strategies (LTS)

Through a series of guiding questions, the participants were offered to find out what the Program has done in relation to the ELP, as well as to publicize future support possibilities in this area.

Finally, the last part of the session took place, where the main conclusions of the session were drawn. Each agora presented the summary of the contributions received and then the result of the previously shared questionnaire was presented in real time.

In general terms, it was concluded that:

- The Programme is having a high or very high impact in the countries and at the regional level.
- The most relevant thing that the Programme has done to date at the national level have been actions to support climate policies, followed by country dialogues, and sectoral projects.
- To achieve a greater impact, it is considered equally important to continue actions and projects, as well as to take advantage of examples to inspire public policies.
- At the regional level, it is considered that the most relevant have been the communities of practice and exchanges, followed by multi-country initiatives.
- Regarding the initiatives carried out in other countries, those considered most interesting to be replicated in the countries are the actions to support policies, followed by sectoral projects.
- It is considered that the greatest achievement of the Programme to date has been to help strengthen climate policies, followed by favoring exchange and mutual learning at the regional level.

See Annex 2 with the details of the results of the questionnaire.

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Chapter IV - Session 2. Perspectives

The **second session** of the EUROCLIMA+ Annual Meeting was held on September 29 in the afternoon. The purpose of said session was to agree on the guidelines of the Programme with a view to its evolution to the next phase in terms of relevance of the promoted actions and response to the sectorial priorities of each country and the region.

The session began with brief opening remarks in plenary by Horst Pilger, Head of Section for Mexico, Central America, Caribbean and Regional Operations at DG INTPA, who took advantage of the space to share a presentation with the National Focal Points regarding the Programme. [Horizon Europe of DG-Research](#) and invite them to make further use of these opportunities.

In this regard, Horst Pilger reported that the Directorate General for Research of the European Commission requested EUROCLIMA to make some announcements to LAC partner countries about the **scientific cooperation** funds available for the LAC region. The EU scientific cooperation initiative is called **Horizon Europe** and covers a series of topics that are interesting for EUROCLIMA, including, in addition to climate, energy, mobility, food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, the environment environment, etc. This is in line with the new orientation of the Program, where the aim is to support political decision-making based on scientific evidence. These resources are normally allocated through calls for proposals. Applicants are generally universities, academies and research institutions. The calls are completely open and non-discriminatory. Anyone can apply.

After this introduction, Mr. Pilger, presenting Session 2 regarding the future perspectives of the Programme, recalled that EUROCLIMA has received another 70 million euros, plus an additional 35 million euros specifically for the Caribbean. Therefore, EUROCLIMA partners must work together to find the best possible way to use this additional funding efficiently. The Programme is trying to make its interventions as relevant as possible, identifying more circumscribed areas of cooperation and avoiding dispersion. Access to finance is another big area, where EUROCLIMA can play a more concrete role in mobilizing investment. European investment bank partners sometimes find it difficult to prepare project portfolios, and this is an area where EUROCLIMA could be playing a bigger role.

An animated video of the country dialogue methodology¹ was shown as a prelude to the plenary session focused on the relevance of the action accompanied by the Programme and reflected in the country action plans.



¹ Animated video on Country Dialogues EUROCLIMA:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kd6rmh3oOI>

The session developed a discussion in which Dr. Ligia de Castro Doens, Director of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment Panama and Ms. Maritza Jadrijevic, Head of the Department of Adaptation, of the Ministry of Environment of Chile, participated, who shared their experience in the identification and design of actions included in their respective country action plans.



Some of the main elements of the conversation are summarized below:

Regarding **the main action lines of the action plan of their countries** and how the regional vision beyond national limits has been taken into account, Ligia Castro recounted the experience of Panama and her proposal to make a **Transformational Action Plan of Panama**, giving great importance to the **long-term inclusive socioeconomic strategy, low in emissions and resilient to climate change**, worked not only with the actors of society, but in a strategic alliance with the Ministry of Economy and Finance in order to later serve as a reference for the country's development plans. She also highlighted the support of EUROCLIMA to prepare the **Framework Law on Climate Change**, which will be presented to the cabinet in two weeks and then to the Assembly, and which allows the national determined contributions to be raised in a title, making them mandatory.

Maritza explained Chile's experience in dialogue with EUROCLIMA and the main action lines of the **National Climate Plan**. In the first place, they proposed the idea of preparing two regional plans and after dialogue with the Program they integrated under the **regional climate change action** the issues of **green hydrogen**, incorporating **climate financing**, as well as incorporating the ARCLIM into projections of **climate risks**. The regions selected for these plans were Antofagasta and Magallanes given their potential, as well as needs regarding the generation and use of energy. She also highlighted that, in this process, they also integrated other actors beyond the Ministry of the Environment, such as the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Science; in addition to civil society, which shows a direct regional dimension that is allowing the fulfillment of the objectives set both with respect to the law and the different international commitments of Chile.

Regarding what **elements of transformation** that can also bring **greater benefits**, not only in mitigation and adaptation, but also in everything that is the **socioeconomic situation** in the country, Ligia explained that the **elements of transformation** that have had greater benefits as a result of In this work process with EUROCLIMA, were the **climate change labels for public investment projects**, which will allow, in a gradual process, to incorporate climate change transversally into public spending and thus **make green and blue projects the norm** and not the exception within the budgets of the nation; and the **training of institutions, people and especially young people** in this matter. To date, we have already **trained 80 public institutions** in this new methodology to prepare public investment projects and have created a very successful **Academy of Young Leaders of Climate Change** which foresees to train young people in all university subjects. The installed capacity in society is the key and that is why the **climate empowerment strategy** is of great relevance. In addition, they also have the **climate transparency platform** incorporated into the sustainable inventory system and for its monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Finally, she highlighted that at the end of this month, the **Executive Decree that updates the regulations for Environmental Impact studies** will be approved, which will allow all projects that enter the system to have these climate change issues incorporated in order to be approved.

In the case of Chile, **the transforming elements** explained by Maritza were the **territorial dimension**, having a **financing strategy for the measures** already taking into account the implementation, and **using science**, making the necessary information available to the actors to be able to adequately design the politics and decision making in general. Also the fact of installing capacities and **discussing with different actors** on how to use hydrogen.

Regarding how **the criteria of positive socioeconomic impact are being incorporated** when **establishing climate policy**, Ligia explained the Panamanian case on how they are going to work to ensure that products can have the **carbon footprint and water footprint** on their label that includes to its entire value chain (under the "Reduce your footprint" program). For example, banks have already entered this program, as well as cooperatives and producer associations. This makes it possible to transform the agricultural sector (the second sector with the highest emissions), which is fundamental.

On behalf of Chile, Maritza said that the regional climate change plans are an **opportunity for cleaner development in general**, which has clear social benefits. In addition, from the productive side, it will be possible to ensure a resilient development that takes care of the social dimension and that is fairer. The law requires that all **measures** incorporated into the plans be evaluated in terms of **cost-efficiency** and that they have to be **selected and prioritized in a participatory manner** in order to meet the social needs and expectations of the different sectors and actors of society, thus **maximizing both social and environmental benefits**.

After this, "World Café with four work tables" was organized to exchange and identify how to best guide the Programme to ensure the relevance of its interventions, agree on the optimal use of the proactive mechanism in the identification of actions, and see how these can be nourish the knowledge generated by the Programme at the regional level and vice versa. In parallel, a workshop was organized for the participants from the Caribbean, which served as a space to exchange experiences and ways of working at EUROCLIMA, to inspire them towards their full integration into the Program in 2023.

The report with the main elements of the working groups was carried out by the National Focal Points, with the support of the facilitators of each one of the working groups, on September 30 in the morning session. Below is a summary of the main elements:

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Table 1: How to increase the transformative value of the actions of the Programme and what are the transformative elements that should be included?

The National Focal Points highlighted that the value of the Programme lies in its flexibility, facilitating dialogue within their countries, allowing the integration of other relevant sectors and/or actors, as well as the promotion and exchange of experiences. In this sense, the experiences shared by Panama and Chile were reviewed in the plenary session to involve other actors such as civil society and the private sector in their coordination processes.

As a **fundamental premise**, it was highlighted that EUROCLIMA actions must be aligned with the **policies, priorities and commitments of each country**, adhering to macro policies, plans and commitments and with a long-term focus of the country. It is key to consider that the countries that participate in EUROCLIMA have different realities and are in different degrees of maturity, so it is expected that the Programme can look at these different realities and adapt to the different objectives and challenges of each country.

For actions to have a **transforming potential**, they have to mean a paradigm shift, and bring with it an increase in resources, financial and non-financial, as well as other added values. It is also key that the actions have an integrating effect, that is, that they are inserted in leading institutions at the country level, allowing the involvement of multiple actors and/or sectors and reaching the territory, a specific space for climate action.

EUROCLIMA's actions must also be a **bridge with other regional and international programs and initiatives**, taking advantage of its network of contacts, and the capacity and experience of organizing country dialogue; even having a catalytic effect that allows leveraging other forms of financing and involving the private sector (financing), resulting in actions that have a leverage effect (and that are socially equitable).

The **strategic view** was another interesting element discussed. The actions must be based on the demand and strategic gaps identified by the country, as well as it is expected that the actions will be based on financing "gaps" identified in the previous analysis. Coordination is also another key element, since the actions must involve other sectoral ministries (beyond the environment) and other actors such as civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Other outstanding aspects were the catalytic effect, actions that allow leveraging other sources of financing; the **integrating effect**, concrete actions in the territory and with the potential to mobilize resources (also, it is interesting that it takes advantage of existing networks in the territory); and, the **exchange of knowledge and training**, actions that have a link/synergy with the regional level (learning exchange).

Table 2: How to integrate or enhance thematic and priority aspects in future Country Dialogues and how to integrate the biodiversity approach?

The **transversality** and importance of working on **integrated approaches** in the field of **biodiversity and climate change** was pointed out. Capitalize on the tools that already exist, such as the REDD+ approaches that exist above all in the region and on which a great deal of work has been done.

Among the main ideas that emerged from the discussion was to **hold regional dialogues** to strengthen the work between the ministries of economy and finance and the ministries of the environment. The **reinforcement of personnel, and the strengthening of climate capacities** in the ministries of the environment, as well as in the directions of key ministries, such as economy and finance, are considered necessary.

This strengthening of climate capacities would have an impact on assessing compliance with determined national commitments and long-term strategies in order to develop specific financial strategies for their implementation. In addition, it would make it possible to make better use of climate change scenarios for decision-making in public investment; translate the impacts of climate change with economic values that can be useful for the ministries of economy and finance, private banks and insurers.

Some of the outstanding examples of work that can be developed at the regional level are the following:

- Measurement of low carbon investment through spending labeling of the ministries, economy and finance.
- Such as climate investment and the use of green taxonomies in the search to align the fiscal budget with the NDC, share regional experiences and take national experiences from other countries to carry out a regional dimension in policy dialogue spaces.
- Identify interests that arise from regional integration working groups, for example, CELAC, Pacific Alliance, SICA with high-level political forums, such as the Forum of Environment Ministers, the Sustainable Development Forum of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- Solve the problems in our countries of gas vehicles and their emissions, emissions of agrochemicals and pesticides.
- Further promote the reduction of the carbon footprint and water footprint in the countries.
- The inclusion of carbon prices and regulated instruments in regulatory instruments through the National Public Investment System or other mechanisms, such as within the evaluations of environmental impact studies.
- Replicate outstanding experiences and regional initiatives in interested countries and apply regional approaches in countries in specific manner.
- Share practices and management of protected natural areas, have projections of scenarios of inaction in the region and how to enter into the topics of article six.
- Emissions trading at national and regional level.
- Share and compare costs of mitigation and adaptation.
- Have common monitoring and reporting indicators.
- Work on platforms that are being built in the region, such as the Risk Atlas in Chile.
- Appropriation of knowledge from regional projects in the countries. The consultants should leave their knowledge and skills in the countries. Importance of the databases, the methodologies and that there is a constant exchange of knowledge and experiences of the lessons learned in the discussions of the projects between our countries.

Table 5: Caribbean table

Mr. Chamberlain thanked the Caribbean members for the invitation. He highlighted the **opportunity to exchange knowledge** on climate change with the Latin American region and qualified the need to **customize future Programme interventions to the particular needs of the Caribbean**. He highlighted the involvement of civil society, the private sector, and academia as

key for the transformation of societies, underlining the need to use an accessible language through **education and communication**.

In the context of the implementation of the dialogues in the Caribbean, Chamberlain pointed out that the **process does not start from scratch**, pointing out that most countries have coordination mechanisms, and these can be complemented by other coordination mechanisms at the regional level such as CARICOM. EUROCLIMA could support the strengthening of these spaces when necessary.

From their perspective, these issues should be worked on from a cross-cutting approach, particularly in small islands or small countries with coastlines, where thematic responsibilities are not just that of an agency or a ministry. For the Caribbean, the **green economy** approach is **linked to the blue economy** because the scale and the way in which the issues interact must be taken into account.

The **feedback session** to the room was held in plenary on September 30. In general, the National Focal Points highlighted the following aspects:

Cofinanciado por:



Implementado por:

Chapter V – Steering Committee

On Friday, September 30th, in the afternoon, the meeting of the Program Steering Committee was held. Members representing 14 of the 19 member countries of the Program were present².

The documents put to the consideration of the representatives of the partner countries of the Program ([Document Way Forward 2022](#) and [Minutes](#)), after having gone through an intense process of review and comments by the members of the Steering Committee, were **approved unanimously**.

A round of statements by Committee members followed. The different interventions focused, in addition to thanking the Programme and welcoming the new Caribbean partners, on the following aspects:

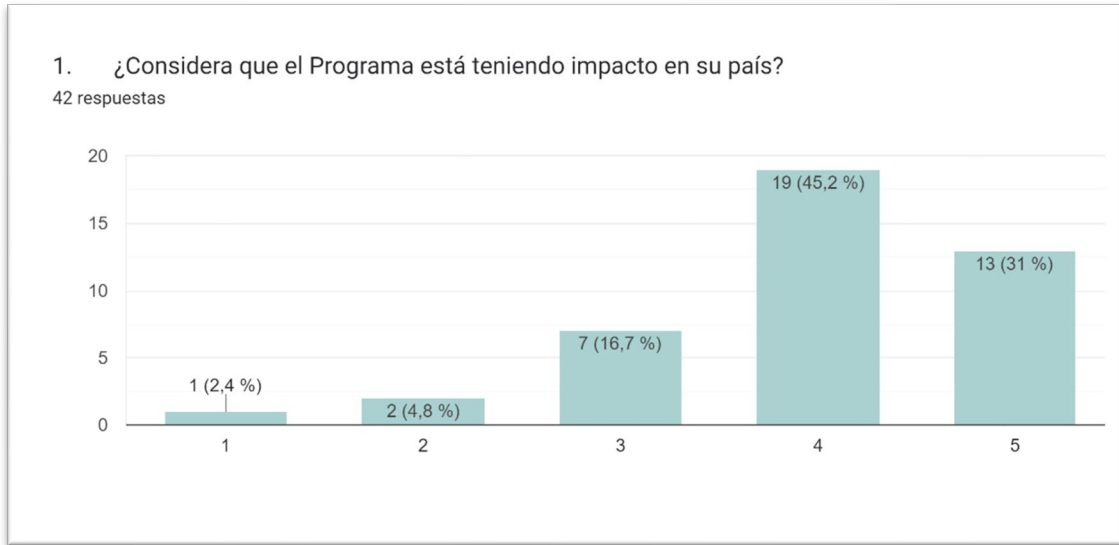
Regarding the program:

- The quality and seriousness with which the work of the Annual Meeting has been fruitfully carried out, the transparency and horizontality of the discussions and above all, the listening that has been generated and the interaction between all the Latin American countries and now Caribbean;
- The positive evolution of the Programme, thanks to a consolidated governance scheme promoted by the countries in articulation with the European Union, which has allowed learning and incorporating the lessons learned and building an increasingly stronger Programme, which has more impact;
- The importance of the country dialogues that represent in themselves one of the main achievements of the Programme, allowing "to be well in tune between the two continents";
- The opportunity offered by the Programme to share experiences and problems, strengthening the common interests of the region, to achieve the climatic macro objectives; that it is not seen just as a cooperation, but one more mechanism to unite and work together for the planet;
- The mechanisms and above all the benefits of this dialogue, where countries are allowed to promote their priorities in a very clear way, but also share their challenges;
- The possibility, thanks to the incorporation of the new partners, to increase the ambition with a view to working as a single region, with a single objective, overcoming the political gaps;
- EUROCLIMA supports regional integration and learning from each other and constitutes a perfect advocacy platform;
- Latin America is where parts of the solutions and answers are. Perhaps Latin Americans do not have historical responsibilities, but they want to be part of the solution.

Finally, responding to the offer of the Minister of the Environment of Guatemala transmitted to the members of the Steering Committee by the representative of this country, it was approved that the 2023 Annual Meeting will take place in Guatemala, possibly during the first semester of 2023.

² Representatives of Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, and Peru were not present. México estaba presente de forma virtual.

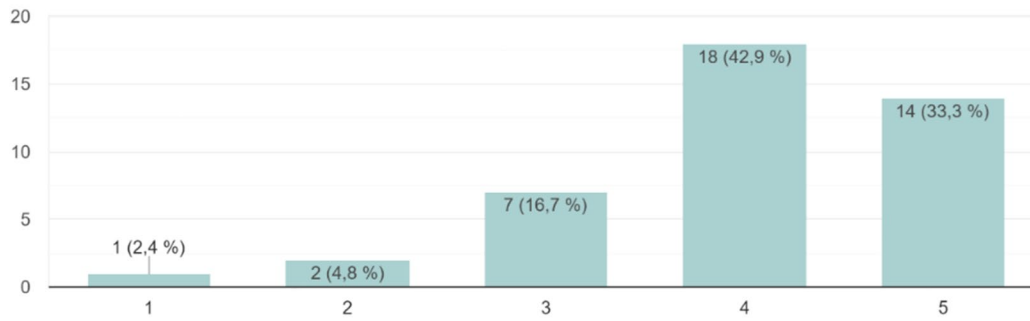
Annex 1 – Results of the questionnaire regarding appreciation of the Programme ³



³ Results of the survey are only available in Spanish.

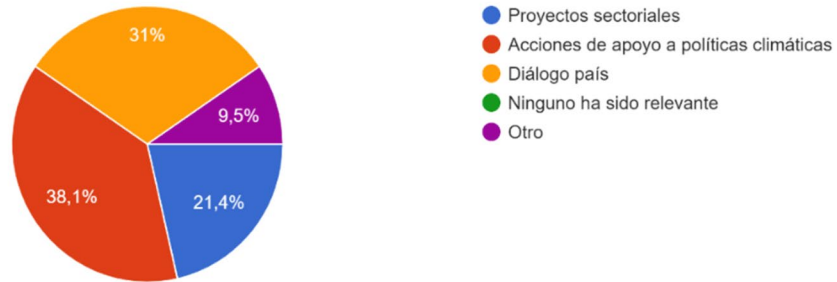
2. ¿Considera que el Programa está teniendo impacto a nivel regional?

42 respuestas



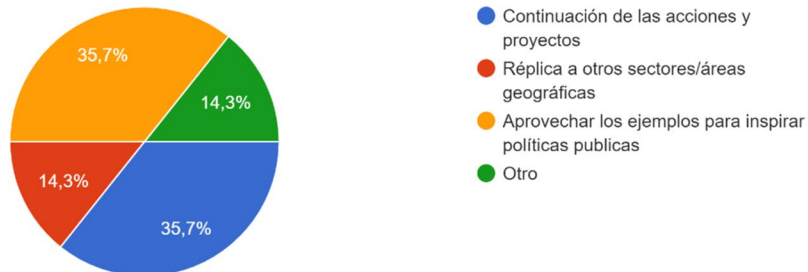
3. De lo que ha hecho el Programa hasta la fecha en su país, ¿qué considera que ha sido lo más relevante?

42 respuestas



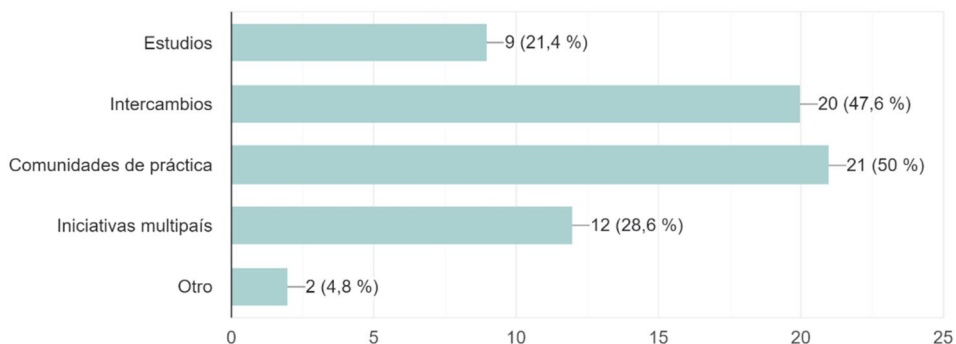
4. De lo que ha hecho el Programa hasta la fecha en su país, ¿cómo podría escalarse para tener un impacto mayor?

42 respuestas



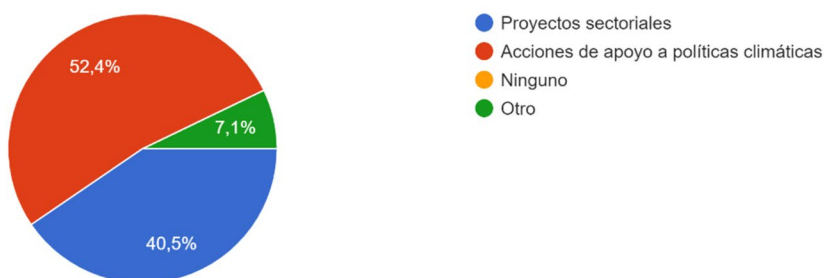
5. De lo que ha hecho el Programa hasta la fecha a nivel regional, ¿qué considera que ha sido lo más relevante?

42 respuestas



6. Según su conocimiento, de las iniciativas del Programa llevadas a cabo en otros países, ¿qué considera más interesante para replicar en su país?

42 respuestas



7. En base a su experiencia y conocimiento del Programa, ¿cuál considera que ha sido el mayor logro de EUROCLIMA+ hasta la fecha?

42 respuestas

