

Best practices on MRV

The case of Uruguay

Monitoring of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)



How does Uruguay carry out the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of the NDC?

Uruguay has a Programming, Measuring, Reporting and Verification System of its National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and its NDC.

This tool allows the monitoring of progress and methodological information of the global and specific climate change mitigation objectives as well as the mitigation, adaptation and capacity building measures established in the NDC. In addition, users can check GHG emissions calculations with this tool.

An example of this visualization can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure.1 An example of this visualization can be seen below

Section NDC	I.i. Global intensity goals
Goals	Reduce the intensity of CO ₂ emissions by 24% per unit of GDP
Type	Unconditional
GHG	CO ₂
Sectors GHGI / Activities / Pools of Carbon	Energy, including Transportation; and Industrial Processes
Institution	MGAP/ MIEM/ MVOTMA
2025 Goals	24%
Current value	27%
% Achieved	113%

For more information, please click on the following link:
<http://monitorcdn.mvotma.gub.uy/>

Objectives

In 2015, Uruguay presented its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) and following an extensive, participatory and coordinated revision, they presented a very ambitious first NDC in 2017.

Uruguay's NDC aims to meet the provisions established by the Paris Agreement and promote climate adaptation and mitigation under Uruguay's National Climate Change Policy (NCCP). The NDC covers the following sections:



1. Objectives for mitigating climate change



2. Context and main measures that contribute to the mitigation objectives



3. Context and main adaptation measures for the adverse effects of climate change



4. Context and main measures to strengthen capacities and generate knowledge about climate change



5. Information to provide transparency, improve understanding of mitigation objectives and facilitate monitoring of progress

How was this system implemented?

1. Commitment at the highest level

- The approval of the **National Policy on Climate Change (PNCC by its Spanish acronym)** was a key milestone. This instrument introduces the long-term strategic framework and guides Uruguay's transformation to address the challenges of climate change and variability.

This policy establishes that the NDC will be an instrument for its own implementation, in addition to meeting the international obligations assumed with the ratification of the Paris Agreement. The PNCC (by its Spanish acronym) was developed in a participatory manner between February and August of 2016 and approved by **Executive Power Decree 310/017**.

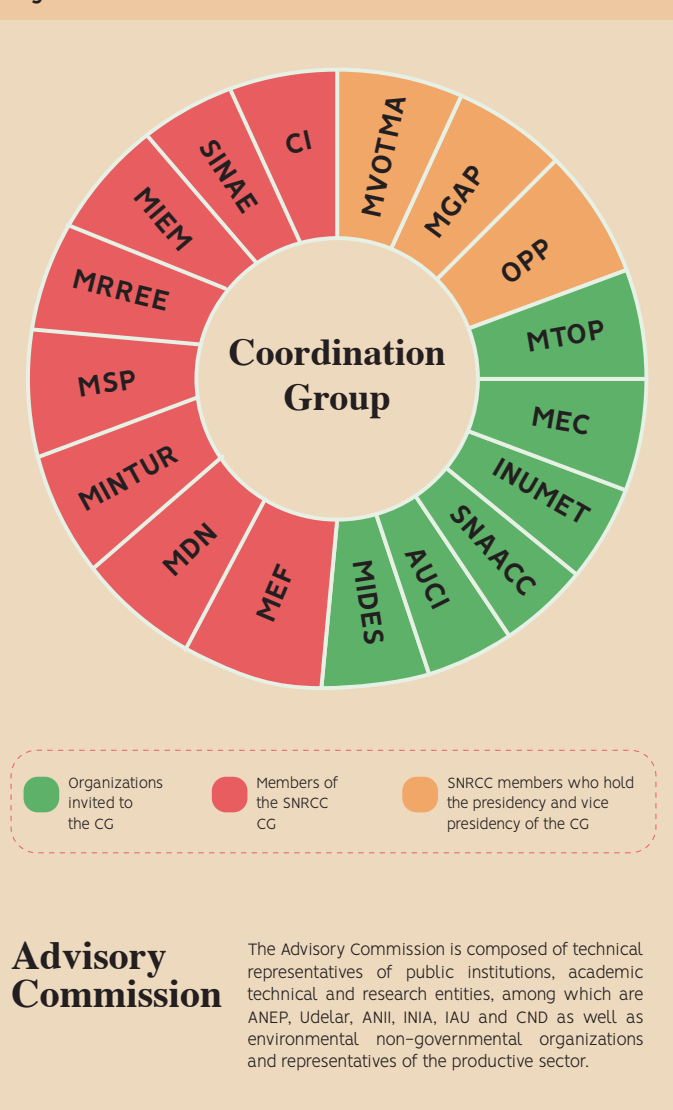
- **Approval of the first NDC at the national level of the Republic:** it was put forward for public consultation between 24 August and 24 September 2017 (in parallel to its presentation at in-person workshops in various cities across the country) and was later considered by the National Environmental Cabinet between 12–18 October 2017 and approved by **Executive Power Decree 310/017**.
- **Commitment to the implementation and monitoring of the NDC:** as both the PNCC and NDC were approved by decree, this led to strengthened ownership of the plans by the institutions that were responsible for their implementation. This ownership enhanced their commitment to achieve the targets under the respective plans and increased accountability to provide information and data for monitoring.

2. Institutional Arrangements

It is not always essential to establish new institutional processes and arrangements to implement and monitor the NDC. It is possible, however, that some countries already have mechanisms that can be used in this process, such as Uruguay's previous arrangements:

- Since 1994, the Climate Change Division, located in the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment (MVOTMA by its Spanish acronym), acts as an operational and executing body regarding climate change. In the General Environment Law, the MVOTMA was designated as the competent national authority for the implementation and application of the Convention, ratified and approved by law.
- In 2009, the National Climate Change and Variability Response System (SNRCC by its Spanish acronym) was created, which coordinates national policies, plans and actions on climate change. MVOTMA is in charge of this system and chairs its Coordination Group, which in turn is made up of seven other ministries. The Executive Power Decree that creates the SNRCC also constituted an Ad-Hoc Advisory Commission, made up of technicians, academic, technical and research entities, and organized civil society, who have participated in various working groups called to address specific issues, following the dynamics of the SNRCC thematic agenda.
- In June 2016, the National Environmental System (SNA by its Spanish acronym) was created, the National Environmental Cabinet (GNA by its Spanish acronym) was established and the creation of the SNAACC was regulated within the scope of the Presidency of the Republic. Among the tasks of the SNA is the design of public policies that protect the goods and services provided by ecosystems, promote the conservation and rational use of water, and provide responses by increasing adaptation to climate change. The SNAACC has participated in the processes carried out by the SNRCC and has favored the link with the GNA for the adoption at the highest level of the PNCC and the NDC, for its subsequent approval by decree by the Executive Power.

Figure.2 Inter-institutional coordination

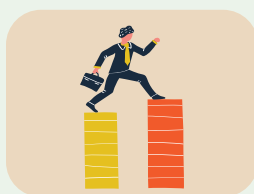


3. Continuous planning of stakeholder participation

- Within the institutional framework of the SNRCC, a working group on MRV was established to design the NDC monitoring system, which, in addition to containing the information necessary for monitoring and programming its implementation and the mapping of actors involved, was gender sensitive. It should be noted that this group, which assumed the task of designing the monitoring system for it (from 2018 to 2020), was made up of the same institutional representatives who participated in the working group to prepare Uruguay's first NDC in 2017.

This was very favorable, given that the institutional actors of the working group had already anticipated that they would have the responsibility of providing information to follow up on the objectives and measures that they themselves had proposed. The task of the MRV working group was complemented by the SNRCC gender working group, which worked with the referents of each institution to integrate the gender perspective into the monitoring system.

- Technical sheets were prepared for each measure (ex. **Biofuel Technical Sheet**) in order to monitor the measures in the coming years. The technical sheets cover:



1. Objective of the measure



2. Context- the legal and policy framework related to the measure



3. Gender sensitivity of the measure and specific actions to be implemented



4. Name of the measure indicator, indicator calculation formula and methodology for calculating the indicator



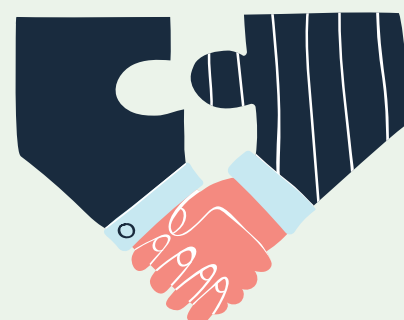
5. Responsibility for preparing and estimating the indicator



6. Data source and process for data collection

- The complete development of the system took 2 years of work, managing to present and display the information in February 2020. Initially it began with a "pilot" goal to complete the work between 30–40% of the measures (March 2018 – June 2019) and to be able to learn from the difficulties faced in that first phase in order to meet the final goal of having a monitoring system for 100% of the objectives and measures.

- The system seeks to continuously monitor progress throughout the implementation of the NDC, and as such, the working groups remain active. There is a work plan to ensure that each update of progress values is reflected on the website as well as incorporating modifications in the technical sheets at the methodological level.



Lessons Learned

- The monitoring process has highlighted the importance of making quantifiable goals explicit when designing NDCs, since measures that are not quantifiable present many difficulties for monitoring.
- It is important to include objectives or goals for which it is possible to carry out the measurement with available information or that is planned to be available within the commitment period.
- The development of methodologies and indicators for monitoring is a process of continuous learning and improvement.
- In the process of preparing NDCs, it is essential to take the national and sectoral policies and programs that already exist as a starting point and to discuss their contribution to climate action, so that the sectors see their contributions reflected, take ownership of the NDC commitments, and agree in a consensual manner on the ambition with which the country can contribute. For example, it is key that the NDC is aligned with the sectoral agendas regarding the incorporation of renewable energies, the increase in productivity of livestock, the protection of native forests, the incorporation of alternative fuels, sustainable agricultural practices, the integral management of waste, and water resources, among other national priorities depending on their circumstances
- The information on the platform continuously shows the state of progress of each objective and measure (which will be useful when preparing the next NDC) to evaluate the possibility of increasing ambition in those cases where it is possible. It will also be useful in the short term to identify the additional efforts that must be made for those cases in which the measured progress is less than expected.



Next Steps

- For improving the system, the follow up activities will focus on first, getting enough data to assess the indicators that couldn't be calculated due to lack of information and, second, refining the indicators that do have enough data for their calculation but can still be more precise and exact.

