



CONCEPT NOTE

Strengthening Local Capacities for Climate Action: Chile's Experience



Monday, 10 November 2025

13:30 – 14:45 (UTC-3)

Venue: Science for Climate Action Pavilion (MERI / IPCC / WMO)



Livestream: <https://scienceforclimateaction.org>

Background

Chile has taken a decisive step toward advancing climate governance with the enactment of its **Framework Law on Climate Change (2022)**. This landmark legislation mandates the creation and implementation of **Regional and Local Climate Change Action Plans**, positioning subnational governments as key actors in the country's path to **carbon neutrality by 2050**.

To support this transformative process, the **Program for Strengthening Regional and Local Capacities for the Implementation of the Framework Law** has trained more than **600 public officials and local stakeholders** across Chile. Led by the **Ministry of the Environment**, with the support of the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2)**, this initiative represents an unprecedented nationwide effort to enhance technical and institutional capacities for climate action — positioning Chile as a **regional reference in decentralized and participatory climate governance**.

Complementing this work, the project **“Strengthening Capacities and Civic Participation for Climate-Resilient Communities in Chile”** focuses on empowering public, private, and community actors to plan and implement local adaptation and mitigation measures. Through **participatory workshops, technical support, and collaboration among scientists, municipalities, and communities** — such as in **San José de Maipo**, a municipality highly exposed to climatic and geological risks — the project promotes inclusive, evidence-based planning and enhances local resilience.

Together, these initiatives highlight Chile's leadership in linking **national frameworks with local implementation**, offering valuable lessons for other countries seeking to strengthen **multi-level governance** and **community-based climate resilience**.



Objectives

- **Showcase** Chile's experience implementing its Climate Change Framework Law, emphasizing how local governments are building institutional and technical capacities to meet new legal mandates and deliver effective climate action.
- **Highlight** multi-level governance as a bridge between national NDC commitments and local implementation, identifying the role of academia and strategic partnerships in supporting municipalities through data, training, and co-created tools for participatory, science-based decision-making.
- **Extract lessons and policy recommendations** for Latin America and beyond on how national frameworks can empower local governments — by aligning mandates with local capacities, embedding participation, and ensuring sustainable finance and long-term support mechanisms.

Speaker	Topic
Pilar Moraga Director, Center for Climate and Resilience Research CR2, Chile	Context of Chile's Climate Change Framework Law (LMCC) and description of the Capacity-Building Program for Regional and Local Implementation of the Law.
Andrés Pica Head, Climate Change Division, Ministry of the Environment, Chile	NDC 3.0: Key elements of the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) related to capacity building.
Antonia Samur Project Manager – Consultant, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Climate School, Columbia University, USA	Presentation of the capacity-building project implemented in three municipalities in Chile, and the role of academic collaborations.
Karina Cabello Head of the Environment Unit, Municipality of San José de Maipo, Chile	Experience of the Municipality of San José de Maipo in developing its Local Climate Change Action Plan (PACCC), and the challenges of implementation considering local capacities.

Moderator



Rodrigo Astorga

Coordinator, Socio-Ecological Transition Program, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Chile

Rodrigo Astorga Hering is an economist with an MSc in Economics from the University of Chile and an MSc in Environment and Resource Management from VU Amsterdam. He coordinates the Socio-Ecological Transition Program at the Heinrich Böll Foundation for Chile, Peru and Bolivia. Rodrigo has worked with ECLAC, ILO, GEF, IISD, and Chile's Ministries of Environment and Economy, among other national and international institutions. His publications and opinion pieces cover environmental economics, sustainable development, public policy, and resource governance, supported by extensive experience in research, policy analysis, and project management in multidisciplinary contexts.

Speakers



Karina Cabello

Head, Environment Unit, Municipality of San José de Maipo, Chile

Karina Cabello is a Social Worker, with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and certification as a Family Mediator. Born in the Maipo Valley at the foot of the Andes Mountains. She holds a Diploma in Environment and Sustainable Development from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, a Diploma in Landscape and Green Infrastructure with a specialization in Biodiversity from the University of Chile, and a Diploma in Climate Action and Municipal Action, also from the University of Chile. She is currently pursuing a degree in Environmental and Risk Prevention Engineering at the Escuela de Comercio y Servicios de Santiago.



Pilar Moraga

Director, Center for Climate and Resilience Research CR2, Chile

Pilar Moraga is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Chile. She holds a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Lille 2, France, and serves as Director of the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR2) and the Environmental Law Center at the University of Chile. Her research focuses on environmental law, climate change, and energy policy. She has served as a consultant for UNISDR, ECLAC, the World Bank, Euroclima, and ParlAmericas, and is a member of the Group of Experts for the Global Pact for the Environment.



Antonia Samur

Project Manager – Consultant, National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Climate School, Columbia University, USA

Antonia Samur is a practitioner specializing in climate adaptation, disaster risk management, and community resilience. Founder of Risk Ready LLC and former Senior Staff Associate at Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness, she leads initiatives supporting local governments in Chile and Puerto Rico to design and implement climate action and risk management plans. She holds degrees in Economics (University of Chile) and in International Development and Climate Policy (Columbia University; Sciences Po Paris).



Andrés Pica

Head, Climate Change Division, Ministry of the Environment, Chile

Andrés Pica is an Industrial Civil Engineer from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds an MSc in Environmental Engineering from the Politecnico di Torino. He was Project Leader for Latin America at Sustainable Solutions Group and Executive Director of the UC Center for Global Change. He previously headed the Air Quality Division at Chile's Ministry of the Environment (2017–2018), leading policies on air quality and climate change. He has taught at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana. In 2017 he was recognized among the World Energy Council's 100 Future Energy Leaders.