THE CLIMATE FOOTPRINT PROJECT
TRACKING EMISSIONS / RAISING AMBITION

CAPACITY BUILDING AS AN ENGAGEMENT TOOL FOR EMISSIONS TRACKING IN JALISCO, MEXICO

By developing technical capacities, the Under2 Coalition’s Climate Footprint Project has helped Jalisco transform their internal processes of climate change emissions and mitigation actions tracking.

With this, Jalisco is now well-positioned to make informed decisions and illustrate the potential of involving different government departments in the state’s climate policy.

KEY STATISTICS:

- Participation of Jalisco in national GDP: 4.8%¹
- Greenhouse gases and compounds emissions of Jalisco, 2015: 29.3 MMtCO₂e – 4% of national emissions²
- Greenhouse gases and compounds emissions of Jalisco, 2017: 30.7 MMtCO₂e
- State per capita emissions, 2017: 3.4 tCO₂e

THE CLIMATE FOOTPRINT PROJECT

The Climate Footprint Project supports state and regional governments to improve their greenhouse gas emissions tracking and reduction efforts.

In order to support the development of regional greenhouse gas inventories, the Climate Group, as Secretariat of the Under2 Coalition, is leading a consortium of partners to provide direct support and training to Pernambuco (Brazil), Chhattisgarh and West Bengal (India), Baja California, Jalisco and Yucatán (Mexico), and KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa).


Local partner in Mexico: Carbon Trust

¹ Source: Producto Interno Bruto. INEGI, 2015.
BACKGROUND

Jalisco is one of the fastest growing Mexican states, with emissions mainly concentrated in the energy, AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses) and waste sectors. Because of its biodiversity and geographical location, Jalisco is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change as it has a coastline on the Pacific Ocean and part of its economy is based on agriculture and industry.

Since 2012, Jalisco has been collaborating with the Climate Group. In 2015, the state joined the Under2 Coalition and took on the role of Co-Chair from 2016-2018. After the federal government issued The General Law for Climate Change in 2012, Jalisco did the same in 2015. The Climate Change Action Law of the State of Jalisco mandates the state to have an Interinstitutional Commission for Climate Change Action (CICC; for its Spanish acronym) and an inventory of greenhouse gases and compounds, as well as methodologies and instruments to strengthen the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of the state inventory’s carbon emissions and removals. The Jalisco State Government has stood out as a leader in climate change planning and has strengthened both horizontal and vertical climate governance schemes.

JALISCO AND THE CLIMATE FOOTPRINT PROJECT

In 2018, the Climate Footprint Project was launched. Among its objectives, it has sought to build technical capacities for emissions tracking, as well as improve processes for setting metrics and increase transparency and climate ambition. From the outset, the project was able to adapt to the needs of the state by supporting the update of the two fundamental instruments in this area, the emissions inventory and the MRV system for tracking mitigation actions.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The development of the state emissions inventory was not a new process for Jalisco, which now has two completed inventory cycles. The first has a base year of 2014 and the second, which was completed as part of the project, has a base year of 2017. Due to limited staff and with the purpose of using the time dedicated to inventory development as efficiently as possible, Jalisco opted to hire consultants to help with this task. The consulting group Centro Mario Molina compiled and calculated the emissions for updating the inventory (of base year 2017). However, unlike the previous inventory, the climate change team of the state Secretariat of Environment and Territorial Development Secretariat (SEMADET; for its Spanish acronym) followed the whole process very closely. Likewise, and based on the new capacities generated by the project, the team led the processes of quality assurance and quality control of the project. Furthermore, these capacities were extended beyond this team through the already existing Mitigation Working Group of the CICC, composed of focal points of 13 different institutions of the state government. These focal points benefited from developing their knowledge of inventories, which also facilitated the data collection process by creating a link between the information providers and those in charge of developing the inventory.

In addition, this capacity building process, in place for the development of the inventory, also helped to identify areas for improvement in the compilation of activity data for new inventory updates, as well as identify calculated emissions and their uncertainties in order to use them in other state policy projects. For example, Jalisco has a MRV system of mitigation actions that forms part of their first State Program for Climate Change Action. Jalisco considered it important that the Climate Footprint Project linked the inventory process to the MRV system, and the project provided the CICC with a deeper understanding of the technical issues of how to develop successful mitigation actions, as well as robust indicators to track them. This has allowed for ownership of mitigation actions within each government agency, which are expected to be reflected in the 2019-2024 update of the State Program.
COLLABORATING WITH THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The state’s progress in MRV has allowed the federal government to identify Jalisco as one of the most advanced in emissions tracking and this is reflected in the selection of Jalisco as one of the pilot states to test the tool for monitoring subnational climate actions that is currently being developed by the Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) with the support of the German Cooperation for Sustainable Development (GIZ). This tool seeks to enable states and municipalities to report their progress in certain mitigation and adaptation actions so that they can be accounted for as part of the Nationally Determined Contributions of the country.

The multilevel governance arrangements in place in Jalisco allowed the Climate Footprint Project to reinforce synergies with federal institutions, such as the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) and with SEMARNAT, and to present the advances of this work, something that was not foreseen at the beginning of the project.

NEXT STEPS

Although the project has advanced Jalisco’s tracking abilities, there is always room for improvement and further work to be done. A few priorities for moving forward are listed below.

Firstly, it is necessary to have recurrent systematisation of data for the compilation of the inventory (which is mandated by law every two years). This would ensure the availability of data for the state inventory and would also have the potential to contribute to the national inventory. To do this requires the establishment of links with data providers who have been identified as priority, above all in the private sector. In particular, the activity data of the land subcategory (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) has been worked on in conjunction with the Specialised Technical Unit on MRV of the National Forestry Commission, a synergy that favours tracking both at the national and state level, and the inventory as well as MRV of REDD+.

Secondly, the Mitigation Working Group needs to be continued and strengthened, as the members not only work as data providers, but also play an important role in the development and implementation of mitigation actions. Although the project generated a stable rhythm of work, it is necessary to use all the inputs generated and to continue with the formulation of impact indicators to be properly integrated into the MRV of the State Program for Climate Change Action update.

Finally, Jalisco’s overall objective is to fully decarbonise the state. Therefore, it is important to couple the advances of the inventory and the MRV system, in order to implement the state’s pathway towards decarbonisation and ensure its financing.

CONCLUSIONS

A real transformation can be seen in Jalisco’s internal processes of tracking and evaluating emissions and mitigation actions from the Climate Footprint Project.

The Climate Footprint Project deepened the knowledge of the public officials involved in generating mitigation actions. In addition, officials in different government ministries now have better technical tools to support climate actions. By visualising the benefits of getting involved in this process, it was also possible to generate ownership of these measures. The climate governance structure that the Government of Jalisco already had facilitated the mainstreaming of the project in different sectors and across different levels of government. As a result, with all these components (technical, political, economic) already integrated, Jalisco is now prepared to address its decarbonisation objective.

As part of the Under2 Coalition, there is an opportunity to learn about experiences from other states and regions. Jalisco seeks to be part of the group of leaders on decarbonisation pathways and to understand the outcomes of the Climate Pathway Project, also led by the Climate Group.

3 REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), plus (+) the sustainable management of forests, and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.