

Climate change guatemala city

Explore historical and projected climate data, climate data by sector, impacts, key vulnerabilities and what adaptation measures are being taken. Explore the overview for a general context of how climate change is affecting Guatemala.

Guatemala is located in the Northernmost end of the Central American isthmus and to the West and North with Mexico, to the East with Belize and the Gulf of Honduras, to the Southeast with Honduras and El Salvador, and to the South with the Pacific Ocean. It is approximately 108,889 km² in size. It has a rugged topography with elevations that go from sea level to 4,200 meters above sea level, which gives the country six climate regions. It has an estimated population over 17.9 million inhabitants as of 2020.

Much of the country is mountainous and dominated by a string of volcanic ranges. Guatemala is the largest economy in Central America, one of the most densely populated and one of the poorest countries in the region. More than half of Guatemala's population lives in rural areas, and of that, 70 percent live in poverty. The Guatemalan economy is the largest in Central America and also the fifth poorest economy in Latin America and the Caribbean region with persistently high rates of poverty and inequality.

The economy is mainly driven by its agriculture sector which includes, livestock, hunting, forestry, and fisheries sub-sectors. The agriculture sector is particularly vulnerable as small agricultural producers are highly impacted by droughts associated with climate change. Assessments show that farmers lose, on average, 55% of their basic grain production during drought periods.

Guatemala's climate is not marked by normal seasons of the northern hemisphere, but by a rainy season (May to October) and the dry season (November to April). The rainy cycle occurs when establishes the regime of the trade winds of the northeast and, subsequently, when the zone intertropical convergence approaches these latitudes. From the end of August, the rainy season produces intense rainfall. The characteristics of the climate during dry season are determined by masses and cold migratory fronts.

Guatemala City, October 12, 2021--Guatemala has signed a landmark agreement with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) that will unlock up to US\$52.5 million for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and increasing carbon sequestration--commonly known as REDD+. This Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) will reward efforts to reduce 10.5 million tons of carbon emissions through 2025 under Guatemala's ambitious emissions reduction program.

"Guatemala means "place of many trees." This agreement further strengthens our commitment to preserving our rainforests and biodiversity, fighting climate change, and using our land sustainably and equitably for generations to come," stated Mario Rojas Espino, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala.

About 35% of Guatemala's total surface area is covered in forests, down considerably from 50% in 1950. Forests have been cleared primarily for agricultural use, livestock production, and urban settlements. Forest fires, pests and diseases, and illegal logging also put pressure of Guatemala's forests, as do the underlying socio-economic and cultural conditions, as well as institutional and productive barriers and weaknesses.

The land use, land use change, and forestry sector accounts for 27% of Guatemala's total annual emissions, making REDD+ a top priority for the country to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

Guatemala's emissions reduction program aims to tackle the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Covering over 31% of the national territory and 92% of forest lands, it seeks to strengthen the management of national protected areas and reinforce forest policy instruments, expand existing incentives to increase carbon stocks, and promote sustainable forest management. It also aims to strengthen the co-management of protected areas, agroforestry systems, and forest plantations.

"The World Bank Group is committed to support Guatemala foster inclusive and sustainable growth. This program will require the participation of diverse stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and will benefit all by helping in the conservation of valuable forest lands, a needed resource to help build back better for a green and resilient economic recovery," said Marco Scuriatti, World Bank representative for Guatemala.

The program includes an inclusive benefit sharing plan. It was developed through extensive stakeholder consultations at national and local levels to ensure that participating stakeholders, particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities that depend on forests for their livelihoods, are fairly recognized and rewarded for their role in reducing emissions.

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