

Alignment to Advance Climate-Resilient Development

COUNTRY CASE STUDY: Colombia

This case study is part of a series of briefs focusing on alignment of country efforts under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The case studies explore early experiences in efforts to align national-level policy processes under these global agendas, highlighting the context-specific nature of the alignment process. This case study explores and describes Colombia's national-level efforts to advance alignment of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process and Strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Key Messages

- Significant progress has been made on the alignment of Colombia's NDC, NAP process and its strategy for implementing the SDGs, with specific links and synergies identified in the respective policy documents.
- The emerging policy processes make reference to one another, and recognize related objectives and strategies, allowing the national government to send coherent adaptation messages.
- Important opportunities exist for Colombia to continue moving toward strategic alignment by taking advantage of existing institutional coordination mechanisms that bring together a consistent pool of stakeholders involved in the three policy processes.
- Among the entry points to strengthen alignment are (a) the generation of information-sharing tools among coordination mechanisms, (b) fostering capacities at the sub-national and local levels in order to ensure that alignment is actionable, and (c) deepening the articulation of adaptation tracking, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), to ensure robust reporting and learning across levels.

1. Introduction

The achievement of climate-resilient development is at the forefront of Colombia's response to climate change. Given the increasing importance of coherent and effective multi-level strategies to respond to the challenges—and opportunities—posed by climate change, ensuring alignment between various policy processes is more relevant than ever before. Colombia adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at Rio+20, which was followed by the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2018, setting a strong basis for subsequent alignment efforts.

The related national-level policy documents identify strong synergies between the different agendas, which creates significant opportunities for alignment. The Government of Colombia has also formulated specific laws and policies to implement each agenda in the country that are accompanied by cross-ministerial coordination mechanisms to mainstream these processes into sectoral and local policies.

This case study analyzes the status of the alignment between the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Colombia, and identifies key challenges, opportunities and next steps suggested to advance the process of alignment in the country. It provides an overview of the socioeconomic development and climate change context of the country, including its vulnerability to climate change and ongoing policy actions, followed by a description of the main coordination mechanisms and policies under each agenda. The last sections present key synergies between them and entry points for articulation, and proposes next steps to pursue further alignment in Colombia.

2. Country Context

Colombia is located in northwestern South America, with a population of nearly 46 million people inhabiting an area of 1,138,910 km² (DANE, 2005). It is considered a medium-high income developing country, and important changes occurring over the last few years in the country's labour, judicial, corporate governance, trade and investment systems (among others) paved the way for its accession to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as an observer country in 2018 (OECD, 2018).

Despite this progress, the country remains highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and variability. One example is the La Niña weather phenomenon, which occurred in 2010 and flooded approximately 8 per cent of the country's most populated areas, affecting almost 9 per cent of the population and resulting in damages and losses estimated at USD 8 billion (Hoyos et al., 2013, cited in Cruz, 2018). The Third National Communication on Climate Change conducted a multidimensional analysis that found all of the country's municipalities face some degree of risk due to climate change. The regions with the highest number of municipalities at "high" and "very high" risk due to climate change are the Andean region (36 municipalities), the Amazon region (31 municipalities) and the Pacific region (25 municipalities) (IDEAM, 2017). Within this context, the Colombian government has implemented several coordination mechanisms to better articulate climate change policies and strategies across levels, as explained in the following section.

3. Key Institutional Arrangements for Climate-Resilient Development

At the national level, various institutions are responsible for coordinating and implementing Colombia's responses under the three global agendas. Coordination mechanisms—along with a robust framework of policies, plans and institutions—are being progressively established to address climate change, disaster risk

reduction and the SDGs. An overview of the institutional arrangements related to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework is presented in Figure 1. In the case of Colombia, the National Planning Department (*Departamento Nacional de Planeación*, or DNP) plays a key role, as it is the leading institution of the National Development Plan and participates in the coordination of the NAP, the NDCs and the National System for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) via different mechanisms as outlined below.

National Climate Change System and Cross-sectoral Commission on Climate Change

In order to address climate policy in a comprehensive and cross-sectoral manner, in 2016 the Government of Colombia created the National Climate Change System (Spanish acronym SISCLIMA). SISCLIMA's role is to take a comprehensive cross-sectoral and cross-cutting role in carrying out climate change actions. It aims to coordinate, articulate and evaluate policies, strategies and standards, plans, actions and measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This system is integrated by (a) the *Cross-Sectoral Commission on Climate Change*, which coordinates climate policy at the national level, and by (b) the *climate change nodes*, which are inter-institutional and intersectoral groups established to advance mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management actions at the regional level. The regional nodes are an important mechanism to achieve inter-institutional coordination between the central and territorial levels of Colombia. Further, to ensure coordination with the ongoing disaster risk management efforts, a delegate from the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management attends as a permanent guest to the CICC. (Government of Colombia, 2016).

High-Level Commission for the SDGs

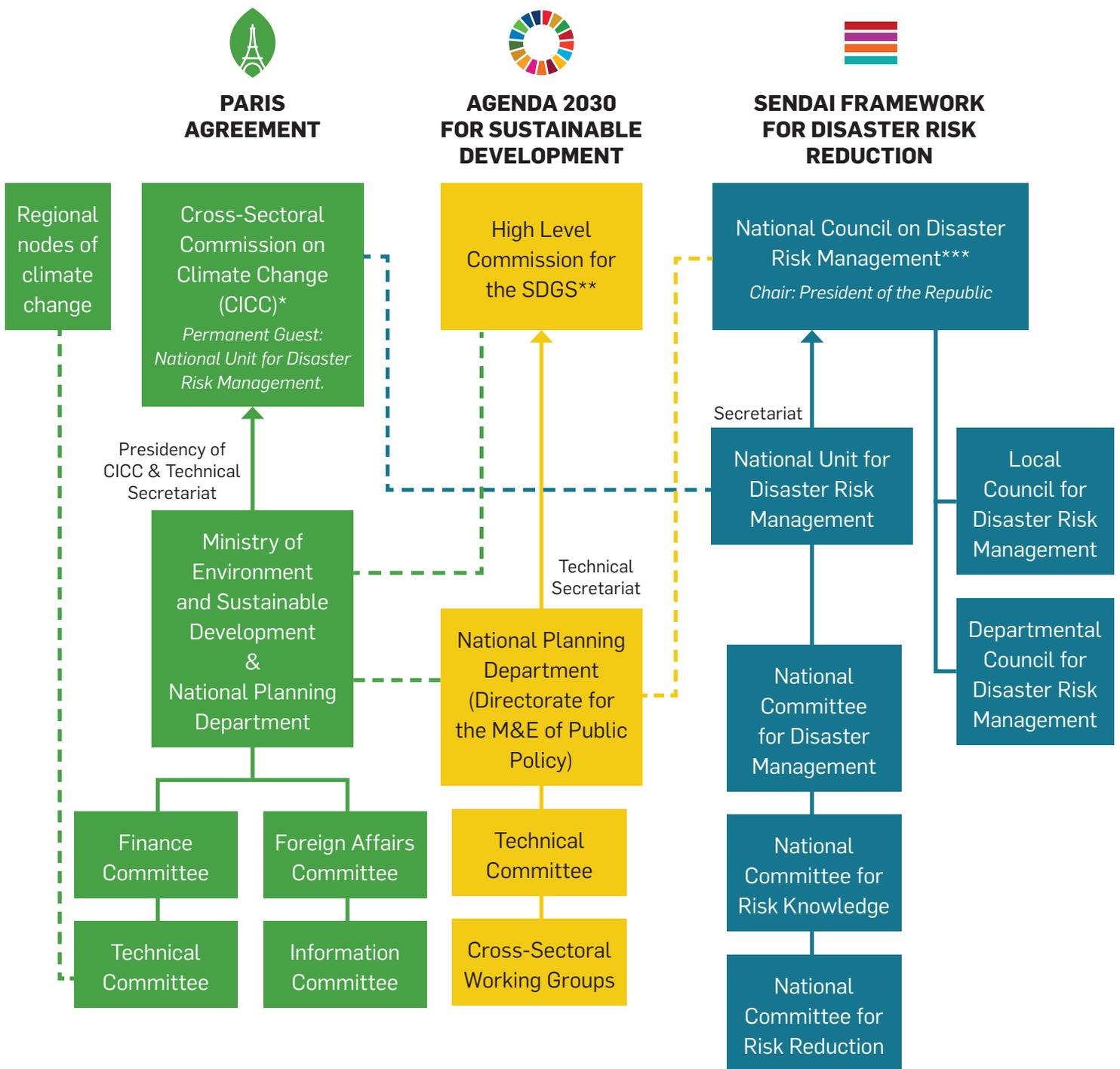
Acknowledging the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Colombia created the High-Level Commission for the SDGs as a coordination mechanism to lead its implementation. Through public policies and plans this commission coordinates the actions necessary to implement the SDGs in Colombia: it also monitors and evaluates their success of achieving the SDGs. It is chaired by the National Planning Department (which is also in charge of the Technical Secretariat) and consists of six institutions from the national government, as detailed in Figure 1. The High-Level Commission developed Colombia's SDG Strategy policy document (*Conpes Document 3918*) and has advanced implementation of concrete strategies for institutional strengthening related to monitoring and coordination with sub-national governments and non-governmental actors, among others.

National System for Disaster Risk Management

The National Disaster Risk Management System (Spanish acronym SNGRD) was created in 2012 with the objective of advancing the process of risk management throughout the country, in order to improve the quality of life, the security and the well-being of communities (Government of Colombia, 2012). The system consists of several coordination mechanisms responsible for implementing its mandate at different scales.

At the national level, the National Council for Disaster Risk Management is in charge of formulating the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management, establishing the guidelines for planning, developing and monitoring risk management, among others. The council is chaired by the President of the Republic, and is comprised of sectoral ministries, the National Planning Department, and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, which is in charge of the Technical Secretariat. At the sub-national level, the regional and municipal councils for disaster risk management, chaired by district governors and city mayors, lead the formulation and implementation of emergency response plans and regional/local disaster risk management plans, in line with the National Disaster Risk Management Plan.

Figure 1. Overview of Coordination Mechanisms for Colombia's Climate Change, SDGs and Disaster Risk Management Agendas



Source: Government of Colombia 2012, 2016, 2018.

NOTE: Solid lines indicate direct responsibility, while dotted lines indicate a coordination relationship

*Members: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Planning Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Treasury, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Transport

**Members: National Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Administrative Department of Presidency, National Statistics Department, Administrative Department for Social Prosperity, Ministry of External Affairs

***Members: National Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Education

4. Status of Key Policy Processes for Climate-Resilient Development

Recognizing the increasing need to articulate policy processes toward the achievement of climate-resilient development, the Colombian government is progressively establishing a framework of policies, plans and institutions to more effectively address climate change, disaster risk reduction and the SDGs. The following are key policy processes that are shaping the country's response to climate change, and that set the foundations for alignment. Table 1 highlights a summary of the related policy processes.

The National Development Plan 2018–2022

The 2018–2022 National Development Plan (*Pact for Colombia*) incorporates strategies and tools to ensure that local, regional and national policy decisions are aimed at reducing poverty, generating employment, stimulating economic growth and providing opportunities for all Colombians to close gaps (DNP, 2019).

The National Planning Department (DNP) leads both the National Development Plan and the Strategy for the Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals in Colombia. The DNP aligned these two processes by establishing the SDG agenda as the entry point for the formulation of the National Development Plan 2018–2022. Therefore, all policies and sectors included in the National Development Plan must establish strategies and quantifiable indicators to contribute to the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs. With respect to SDG 13, *take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, the National Development Plan is in line with the NDC's mitigation goal of reducing GHG emissions by 20 per cent below the baseline (and up to 30 per cent with international support) by 2030, as well as its adaptation goal, which includes the development of integrated (adaptation and mitigation) climate change plans across the 32 departments of the country.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

Colombia ratified the Paris Agreement¹ in 2018, committing to reducing its GHG emissions 20 per cent by 2030 (or by 30 per cent subject to international support) through its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Colombian NDC lays out detailed adaptation goals, consistent with the NAP. These include the protection of 36 mountain top ecosystems; the development of integrated climate change plans across all territories; the creation of a National System of Adaptation Indicators; the formulation and implementation of adaptation plans for six key economic sectors; and the requirement for regions to mainstream climate information into their decision-making processes for projects of national interest, among others (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible [MADS] 2016). It also makes specific reference to other global agendas and the need for an integrated policy approach.

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process (PNACC in Spanish)

The objective of the NAP is to reduce “the risks and socioeconomic impacts associated with climate change variability in Colombia” (DNP, 2012). The NAP emerged as a public policy in response to the La Niña phenomenon of 2010, which affected the majority of the country's economic sectors.² The Third National

¹ Through Law 1844 of 2018.

² The following economic sectors were affected by the la Niña phenomenon of 2010: housing, water and sanitation, social services (education, health, culture, child protection, sports facilities), public administration (police force, judicial institutions), infrastructure (transport and energy), and agriculture.

Communication to the UNFCCC (2017) estimates that all economic sectors³ are exposed to some degree of risk. For this reason, the NAP was conceived as a dynamic framework for sectors and regions to formulate their sectoral and territorial adaptation plans. It lays out a four-phase, continuous process: Phase 1 focuses on conceptual and methodological tools for the country's sectors and regions to reduce their vulnerability; Phase 2 focuses on the provision of technical support by the DNP and MADS for the formulation of adaptation plans; Phase 3 focuses on the implementation of adaptation actions, and Phase 4 focuses on the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation (Cruz, 2019).

National Climate Change Policy

The National Climate Change Policy is the main vehicle for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It builds on the NAP, the Low Carbon Development Strategy, the National REDD+ Strategy, the National Disaster Risk Management Plan and the Climate Financing National Strategy and acknowledges the NDC's articulation with the formulation of these long-term national strategies. The policy aims to mainstream "climate change management into public and private decisions to advance a climate-resilient and low-carbon development path, in order to reduce risks and take advantage of the opportunities related to climate change." In the long term, the policy's aim is for Colombia to become a carbon-neutral country (MADS, 2017). The Climate Change Law was approved⁴ in 2018 with the objective of defining guidelines and mechanisms—as well as roles and responsibilities—for implementing the policy. As mentioned above, these policy instruments are supported by an inter-institutional coordination framework.

National Plan for Disaster Risk Management

The [*National Plan for Disaster Risk Management*](#) is the implementation vehicle for the 2015–2030 Sendai Framework. It aims to guide actions for risk reduction and disaster management in accordance with the National Risk Management Policy (*Unidad Nacional para la Gestión de Riesgo de Desastres* [UNGRD], 2016). The plan includes a strategy to develop mechanisms for policy alignment and monitoring systems for climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and territorial (local) planning. This strategy includes the promotion of joint efforts among sectors, resource efficiency and a common conceptual framework for risk management and adaptation to climate change.

Strategy for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Colombia

As part of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Colombia formulated the Strategy for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (CONPES 3918). The strategy aims to mainstream the SDG agenda into sub-national public policy processes, from the formulation phase and allocation of resources to measuring their results at the end of a government-defined period. It also references Colombia's mitigation and adaptation NDC goals in relation to SDG No. 13. The strategy indicates that mayors and district governors must establish specific SDG references and indicators as part of regional planning and budget instruments, drawing clear linkages to the sub-national level.

³ Infrastructure (transport and energy), housing, health, biodiversity, water and food security.

⁴ Law 1931, "by which the guidelines for the management of climate change are established."

Table 1. Colombia's Response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Policy process	The National Development Plan 2018–2022	Strategy for the Implementation of the SDGs in Colombia	Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)	National Adaptation Plan process (NAP)	National Plan for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
Status	Undergoing implementation	Undergoing implementation	Undergoing implementation	Undergoing Implementation	Undergoing Implementation
Timeframe	2018–2022	2018–2030	2010–2030	2012–ongoing	2015–2025
Lead institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-Level Commission for the SDGs • National Planning Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-Sectoral Commission on Climate Change • National Planning Department • Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Department • Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National System for Disaster Risk Management • The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management
Objectives related to climate-resilient development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a National Climate Change Information System • Implementation of climate change actions by local environmental authorities • Implementation of climate change sectoral plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming the SDGs into sub-national processes • Strengthening the National Department of Statistics (DANE) to enhance monitoring of the goals, ensuring "no one is left behind" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce GHG emissions by 20% • All territories developed an integrated climate change plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the risks and socioeconomic impacts associated with climate change and variability in Colombia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving knowledge on DRM; reduce new risk conditions in territorial, sectoral and environmental development; reduce existing conditions of disaster risks; guarantee a timely, effective and adequate risk management; and strengthen the governance, education and communication in risk management considering differential needs, gender and cultural diversity.

Policy process	The National Development Plan 2018–2022	Strategy for the Implementation of the SDGs in Colombia	Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)	National Adaptation Plan process (NAP)	National Plan for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
Priority sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and infrastructure • Water and sanitation • Housing • Health • Energy and mining • Industry and commerce • Rural development • Ecosystems • Climate change and risk management • Defense and security • Public Administration • Education • Child protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Agriculture and food • Water • Health • Energy • Urban development and physical planning • Education • Marine resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Agriculture and farming • Housing, water and sanitation • Energy and mining • Industry and commerce • Forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and infrastructure • Agriculture and farming • Housing, water and sanitation • Health • Energy and mining • Industry and commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport and infrastructure • Agriculture and farming • Housing, water and sanitation • Health • Defense • Environment • Culture • Technology and communications
Source(s)	National Planning Department (DNP, in Spanish) (2019)	Government of Colombia (2018)	Government of Colombia (2016)	Government of Colombia (2012)	National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, in Spanish) (2016)

5. Synergies and Linkages Among the Policy Processes in Colombia

The policy processes identified in previous sections make direct reference to one another and include related objectives and strategies to address climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives. The linkages between policy agendas allow the national government to send a coherent message and pursue a more efficient allocation of resources and capacities. This articulation constitutes a valuable basis for achieving more in-depth, systematic alignment.

The following are important achievements for Colombia to build upon toward further alignment at both the policy and the practice levels:



The NAP acknowledges that disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation are complementary strategies and that both should be promoted in order to achieve effective development (DNP, 2012). The conceptual and methodological phase of Colombia's NAP recognizes that climate change increases the uncertainty and complexity of disaster risk management and emergency response. Adaptation and DRM are seen as two sides of the same coin, and therefore improving the ability to manage disaster risks will enable better adaptive responses to climatic impacts in the short, medium and long terms. In this context, the NAP process plays a key role in the country's ability to manage current and future risks and respond to emergencies, as well as in developing the population's adaptation capacity. The NAP also recognizes that generating information and knowledge to measure risk constitutes an important step for adaptation planning at the sectoral and territorial levels.

“By reducing exposure and vulnerability to weather phenomena, disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change reduce climate risk and its socioeconomic impacts. These strategies should be implemented in parallel to achieve an adequate incorporation of climate variations in development planning.”

Colombia's NAP: Conceptual Framework and Guidelines, p. 13.



The National Plan for Disaster Risk Management includes a strategy for articulation with the National Development Plan, with sectoral policies and with the NAP. As part of the strategies proposed to achieve its objectives, the Plan identifies the need to improve information management from an inter-sectoral, inter-institutional and interdisciplinary perspective, to foster action-oriented research considering both DRM and climate change adaptation knowledge and practices, and to articulate DRM and adaptation measures as part of sectoral policies and other national plans. This is due to the need to optimize resources and intersectoral agreements, calling for local environmental authorities to integrate adaptation into risk management interventions.

“The obvious connection between disaster risk management, territorial planning and adaptation to climate change makes it necessary to build common policies, with actions in the political, social, economic and environmental spheres of the country, oriented with technical criteria, budget provision and a system for tracking and monitoring.”

National Plan for Disaster Risk Management, 2015–2025, UNGRD, 2016, p. 37.

To achieve closer alignment and integration, the National Plan for DRM highlights the importance of information management—specifically, the way in which information is collected and analyzed, and knowledge is produced and shared, plays a key role in adaptation processes, risk reduction and response strategies. The design of a holistic information management system on adaptation across sectors and government levels can contribute to systematic alignment and foster intersectoral collaboration.



Colombia's NDC-related information on adaptation has been closely aligned with the country's NAP. The NAP serves as the basis of the adaptation information of Colombia's NDC. The adaptation component indicates a commitment to focus the country's efforts on the development of national resilience in line with international agreements (i.e., the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030, the Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD] and the Convention to Combat Desertification [UNCCD]). The NDC includes the development of (adaptation) action plans by territories and sectors, M&E systems to track and assess progress, as well as the implementation of sustainable management of water resources.

“The [NDC] adaptation component is based on the country's progress in adaptation within the framework of the NAP, which began its formulation in 2011

Colombia will contribute to the achievement of global goals and objectives in mitigation and adaptation through plans, programs and initiatives that will facilitate the implementation of the necessary measures to achieve the goals of its INDC.”

Government of Colombia, INDC (2015), pp. 8 and 10

The alignment of policy agendas is crucial in the effective achievement of the NDC, as it can contribute to (among other things): avoiding duplication of efforts; the efficient use of resources; and mainstreaming adaptation and resilience considerations into national and sub-national planning. At the same time, Colombia's NDC and NAP highlight the role of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in adaptation processes. Alignment can help ensure a more holistic and coordinated approach to tracking, learning from and reporting adaptation progress and impact across levels.



The adaptation goals of the NDC are integrated into the Strategy for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Colombia. In order to formulate the policy document for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Colombia, the High-Level Commission of the SDGs held consultations with different economic sectors and with civil society seeking alignment with the National Development Plan 2014–2018, the Green Growth Strategy and national-level efforts identified under the Paris Agreement (DNP, 2018). Hence, the document recognizes the mitigation and adaptation goals of the NDC to implement Goal No. 13 of the 2030 Agenda, identifying thematic linkages between the two global agendas.

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs integrate important global and national challenges in its three social, economic and environmental dimensions. Among them is the need to strengthen inter-institutional coordination to promote cross-cutting actions, the Government's capacity to quantify the progress of the proposed goals, the alignment of the agenda with the territorial policy instruments, the coordination of actions with different social actors, as well as the mobilization of resources at all levels.”

CONPES 3918, 2018. “Strategy for the Implementation of the SDGs in Colombia,” p. 2.



The alignment between agendas is reflected in the National Development Plan 2018–2022.

This planning instrument translated the NDC and the SDG Policy Document targets into government goals by establishing strategies and quantifiable indicators to contribute to the achievement of the 17 SDGs. The plan includes an action line on achieving resilience through knowledge and prevention for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. As the legal instrument that defines the strategies to be pursued during each presidential administration (a four-year period), all the institutions at the national and local levels must be aligned to achieve the plan's objectives and demonstrate results at the end of the government period.

As part of the “articulation and coordination mechanisms for sustainability,” the Plan designates the Ministry of Environment to “coordinate the implementation of the actions and measures for the NDC”, and to “implement a Strategy for Rationalization and Harmonization of policies, norms, planning instruments and territorial ordering and their institutional arrangements which will seek to improve sectoral and territorial environmental performance.”

Government of Colombia, Basis for the National Development Plan, 2018–2022 (p. 396).

The plan calls for the establishment of a procedure for the definition of medium- and long-term national goals on climate change, and for the monitoring and periodic updating of the goals of the NDC in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines. The explicit acknowledgement of these aspects highlights the importance of information-sharing mechanisms, tracking and evaluating progress to articulate national and global climate change commitments.

6. Entry Points and Opportunities for Enhanced Alignment

Current efforts to identify synergies among the different policy processes should aim to improve the coherence of national policies and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of investments to promote sustainable development. There are a number of entry points to achieve a more strategic approach to alignment in the country:

Generate a formal coordination mechanism between the national climate change system (SISCLIMA) and the High-Level Commission for the SDGs. Both the Cross-Sectoral Commission on Climate Change (CICC) and the High-Level Commission for the SDGs are carrying out similar processes at the national and sub-national levels of government, such as integration in national and sub-national planning processes, capacity building at the local level, and monitoring of adaptation goals. However, currently no formal coordination mechanisms exist between the national climate change system and High-Level Commission.

Potential next steps: Given that the Strategy for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Colombia recognizes Colombia's mitigation and adaptation goals outlined in the NDC and NAP to achieve SDG 13, the High-Level Commission for the SDGs and national climate change system should consider establishing an informal or formal channel for coordination and exchange of information.

Potential benefits: The establishment of a coordination mechanism to share information on the progress of these processes under each agenda would help avoid duplication of efforts and overloading local governments. Further alignment and coordination among SISCLIMA and the High-Level Commission for the SDGs could also enable opportunities to advance alignment in similar processes, and to generate and benefit from synergies that enhance compliance with common goals.

Foster a permanent dialogue between the National Disaster Risk Management System and the NAP process as complementary approaches to sustainable development. The National System for Disaster Risk Management oversees the implementation of the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management, while the National Planning Department (DNP) is responsible for the NAP and for the SDG implementation Strategy in Colombia. While the NAP acknowledges the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, and the SDGs acknowledge the importance of institutional coordination, there are no formal coordination mechanisms in place to ensure a more permanent dialogue and information-sharing among them.

Potential next steps: Given the strong synergies and complementarities between the National DRM system and the NAP process, a permanent dialogue could help achieve common goals. Furthering strategic alignment will require strengthening institutional arrangements, and information-sharing mechanisms are needed to ensure actions are complementary at the national, regional and territorial levels, among others.

Potential benefits: Sharing of information and an established form of dialogue could introduce efficiency and consistency. Further, cross-level articulation is crucial to ensure that DRM and adaptation actions are complementary and mutually supportive.

Coordination of national priorities and sub-national implementation. While the national processes under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda are driven by national institutions, the accomplishment of adaptation objectives requires the active involvement of a variety of stakeholders at both the national and the sub-national levels. This implies a strong role for Colombia's regions and territories in the achievement of adaptation goals. Coordination among leading national institutions and regional governments (including the use of integrated planning mechanisms to streamline processes for accessing funds for implementation) is key to advancing alignment in Colombia.

Potential next steps: Mechanisms for vertical integration across levels are pivotal to ensure that local adaptation needs and actions are well articulated and reflect national priorities. Colombia's Climate Change Regional Nodes play a key role in this achievement. The nodes are officially integrated into the national climate governance system and are an important step in moving away from a strictly top-down approach, thus empowering sub-national governments. Considerations could be given to use these existing vertical coordination mechanisms for SDG and DRM planning.

Potential benefits: Vertical coordination can help inform the prioritization of actions that meet multiple objectives of the NAP, the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management, the NDCs and the SDG Implementation Strategy in the country, avoid duplication of efforts and strengthen the capacity of sub-national governments.

Establish a clear mandate to seek alignment. A key contributing factor to achieve systematic alignment is a clear mandate for alignment, articulated at a high level of government and supported by adequate political will.

Potential next steps: The National Planning Department (DNP), the leading institution of the National Development Plan, participates in the coordination of the NAP, the NDCs and the National System for DRM. This provides a strong foundation for the department to play an effective role fosters the alignment of climate-resilient related policy processes as part of the National Development Plan 2018–2022.

Potential benefits: This will help approach climate-resilient development in an integrated way, leading to improved quality of planning and implementation while avoiding duplication and enabling smart use of resources.

7. Conclusion

This analysis of the linkages and synergies that exist between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, suggests that there is a solid basis to continue advancing the alignment process in Colombia. Going forward, efforts on policy alignment will need to be accompanied by the establishment of new cross-sectoral partnerships, flexible mechanisms for information sharing, access to innovative research and approaches to secure the human, technical and financial capacity needed to articulate policy goals, adaptation and risk reduction practice.

In addition to deepening existing synergies and exploring the entry points suggested above, among others, further efforts should be made regarding documenting, sharing and extracting lessons from the alignment process across policy agendas and at multiple levels. Next steps should also include a continuous exchange of knowledge and best practices with other countries that are fostering alignment to achieve a resilient future.

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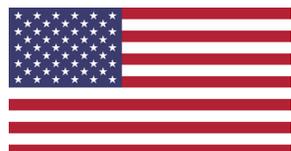
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