



Photograph: Unsplash, Jezael Melgoza.

How to accelerate ambitious climate actions from subnational governments in Mexico?

Results and impact report of the Mexican Climate Community (CCM) 2021 - 2023



Prologue



In addressing the climate crisis, subnational governments, given their authority to influence various sectors of the economy, play a key role in the design and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. They also have an active participation in the conservation of natural ecosystems, the sustainable use of water, and the prevention and immediate response to climate impacts.

The recognition of this role played by subnational governments has led to the creation of initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities and maximising the resources needed to implement climate strategies at the local level. In this context, multi-stakeholder networks are essential to ensure that subnational governments can align with national climate commitments.

The Mexican Climate Community (CCM, in Spanish) is an initiative to accelerate state and municipal-level climate action in Mexico. It focuses on strengthening capacities, sharing knowledge and experiences, and offering technical training to subnational governments.

Three years after its launch, the CCM has made significant progress that is summarised and presented in this report. We acknowledge that turning climate ambition into reality is a long and complex journey. However, we celebrate the progress made so far, the partnerships created, and the collaboration between government authorities. We trust that this initiative lays the groundwork for creating multi-stakeholder and multi-level networks that will accelerate the transition to a just, resilient, and low-carbon future, both in Mexico and the world.

The achievements, progress, and lessons presented here have been possible thanks to the support of the UK PACT-Mexico programme, as well as the collaboration with various stakeholders, including subnational governments, non-governmental organisations, cooperation agencies, and financial institutions, many of which aim to drive climate action at the subnational level in Mexico.

See the full report in Spanish [here](#).



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Photograph: Unsplash, Andres Sanz.

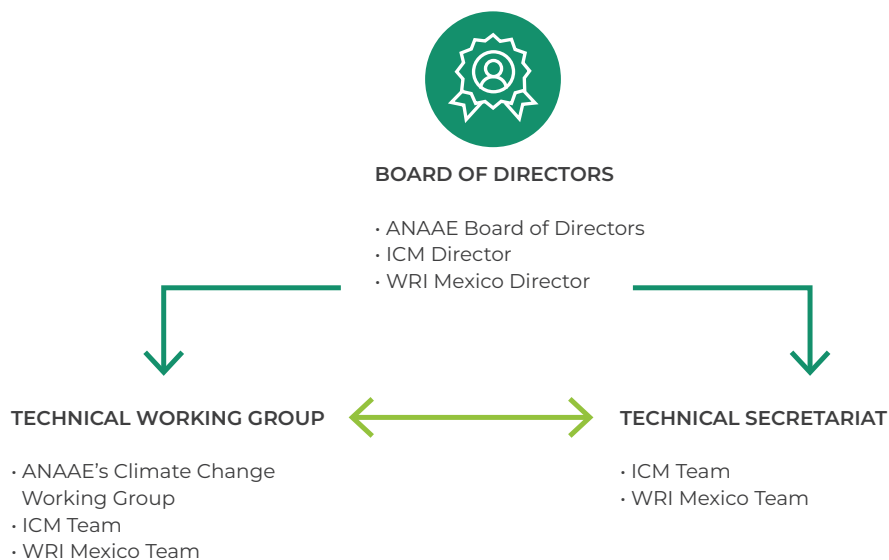
What is the Mexican Climate Community?

In 2021, the CCM was established to facilitate the coordination of efforts and initiatives on climate issues among subnational government authorities, and to provide technical support to officers through various training programmes. The CCM emerged as a joint initiative of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Environmental Authorities (ANAAE, in Spanish), Mexico's Climate Initiative (ICM, in Spanish) and the World Resources Institute Mexico (WRI Mexico), the latter two acting as the Technical Secretariat.

The primary objective of the Community is to accelerate climate action by subnational governments, in line with the 1.5°C global temperature increase limit, as set out in the Paris Agreement.

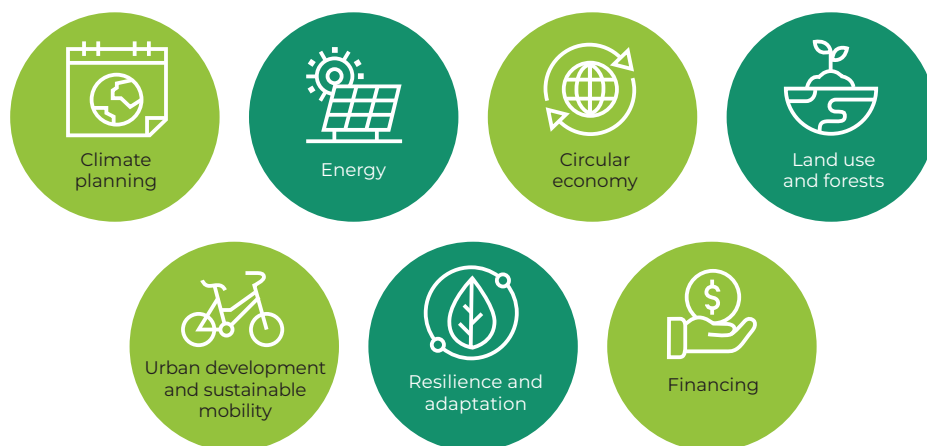
The CCM operates under a coordinated, collaborative and cross-cutting governance scheme. It is composed of three main bodies (see Figure 1). This structure makes it possible to establish the necessary conditions and synergies to facilitate the implementation of ambitious climate strategies through spaces for collaboration and knowledge exchange between subnational governments.

Figure 1. Governance structure of the CCM



To achieve its objectives, the CCM offers local governments training, support, and experience exchange programmes, aligned with seven strategic pillars identified jointly with subnational governments (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Strategic pillars of the CCM



Under the format of accelerators, the CCM has worked to strengthen the enabling mechanisms for policy design and implementation of climate action at the subnational level. The themes of these accelerators have covered:

- Climate governance and mainstreaming
- Climate planning instruments (for example, decarbonisation pathways)
- Energy efficiency projects
- Nature-based solutions (NbS) projects
- Technical and financial structuring for local climate projects

In total, the Community has carried out four accelerators, with the participation of more than 150 public officers from Mexico's 32 states.

Figure 3. Number of accelerators carried out by the CCM



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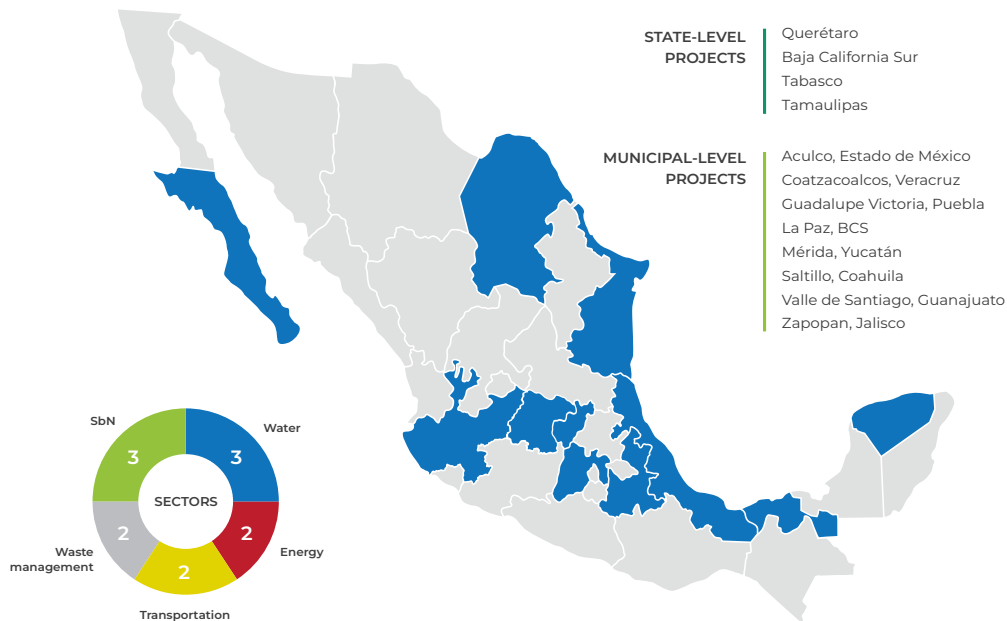
Photograph: Unsplash, Daniel Malgoza.

Activities and Results 2023-2024

During 2023, the CCM achieved important milestones thanks to the constant collaboration with ANAAE, specifically through its Board of Directors and the Climate Change Working Group. Likewise, the role of the states in addressing deforestation in Mexico was positioned as a priority issue, in collaboration with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Latam, through a [report](#) (read in Spanish) and its discussion among the leading authorities. In addition, the support from UK PACT Mexico was renewed to start its second phase. The most relevant results of this phase are listed below.

i. Technical and Financial Training Programme: aimed at subnational government officers, the programme provided advice to strengthen 12 climate projects in terms of their business and financial models, logical framework, risk identification, as well as gender and social inclusion mainstreaming. In addition, it facilitated the engagement of the projects with potential funders and expert organisations.

Figure 4. Geographical and sectoral distribution of the projects participating in the Technical and Financial Training Programme

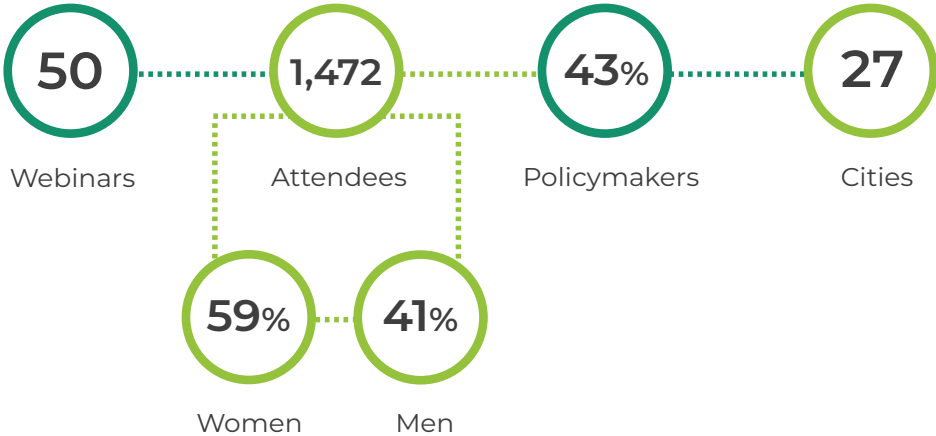


ii. Deep-dive course on the issuing of labelled sub-sovereign thematic bonds:

The Community and the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) facilitated two courses on this topic. In total, it hosted 58 attendees from public, financial and environmental institutions from 21 states in Mexico. The courses provided information on the steps and requirements to issue debt through green, sustainable and social bonds.

iii. Seminars and roundtables:

More than 50 webinars have been held. Topics addressed included the decarbonisation of transport, access to climate finance, carbon taxes, gender perspectives in climate policy, early warning systems and the role of youth in addressing the climate crisis. Overall, 1,472 people participated (59% women and 41% men), of which 43% are public officers from 27 cities in Mexico.



iv. The ‘High-Level Dialogue: Enabling Mechanisms for Achieving Financial Structuring of Subnational Climate Projects’:

gathered 68 participants from 14 state governments, cooperation agencies and expert organisations in climate policy and action. As a result of the dialogue, the following lessons were identified:



- There is a need to strengthen the capacities of sub-national governments to identify opportunities and design bankable climate projects.
- The importance of multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance, policy alignment between levels of government, citizen participation, and gender perspective mainstreaming were recognised as enabling factors for accessing national and international finance.





v. Diagnosis of institutional capacities of state governments for climate action (DCIAC, in Spanish): The CCM has supported the ANAAE Climate Change Working Group in the review and visualisation of the results of the DCIAC. The diagnosis seeks to present the situation of state governments concerning their climate policy instruments and capacities. The DCIAC is elaborated every two years through a survey addressed to the state governments and includes quantitative and qualitative questions. The results are a powerful tool for identifying strengths, gaps, and areas of opportunity for subnational climate action in Mexico.

vi. Dissemination and linking channels: The CCM has made its results, and those of its partners, visible through social media and a website. These tools allow sharing its offer, policy recommendations, results of the activities carried out, and the progress made by local governments.



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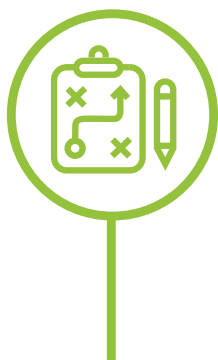
Lessons learned

Through various capacity-building, experience-sharing, and networking activities, the CCM has supported subnational governments in strengthening their climate instruments, strategies and projects. In addition, the close collaboration with ANAAE has enabled the constant mapping of the needs of the states. Collaboration has also been sought with strategic allies that have worked at the local level. In this sense, the Community has acted as a hub, seeking to facilitate knowledge exchange and joint efforts between specialised organisations and local governments.

The results of the CCM have been possible thanks to the sum of four main factors.



The main challenges faced and lessons learned throughout the three years of existence of the Community include the following:



- **To address different needs and contexts, it is essential to implement differentiated support strategies at the subnational level.** This has been achieved through the exchange of experiences between states and municipalities, as well as the collaboration with specialised organisations that share their recommendations.





- **To ensure the operation and governance structure of the CCM**, the Technical Secretariat, with the support of the Board of Directors of ANAAE, has sought to diversify funding sources and invest its own human and institutional resources to scale up its impacts.

- **The training and materials provided by the CCM facilitate sustained climate action in the medium and long term.** However, staff turnover and changes in local administrations lead to disruptions and setbacks regarding the capacities and priorities to develop climate policies and strategies.

- **Capacity building and outreach to access climate finance is still a priority for subnational governments.** However, before seeking finance, it is necessary to establish regulations, policies, and coordination and governance schemes that facilitate the implementation of climate strategies. Only a few states have made progress in seeking finance, as well as in reporting and monitoring systems.



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Photograph: Unsplash, Alexis Tos.

Conclusions

Subnational authorities play a key role in addressing the climate emergency. Their capacity to legislate and their ability to address the needs of citizens directly and immediately allow them to have a significant impact on local climate action. In this sense, their work embodies the two main strategies to combat climate change: adaptation to its adverse effects and mitigation of GHG emissions.

The CCM has supported subnational governments in strengthening their climate planning instruments and projects. Significant progress can already be observed, both in improved planning and in the implementation of concrete actions. However, much remains to be done, and immediate, coordinated, ambitious and science-based efforts are needed.

The vision of the CCM is to scale up its support to subnational governments to strengthen their institutional capacities to structure, finance and implement a portfolio of robust climate projects. The Community will broaden and deepen synergies with specialised climate finance organisations and continue to offer technical support to local governments in line with this vision.

Having governance schemes, such as that of the CCM, and networks of allies that share information, knowledge, experience and resources will be essential to replicate and scale up success stories in the region. It is key that low-emission, socially inclusive and resilient development is promoted at the local level. This is where multi-stakeholder networks such as the CCM can catalyse the actions required.





Testimonies



‘The CCM has become a space for collaboration through which we can find tools, knowledge, inspiration and much more, enhancing the ambition of climate action in Mexico.’

—Diana Pérez Jaumá, Secretary of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Sustainable Development (SDS) of Yucatan.



‘Knowing what is being done in other states allows us to allocate, increasingly limited, resources on the implementation of state climate policies’.

—Alberto Carmona, Secretary of Environment and Territorial Planning, Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning (SMAOT) of Guanajuato.



‘The Community has helped to reduce the gap in capacities that allows states to design shared or regional climate action measures, access funding or technical assistance, and create partnerships for implementation.’

—Claudia Hernández, General Director of Climate Policy and Environmental Culture, Ministry of Environment (SEDEMA) of Mexico City.





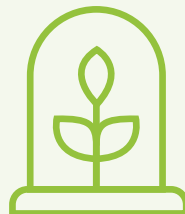
‘...the advice and training offered by the Community for developing climate policies represent a huge potential to achieve goals from the local level that can address the problem at a global scale.’

—Omar Saucedo, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment, Ministry of Environment and Territorial Development (SEMADET) of Jalisco.



‘The strategic value of CCM is that it adds knowledge and offers technical capacity building in the area of climate action, with the possibility of establishing collaboration agreements with other states.’

—Miguel Ángel Suárez Saraiba, Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (SEMA) of Quintana Roo.



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This document does not represent the specific vision of UK PACT-Mexico or the other partner organisations, it is rather the result of an informative review of the experiences developed since 2021 and is aimed at subnational governments, as well as stakeholders in the region that can drive climate strategies at this level.



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See the full report in Spanish here.

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