

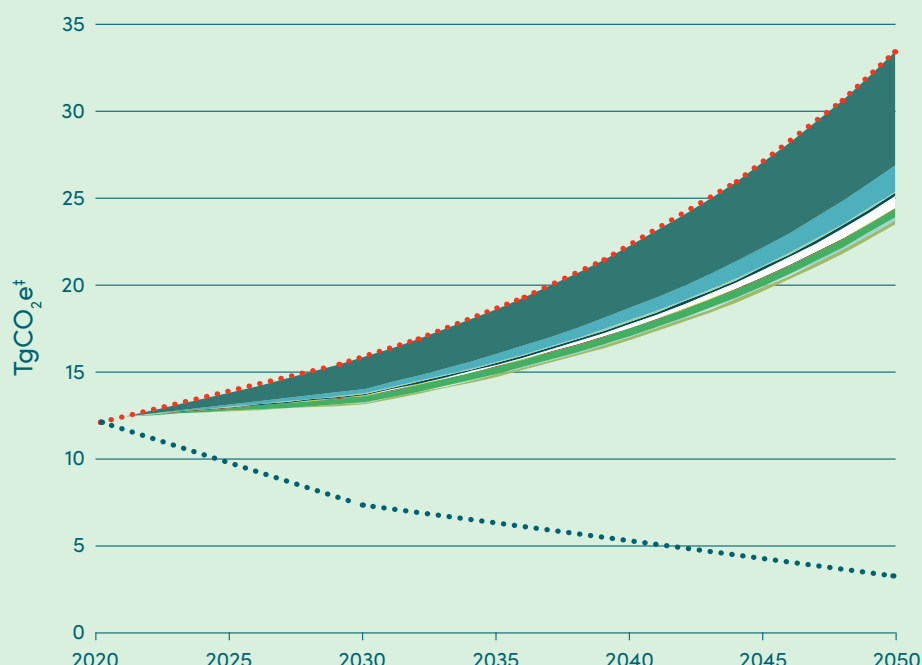
The Climate Pathway Project



Expected GHG[†] reductions from business as usual (BAU) through prioritised actions:

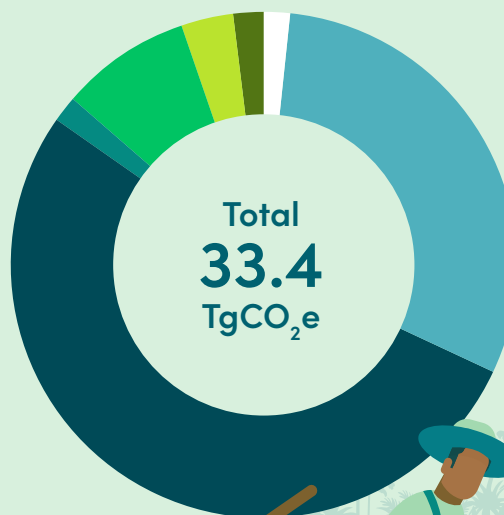
Priority Actions

- Centralised solar energy
- Centralised wind energy
- Urban housing – efficient design
- Commercial and institutional buildings: heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
- Electrification of vehicles
- Reduction of agricultural burning
- Planning infrastructure and urban growth to minimise deforestation
- Reducing the risk of forest fires
- Reduction of municipal source waste
- Recycling and composting of industrial solid waste
- Use of waste for energy production
- BAU scenario
- Decarbonisation target



Business as usual emissions (2050) per sector (TgCO₂e):

Forestry & Land Use	0.6
Energy	10.1
Transport	17.6
Agriculture	0.5
Industry	2.8
Waste	1.1
RCI [§]	0.6



[†] GHG = greenhouse gas.

[‡] TgCO₂e = Teragrams of carbon dioxide equivalent, 1 Tg = 1 million metric tonnes.

[§] RCI = Residential, Commercial, Industrial.

The above priority actions for decarbonisation were selected by the Government of Quintana Roo in the development of their state-level pathway.



GHG emissions targets chosen by Quintana Roo:

- 2030 goal: 21% reduction
- 2050 goal: 63% reduction

These targets were based on the reductions required by the state in order to align with the global objective of limiting emissions to below 2°C. Reductions are based off the 2016 emissions baseline. Quintana Roo's economy is principally based on tourism and the service sector, followed by the manufacturing, construction and food industries. The state is also the principal producer of precious woods, from its forestry sector, in the country.

The Climate Pathway Project supports state and regional governments to develop a transformational process, or 'pathway', to reducing emissions while supporting economic and social development, in collaboration with local communities and businesses.

A state on the verge of change and a pathway for continuity: Quintana Roo, Mexico

In April 2021, **Monica Mata** (Program Manager, Latin America) and **Natalie Orentlicher** (Knowledge and Learning Manager) of Climate Group had the opportunity to speak with **Miguel Suarez** (Director of Climate Change) and **Karen Fernandez** (Head of Climate Change Policy Department) from the Climate Change Directorate of the Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMA) of the Government of Quintana Roo, Mexico.



Miguel Suarez

Engagement of municipalities: society's first level of attention

Monica: **Why was it important to include municipalities in the process of developing the pathway and how did you ensure that their participation levels were high?**

Miguel: First, the pathway was developed with a governmental approach and several policy and planning instruments that municipalities already have were taken into account. The municipal level is the first level of attention to society, best understanding local needs and tendencies.

To ensure the participation of municipalities, we worked bilaterally and supported them so that they could see how important the process of building the pathway is for their work.

Karen: Fortunately, the State of Quintana Roo **has an inter-municipal board called AMUSUR – Municipal Association for the Environment of the South of Quintana Roo**, which ensured the participation of some municipalities. We also know that most of the municipalities in the state have considered the issue of climate change in their programmes. In the project workshops they expressed concerns about how the state could achieve synergies and propose a robust and solid strategy to address all of the needs that arise in each municipality.

Natalie: **Speaking of municipalities' interest in being involved, partly because they already have to deal with the issue of climate change, what challenges do they face?**

Miguel: The state could be divided into two parts, the north and the south. The north has always been more touristy and the main problem we have there is the urban growth in important cities such as Cancun. In future scenarios, we foresee a rise in sea level, which will have repercussions for the tourism sector. In the south, where we have a higher degree of forest conservation, we are affected by fires and agricultural burning.



Karen Fernandez



Monica Mata



Natalie Orentlicher



How to plan for transition? A Commission as a guarantee of implementation

Monica: What is the State Climate Change Commission (CECC)? And what was the process of involving in the pathway and, after the pathway is designed, how will it be implemented?

Miguel: The State Climate Change Commission (CECC) is an important platform where all governmental bodies and municipalities participate. It works across both sectors and levels. It is a platform where all progress and actions being developed in relation to climate change are made known.

Karen: Using the CECC as a platform to show the results of the pathway brought us closer to certain actors, e.g. stakeholders who were initially not aware of why they would have to be involved. Ensuring that these actions can be implemented is very controversial issue because we know that the government of Quintana Roo ends its term in 2022, and we know that governments bring their own priorities and plans. **So the task of this commission is to ensure that the government that comes to Quintana Roo includes some of the actions that are set out in the pathway within its state development programme.**

Monica: Do you think that engaging with inter-municipalities, such as the AMUSUR, will help you to implement the actions of the pathway?

Miguel & Karen: Yes, it will definitely help us. Despite the fact that AMUSUR only consists of the 4 municipalities in the southeast, out of a total of 11, the intention is to scale up and there is interest from the other municipalities in joining. We have identified AMUSUR as the entity that will help us to implement a many of the actions as it can develop and implement various projects at the state level. It also has the power to manage national and international financial resources. Finally, the inclusion of the CECC and the inter-municipality will help us to make this project last beyond the current administration.



The primary next step for Quintana Roo is to identify funding sources in order to implement the selected mitigation actions.



Institutional coordination, immediate actions and the role of the three government levels

Monica: Now that the pathway planning is over, what are the next steps for Quintana Roo?

Miguel: The primary next step for Quintana Roo is to identify funding sources in order to implement the selected mitigation actions.

Karen: Through the State Commission on Climate Change we will need to promote the actions that will be included in this state development programme and that will be implemented with the new government. With this, we could guarantee that state resources will be used for the fulfilment of some of these actions. It also gives us the opportunity in the future to look for sources of funding that will allow us to be successful.



Natalie: What advice do you have for other states interested in developing a pathway?

Miguel: **Institutional coordination** – if there is no coordination between institutions it is very difficult to make progress because there is often a misconception that climate change is only the task of the environment ministries.

Karen: It is very important that climate change is a cross-cutting issue that all three levels of government should prioritise. In addition, I'd advise other states and regions to focus initially on the short-term actions that can be implemented now and to reserve the most transformative actions for future consideration. This would ensure that the actions are in line with the trend of the pathway and in accordance with the goals that are set.

Natalie: What are some of the short-term actions that Quintana Roo prioritised?

Karen: We have three actions in the waste sector, one of which is short-term, because one of the state's priorities is to reduce waste generation. This is an issue that is already being addressed. For the future, we envisage that all waste will be transformed into energy, but this stage of energy extraction is a long-term action. Other short-term actions relate to the state's priorities in relation to clean energy, for example, wind energy generation. This also gives us a guarantee that, at least in the energy sector, we are going to make good progress towards meeting our goals.

Miguel: There have already been some trials that were carried out to generate energy from waste on Holbox Island, precisely because they had a very big waste problem. It was only a trial, but, nevertheless, these types of actions are being carried out. In the same way, AFOLU has programmes to combat forest fires through environmental education to make people aware of the use of fire management and to reduce agricultural burning.

Natalie: Thank you Miguel and Karen. Is there anything else you'd like to share that we haven't already mentioned?

Karen: It's important that we join forces with all of the actors who want to be included in the pathway in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce our emissions. The project was not focused on the tourism sector, which the state has as its economic flagship, but rather on the governmental side and on the planning instruments that exist. **We need the governmental counterpart to guarantee the implementation of the actions of the pathway and to add to what civil society, business and industry are doing. Together, we can address this climate emergency.**



It's important that we join forces with all of the actors who want to be included in the pathway in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce our emissions.



Supported by:

Lead Partner:

Partners: