

UN CTCN 2026 Joint Programme: Latin America and the Caribbean NDE Forum and Capacity Building

19-22 May 2026, San Ignacio Resort Hotel
San Ignacio, Belize, In-person meeting

Background

NDE Forum

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is the implementation arm of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism. For a decade, the CTCN has been promoting accelerated development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development at the request of developing countries. Implementing this mission, the CTCN has focused on the stimulation of technology cooperation and enhancement of the development and transfer of climate technologies to developing countries. Taking its mandate, CTCN has supported over 110 countries benefited from climate technology innovation, transfer, and knowledge sharing to date.

The CTCN provides technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries. With the ongoing Programme of Work, the focus lies on achieving transformative impacts and scaling up through national innovation systems and digitalization across five key areas: Water-Energy-Food nexus, Buildings and Infrastructure, Sustainable Mobility, Energy Systems, and Business and Industry. As part of its mandate and as one of its activities it organizes a Regional Forum for the National Designated Entities from Latin America and the Caribbean countries on an annual basis. The objective of these forum is to share experiences and best practices from CTCN technical assistance in the region, strengthening collaborations and enhancing linkages with other mechanisms under the convention and create networking opportunities through showcasing innovative climate technologies that respond to country priorities and support them in meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions.

Capacity Building on System Transformation at the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

The year 2026 marks the fourth year of CTCN's 3rd Programme of Work (PoW)¹, which places increased emphasis on moving from discrete technology support toward integrated, system-level transformation pathways. In parallel, the Network Engagement Strategy proposed during 26th Advisory Board meeting responds to the continued growth of the Network by calling for more systematic, visible, and meaningful engagement modalities that move beyond ad hoc participation and project-based interaction.

This agenda takes into account decisions adopted at COP28 and COP30, in particular the Technology Mechanism initiative on Artificial Intelligence for climate action (#AI4ClimateAction Initiative)² and its Joint Workplan³ (FCCC/CP/2023/11, paragraphs 6-8) and the establishment of the Belém Technology

¹ https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/default/files/resources/CTCN%20Third%20Programme%20of%20Work%202023-2027_2.pdf

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2023_11a01_adv.pdf

³ https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc_/StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/artificial_intelligence_cms_slot/e1673478d26041fb84b40a1b4c0ddb5d/cc306226d72e4dc9b52a1604bdf49a09.pdf

Implementation Programme (BTIP)⁴, which CTCN is requested to implement in the CTCN's workplans and programmes of work respectively (FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/L.18, paragraph 9 and 10). The Workplan for the #AI4ClimateAction Initiative requests CTCN to enhance the implementation of the outcomes of the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023-2027, whereas the BTIP is to be based on countries' technology priorities and places emphasis on demand-driven implementation and capacity building for technology deployment and diffusion, requesting the scope of CTCN support beyond enabling environments for research, development, and demonstration toward a more complete technology cycle.

Review of NDCs of LAC countries indicates that **nine countries**⁵ reference **digitalisation** as a means of strengthening endogenous capacity development in agriculture, highlighting demand for capacity building that connects digital tools to institutional and governance systems rather than standalone applications. The regions' priority technologies focus on **water management** including rainwater harvesting, stormwater reclamation and reuse, water mapping and modelling, and water-quality monitoring and **energy**, such as energy-efficient buildings and lighting, bioenergy, and solar energy, reflecting readiness for **cross-sector system transformation**, particularly at the water-energy-food nexus.

Converging scientific, institutional, and global policy directions, CTCN's 2026 Capacity Building Programme will be on System Transformation. In the context of climate change, system transformation refers to coordinated and sustained changes across technologies, institutions, behaviours, and decision-making processes that enable climate action to deliver measurable and lasting impact. As explained by the Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory (1994), outcomes are shaped not by isolated interventions, but by interactions across multiple, nested systems: from individual actors and organizations to policy, market, and socio-cultural environments. Applied to climate technology, this implies that impact emerges when capacities are strengthened simultaneously across these interconnected layers.

Reflection from the 2025 thematic capacity building programmes on Climate Finance and Co-creation reinforces this logic: when 99 NDEs were invited to reflect on the meaning of 'Impact,' they most frequently associated it with change, followed by consequences, action, and growth. When asked why impact matters, NDEs emphasized the need to move beyond the status quo, to improve livelihoods, and to measure progress. Together, these perspectives underscore that impact is understood by NDEs as a system-level outcome, achieved when capacity building enables coordinated change across interconnected layers.

Objectives of the Program

The 2026 LAC NDE Forum and Capacity Building will provide an opportunity to review experiences, including sharing of good practices and lessons learned from 2025 and devise ways for further enhancing collaboration in 2026 in line with regional, sub-regional and national priorities. **The key objectives of the Forum are:**

- Present the latest development of CTCN services to developing countries in the region and intra-regional sharing of experiences and best practices from technical assistance in LAC and innovations in climate technologies that are a priority for the region.
- Present the linkage between the CTCN support and National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Technology Needs Assessment (TNAs) / Technology Action Plans (TAPs).
- Develop and strengthen the regional NDEs network and its relationship with other climate actors.
- Identify financial opportunities for climate technologies.

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/documents/653589>

⁵ Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay

As part of newly introduced efforts under the Network Engagement Strategy, the Forum will host its first-ever Network Fair, creating a more deliberate and visible platform for a selected group of Network members to engage onsite with National Designated Entities and strengthen sustained, meaningful interaction.

The Forum will be held in conjunction with a region-tailored thematic capacity-building programme, this year, CTCN will deliver one-day workshop on Cross-sectoral System Transformation at Water-Energy-Food Nexus for the NDEs from LAC.

In response to the mandates on #AI4ClimateAction Initiative and BTIP, the workshop will share an overarching objective of learning automation technologies, such as drones and robotics, that can be integrated with AI software to achieve cross-sectoral changes for water and energy management.

In detail, the workshop will:

- a. Adhere exchange of information on enablers, good practices, challenges and lessons learned (BTIP, para 8(a));
- b. Provide support to developing countries, including national designated entities, for integrating their climate technology priorities into national policies, programmes and projects (BTIP, para 8(c)).

Participants

- NDEs from Latin America and the Caribbean
- CTCN AB members from the region
- TEC Members from LAC
- UNFCCC and CTCN Secretariats
- Network members and other stakeholders

Programme Agenda

Day 1, LAC NDE Forum 2026 (Tuesday, May 19)

Session 1: Official Opening of the 2026 LAC NDE Forum	
<i>Moderator: Ramiro Salinas Revollo, Latin America & Caribbean Regional Manager, CTCN</i>	
08:30~09:00	Registration
09:00-09:05	National Anthem
09:05~09:10	Opening Remarks <i>Edalmi Pinelo, NDE, Non-Annex I, Belize (Host Country) Chief Climate Change Officer, National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Belize</i>
09:10~09:20	Welcome Remarks <i>Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN (pre-recorded video)</i>
09:20~09:25	Remarks <i>Geon Hanson, CTCN Advisory Board Member, Non-Annex I, Belize</i>
09:25~09:30	Remarks <i>Pedro Ivo Ferraz da Silva, TEC Chair, Brazil Non-Annex I, Latin America and the Caribbean</i>
09:30~09:40	High-level Remarks <i>Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, Belize</i>
09:40~10:05	Round of Introductions NDEs and participants will briefly introduce themselves, including their respective countries and organizations.
10:05~10:15	Group Photos

Coffee break – 15 mins

Session 2: CTCN and TEC Updates on climate technology development and transfer under the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism	
<i>Moderator: Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement & Capacity Building Specialist, CTCN</i>	
10:30~11:25	<p>Presentation and Q&A on Technology Mechanism, CTCN and TEC – Updates on the Joint Work Programme (2023-2027)</p> <p><i>Pedro Antonio Coss Sanz, AB Member, Non-Annex I, Dominican Republic</i> <i>Pedro Ivo Ferraz da Silva, TEC Chair, Non-Annex I, Brazil</i></p>
11:25~11:50	<p>CTCN activities and priorities outlook for 2026-2027</p> <p>Presentation & Q&A – CTCN Flagship Programmes; LAC TA Portfolio; Priority topics for the Caribbean and Latin America; Latest CTCN knowledge products and NDE manual.</p> <p><i>Ramiro Salinas Revollo, Latin America & Caribbean Regional Manager, CTCN</i></p>
11:50~12:15	<p>TEC activities and priorities outlook for 2026-2027</p> <p>Presentation & Q&A – TEC Rolling Workplan; TEC on climate technology policy; Latest TEC knowledge products on climate technology policy.</p> <p><i>Edalmi Pinelo, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Belize</i></p>

Lunch break – 75 mins

Session 3: CTCN Flagship Programmes and Procedures	
<i>Moderator: Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement & Capacity Building Specialist, CTCN</i>	
13:30~13:50	<p>AFCIA updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of AFCIA II – sourcing mechanisms, modalities and conditions, examples of technical assistance activities that could be integrated into AFCIA through a “pre-TA” approach • Presentation on the AFCIA cluster in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC). <p><i>Nadege Trocellier, Global Adaptation Lead, CTCN</i></p> <p><i>Regina Rehorovska, Programme & Events Delivery Consultant, United Nations World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator (virtual participation)</i></p>

13:50~15:20	<p>Introduction to General TA ideation</p> <p>Presentation (15 mins) – key concepts and approaches relevant to technical assistance ideation, including Theory of Change (ToC), Social Return on Investment (SROI), stakeholder engagement, and stakeholder segmentation.</p> <p>NDE-to-NDE Group Discussion (75 mins) – Interactive mind-mapping exercise focused on identifying practical solutions and sharing experiences</p> <p><i>Laura Lesar, PhD Associate Professor Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University</i></p>
Coffee break – 15 mins	
15:35~16:50	<p>Open house format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Open House format is an interactive dialogue designed to foster learning and action. • Designated rapporteurs will provide a topic-related guide, address questions, and support the creation of outputs. • Participants will be divided into 3 groups and will rotate through 3 thematic stations focused on key CTCN operations. <p>Topic 1: Logistical Support (<i>Rapporteur: Ramiro Salinas Revollo</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key procedures related to Logistic Support and other countries' logistic support examples and go through the form to complete the exercise for your country. <p>Topic 2: Post Impact of TA (<i>Rapporteur: Nadege Trocellier</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key procedures related to the post-impact of TA, and go through the form to complete the exercise for your country. <p>Topic 3: NDE Survey (<i>Rapporteur: Thanh Thanh Tranova</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fill the 2026 Technology Mechanism NDE Survey, provide feedback and learn other NDEs' feedback shared to the Technology Mechanism.
16:50~17:00	Wrap-up for Open house Discussion
17:00~18:00	Cultural presentation and social gathering
Closure of Day 1	

**Day 2, LAC NDE Forum 2026
(Wednesday, May 20)**

08:30~09:00	Registration Impact videos of TAs
Session 4: SIDS of the Caribbean Moderator: 5Cs - Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	
09:00~10:30	<p>Presentations and panel discussion with countries and financing entities on opportunities for Caribbean SIDS to advance climate action through technology, finance, and innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are emerging opportunities and expectations for the region on climate technologies? • What climate solutions are being tested/deployed in your country? • How can we enhance long-term sustainability, partnerships and collaborations? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Naoki Uozawa, Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund</i> • <i>Mr. Eli Romero, Climate Finance Manager, Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT)</i> • <i>Dr Bapon Fakhruddin, Climate Investment Principal, Green Climate Fund (virtual participation)</i> • <i>Miguel Guzmán Mendoza, CAF</i> • <i>Edalmi Pinelo, NDE, Non-Annex I, Belize</i> • <i>Elrick Francis, NDE, Non-Annex I, Saint Kitts and Nevis</i>
Coffee break – 15 mins	
Session 5: System Transformation TAs by Network members Moderator: <i>Ramiro Salinas Revollo, Latin America & Caribbean Regional Manager, CTCN</i>	
10:45~11:15	Implementing partner 1 (WEF) <i>Omar Saleh, Managing Director at WaveSave & Zephyr Consulting</i>
11:15~11:45	Implementing partner 2 (Buildings and Infrastructure) <i>Dolan Eversole, Waikīkī Beach Management Coordinator, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (virtual participation)</i>

11:45~12:15	<p>Implementing partner 3 (Business and Industry)</p> <p><i>Laura Lesar, PhD Associate Professor Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University</i></p>
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Lunch break – 75 mins

Session 6: Network Fair
Moderator: Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement and Capacity Building Specialist

13:30 ~15:45	<p>Matchmaking session</p> <p>A curated matchmaking space where network members can showcase and pitch their solutions directly to NDEs in a structured and time-efficient setting. Rotation after 10 minutes.</p> <p>This would allow the NDEs to explore available technology solutions aligned with their priorities, while enabling network members to gain visibility, feedback, and potential pathways for collaboration.</p> <p><i>Confirmed:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zephyr Consulting (Netherlands) 2. IHCantabria (Spain) 3. Center for Social Impact, Flinders University (Australia) 4. GI E&S Co., Ltd. (South Korea) 5. Deuman (LAC) 6. Practical Action (LAC) 7. Praxi5 (Belize) 8. Center for Strategic Studies and Management, CGEE (Brazil) 9. Trama TecnoAmbiental S.L. (Costa Rica) 10. University College London - UCL (UK)
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Coffee break – 15 mins

Session 7: NDEs & CTCN

16:00 ~17:30	Pre-scheduled bilateral meetings between NDEs and the CTCN Secretariat
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Closure of Day 2

**Day 3, Capacity Building Programme
on System Transformation at the WEF Nexus
(Thursday, May 21)**

Moderator: Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement & Capacity Building Specialist, CTCN

Opening and Overview of the Day	
08:30~09:00	Registration
09:00~09:05	Welcome Remarks <i>Pedro Antonio Coss Sanz, AB Member, Dominican Republic</i>
09:05~09:15	Overview of the program and expected outputs <i>Thanh Thanh Tranova Network Engagement & Capacity Building Specialist, CTCN</i>
Session 1 - System transformation at the Water-Energy-Food nexus (105 mins)	
09:15~09:25	Setting the scene: Evolution of the WEF Nexus in CTCN's Work Presentation on CTCN's approach to WEF nexus system transformation <i>Ramiro Salinas Revollo, Latin America & Caribbean Regional Manager, CTCN</i>
09:25~09:35	CTCN Spotlight on WEF System Transformation TA Reducing smallholder vegetable farmers' vulnerability to climate change impacts including water scarcity in Mongolia through EbA and digitalized risk mitigation insurance solutions <i>Oiko Logica, Implementing Partner (video recording)</i>
09:35~10:20	National Insights: WEF Nexus in Belize Discussion (30 mins) and Q&A (15 mins) with national representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clifford Martinez, Director of Extension Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, Belize</i> • <i>Geon Hanson, Energy Officer, Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, Belize</i> • <i>Tennielle Hendy, Principal Hydrologist, National Hydrological Services, Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum & Mining, Belize</i>

10:20~11:00	<p>Group Discussions</p> <p>NDEs will engage in small group discussions to identify key patterns, enabling conditions for system transformation, and implications for NDE coordination roles.</p> <p>Group discussions (30 mins) + Plenary Sharing (10 mins)</p> <p>Guiding questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which institutional or governance conditions enabled successful interventions in WEF Nexus systems? • When pilots or projects end, what lasting capacities or knowledge remain to sustain system transformation? • How can NDEs best support coordination and learning across sectors to enable integrated solutions?
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Coffee break – 15 mins

Session 2 – Exploring WEF technologies and digital enablers (55 mins)

11:15~11:25	<p>WEF technologies through #AI4ClimateAction</p> <p>Presentation of the #AI4ClimateAction Initiative</p> <p><i>Pedro Ivo Ferraz da Silva, TEC Chair, Brazil Non-Annex I, Latin America and the Caribbean</i></p>
11:25~12:25	<p>WEF Emerging Tools, Technologies and Scenario Workshop</p> <p>NDEs will gain practical insights into how emerging technologies, warning systems, and digital tools can support integrated decision-making across the WEF Nexus. Through a real-world scenario exercise led by UCL, participants will explore how these approaches can strengthen preparedness, coordination, and resilience within their own contexts.</p> <p>10 min presentation, 5 min Q&A + 45 min Scenario Workshop</p> <p><i>Carina Fearnley, Professor in Warnings and Science Communication & Director UCL Warning Research Centre, University College London</i></p>

Lunch Break – 75 mins

Session 3 - Integrating WEF Nexus Technologies at the National Level

13:40~13:55	<p>From Systems Thinking to National Adaptation Planning</p> <p><i>Santiago Nuñez, UNEP (virtual presentation)</i></p>
13:55~14:00	Q&A
14:00~15:00	<p>Individual Exercise – National Mapping and TA Opportunities</p> <p>NDEs identify a priority WEF technology/intervention and map alignment with national frameworks, institutions, and key implementation barriers, and reflect on potential technical assistance needs.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which WEF technology or intervention is most relevant to your country, and how does it link to your national priorities or plans (e.g. NAP, NDC)? • Which key institutions need to be involved to implement or coordinate this? • What is the main gap or barrier, and how could this be addressed through a potential CTCN technical assistance request?

Coffee break – 15 mins

Session 4 - Scaling WEF Nexus Technologies at the Regional Level (90 mins)

15:15~15:35	<p>Regional Perspectives on Scaling WEF Nexus Solutions</p> <p>Regional opportunities for scaling integrated WEF nexus approaches across LAC and SIDS through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and technical cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Juana Garcia-Saqui, Adaptation Fund Coordinator, PACT</i> • <i>Jacinto Buenfil, Environment and Climate Change Policy Officer, FAO (virtual participation)</i>
15:35~15:50	Q&A
15:50~16:35	Group Exercise: Regional Pathways and Collaboration

	<p>Exploring opportunities for regional approaches, replication, shared data systems, and joint TA initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which WEF-related challenges or priorities are common across countries in your region? • Which WEF technologies, approaches, or solutions show the greatest potential for replication or scaling across the region? • What specific role can NDEs play in strengthening regional coordination and collaboration on WEF nexus solutions?
16:35~16:45	<p>Group Presentations</p> <p>Each group presents its national and regional insights, common barriers, and enabling conditions.</p>
<p>Feedback and Closing (25 mins) <i>Moderator: Ramiro Salinas Revollo, Latin America & Caribbean Regional Manager, CTCN</i></p>	
16:45~17:00	<p>Feedback from NDEs</p>
17:00~17:10	<p>Closing and way forward with CTCN</p>
<p>Closure of Day 3</p>	

Day 4, Site Visit (Friday, May 22)

Site visit	
08:00	Departure to Bulridge's Management Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve (MPR) • Chiquibul Forest Reserve (CFR)
10:00	Meet at entrance of Chiquibul Forest Reserve
10:00~11:00	Presentation about Bulridge and tour of facilities/trail hiking by creek
11:00~11:45	Group photo and travel back to MPR (for lunch)
11:45~13:00	Lunch
13:00~15:00	Tour along oak burn to see thinning operations, prescribed burns, and restoration
15:00	Thank you note by NCCO and departure to San Ignacio