

PRACTICAL ACTIONS THAT HELP REBALANCE THE WORLD'S FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

[EU GCCA+ Regional Climate Change Workshops](#)

The fresh cycle of Multiannual Indicative Programming is expected to deliver key elements of the **European Union Green Deal (EU GD)** 'external dimensions'. With respect to climate action, the **European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA)** is pivotal in the EU's delivery of climate finance, technical assistance and political partnership.

The five **EU GCCA+ Regional Climate Change Workshops (22 April-6 May 2021)** are dedicated to EU programme managers both in Headquarter and on-the-ground in EU Delegations and will share information and tools to support the integration of climate change actions across *all* EU development cooperation programmes. Building strong synergies between #TeamEurope initiatives that have little to do with climate change, and those that are focused on it, may also inspire partner countries to explore opportunities not previously recognised.

The EU has developed, tested and replicated many successful examples of climate change programming through its diverse cooperation programmes and facilities. **Among these, the EU Global Climate Change Alliance+ stands out both for its longevity, and for the scope of geographies and sectors that it covers. In its 12 years of implementation, the EU GCCA+ has provided nearly €750 million support to more than 90 countries** providing myriad examples of how to build resilience, reduce or avoid emissions, and improve livelihoods.

As 2020 dawned, supporters of strong climate action hoped that the New Year would be a game changer for the environment, spurring decade of climate action ahead. The adoption of the European Union Green Deal in December 2019 set the pace and signaled the EU's vision for mid-century carbon neutrality. The EU Green Deal's *external dimensions* made clear that other countries had a part to play. For low and middle-income countries, this means building partnerships through tailored international development cooperation programmes that optimise resilience, mitigation potential and ambition, in the context of sustainable development.

It is only with the benefit of hindsight that we now know that even as the EU was launching the Green Deal, the first cases of a new 'viral pneumonia' were already emerging in China. Within a year, the resulting COVID-19 pandemic has killed 2.7 million and infected 122 million more crippling health systems, severing global supply global chains and decimating livelihoods. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates the equivalent of 220 million full time, mostly low paying jobs have been lost with Latin America and the Caribbean and Southern Asia faring worst. In January 2021, the World Bank estimated 94 million people had been plunged back into extreme poverty (<\$1.90 per day) in 2020. A further 31 million who would have otherwise graduated into the marginally better off, very low-income classes (<\$3.20 per day), did not.

A year on and with the world now focused on COVID recovery, some attention is returning to the climate change crisis. The news is not good. In February 2021, the United Nations revealed fewer than half of all countries had updated their national climate change goals under the Paris Agreement, and that these (including EU27) had increased global ambition by a paltry 2.4%.

More than ever, it is important for programme managers to help build new tools to tailor practical actions that help rebalance the world's fragile ecosystems, support peace and stability, and improving livelihoods everywhere.



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