



Jamaica: A Short Way to Go

On July 2nd, Jamaica was the first Caribbean nation to submit an updated NDC. The country has enhanced its ambition through including the land use/forestry sector and toughening its energy targets. Adaptation co-benefits were also included.

Jamaica is one of the most heavily indebted countries in the world, and the government has struggled to stimulate economic growth in order to break out of a pattern of stagnation, which has underpinned persistent poverty and large income inequalities¹. As a small island state, the country is highly dependent on natural resources and is already experiencing the effects of climate change due to its geographical location and biophysical landscape.

Despite its low responsibility and capacity, Jamaica has made important advances in its updated NDC.

Advances

Advances are observed in terms of increased sectoral coverage by adding emissions from the land-use change and forestry sector, (LUCF) and a commitment to deeper emission reductions in the energy sector. Overall, the changes to Jamaica's NDC approximately double its ambition. For the energy sector, Jamaica has updated the reference indicator and identified opportunities to deepen emission reductions. The country is taking an increasingly comprehensive approach to decarbonizing the sector, covering both electricity generation, as well as energy use sub-sectors.

By 2030, emission reductions in the LUCF and energy sectors between 25.4% (unconditional) and 28.5% (conditional) imply that emissions in these sectors would be 1.8 to 2.0 MtCO₂e lower than in the BAU scenario. **The absolute level of ambition in Jamaica's unconditional commitment has increased by more than 60% when comparing the First NDC and the 2020 NDC.**

The inclusion of the forestry and land use sector reflects the importance of the forests to Jamaica, which cover more than half of the total land use on the island, and the commitments the country has made to preserve and improve these stocks. Jamaica's new NDC has also made progress in linking its goals to the SDGs and reinforcing its commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

Gaps

[The NDC did not project Jamaica's total emissions in 2030](#) and does not present an economy-wide target. Although the 2020 submission highlights the need of finance to achieve the conditional targets, the plan does not present a clear rationale for establishing conditional targets, as well as costs related to their implementation.

In addition, despite advances on establishing participation processes and governance, the NDC lacks on disclosure of information and reporting back on the participation processes that guided the stakeholders consultations.

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/green-economy/what-we-do/advisory-services/caribbean-green-economy-project/jamaica>

WWF's NDC rating grades

 NDC We Want

 Short Way to Go

 Some Way to Go

 NDC We Don't Want

WWF checklist for Jamaica's 2020 NDC assessment

 Mitigation

 Adaptation

 Finance

 Fostering system change

 Inclusiveness and Participation

 Contribution to Sustainable Development

 Tracking progress

Jamaica's rating grade after assessment:  Short Way to Go

For more information

Fernanda De Carvalho
Global Policy Manager
WWF International
Climate & Energy Practice

fcarvalho@wwfint.org



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible. panda.org

WWF, 28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111

CH-550.0.128.920-7

WWF® and World Wide Fund for Nature® trademarks and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund). All rights reserved.