

Environment and Climate Fact Sheet

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Environment and climate commitments made by members of the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#) have been consistently rated as highly ambitious and effective.
- ✓ Now, rebuilding from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic presents an even greater opportunity for governments to think long-term and invest in a more sustainable future.
- ✓ While OGP members have worked mostly on increasing transparency of environment-related information, the focus must shift to giving the public more oversight of climate finance and a greater voice in environmental decision-making.

WHY ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE?

In the face of intensifying climate change, resilient governments will require new policies and innovations. The values of open government - transparency, public participation, and accountability - allow governments and citizens to see the true costs of pollution, discuss alternative approaches for development, and ensure there is adequate public oversight of government action.

Governments and civil society alike can use the OGP platform to act and subsequently share their innovations to help mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

STATUS QUO

- **Green spending:** As part of their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [many OGP countries](#) created new green initiatives and dedicated recovery spending to green transitions. This large increase in green spending provides new opportunities for transparency and accountability in climate finance.
- **Escazú Agreement:** Five OGP countries are using their OGP action plans to implement the Escazú Agreement, which aims to guarantee the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making, and access to justice in environmental affairs.
- **Ambitious public oversight:** About half of OGP environment and climate commitments involve elements of civic participation. Less than ten percent involve public accountability, but almost all environment and climate commitments with accountability elements have been evaluated as highly ambitious.

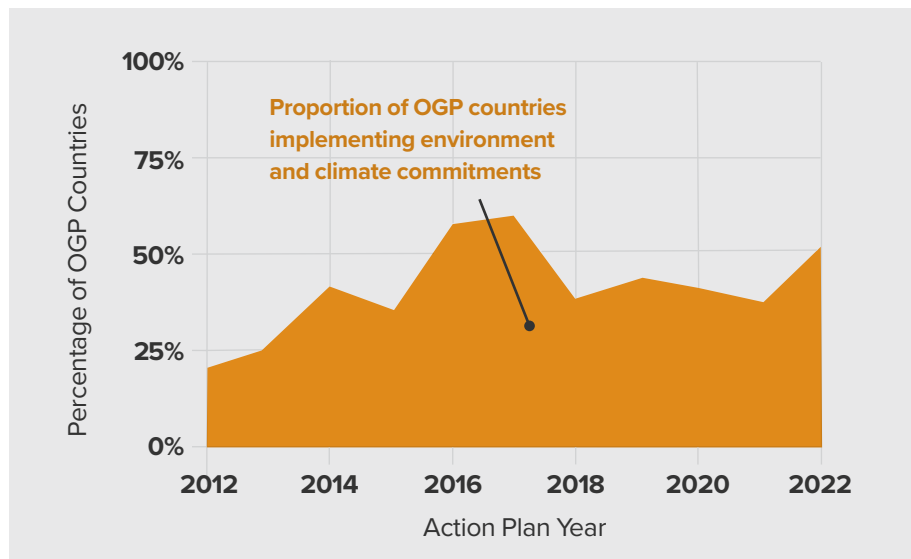
This fact sheet covers all commitments submitted as of June 30, 2023. As of this date, OGP consisted of 76 national and 104 local members.

Open
Government
Partnership

COMMITMENT PROGRESS

Environment and climate commitments have been consistently popular in recent years (see figure below*). Over half of active national action plans and nearly one-third of local action plans currently include an environment and climate commitment. Altogether, 56 OGP countries and 33 local jurisdictions have made a total of 242 environment and climate commitments since OGP was established in 2011.

*Figure displays commitment trends at the national level due to recent growth in local members.



WHAT ARE OGP MEMBERS DOING?

- Publishing data and research about pollution and climate change
- Ensuring citizen participation in the creation of environmental policy
- Creating public accountability mechanisms for environmental complaints
- Conducting environmental impact assessments

WHERE TO NEXT

The following recommendations summarize key actions for OGP members to implement:

Greater Scope of Transparency

- Publish sectoral greenhouse gas reporting and ensure data is interoperable for comparison between countries and sectors.
- Make fossil fuel subsidies and their impact more transparent.
- Ensure greater transparency and accountability in climate finance.

Civic Participation

- Guarantee adequate participation, especially for vulnerable groups, in the design and implementation of green measures.
- Invest in climate-smart infrastructure and human systems, and allow the public to help prioritize these investments through participatory budgeting.

Institutional Reform

- Promote regulatory reform, such as by enhancing regulatory impact assessment processes, ending enforcement holidays, and applying a multi-stakeholder approach to regulatory changes.
- Sponsor research and development with time-limited protections on the data.
- Improve institutional resilience to climate change, such as by disclosing climate risks and ensuring legal redress for climate-related harms.

NOTABLE COMMITMENTS

Recent Results



Denmark - Publishing Climate Data (2019)

In October 2019, the Danish Meteorological Institute launched the Climate Atlas, a database that includes user-friendly climate indicators, time progressions, high-resolution data models, and education materials for high schools. The institute used input from citizens and municipal governments to develop the user interface and decide what data and models were needed. Climate Atlas' data provide important insights for municipalities, regions, and the state on climate adaptation.



Paris, France - Mobilizing Climate Reform Advocates (2019)

In 2018, the city of Paris and 15,000 citizens co-created a new Climate Plan, establishing ambitious environmental goals for 2050. As part of the Climate Plan's dissemination, the city trained over 30,000 youth volunteers on climate issues and facilitated mobilization to combat climate change. Citizens have been further empowered to present climate proposals through the Citizens' Assembly and the participatory budgeting initiative.

Commitments to Watch



Argentina - Implementing the Escazú Agreement (2022)

Argentina aims to create conditions for inclusive and informed public participation in environmental decision-making, in line with the Escazú Agreement. This will include publishing information on the Escazú Agreement and citizens' rights in environmental matters, as well as creating opportunities for citizens to participate early on in environmental decision-making processes.



Indonesia - Protecting Environmental Defenders (2022)

Indonesia committed to conducting a study on legal protections for environmental defenders. The legal review will provide recommendations for the Indonesian Police and will serve as a foundation when building future legal protections for environmental activists.



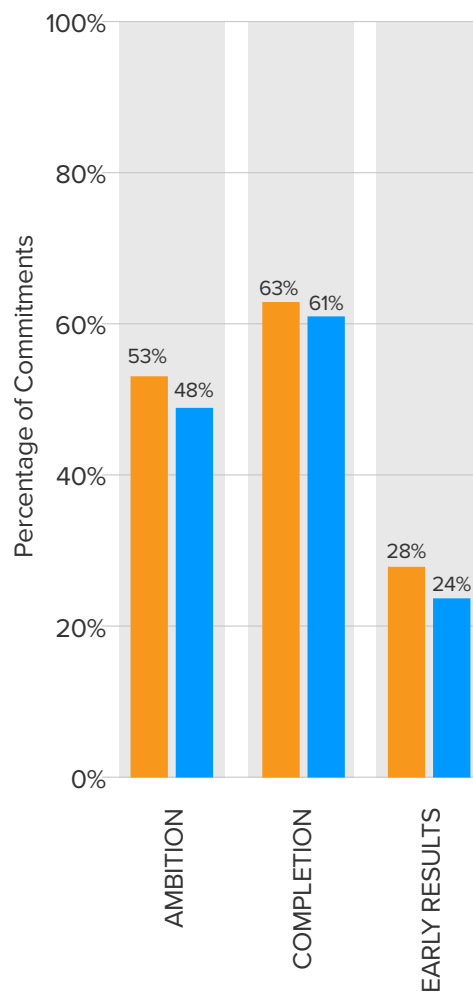
Nigeria - Implementing the Climate Change Act (2023)

Nigeria committed to implementing its new Climate Change Act, a framework which promotes inclusive green growth, sustainable economic development, and the achievement of net-zero emissions in line with international agreements. Implementation will include increased citizen participation in designing and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

IRM QUICK STATS

According to OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), environment and climate commitments are a bit more ambitious and achieve stronger early results than the average OGP commitment.

Commitment Performance



Environment and climate commitments

All OGP commitments

Ambition - Ambitious commitments are those that have substantial potential for results, according to the IRM.

Completion - Completed commitments indicate that the commitment was substantially or fully implemented within the action plan period.

Early Results - Strong early results indicate the commitment made significant improvements to government openness.