



Mexico

An Integrated National Climate Policy in Mexico

Activity	Developing a comprehensive and inclusive climate policy approach, integrating institutional arrangements, planning and implementation tools, and finance and monitoring mechanisms.
Country	Mexico
Sector(s) involved	All
Time frame	2012–2015

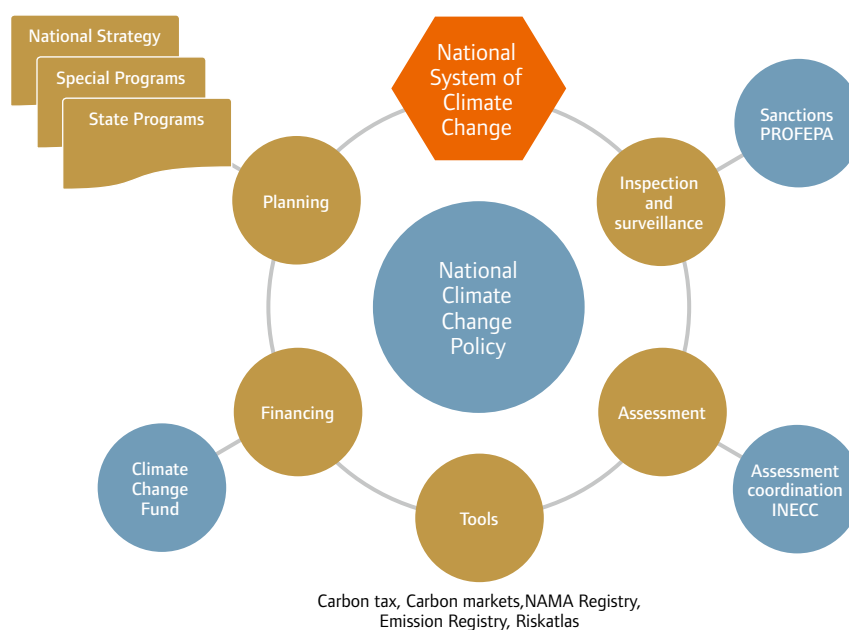
Case summary

Mexico is the first developing country to have implemented a climate change law. Approved in 2012, and based on several years of experience in the field, the law provides a climate change policy framework and sets the ground for (1) the establishment of an institutional arrangement, involving all relevant stakeholders and levels (national and subnational) in a national climate change system composed of several entities that promote participation and articulation among them; (2) the development of climate planning tools like a climate change strategy and a climate change programme; (3) the creation of a climate fund; (4) the promotion of policy instruments including a carbon tax and establishing carbon market based approaches; and (5) the roles of evaluation and follow-up of climate action in the country.

The current Special Programme on Climate Change (PECC), for the period 2014–2018, includes 23 quantified mitigation measures at the federal level that will lead to a reduction in emissions of 83 MtCO₂e in 2018 compared to the baseline.

In particular, the General Climate Change Law is groundbreaking. It paved the way for an institutional and policy response to climate change, which is considered good practice, given its comprehensiveness, political leadership and integrated approach involving different levels of government.

Components of the Climate Policy According to the General Climate Change Law



Source: SEMARNAT (2013): National Climate Change Strategy. 10–20–40 Vision

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Why is it good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The national law and policy is a country-driven process, linked to existing processes, national sector based strategies and measures targeting priority sectors and referencing social, environmental and economic (development) goals. » There is commitment and leadership at the highest political level, with the former Mexican president, Felipe Calderon, being a key driver in the development of the General Climate Change Law. The President officially chairs the Inter-secretarial Commission on Climate Change (CICC). » Coordination across different key secretariats and stakeholders at different governmental levels are institutionalised in the form of the National System on Climate Change. Clear mandates and dedicated resources are available at the leading entities Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC). » Dynamic and sustainable process, including a mandated and institutionalised mechanism for periodic review and update. Both SEMARNAT and INECC assume specific roles regarding the planning, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the policy. An evaluation process needs to be conducted every two years and the results must be made publicly available.
Success factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » High-level political commitment » Development of short-term goals for institutional arrangements, planning documents and instruments » Public awareness
Overcoming barriers/ challenges	<p>What were the main barriers/challenges to delivery? How were these barriers/challenges overcome?</p>
Financial	<p>Although the national budget has an explicit line for climate change projects, a lack of awareness at a sectoral level limits the request for budget and constrains the ambition of the actions proposed in the PECC (because sectoral actors limit their action to their available budget). Outreach activities from SEMARNAT towards sectors raised awareness regarding the national budget availability. Additionally, the evaluation process to be held by INECC every two years should allow a re-visitation of the action lines.</p>
Capacities	<p>Lack of capacity and human resources for accomplishing the preparation of the Strategy and Programme, as well the implementation of the Registry within the time budget specified in the law.</p>
Planning	<p>Targeted capacity building programmes in the relevant government institutions Having ambitious, long-term targets planned (Vision 10–20–40) – without a clear roadmap to follow – added an extra challenge for the implementation process. The development of the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) allowed for the analysis and identification of the steps to follow for the implementation and achievement of the proposed targets.</p>
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Detailed roadmaps and verifiable intermediate targets to achieve the final targets being included in the strategies and plans are crucial both to follow up during the implementation phase but also to keep a clear monitoring, reporting and verification system. » Provide sufficient resources and capacities to the team in charge of the planning phase in order to get more technical content and achieve more robust results in the implementation phase. » Involve all levels of government in the process, including high level political leaders to technical staff in the relevant national and subnational institutions » Consider innovative funding instruments, such as taxes and market-based mechanisms to support climate policy activities.

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How to replicate this practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» The implementation of a climate change law provides certainty and ensures the longevity of the initiatives. It is also useful to create the institutional setting.» The climate change strategy should include clear roadmaps and intermediate verifiable targets in order to guide implementation.
Institutions involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» The Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT): In charge of coordination the national climate change policies and of developing, together with other federal secretariats, mitigation and adaptation activities.» The National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC): Created as part of the General Climate Change Law (on the basis of the existing National Institute of Ecology), INECC is in charge of generating and integrating the technical and scientific knowledge and strengthening human resources and capacities for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.» Inter-secretarial Commission on Climate Change (CICC): Reinstalled by the General Climate Change Law, this Commission integrates 14 Ministries involved in mitigation and adaptation policy and actions.
Cooperation with	<p>Various agencies support the development and implementation of specific elements of the Mexican climate policy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), e.g. support of the process by the Mexican-German Climate Change Alliance;» Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the European Commission, the BMUB, The Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and AusAID;» Danish Energy Agency;» Spanish Agency for Cooperation;» British Government;» USAID.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» There is a specific annex to the national budget that is assigned to climate change actions.» In addition, to support specific components of the Mexican climate policy, international organisations such as the World Bank through its Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR), the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) in the framework of its International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and, in the near future, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) offer international cooperation.
Case study author(s)	Aida Figari, Libelula
Edited by	NewClimate Institute
Contact for enquiries	Mónica Echegoyen, Deputy Director General of Climate Change Projects, monica.echegoyen@semarnat.gob.mx
Organisers	The Global Good Practice Analysis and accompanying case studies are a joint initiative by the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV and the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme in an effort to document and share examples of good practice in the design and implementation of INDCs, LEDS, NAMA and MRV systems. For an extensive version of this factsheet and more information, including the criteria applied, please visit www.mitigationpartnership.net/gpa

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