

# A CHECKUP ON COUNTRY EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT

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IN THE LEADING GREENHOUSE GAS EMITTING COUNTRIES

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**JUNE 2017**

**Climate Scorecard Report #11**

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# A Checkup on Country Efforts to Implement the Paris Agreement: Climate Scorecard Country Summary Report #11

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## ACTION ALERT

### ACTION ALERT FOR POLICY MAKERS, ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS, RESEARCH CENTERS, BUSINESS LEADERS, AND CONCERNED CITIZENS

Contact your nation's President or Prime Minister, and Environment Secretary. Ask them to do everything possible to see that your country increases its emissions reduction pledge to the Paris Agreement and fully implements its existing pledge. Such efforts are needed if the Paris Agreement is to fulfill its goals and keep our planet from warming beyond the 1.5 degree Celsius tipping point.

## INTRODUCTION

**Climate Scorecard Report #11** assesses efforts to date by leading greenhouse gas emitting countries to implement the Paris Agreement. Every country that signed and adopted the Paris Agreement made a pledge (known as an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution or INDC) to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions over time. Most observers agree that initial pledges, when totaled, were insufficient to prevent our planet from warming above the 1.5 degree Celsius. This is the warming tipping point above which scientists say the earth will suffer widespread irreversible ecological consequences.

Therefore, the Paris Agreement includes language that encourages countries to increase their emission reduction pledges, and, at a minimum, fully implement the initial Agreement pledges they made. This Climate Scorecard Report checks in on how well countries are doing in working towards these goals. Each of Climate Scorecard's Country Managers has drawn upon experts for an analysis of how their country is performing. Our Report summarizes this analysis and ranks each country as **Moving Forward**, **Standing Still**, or **Falling Behind** in terms of their current efforts to implement the Paris Agreement.

Unfortunately, of the 22 countries that we evaluated, there are way too many that we rate as **Standing Still** (4), or **Falling Behind** (12), and only 6 countries that have been rated as **Moving Forward**. Perhaps this lack of progress can be mitigated somewhat by the efforts being made by some of the

largest greenhouse gas emitting countries/regions, e.g. China, India, and the European Union. Until recently we could include the US in the Moving Forward category but President Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement now puts the US as Falling Behind. Hopefully, emission reduction commitments being made by US states, cities, and businesses to honor the US pledge to the Paris Agreement will offset President Trump's decision at the Federal level.

This Climate Scorecard Report suggests that all countries have much work to do to honor their commitments to the Paris Agreement. Unless more countries increase their emission reduction goals and strengthen their policies, the Paris Agreement is in danger of not fulfilling its important mission. The effort to combat the Paris Agreement is a global one, and requires the active engagement of all countries.

Country	Paris Agreement Implementation Status
Argentina	Standing Still
Australia	Falling Behind
Brazil	Falling Behind
Canada	Moving Forward
China	Moving Forward
France	Standing Still
Germany	Moving Forward
India	Standing Still
Indonesia	Moving Forward
Italy	Falling Behind
Japan	Falling Behind
Mexico	Falling Behind
Nigeria	Moving Forward
Russia	Falling Behind
Saudi Arabia	Falling Behind
South Africa	Falling Behind
South Korea	Moving Forward
Spain	Falling Behind
Thailand	Falling Behind
Turkey	Falling Behind
United Kingdom	Standing Still
United States	Falling Behind

# ARGENTINA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**DUSTIN ROBERTSON**



## Argentina–Standing Still

In a recent article titled “El país, más activo contra el cambio climático” (The Most Active Country Against Climate Change), Lucas Viano highlights some of the positive steps Argentina has taken since the Paris Agreement. The author cites influential climate experts like Juan Carlos Villalonga to show that the country appears intent to meet and even improve its climate commitment. In fact, Argentina was the first country to announce that it would increase its climate commitment from an unconditional 15% reduction in greenhouse gasses to 18%. Other significant gestures include the creation of a new National Cabinet for Climate Change and declaration of 2017 as the “Year of Renewable Energy.”

While Argentina is taking positive actions on one hand, some critics argue that the country is simultaneously making counterproductive moves. In a recent article, “Renewables Help Fight the Energy Crisis: Argentina’s New National Energy and Climate Policy,” the positive measures taken by the Macri Administration are juxtaposed with negative environmental actions that are currently underway or planned for the near future. For example the government plans to ramp up gas and oil-fired thermoelectric power production which will solidify Argentina’s fossil fuel dependence. The Government is also rolling back export taxes on the agricultural sector which environmentalists fear will lead to an increase in already-high levels of deforestation. According to the author, Enrique Konstantinidis, the key weakness in Argentina’s approach to climate change is that there is no long-term strategy for decarbonization. He calls for a unified national plan that will cover multiple sectors and move the country toward sustainability.

## Learn More

Article in La Voz about Argentina’s climate activity: <http://www.lavoz.com.ar/ciudadanos/el-pais-mas-activo-contra-el-cambio-climatico>

Article by Enrique Mautua Konstantinidis–Director for Climate Change at Fundacion Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN): <https://germanwatch.org/en/13268>

# AUSTRALIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**HANNAH CAMPI**



## Australia–Falling Behind

In 2015, Australia pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28% as part of a United Nation's agreement presented at COP21 in Paris. In making its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the Paris Agreement, the Government said that, "Australia will continue to play our part in an effective global response to climate change. Australia will implement an economy-wide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030."

A recent report from Climate Tracker (<http://climateactiontracker.org/countries.html>) described Australia's progress in implementing the Paris Agreement as inadequate. The Citizens Climate Agreement Campaign report also gave Australia's initial pledge only one of five possible stars. The pledge is clear and unconditional, however it is not as aggressive as needed and calls for reductions at a slower pace than other developed nations.

Australia's carbon pricing in 2012 initially appeared to signal a bright future for the nation's environmental initiatives. However, a repeal of that same carbon pricing and political gridlock have slowed efforts to reduce emissions. Political tensions getting in the way of clean energy progress is sharply criticized in a Bloomberg article titled, "How Not to Transform a Power Grid: Lessons From Australia."

In addition, Australia is redirecting some of its foreign aid budget toward domestic security measures. While the amount is small in relation to its national GDP, these funds could have gone to mitigation strategies for some of Australia's Pacific Island neighbors who have criticized Australia's lack of leadership in the region.

## Learn More

<https://www.bna.com/not-transform-power-n57982086783/> Published April 17th, 2017

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-17/marshall-islands-urge-australia-to-support-climate-change/8533434>

# BRAZIL

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**LAURA VALENTE DE MACEDO**



## **Brazil–Falling Behind**

Climate Action Tracker finds Brazil's emission reduction target levels to be at the least ambitious end of a fair contribution to global mitigation, and not consistent with meeting the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal unless other countries make much deeper reductions and comparably greater effort.

Recent developments in energy infrastructure planning and increasing deforestation levels are estimated to have added around 130 MtCO<sub>2</sub> to Brazil's total net emissions in 2016, and are evidence of a worsening of Brazil's national climate policy implementation. Brazil seems to be going in the opposite direction from what is needed to achieve the Paris Agreement goal. Budget cuts of 50% to the Environment Ministry and other areas raise issues of concern around the Government's ability to monitor deforestation adequately.

The low ambition level of Brazil's INDC targets, together with a recent economic recession that has resulted in slower than expected emissions growth, puts the country on track to meet its INDC targets without any additional effort. However, emissions in most sectors are expected to rise at least until 2030. Also, the remarkable progress in forestry emissions mitigation seems to have stagnated, with deforestation emission increasing again in recent years. In order to reach peak emissions and rapidly decrease levels afterward, as required by the Paris Agreement, Brazil will need to reverse the current trend of weakening its climate policies. It will also need to sustain and strengthen policy implementation in the forestry sector and accelerate mitigation action in other sectors—including a reversal of present plans to expand fossil fuel energy sources.

The political situation in Brazil is further complicating its efforts to reach its Paris Agreement goals. The new President is being accused of bribery and corruption, and the government is consumed with this scandal, making it difficult to focus on the environmental sector. The few laws that are being discussed include a bill for reducing protection of forest areas.

## **Learn More**

<http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/brazil.html>

# CANADA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**DIANE SZOLLER**



## Canada–Moving Forward

The 2016 Government Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCFCGCC) is intended to help achieve Canada's Paris Agreement commitments. It calls for investments in green infrastructure, public transport, clean technology, and increased carbon sequestration. Carbon pricing is the core of the PCFCGCC. Provinces are required to institute a minimum carbon price of \$10/tonne by 2018, rising to \$50/tonne by 2022, or to have a federal carbon levy imposed on them.

Canada's 2017 budget supports the beginning of the Framework implementation. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce supports Canada's priority on climate change but recommends the use of additional economic/financial measures such as an updated carbon pricing policy and increased private sector involvement.

Canada's Paris Agreement target is a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions by 2030. The Climate Tracker (last updated Nov. 2016) states Canada as not reaching its Paris target but notes a national mandatory carbon-pricing plan could change this outlook. I see PCFCGCC quantifying its impact in meeting Canada's INDC goals.

Climate Action Network Canada's analysis supports the Framework but seeks more detail on how the Framework will be implemented. The Citizens Climate Agreement Campaign (Nov. 2015) asked that Canada adopt 1990 as a baseline vs 2005, strengthen its target, avoid international emission market schemes and implement a domestic carbon tax. The 30% reduction (523 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq) or 14.5% below 1990 levels was set by our previous government who withdrew from Kyoto, rolled back regulations and undermined climate action for a decade. Our new government has had to keep the Paris targets set in 2015 by the previous government. As of last month, Canada has not committed to international carbon trading.

I believe Canada is moving forward consistently, especially considering the past decade's lost opportunity. The Framework (released only in Dec. 2016) sets out actions that will contribute to meeting or exceeding Canada's 2030 target. Comparisons of carbon pricing systems across Canada will start in 2020. Emissions projections will be updated yearly as Framework measures are designed and implemented. Many factors cannot be foreseen with certainty such as economic and population growth, energy markets and projections, technologies, consumer behavior, and policies aimed at emissions reductions.



## Learn More

Climate Action Network Canada's Analysis and Summary of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change, Dec 12, 2016 and response to Canada's 2017 budget, Mar 22, 2017

[http://climateactionnetwork-28b0.kxcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/1PCFanalysis\\_CAN-Rac.pdf](http://climateactionnetwork-28b0.kxcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/1PCFanalysis_CAN-Rac.pdf)

[http://climateactionnetwork-28b0.kxcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ENReact\\_Budget2017.pdf](http://climateactionnetwork-28b0.kxcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ENReact_Budget2017.pdf)

Click link within blog to review the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's assessment of Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change, Dec. 15, 2016

<http://www.chamber.ca/media/blog/161215-pan-canadian-framework-on-clean-growth-and-climate-change/>

Canada's Second Biennial Report on Climate Change translates 2005 targets to 1990 levels (a document that reflects comprehensive 2015 data)

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/default.asp?lang=En&n=02D095CB-1>

UNCCC Session SBI46 (2016) - Canada's position on international climate markets, multi-lateral assessments - questions and answers/Canada - responses April 28, 2017

[http://unfccc.int/files/focus/mitigation/the\\_multilateral\\_assessment\\_process\\_under\\_the\\_ia/application/pdf/sbi46\\_can\\_questionsandanswers\\_a.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/focus/mitigation/the_multilateral_assessment_process_under_the_ia/application/pdf/sbi46_can_questionsandanswers_a.pdf)

Assessment of Canada's ability to meet emissions targets, Feb, 27, 2017

Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators, Progress Towards Canada's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target

[http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2017/eccc/En4-144-48-2017-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/eccc/En4-144-48-2017-eng.pdf)

# CHINA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**LENA COURCOL**



## China—Moving Forward

Ecofys Consultancy, an energy and climate consulting group, has determined China to be in good stead to achieve, and even surpass, its pledge for the Paris Climate Agreement. Earlier this year, China demonstrated positive developments in coal use as it canceled the construction of over 100 coal power stations. This effort is recognized as the country's most significant yet. Coupled with slower coal use in India, both countries are predicted to reduce projected global carbon emissions growth by about two to three billion tonnes by 2030 compared to forecasts made just last year. Indeed, recent observations show that slower rates of greenhouse gas, particularly carbon dioxide emissions, are part of a larger sustained decline. Together, India and China would offset the relatively poor performance expected by the US, which is set to miss its Paris pledge.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), International Energy Agency (IEA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Tsinghua University, peaking carbon dioxide emissions

around 2030 will reduce China's emissions by at least 1.7 Gt, or 14%, from the most optimistic business-as-usual scenario.

According to Climate Tracker, China's status is 'Medium'.

China is on track to peak its carbon dioxide emissions between 2025 and 2030, but total greenhouse gases could continue to increase until at least 2030. Although China's policies and actions appear set to achieve its INDC, the INDC itself is not yet ambitious enough to limit warming to below 2 degrees Celsius.

That being said, China's president Xi Jinping, recently reaffirmed the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement over a telephone call with incoming French president, Emmanuel Macron. This public acknowledgement shows China's leadership on global climate action despite international fears of the US Trump Administration's rollbacks, or even complete withdrawal from the pact. The US and China had previously worked closely to lead global climate action, however China refuses to let this hold them back in further progress. For this reason, it is possible that China will accelerate its actions toward the Paris Agreement, and even increase its pledge henceforward.

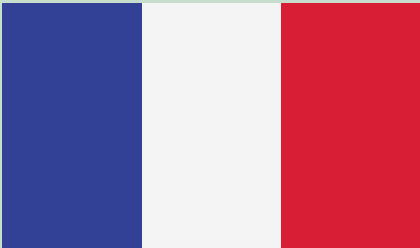
## Learn More

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/15052017/china-india-paris-climate-goals-emissions-coal-renewable-energy>

# FRANCE

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Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**CHARLINE GAUDIN**



## France—Standing Still

On March 6, 2015, the EU and its Member States (including France) communicated their INDC in conformity with the Paris Agreement. The EU and its Member States are committed to a binding target of at least 40% domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990, to be fulfilled jointly. The Climate Action Tracker considered that the 40% emissions reduction target is significantly behind what is achievable and necessary by the EU and rated the EU's pledge as "medium." They see that the EU target is not consistent with limiting warming to below 2°C, let alone with the Paris Agreement's stronger 1.5°C limit and represents only a slight slowdown in the rate of climate action compared to the preceding quarter-century—at exactly the time when there needs to be a threefold acceleration.

France scored 53 points and ranks third on the EU's climate leaderboard, a tool that allows citizens to hold their governments accountable for the positions they take to implement the Paris Agreement.

Regarding reducing its emissions, France's results to date are positive. The French GHG emissions have all been below the targets over the past years. For example, in 2014 the French target was 389,5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq., but actual GHG emissions reached only 353,5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq.

Finally, the policy program of Emmanuel Macron, newly elected French president, includes few important aspects concerning climate change and the implementation of the Paris agreement. He commits to reviving the development of renewable energy and sticking to the objectives set in the energy transition bill, i.e., to reduce fossil fuel consumption by 30% by 2030 compared with 2012; to increase the share of renewable energies to 32% of fuel energy consumption and 40% of electricity production by 2030. However, the prohibition to issue new permits for hydrocarbon exploration and production is only temporary and no decision has been taken to make this prohibition permanent. France is standing still and taking a slow-paced approach to honoring its INDC pledge to the Paris Agreement. The real challenge for France is not so much to fulfil the INDC adopted at the EU level, but to stick to the objectives of the energy transition bill especially concerning the development of renewable energy.

## Lean More

[http://carbonmarketwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EU-Climate-Leader-Board-Where-countries-stand-on-the-Effort-Sharing-Regulation---Europe's-largest-climate-tool\\_final.pdf](http://carbonmarketwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EU-Climate-Leader-Board-Where-countries-stand-on-the-Effort-Sharing-Regulation---Europe's-largest-climate-tool_final.pdf)

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/eu\\_progress\\_report\\_2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/eu_progress_report_2016_en.pdf)

<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc/Submission%20Pages/submissions.aspx>

<https://www.rac-f.org/Apres-l-election-d-Emmanuel-Macron-voici-ce-qui-nous-attend>

# GERMANY

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**MARY NTHAMBI**



## Germany–Moving Forward

### Germany's Efforts to Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> Emission and Comply with the Paris Agreement

The EU made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under the Paris Agreement on climate change through an Effort Sharing Decision (ESD). The ESD requires member countries to submit biannual reports on their progress in meeting set emission targets in all sectors of the economy except in land use. So far, the EU has a strong monitoring and compliance system to account for the actions of member states. For instance, Germany intends to reduce GHGs emissions by 40% by 2020. To comply with the expected ESD share in EU, Germany has set yearly targets from 2013 to 2020 versus actual ESD reductions met. The percentage difference between the actual and target ESD is referred as the relative ESD gap to target. Using 2005 emissions reductions as the base year, and data analyzed from Climate Action report (2016), this scenario can be depicted as in Figure 1 below.

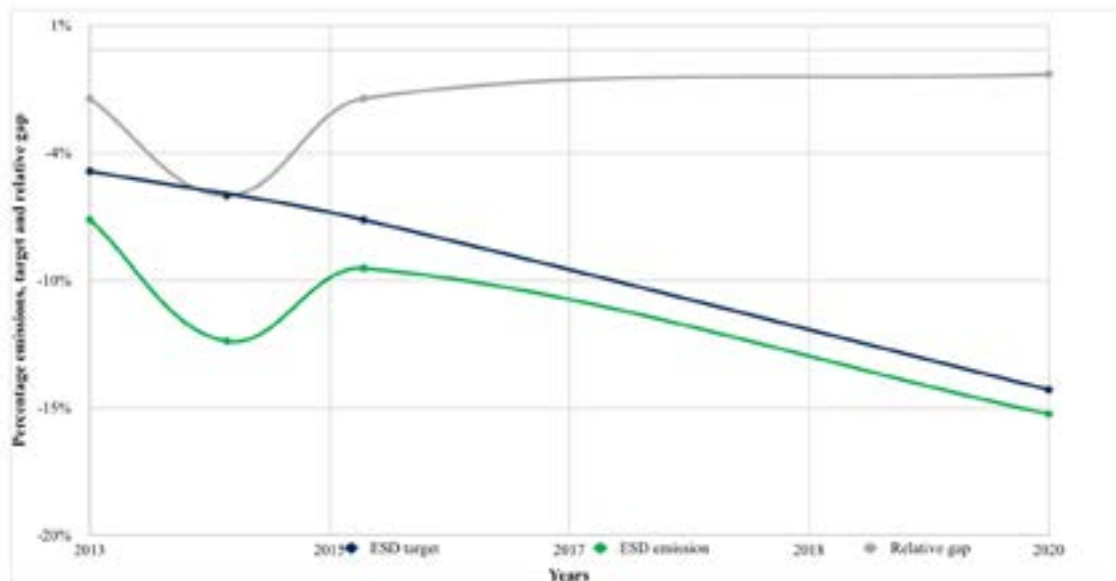


Figure 1: % ESD emission, ESD targets and relative gap to target

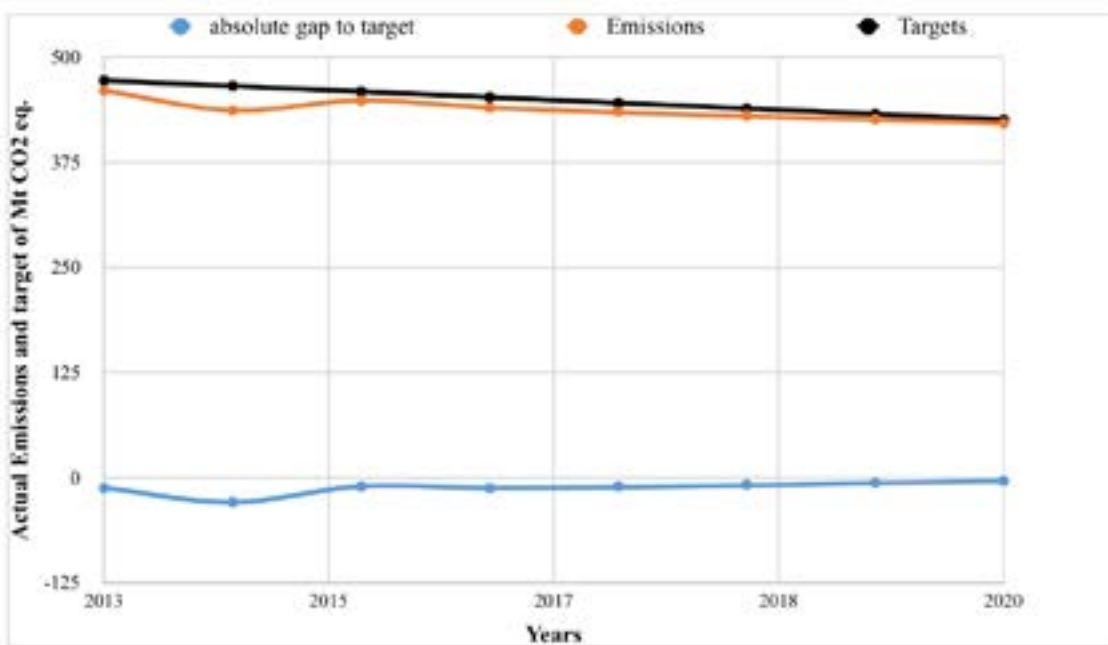


Figure 2: Actual emissions, targets and absolute gap to target in Mt CO2 equivalent

In Figure 1, the actual percentage ESD emission reduction fall below the yearly percentage targets set through 2020. However, the percentage relative ESD gap to the target ESD emission reductions approaches zero (0) by 2020. This can be confirmed because in reality, the actual emission and target emission reductions in Metric tonnes of CO2 equivalent can also be compared as in Figure 2, with 2005 as the base year.

Thus, the actual annual emission reductions fall below the target emissions but the two tend to converge by 2020.

Germany intends to meet these emission reduction goals by increasing the percentage share of renewable energy consumed to 60% by 2050.

In addition, emission reductions are also targeted in buildings, transport, industry, and the agricultural sector among others. Thus, the above analysis shows that emissions remain stable versus the targets set as from 2015 to 2020 and as such, Germany can be said to be gradually moving in the right direction in honoring the Paris agreement but may slightly miss the emission targets it has set by 2020. The energy transition monitoring report, (2015) also confirms that Germany will probably miss its 2020 emission targets.

## Learn More

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/eu\\_progress\\_report\\_2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/eu_progress_report_2016_en.pdf)

<https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-climate-targets>

[http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Publikationen/Energie/fuenfter-monitoring-bericht-energie-der-zukunft.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=36](http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Publikationen/Energie/fuenfter-monitoring-bericht-energie-der-zukunft.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=36)

# INDIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Managers  
**TANIKA DUTTA** and **MUNEER MAGRAY**



## India–Standing Still

The continuing rapid growth in renewable energy in India, combined with sustained reductions in coal imports and a slow down in coal development—with coal-fired “ultra-mega power projects” cancelled—is a strong indication that the low carbon transformation of India’s energy supply sector is gathering momentum.

Several recent articles in The Guardian and Financial Times seem to indicate that India is making significant decreases in its use of coal fired electricity. In 2016, new coal plant construction was down by 62%. However the effort to upgrade emissions technology in existing plants has stalled. Piyush Goyal, India’s Power Minister, told the Financial Times that India’s 132 existing coal power stations, three-quarters of which are owned by government will take some time to upgrade their facilities.

India’s Draft Electricity Plan confirms that no new coal capacity is needed after 2022, apart from the 50 GW that is already under construction and is likely to be ready by 2022. The Draft Electricity Plan further assumes that no gas fired capacity will be deployed after 2022 as the availability of natural gas is uncertain in India. Experts in the sector believe that until 2022, any private investment in fossil fuel energy production is unlikely. Near about 60,000 MW of under-construction projects face an uncertain future. The Business Standard reported that about 25,000 MW of thermal power plants, belonging

to private players, are on sale but there are no takers. (Ref: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/25-000-mw-power-projects-on-sale-but-buyers-missing-as-demand-remains-dull-117060400478\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/25-000-mw-power-projects-on-sale-but-buyers-missing-as-demand-remains-dull-117060400478_1.html))

Despite this good news Climate Tracker points out the continued tension between the development needs of a growing population and commitments to increased usage of renewable energy. Although India's 2022 renewable energy target represents a rapid increase in renewable energy generation, this is not enough to keep up with growth in electricity demand. Between 2014 and 2030 under current policies, the estimate average annual growth rate for solar and wind power generation is around 3%—about half the growth rate of overall electricity production.

## Learn More

Climate Tracker Analysis: <http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/india.html>

Financial Times article: <https://www.ft.com/content/18268438-2e3e-11e7-9555-23ef563ecf9a>

Guardian Article: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/22/coal-power-plants-green-energy-china-india>

# INDONESIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**TRISTAN GRUPP**



## Indonesia—Moving Forward

Indonesia is moving in the right direction to meet its pledge under the Paris Agreement. The policy framework is in place to achieve its INDC. However, poor implementation policies, a low capacity for enforcement and monitoring, and poor institutional governance cast doubt on Indonesia's ability to meet its pledge. If Indonesia improves implementation and monitoring of existing policies, it could become a major contributor to emissions reductions, especially those from forests and land. There is already evidence that Indonesia's government agencies are beginning a new chapter in climate policy and forest governance.

Forsell et al. estimate that Indonesia will decrease "net land use emissions as of 2020 (comparison to 2010 levels) mainly related to a decrease in peat fire and oxidation emissions." (Forsell et al., 7). They also conclude that Indonesia will provide, along with a few other countries, "the lion share of pledges to reduce net LULUCF emissions" (Forsell et al., 11). With the supporting documents available, Indonesia's emissions projections are "consistent with its Paris Agreement INDC submission" (Forsell et al., 13). Implementation of Indonesia's INDC is estimated to reduce emissions by "approximately 336 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e year<sup>-1</sup> in 2020 and 672 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e year<sup>-1</sup> in 2030, compared to the BAU scenario development" in agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) (Forsell et al., 14). Forsell et al. point out that peat oxidation and peat fires have significant impacts on emissions estimations. The ability

of the government to manage forests, enforce laws, and monitor enforcement is therefore crucial to implement the pledge.

Since the REDD+ agreement in 2010 and the creation of the One Map Policy (OMP), Mulyani and Jepson argue that Indonesia's government agencies, especially the Ministry of Forests (MoF), have undergone significant changes. These changes are seen in the move away from clientalism, poor law enforcement, weak governance and low transparency. Mulyani and Jepson interviewed members of ministries, reporting that the REDD+ agreement with Norway in 2010 provided the "external push for institutional change as initiated by domestic actors such as the KPK (the Corruption Eradication Commission)" (Mulyani and Jepson, 10). Since REDD+, there has been greater transparency and public participation in the MoF. With the merger of the Ministries of the Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and the absorption of the REDD+ agency into the new MoEF in 2015, many were concerned that the ministry would once again have too much power and continue poor forest governance and clientalism. Under the Widodo administration's MoEF minister, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, many companies have been brought to court for illegal land conversion and uncontrolled fires. President Widodo has established an agency (BRG, Badan Restorasi Gambut) to restore peatland. Recently, the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources implemented a new feed-in tariff to encourage renewables. These examples demonstrate the will in the government to follow through on Indonesia's NDC. Continuing to increase transparency in and improve implementation of its current policy framework will keep Indonesia on track to achieve its pledge.

## Learn More

Forsell et al.: <https://cbmjournals.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s13021-016-0068-3>

Mulyani and Jepson: <http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/8/1/14/html>

# ITALY

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**MARTA MORELLO**



## Italy–Falling Behind

In the Paris Agreement, the European Union (EU), and thus Italy, committed to a reduction of at least 40% of greenhouse gases emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. In November 2016, the European Commission published the report "Implementing the Paris Agreement: Progress of the EU towards the at least -40% target" which provides insights into the compliance of member countries. According to this report, without additional mitigation initiatives, the EU is expected to fail to meet its target. In 2015, the EU reduced its carbon emissions by 22% compared to its 1990 baseline, thus meeting ahead of schedule its Kyoto protocol goal of reducing emissions by 20% by 2020. However, the report



makes clear how current mitigation policies will fall short of the Paris goal, bringing total reductions by 2030 to only 26%. To accelerate climate mitigation the EU is expected to revise the EU emission trading system, which covers buildings, transportation, waste and agriculture. A new legislative package was presented in July of 2016 that sets new emission targets for Member States.

Compared to other Member States, Italy is in a good position in its emission reductions efforts for sectors like building, transport, waste and agriculture. In 2015, Italy over-delivered, meaning that not only that it met its goal but it further reduced emissions in those sectors by 13% and, according to projections, it will over deliver in 2020 as well by a smaller amount (~5%). Italy seems to be doing well compared to other European countries such as Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Denmark and Finland who are expected to fail to meet their targets.

In a separate policy briefing published in March 2017 by the EU Climate Leader Board, Italy scored 20 out of 27 countries on the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), the new legislative package for climate action that is being negotiated between EU ministers and Members of the European Parliament. The ESR is a very important policy as it sets GHG emission targets for all Member States from 2021 all the way to 2030. The five criteria for the evaluation are:

1. The starting point from which the emission reduction targets are applied
2. How carbon sinks in the land use and forestry sector are addressed
3. Whether surplus permits from the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) can be used
4. Governance system to ensure countries comply with their targets
5. Whether the ambition level of the 2030 and long-term targets is compatible with the

Paris Agreement objectives.

Italy is in 20th place because it wants to increase the land use loophole and advocates for weakening the starting point by setting it significantly above actual emissions. The country is furthermore not planning to go beyond its domestic 2030 target of 33% emission reductions, nor has it set an adequate long-term target.

Based on these two reports, I think Italy is falling behind in honoring its commitments to the Paris Agreement. In the past it met its GHG reduction targets, but new, more aggressive policies are needed to accelerate climate mitigation to meet the EU's Paris Agreement 40% threshold by 2030. In fact, Italy's intention so far is to relax the rules to allow for less-stringent emission targets.

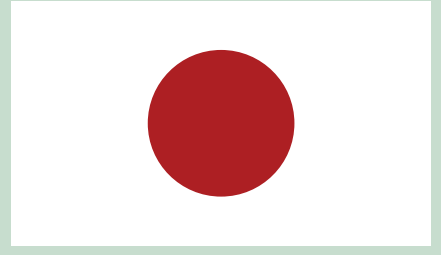
## **Learn More**

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/eu\\_progress\\_report\\_2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/eu_progress_report_2016_en.pdf)



# JAPAN

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**KENTA MATSUMOTO**



## Japan–Falling Behind

The Japanese Government submitted their INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Japan pledged to reduce greenhouse gases by 26 % below 2013 levels, by 2030. In order to achieve this promise, the Japanese Cabinet approved the Global Warming Countermeasure Plan on May 2016. However, Japan's target level is much lower than that of the EU in terms of the reduction rate to its 1990 level. In the assessment by Climate Action Tracker, the Japanese reduction target was regarded as "Inadequate" and is not consistent with the Paris Agreement goal to keep global warming below 1.5 degree Celsius.

The most dominant factor influencing Japanese greenhouse gas emissions is electricity powered by fossil fuel. After the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Japan shut down all nuclear plants, which resulted in an increased use of fossil fuels for electricity generation. After Fukushima, the government's focus on climate change has diminished, while there has been an increased policy focus on energy security and economic growth.

Ken Sofer, Senior Policy Advisor, Center for American Progress, observes that Japan's national policy for climate change is prone to prioritize energy security and economic growth rather than climate change itself. What is important in climate change policy in Japan is to raise its priority in the political context. Recently, the Japanese Government has focused on raising salaries of working people and improving the standard of living. Climate change has been minimized as a policy priority. The government has yet to make the connection between investing in climate change mitigation and economic prosperity.

## Learn More

Takashi Morimoto, 2016: Global Agenda, No.128  
[www.murc.jp/thinktank/rc/report/global\\_report/global\\_1612.pdf](http://www.murc.jp/thinktank/rc/report/global_report/global_1612.pdf)

Ken Sofer, 2016: Climate Politics in Japan, Sasakawa USA Forum Issue No. 1  
<https://spfusa.org/sasakawa-usa-forum/climate-politics-japan/>

# MEXICO

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**RAIZA PILATOWSKY GRUNER**



## **Mexico–Falling Behind**

Mexico has had continuous participation in the international climate change arena since the UNFCCC was established back in 1993. However, one can question whether Mexico's engagement at the international level has translated into effective climate change policy.

In 'Not on the "Paris Track": Climate Protection Efforts in Developing Countries', authors Jann Lay and Sebastian Renner stress that Mexico's ambitious INDC pledge to the Paris Agreement has not resulted in effective government action. They highlight that although Mexico has stopped investing in further coal plants, it is relying on gas reserves to serve the increasing energy demands that are expected for future decades. The introduction by the government of energy taxes has been deemed, "too small to make any measurable difference to emissions".

In the book, 21 visions of the COP21 by Norma Patricia Muñoz Sevilla, Isaac Azuz-Adeath, and Maxime Le Bail, the authors address adaptation measures in the chapter, National policy on adaptation and the Paris Agreement. In this chapter, the authors explain that incorporating adaptation measures to the Paris Agreement is a milestone, but implementing them in Mexico will be a challenge for a number of reasons. Focusing on coastal areas, they highlight some of the following barriers: lack of funding, limited technical and planning capacities, disconnection among different governmental institutions and other sectors, political conflicts associated with the party affiliation of governors and decision makers, among others.

Mexico's INDCs have received "medium" ratings both from Climate Action Tracker and the Citizens Climate Agreement Campaign, reflecting their ambitious character and problems related to achieving them. Important issues to highlight are the lack of a pledge towards 100% renewable energy, low support for investments in renewable energy, as well as the absence of a cross-sectoral effort to implement environmental policy. The Transport, Energy and Agricultural sectors seem to be working independently of what the Ministry of Environment is trying to achieve.

Overall, Mexico is backsliding in relation to its agreement to implement the Paris Agreement. Mexico's economic development plans clash with its written commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to future climate scenarios. The challenges remaining, including a broad range of political conditions that affect the country, are preventing it from effectively implementing the actions needed not only to meet its intended contributions but also to undertake a truly transformative program that tackles climate change.

## Learn More

Article: Not on the "Paris Track": Climate Protection Efforts in Developing Countries (December 2016)

[https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/system/files/publications/gf\\_global\\_1608\\_en.pdf](https://www.giga-hamburg.de/en/system/files/publications/gf_global_1608_en.pdf)

Book Chapter: National policy on adaptation and the Paris Agreement (Política nacional de adaptación ante el Acuerdo de París) (2016): Chapter XI pp. 173-185

[http://www.pincc.unam.mx/DOCUMENTOS/21visiones/21\\_visiones.pdf](http://www.pincc.unam.mx/DOCUMENTOS/21visiones/21_visiones.pdf)

Climate Action Tracker. Mexico: <http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/mexico.html>

Top 25 Greenhouse Gas Emitting Countries' Paris Agreement Pledges (with rating): <http://climatescorecard.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Top-25-Greenhouse-Gas-Emitter-Paris-Pledges.pdf>

Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN): "Camino a la implementación de las Contribuciones Nacionales" (In Spanish): [https://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/DT\\_camino-de-implementacion-de-INDCs.pdf](https://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/DT_camino-de-implementacion-de-INDCs.pdf)

# NIGERIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**CHIUDO EHRIM**

## Nigeria–Moving Forward

Nigeria has made some progress with respect to the Paris Agreement. It signed the agreement in September 2016 and ratified it in March 2017, and thus committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The country has instituted policy initiatives that are relevant to climate change including its adoption in 2013 of a National Policy on Climate Change. Measures that are necessary to achieve the country's commitments include ending gas flaring, increasing the contribution of renewable energy sources to electricity supply, improving energy efficiency, and supporting climate smart agriculture and restoration.

Nigeria has pledged to reduce unconditionally by 2030 its GHG emissions by 20%, and conditionally by 45% compared to business as usual levels of 900 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. The identified measures would contribute substantially to honoring the agreement. By ratifying the accord, initiating climate relevant policies, and setting up a coordinating unit for climate action, Nigeria is taking forward steps towards meeting its GHG commitments.

## Learn More

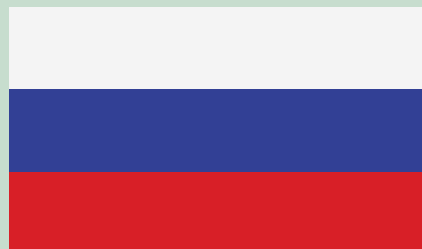
A summary of Nigeria's approach to climate change is available at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/country-profiles/nigeria/>

The status of Nigeria's ratification of the Paris Agreement is available at: [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9444.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php)

More information on Nigeria's contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is available at: [http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Nigeria/1/Approved%20Nigeria's%20INDC\\_271115.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Nigeria/1/Approved%20Nigeria's%20INDC_271115.pdf)

# RUSSIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**DR. ELENA ZAIKA**



## Russia–Falling Behind

Russia is one of the countries with the largest carbon footprints due to its size but it has not yet ratified the Paris Agreement. However, an Action Plan for Improvement of State GHG Emission Regulation and Preparation for Ratification of the Paris Agreement was finally approved on November 3, 2016. A model for state regulation of GHG emissions is planned for release in December 2017.

In the past several years the Russian Federation has released several important state plans related to climate change, including the Strategy for Environmental Safety of the RF from 2017 to 2025 (adopted on 19.04.2017) and a draft Energy Strategy of the RF for the period by 2035.

The Strategy for Environmental Safety prioritizes meeting the need for adaptation and mitigation of negative climate change consequences for the environment as one of Russia's main tasks. However, a focus on the consequences of GHG emissions rather than on preventive actions, diminishes the country's responsibility in respect to its GHG emissions reduction. The Strategy for Environmental Safety identifies tools for implementation of the state environmental safety policy that include naming the regulation of carbon emissions and preparation of a low-carbon and sustainable Long-term Economy Development Strategy. At the moment there is no further information on the possible practical steps to implement these suggestions.

The draft Energy Strategy aims at decreasing the negative impact from exploration, production, transportation, and use of energy resources on the environment, climate and public health. The Russian Federation submitted its 2030 INDC on March 31, 2015, proposing to reduce emissions 25% to 30% below 1990 levels by 2030. Another long-term Russian emission reduction target was announced at the L'Aquila G8 Summit in 2009. It aimed at cutting GHG emissions by at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Climate Tracker estimates that the target emissions levels that Russia's INDC entails are 3.2 to 3.3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030 (8–13% below 1990 levels, excluding LULUCF). These levels were calculated using the most recent projected emissions for the LULUCF sector in 2030 (Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation, 2015). The main assumption for this calculation is that Russia will use a net-net approach to account for the LULUCF sector, which would allow for much higher

emissions in the target year compared to a situation in which the target excluded LULUCF emissions. This assumption arises from the INDC statement, according to which the 2030 target “is subject to the maximum possible accounting of the absorbing capacity of forests” (UNFCCC, 2015). This adds considerable uncertainty to the 2030 target emissions levels. Greater transparency around the accounting rules for the LULUCF sector in the INDC submission would enable us to calculate a more precise estimate of the emissions level (excluding LULUCF) in 2030 required for Russia to achieve its INDC target.

## Learn More

Report on implementation of the RF’s Climate Doctrine for the period by 2020

<http://www.mnr.gov.ru/regulatory/detail.php?ID=342550>

Key provisions of the Energy Strategy

<https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/1913>

Review of the Strategy of Environmental Safety

[http://eic-ano.ru/news/market\\_news/?file=news\\_421](http://eic-ano.ru/news/market_news/?file=news_421)

Climate Tracker Analysis

<http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/russianfederation.html>

# SAUDI ARABIA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**ABEER ABDULKAREEM**



## Saudi Arabia–Falling Behind

The 2016 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) report concludes that Saudi Arabia has made no improvement in its overall ranking in the CCPI and places the country at the bottom of the ranking for lack of significant progress in the country’s exploiting its high potential for renewable energy instead of relying on its oil reserves. However, the report notes that the Kingdom has not blocked the Paris climate agreement.

Climate Action Tracker evaluates Saudi Arabia’s abatement target of reducing emissions by up to 130 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030 as stated in its Paris Agreement Pledge and rates this abatement target as inadequate to make a fair contribution to keep global warming to below a 2 degree Celsius increase. It explains that this pledged abatement rate will result in an 840–1042 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e excluding LULUCF by 2030, a 70–110% increase above 2010 levels, or a 350–450% increase above 1990 levels which is insufficient to meet a minimum fair contribution to controlling global warming to 2 Celsius let alone the stronger Paris Agreement goal to 1.5 Celsius. It bases this conclusion on the uncertainty around Saudi Arabia’s targeted emissions level and the significant scaling down of its planned policies aimed at diversifying

the energy mix and investments in renewable energy resources from 54 GW of renewable and 17 GW of nuclear energy by 2032 to 9.5 GW in 2023 and omitting the reference to nuclear power.

It seems that the extent to which Saudi Arabia is able to implement its proposed domestic emission reduction programs is dependent on the revenues it receives from its oil production. However, increased oil revenues means increased oil exports that will result in increased CO2 emissions in other countries.

## Learn More

Burck, Jan, Franziska Marten, and Christoph Bals. 2016. Climate Change Performance Index, 2017 results. Germanwatch and Climate Action Network (CAN).

<https://germanwatch.org/en/download/16482.pdf>

The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the UNFCCC  
<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Saudi%20Arabia/1/KSA-INDCs%20English.pdf>

Climate Action Tracker

<http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/saudiara>

# SOUTH AFRICA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**LEE-ANN STEENKAMP**



## South Africa–Falling Behind

The South African government has not made much progress in promulgating legislation to tackle carbon emissions. Its most important policy instrument—the carbon tax—has been on the table for a decade. No date is set for its implementation. South Africa's power utility, Eskom, is the largest CO2 emitter in the country, because it is so coal intensive. Once its latest coal-fired power station (named Medupi) is completed, it will release more carbon than the whole of Kenya.

A prominent scientific research body concluded that South Africa could 'decarbonize its electricity sector without pain' as 'clean and cheap are no longer trade-offs'. However, the Department of Energy has come under criticism for seemingly inflating the costs of renewable energy and their belief that a rapid shift to renewables will collapse the energy grid.

On September 25, 2015, South Africa submitted its INDC, which included a target of reducing GHG emissions to between 398 and 615 MtCO2e, over the period 2025 to 2030. South Africa ratified the Paris Agreement on November 1, 2016. The country's INDC is consistent with its pledge under the Copenhagen Accord, which proposes emissions reductions below business-as-usual (BAU) levels by 34% in 2020 and 42% in 2025.

Notwithstanding that the South African INDC assumes the finalization of an 'ambitious, fair, effective and binding' multilateral agreement under the UNFCCC at COP21, it also highlights that economic and social development and poverty eradication are South Africa's top priorities. However, South Africa's commitment could be considered as 'inadequate' in reaching the 2°C pathway. Although South Africa is a developing country, it has comparatively high emissions per capita. Consequently, the country's emissions reduction target should be strengthened.

Because of South Africa's very slow pace in implementing a domestic carbon tax and aggressively pursuing renewable energy programs, it is ranked as 'standing still'. There is clearly a lot of work that remains to be done.

## Learn More

South Africa's INDC is available at:

<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/South%20Africa/1/South%20Africa.pdf>

The Climate Action Tracker rankings are available at

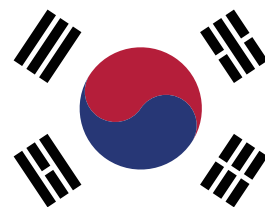
<http://climateactiontracker.org/countries/southafrica.html>, accessed 29 March 2017.

See: Sipho Kings 'Greening the Future 2017: How you can save the world' at <https://mg.co.za/article/2017-05-04-greening-the-future-2017-how-you-can-save-the-world/>

See David Hallows 'Death and destruction: What's left out of energy planning' at <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2017-04-24-death-and-destruction-whats-left-out-of-energy-planning/#.WRwA4tJ97cs>

# SOUTH KOREA

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**EUNJUNG LIM**



## South Korea–Moving Forward

The Korean Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) conducted a study to evaluate the effectiveness of Korea's Target Management System, using a Greenhouse-gas Reduction Efficiency (GRE) index. The policies are The Target Management System and the Emissions Trading Scheme.

South Korea's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Energy Target Management System, known as "Target Management System," was implemented between 2012 and 2015. According to this policy, 1,107 companies were under obligations to reduce their GHG emissions as of December 2015. After 2015 firms participating in the Target Management System were asked to participate in Korea's new Emission Trading Scheme (KETS). KETS is one of the world's largest cap-and-trade systems.



For its study, KEEI collected a dataset of 251 firms that were under the Target Management System. The data set included each firm's GHG emissions, energy consumption, sales, tangible assets, and number of workers between 2011 and 2015. Also, KEEI looked at changes in emissions by participating firms in the following sectors: semiconductors, displays, electronics, petrochemicals, iron and steel, shipbuilding, textiles, paper, ceramics, automobiles, power generation, cement, machinery, nonferrous metals, refining, telecommunications, and mining.

After the analysis, KEEI found that the average GRE index was improved in the first year of 2012, and then deteriorated from 2013 to 2014. However, in 2015 when the Emission Trading Scheme was initially implemented, the average GRE index was greatly improved. Some sectors, such as the refining sectors showed marked improvement, and the average emission levels of the fifteen major industries of South Korea improved compared to 2011. This data suggests that South Korea is moving forward in its efforts to support the Paris Agreement. Some criticize that South Korea's target is inadequate, but this study's findings show that South Korea is doing a good job to comply with its pledge at COP21

## Learn More

Korea Energy Economics Institute, "[A Positive Research on Greenhouse-gas Reduction Efficiency after Target Management System Implemented](#)" (December 2016)

# SPAIN

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**[ANDREA DELMAR-SENTIES](#)**



## Spain–Falling Behind

The EU Effort Sharing Emissions Calculator is a method used to implement the EU's Emission Sharing Regulation, which is intended to help set emission reduction targets for member states. The Calculator uses a points system where points are awarded based on various factors. The countries are then ranked based on the number of points awarded. As of March 2017, only one country ranked lower than Spain, and Spain's efforts to curb its carbon emissions were given a ranking of "very poor."

The factors upon which a country is awarded points include a country's starting point for determining projected 2021-2030 emissions, its stance on the land use loophole and ETS surplus loophole, its system for governing any adopted policies, and its ambition level, which is described as the following: "The ESR must set Europe on a path to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and hence contain a



trajectory to reach at least 95% emission cuts by 2050 supported by, at a minimum, a 45% reduction in non-ETS sectors by 2030.” The Effort Sharing Emissions Calculator provides a rubric that explains how the exact number of points for each category is awarded. The maximum number of points a country can receive is 100 and the lowest possible number is 0. Sweden holds the ranking of first place with 67 points, while Spain has only 9 points. The text below from the Emissions Calculator analysis of Spain illustrates why Spain was awarded the 9 points:

Spain wants to weaken the Commission proposal on the emission reductions starting point by moving the start of the trajectory from 2020 to 2021. This would allow the release of an additional 249 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> over the period in the EU as a whole compared to the Commission proposal. Spain could improve its position by advocating for a starting point that better reflects actual emissions, and by ensuring that countries that do not meet their 2020 targets are not rewarded for underachieving. A limitation on how much surplus can be banked for use in future years would lead to further emission cuts.

Spain has so far pushed for a bigger role for forests in the ESR, above all to help with the difficult task to maintain and enhance the Mediterranean forest sinks. Spain wants to do so by further expanding the categories of forestry offsets that can be used to meet the ESR targets (by including forest management offsets), which would allow more greenhouse gas emissions Spain could improve its position by advocating for reducing or removing the option to use forestry offsets to meet the ESR targets.

Spain is not among the nine countries that in the Commission proposal are allowed to use surplus ETS allowances to meet their ESR targets but seems to support the Commission proposal. Spain could improve its position by advocating for reducing or removing the option to use surplus ETS allowances Spain seems to support the Commission proposal for 5-yearly compliance checks. Spain could improve its position by advocating for yearly compliance checks and financial penalties.

Spain accepts its 2030 climate target of 26% emissions reductions, but is not planning to go beyond it, nor does it have a long-term climate target. Spain could improve its position by supporting a higher domestic 2030 target (as its own Parliament recommends) and an ambitious long-term target. In order to comply with the Paris Agreement, Spain may have to adopt some of the recommendations made above by Carbon Market Watch, including incorporating yearly compliance checks instead of 5-yearly checks, not advocating for the land use loophole, and by using the year 2020 as a starting point instead of the year 2021.

## **Learn More**

[http://carbonmarketwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EU-Climate-Leader-Board-Where-countries-stand-on-the-Effort-Sharing-Regulation-%E2%80%93-Europe%E2%80%99s-largest-climate-tool\\_final.pdf](http://carbonmarketwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/EU-Climate-Leader-Board-Where-countries-stand-on-the-Effort-Sharing-Regulation-%E2%80%93-Europe%E2%80%99s-largest-climate-tool_final.pdf)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/28/only-sweden-germany-france-pursuing-paris-climate-goals-study>

# THAILAND

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**NEEBIR BANERJEE**



## Thailand–Falling Behind

Thailand signed the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016 and ratified the Paris Agreement on September 21, 2016. Even before the Paris Agreement ratification, Thailand became a member of the Kyoto Protocol, which was developed in 1997 and came into force in February 16, 2005. Thailand as a member of non-annex party (group of developing countries) ratified the Kyoto Protocol on August 28, 2002 and made the pledge to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2008 to 2012 by at least 5 percent below 1990 levels. Thailand also made a commitment under the “Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol”, which is from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2020 and it aims at meeting an overall emissions reduction target of at least 18 percent below the 1990 levels.

Within the given time period from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2020; non-annex countries such as Thailand have the option of establishing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. From the timeframe 2005 to 2020, as an Annex 1 Party's commitment for the Kyoto Protocol, Thailand was involved in the facilitation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects (Saiyasitpanich, 2017). The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) mentioned in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol will allow developed Annex B countries with an emission reduction or emission limitation commitment to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries like Thailand. Examples of CDM activities, which are already in-place in Thailand along with other developing countries typically include rural electrification projects using solar panels and the installation of more energy efficient boilers. Thailand's pledge in the Kyoto Protocol compliments the pledge made in the Paris Agreement. This is because both the pledges are still active. The facilitation of CDM projects and at least 5 to 18% emissions reductions under the Kyoto Protocol will significantly help in successfully achieving the emissions reduction target of 20% for the Paris Agreement.

Thailand's Paris Agreement INDC pledge was drafted by The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The implementation of Thailand's INDC is regularly monitored by the Thai Government and the UNFCCC. Either group can suggest changes to their INDC, which are then made and finalized by ONEP. The government of Thailand is also responsible for formulating plans in the INDC. For instance, the government intends to make necessary changes to its INDC plans so that the plans adhere to the sustainable development principle. The sustainable development principle is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The government will play a lead-role towards actual implementation and evaluation of the INDC plans (Saiyasitpanich, 2017). Finally, for establishing the INDC, Thailand has proposed to remain consistent with the Sufficient Economy Philosophy (Saiyasitpanich, 2017).

Expert analysts suggest that Thailand facing numerous obstacles and still has a long way to go in terms of successfully complying with its Paris Agreement pledge. A clear-cut roadmap to successfully achieving its INDC's emissions reduction objectives is lacking. This creates a sense of uncertainty about the emission reduction strategies in place to successfully comply with the Paris Agreement. There are other obstacles that might hinder Thailand's long-term success in complying with the Paris Agreement. For instance, the ineffectiveness of existing climate change policies due to high budgets and the halting of renewable energy infrastructures is resulting in widespread criticism. There are proposed plans about increasing coal usage from 10% to around 25%, which will prevent Thailand from meeting the INDC targets. Other proposed developmental projects are in place under Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, which will likely increase the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the near future. The "Get Back Forest Policy" has received enormous criticisms by political opponents as well as strong resentment on behalf of indigenous communities as their land rights are being violated where the lands of indigenous communities in forests are being taken away to increase the forest area up to 40% of state territory. Finally, the Government policies with respect to the Paris Agreement have led to large-scale anger on behalf of small-scale marginalized farmers as they feel that they are being neglected. Therefore, in order for Thailand to comply with the Paris Agreement the government's policies need to be more transparent, inclusive, holistic and bottom-up. The top-down approach, which is currently in place, excludes the voices of different sectors of the society. Only with these change will the government's policies will be able to gain stronger support from all sectors of society. This in turn will help with the successful implementation of policies that will meet Thailand's Paris Agreement pledge.

## Learn More

To learn more about the presentation by Dr. Phirun Saiyasitpanich; and to know more about Thailand's steps to comply with the Paris Agreement in 2015 please visit [http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Thailand/1/Thailand\\_INDC.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Thailand/1/Thailand_INDC.pdf)

To learn more about the Clean Development Project please visit [http://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/mechanisms/clean\\_development\\_mechanism/items/2718.php](http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/mechanisms/clean_development_mechanism/items/2718.php)

To learn more about the National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) please visit <http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/items/7172.php>

To learn more about Thailand's pledge in the Kyoto Protocol please visit <http://www.tgo.or.th/2015/english/content.php?s1=31&s2=73&sub3=sub3>

To learn more about Thailand's INDC please visit [http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Thailand%20First/Thailand\\_INDC.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Thailand%20First/Thailand_INDC.pdf)

To learn more about the obstacles which might hinder Thailand's long-term success to comply with the Paris Agreement please visit <http://earthjournalism.net/stories/thailand-will-have-a-lot-to-do-following-adoption-of-the-new-paris-climate-agreement-on-saturday-while-looking-forward-to-collaborate-in-the-next-year-climate-talk-as-a-chair-of-g77>

To learn more about the Sufficient Economy Philosophy please visit <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=2126> and to learn about the Sufficient Economy in Thailand's context please visit <https://www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com/overview/middle-way-applying-king%E2%80%99s-philosophy-sufficiency-economy-long-term-sustainable-development>

To learn more about Thailand's 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan please visit <http://www.asialeds.org/resource/eleveth-national-economic-and-social-development-plan-2012-2016-thailand/>

# TURKEY

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**OZLEM DUHAN**



## Turkey–Falling Behind

Turkey's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) calls for a 21% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from a business as usual (BAU) level by 2030 with an implementation period that starts in 2021. However, coal-rich Turkey is straying further and further from the path of climate safety<sup>1</sup>. Experts have suggested that Turkey could establish carbon markets to achieve its INDC target. Carbon-pricing measures could reduce its projected emissions by 40%. But it seems this recommendation does not resonate with the current government as they intend to continue with the full utilization of domestic fossil fuel resources (mainly coal with low calorific value) until 2023.

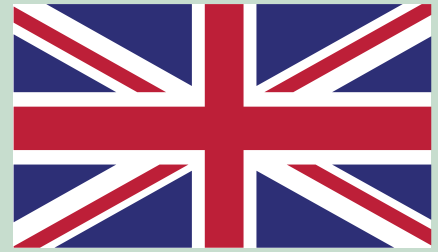
There is one thing that seems certain for Turkey: a fair, balanced, and equitable contribution to global efforts requires much progressive political will and a stronger commitment to international law. Climate Action Tracker and the Citizens Climate Agreement Campaign rank Turkey as "Inadequate". I do not completely agree with this ranking as private sector actors, the ministry, and international organizations are supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy markets through several projects. In 2015, among more than 30 recipient countries, Turkey got the lions' share (almost 20%) of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. In addition to EBRD, the government of Turkey has been working closely with other multilateral development banks such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation in order to tap other sources of climate financing including the Clean Technology Fund<sup>1</sup>. However, the legal authorities should also force carbon emitters to work on decreasing their carbon emissions. With greater political commitment, Turkey could at least improve its ranking as "Inadequate".

## Learn More

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2016/11/10/turkey-notes-from-a-state-of-climatic-emergency/>

# UNITED KINGDOM

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**ADAM BARNETT**



## United Kingdom—Standing Still

The Carbon Brief's report states that in order for the UK to meet its Paris Agreement goal, plans must be drawn up immediately for greenhouse gas removal technologies while simultaneously more work needs to be done to reduce its existing emission levels.

In line with the UK's 2008 Climate Change Act, 5-yearly 'carbon budgets' are drawn up to specify how the UK will reach both its target in the Paris Agreement, and the UK's self-imposed target to cut emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. However, the ambition that these carbon budgets state have been found to be not ambitious enough to reach the targets specified in the Paris Agreement—a 90% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050 with net zero emissions between 2050 and 2100. Though it must be noted that the Carbon Brief does state that the UK's goals are very ambitious compared to other countries, and to what is feasible within the limited time frame.

However, there is still the question as to whether the UK is achieving the goals mandated by its own carbon budgets. The release of the government's emission reduction plan has been delayed by a year, and projected UK emissions are far above what the carbon budgets require. The legal NGO ClientEarth even issued a report stating that the previously released government Carbon Plan in 2011 was in breach of its own act, and that it was not sufficient to meet the targets legally required.

When comparing the UK's actual emission levels, the carbon budgets and the Paris Agreement goals, it is clear that 'business as usual' for the UK will not even nearly ensure the required reductions. To meet them requires immediate and large investment in emission removal technologies, and a ratcheting of ambition for future carbon plans. This must include a reversal of the decision to begin fracking, a reinstating of the subsidies for solar power, and unequivocal support for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency.

## Learn More

Carbon Brief: 'UK needs negative emissions to comply with Paris Climate deal' October 2016. (<https://www.carbonbrief.org/cc-uk-needs-negative-emissions-to-comply-with-paris-climate-deal>)

# UNITED STATES

Submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager  
**STEPHANIE GAGNON**



## United States–Falling Behind

While under President Obama, the U.S. was on the right track to meeting its nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2025, President Trump has already begun the process of reversing many of Obama's crucial policies. Current projections estimate that at best, the U.S. will see a small increase in GHG emissions from current levels, and at worst, a large increase from current levels that matches the pathway projected prior to the enactment of Obama's climate change regulations. Climate Advisers hosts a series of projections on its website, which can be found in the "Learn More" links below. The projections separate Obama-era regulations into "highly vulnerable," "moderately vulnerable," and "vulnerable," based on how easily they can be undercut by executive orders or repealed through the Congressional Review Act. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the emissions reductions from Obama's policies are at risk to be negated with little to no legal protections. Many of these originally projected reductions are based on policies that intended to phase out the use of coal to generate electricity, but the Trump Administration has openly supported reversing these policies in favor of new regulations that expand coal mining and use. As much as 48% of the projected emissions reduction by 2025 could be reversed if coal is promoted as a fuel, rather than phased out, according to an article in Climate Home (see below).

The Trump administration has also withdrawn the US from the Paris Agreement.

According to the Climate Action Tracker, the U.S. is rated "moderate" in its commitments, "meaning that it is not yet consistent with limiting warming to below 2°C, let alone with the Paris Agreement's stronger 1.5°C limit." However, the tracker notes, "If the current policy scenario under the Trump Administration were to be codified as an NDC, the rating would drop to 'inadequate.'" In line with this assessment, the Citizens Climate Agreement Campaign rates the US two stars, and notes the inadequacy of its NDCs on the global scale.

The current President had made his position of opposition to renewable energy and GHG emissions reductions very clear. While the trackers referenced above have not shifted to mirror the uncertain political climate, it is unlikely that the US will meet its commitments, and is highly likely that it will begin "backsliding," even increasing its emissions overall from current and past levels.

The silver lining is that in the US private sector investments in renewables are growing, as is consumer demand for environmentally responsible products. Hopefully, the private sector will be able to make up some of the projected increase in emissions. However, since a major source of emissions is from coal-fired electricity generation, it is not likely that the private sector will be able to make up for all the

difference.

## **Learn More**

Climate Advisers' assessment of risk from pulling out of agreement (includes graphic):

<http://www.climateadvisers.com/trumpbacktracker/>

Potential for US to "backslide" on its commitments without pulling out entirely:

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2017/05/09/climate-advocates-bonn-stumped-trump-dilemma/>

Effects on global diplomacy of pulling out of the agreement:

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2017/05/09/china-warns-trump-leaving-paris-accord-risks-bad-deals-g7-g20/>

Tillerson endorses action to protect Arctic from climate change:

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2017/05/12/us-endorses-global-action-curb-greenhouse-gases-arctic-summit/>

Advisors want to stay in the agreement to "have a seat at the table," while others want to pull out entirely:

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2017/05/10/us-no-longer-worthy-paris-agreement/>



# ABOUT

**Climate Scorecard** is a participatory, transparent, and open data effort to engage all concerned citizens in supporting the implementation of the new 2015 Global Climate Agreement.

## Background

Over 190 countries endorsed a new global climate agreement in December 2015 at a United Nations meeting in Paris (known as COP21). The Paris Agreement is designed to stabilize the earth's climate and prevent our atmosphere from heating-up above a global warming tipping point of 2 degrees Celsius, beyond which scientists warn extreme ecological disasters will occur. The success of the new agreement is contingent on the efforts all countries, as well as non-state actors, must make to increase and honor their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2015, in preparation for COP 21, most countries submitted pledges, also known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 or earlier. The Paris Agreement recognizes that these pledges, while good starting points, are insufficient to avoid having the planet warm beyond 2 degrees Celsius. Therefore, all countries are encouraged to revisit and strengthen their pledges before the agreement goes into effect in 2020.

Climate Scorecard is a mechanism for supporting efforts needed to implement the new Paris Agreement. Such efforts include encouraging countries to increase their emission reduction pledges, tracking efforts to strengthen pre-Paris INDCs, making sure that countries put in place policies and programs to achieve their reduction targets, and holding nation-states accountable for fulfilling the promise of the Paris Agreement.

## HOW IT WORKS

The Climate Scorecard team has established a website - [www.climatescorecard.org](http://www.climatescorecard.org) - where everyone – citizens, organizations, businesses, researchers, members of governments, journalists – can share information related to emission reduction efforts in the top 25 greenhouse gas-emitting countries. Each of the 25 top greenhouse gas emitting countries has a page on our website where concerned stakeholders can post information related to the status of their country's pledge. Climate Scorecard's website also provides a set of 6 targeted results (see below) that we believe each country needs to achieve by 2020 in order to successfully implement the new Paris Agreement. These results are based on recommendations from the agreement itself, benchmark country emission reduction pledges, and our own research that has identified goals that all countries need to reach. Our targeted results provide a framework for tracking progress made by the top 25 greenhouse gas-emitting countries.



## Results for the Top 25 Greenhouse Gas-Emitting Countries to Achieve by 2020

- Strengthens its 2015 agreement pledge, or adheres to a pledge that meets Result 3 in the Framework
- Agrees and implements measures to reach the target of 20% unconditional emission reduction by 2020
- Agrees and implements measures to reach the target of 30% unconditional emission reduction by 2025
- Adopts the UN suggested baseline year of 2010 from which to calculate future reductions
- Agrees to and implements policies that achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050
- Make all aspects of its emission reduction process, including policy development and implementation, transparent and inclusive

## WHO WE ARE

An outstanding team of organizations and individuals is implementing Climate Scorecard. Coordination of our effort is through a partnership between The Global Citizens' Initiative (TGCI) and EarthAction- non-profit organizations with missions focused on environmental protection and citizen engagement. TGCI and EarthAction worked together to successfully implement last year's Citizens' Campaign for a 2015 Global Climate Agreement ([www.climateagreementcampaign.org](http://www.climateagreementcampaign.org)).

TGCI and Earth Action have recruited a team of 25 environmental graduate students and young professionals who serve as Country Managers, building and supporting networks of organizations and people to contribute and share information related to the post-Paris progress of each of the top 25 greenhouse gas-emitting countries.

In addition, university-based experts provide quality control and address technical questions related to documents that are proposed for posting on the Climate Scorecard website.

For further information about Climate Scorecard please contact Ron Israel, Executive Director, The Global Citizens' Initiative ([roncisrael@gmail.com](mailto:roncisrael@gmail.com)) or Lois Barber, Executive Director, EarthAction ([lois@earthaction.org](mailto:lois@earthaction.org)).