El Salvador — Regulatory & Climate Framework

country	El Salvador
iso_code	SV
cth_presence	CLP cohorts only
gf_taxonomy	None — emerging interest post-COP28
ndc_target	30% unconditional / 50% conditional by 2030
eudr_commodities	Coffee, Cacao, Wood
schema_version	1.1
last_updated	2026-05-27

National Environmental Law

El Salvador's Ley de Medio Ambiente (Decreto Legislativo 233, 1998, reformed multiple times) provides the foundational environmental regulatory framework. The law establishes MARN (Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales) as the lead environmental authority and mandates environmental impact assessments for development projects. Subsequent reforms have incorporated climate change considerations, though the law predates modern climate policy frameworks.

NDC Commitments

El Salvador's updated NDC (2021) commits to a 30% unconditional and 50% conditional reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. Priority sectors include: (1) Energy — increasing renewable energy share to 74% of generation capacity, leveraging geothermal and solar; (2) AFOLU — reducing emissions from deforestation and land-use change through landscape restoration programs; (3) Waste — expanding methane capture from landfills. The conditional target is ambitious relative to the economy's size and depends heavily on international climate finance.

Key Institutions

MARN is the primary climate authority, responsible for NDC implementation and environmental regulation. The Consejo Nacional de Sustentabilidad Ambiental y Vulnerabilidad (CONASAV) provides cross-sectoral coordination. The Superintendencia del Sistema Financiero (SSF) regulates the financial sector but has not yet issued green finance guidance. The Consejo Salvadoreño del Café (CSC) manages coffee sector policy.

Climate Plans and Strategies

The Plan Nacional de Cambio Climático (PNCC) provides the strategic framework for climate action. El Salvador's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Plan Nacional de Restauración de Ecosistemas y Paisajes (Plan de Restauración) targets restoration of 1 million hectares through agroforestry and landscape approaches. The Estrategia Nacional de Medio Ambiente (ENMA) integrates climate resilience into environmental governance.

Dollarization and Green Finance Implications

El Salvador's dollarized economy (since 2001) creates unique green finance dynamics: (1) No exchange rate risk for international green bond investors; (2) Simplified cross-border investment structures for climate finance; (3) Federal Reserve monetary policy pass-through limits domestic monetary tools for green stimulus. The introduction of Bitcoin as legal tender (2021) has created regulatory uncertainty that may complicate green finance development.


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