

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Chile

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Chilean Climate Change Commitments

Report Categories:

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

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Report Highlights:

Chile is not a significant emitter of greenhouse gases. According to statistics from the International Energy Agency (IEA)(www.iea.org), which considers only domestic CO₂ emissions from hydrocarbon combustion, Chile only contributes about 0.2% of total global emissions (IEA, 2009, IEA, 2010). This percentage has remained stable over time. This figure does not include emissions generated by sea and air transport associated with Chile's international exports. In the most recent document prepared by the IEA (2010) Chile was 61st in the world for per capita CO₂ emissions in 2008. However, Chilean emissions are increasing rapidly, mainly due to the growth of the energy sector.

General Information:

In 1994 Chile became a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international treaty whose goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to stabilize the global increase in temperature. According to Article 12 of the Convention, the Parties must submit information relevant to climate change to the Secretariat through their National Communications. According to the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment Chile has delivered two reports.

In 2010, Chile signed the Copenhagen Accord. On August 26, 2010 Chile presented information for the inclusion in Appendix II of the Accord which stated that: Chile will take appropriate mitigation actions to achieve a 20% deviation in the growth trajectory of "usual" emissions for the year 2020. To meet this objective, Chile will require a significant degree of international support. As for the appropriate mitigation actions nationwide, the main focus will be on energy efficiency, renewable energy, land use and land use change and forestry.

After the 16th Convention of the Parties to the UNFCCC was held in Cancun in 2010, Chile left with a series of tasks, including the ratification of the current voluntary commitment against the UNFCCC to deviate from the baseline "business as usual" by 20% in 2020 and continue to implement Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) to meet goals under the current compromise.

Additionally, Chile must provide more detailed information to the UNFCCC on their current commitments, in particular present their official baseline quantification of tons of greenhouse gases in 2020 and the necessary NAMAs to achieve this goal of a 20 percent reduction.

Chile must deliver its first bi-annual report to the UNFCCC in December 2014, including an update of the national inventory of GHG, information on mitigation actions and their effects, as well as international support received and submit it to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, in order to get additional international support and recognition.

According to the Ministry of Environment's Climate Change Office, while Chile has had historically relatively low emissions, the continued rapid development of its economy will increase them rapidly. Chile has the political will to act and will be responsible for implementing unilateral and funded NAMAs with the support from Annex I countries through technology transfer, financing and capacity building, which must be subject to a strict processes of measurement, reporting and verification.

Since 2010, the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment has been in charge of coordinating actions and identifying and developing NAMAs by working with the most relevant source sectors. There are currently projects ongoing with the transportation sector, where there is an initiative called "Green Zone Transportation of Santiago, a Development Plan for Electric Mobility Chile". In the forestry sector there is an initiative that promotes forestry management with an emphasis on carbon sequestration. In the area of self-sufficiency there is a "System of Energy Self-Sufficiency" from renewable energy (RE) in the industry and the public infrastructure. In order to reduce organic waste Chile has a Cooperation Framework adopted with the Government of Canada that has pledged support for a preliminary study of the development of NAMAs in that sector.

Under Chile's UNFCCC obligations they also have a government initiative with international support that hopes to generate over two years (beginning March 2012) information, modeling and research on the trajectories of emission of greenhouse gases in Chile. They will use this information to identify specific actions to mitigate

emissions in the country, consistent with national development strategies; proposes possible measures of public and private policy to advance the mitigation and support the international commitment to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions.