Guatemala — Regulatory & Climate Framework

country	Guatemala
iso_code	GT
cth_presence	CLP cohorts only
gf_taxonomy	None — opportunity: largest Central American capital market
ndc_target	22.6% unconditional by 2030
eudr_commodities	Coffee, Cacao, Wood, Rubber
schema_version	1.1
last_updated	2026-05-27

Climate Framework

Guatemala's climate governance is anchored in Acuerdo Gubernativo 329-2009, which created the institutional framework for climate change response. This is one of the older climate instruments in the region and predates the Paris Agreement — it needs updating to reflect current ambitions. The Ley Marco para Regular la Reducción de la Vulnerabilidad, la Adaptación Obligatoria ante los Efectos del Cambio Climático y la Mitigación de Gases de Efecto Invernadero (Decreto 7-2013) provides a more recent legal foundation but implementation has been slow.

NDC Commitments

Guatemala's updated NDC (originally 2019, updated 2021) commits to a 22.6% unconditional GHG reduction by 2030 relative to BAU. This is the most modest unconditional target among the three countries in this phase, reflecting institutional and fiscal constraints. Key sectoral priorities: (1) LULUCF — reducing deforestation in Petén and the northern lowlands, which account for the majority of Guatemala's emissions; (2) Energy — expanding geothermal, solar, and biomass generation; (3) Agriculture — improved practices in coffee and staple crop production to reduce emissions intensity.

Key Institutions

MARN Guatemala (Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales) is the primary climate and environmental authority. CONAP (Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas) manages the Maya Biosphere Reserve and other protected areas. INAB (Instituto Nacional de Bosques) governs forest management and community forestry concessions. ANACAFÉ (Asociación Nacional del Café) manages coffee sector policy and export standards. The Superintendencia de Bancos regulates the financial sector but has limited green finance mandates.

Climate Plans and Strategies

Guatemala's Política Nacional de Cambio Climático provides the strategic vision. The Plan de Acción Nacional de Cambio Climático (PANCC) operationalizes NDC commitments. The Estrategia Nacional para la Reducción de la Deforestación (ENREDD+) targets reduced deforestation through REDD+ mechanisms, with Petén as the priority landscape. Guatemala's National Adaptation Plan focuses on water security, food sovereignty, and disaster risk reduction — reflecting the country's high vulnerability to hurricanes, drought, and volcanic activity.

Community Forest Concessions

Guatemala's community forest concession model in the Maya Biosphere Reserve's multiple-use zone is internationally recognized as one of the most successful community-managed forest governance systems in the tropics. ACOFOP (Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén) coordinates 12 community concessions covering over 400,000 hectares. This model has demonstrated deforestation rates near zero within concession areas, significantly lower than surrounding unmanaged areas. It is directly relevant to EUDR timber compliance and REDD+ carbon market activity.


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