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Québec's International Climate Cooperation Program (PCCI)

Government: Québec, Canada

Region: North America

Sector: Climate finance, Resilience

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Introduction

The Government of Québec has implemented an International Climate Cooperation Program (PCCI) to support climate change mitigation and adaptation in the world's most vulnerable francophone countries. With a total budget of \$18 million, the PCCI supports projects of Québec organizations that are working in partnership with local organizations to reduce emissions or adapt to the effects of climate change in those countries.

Québec's recognizes that climate change is a major risk that threatens to increase poverty and undermine the basic security of people around the world. For these reasons, the Government of Québec wants to help build a safer, fairer, more sustainable world. The government's climate efforts are structured by its 2013–2020 Action Plan on Climate Change (PACC 2013–2020), which gave rise to the PCCI.

As a member of the *International Organisation of la Francophonie*, Québec is committed to promoting a global francophone economy that is resilient, inclusive and sustainable. As an act of climate solidarity, the PCCI is squarely aligned with that commitment. The PCCI is also part of an emerging climate diplomacy in which the actions of subnational governments are crucial to the success of global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.



Background and objectives: supporting the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change

By adopting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the 2015 Paris Agreement, the international community took on the task of providing more support to developing nations to fight climate change.

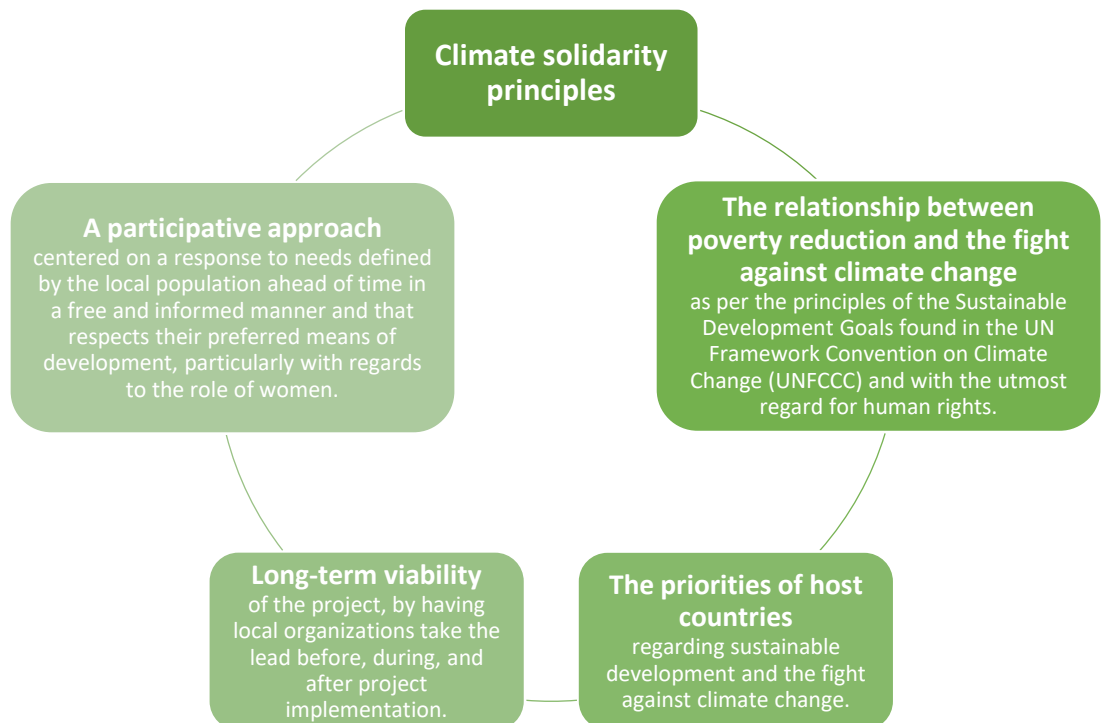
Following the Paris Climate Change Conference, Québec answered the call by adopting a series of measures to foster international climate cooperation and support efforts by the francophone countries most vulnerable and most exposed to the impacts of climate change. Backed by a total of C\$25.5 million, these measures include:

- A \$6 million contribution to the Global Environment Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund—a first for a federated state
- The creation of a youth initiative in partnership with the *Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable* and *Les Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJIQ)*, with \$1.39 million in financing to support skill-building among young educators and entrepreneurs
- Partial funding for the translation into French of the International Institute for Sustainable Development's *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, so that representatives of francophone countries can stay abreast of the major issues surrounding the negotiations and thus more actively participate.
- The implementation of the PCCI

Structure of the International Climate Cooperation Program (PCCI)

Climate cooperation framework:

To be eligible, projects need to be aligned with the general principals of Québec's approach to climate solidarity and focus on one or more of the following dimensions.





Dimensions covered the projects:

Local Leadership:



Support education and training among local partner organizations and strengthen their capabilities and governance so that local communities can take the lead in the fight against climate change.

Research:



Support the development and dissemination of potential solutions that are culturally appropriate, particularly (but not limited to) those that draw on local technical and scientific expertise in the fight against climate change.

Technology:



Transfer, adapt, and deploy proven clean technologies in one of the sectors identified in the call for projects.

Business Ecosystems:



Foster the emergence of a business ecosystem and efficient value chains so that clean technologies can be successfully deployed and maintained.

Climate cooperation partners:

One of the innovative aspects of the PCCI is that the program is aimed at Québec businesses, non-profit organizations (NPOs), and research institutions alike. Cross-disciplinary consortiums and partnerships are strongly encouraged so that the projects can benefit from the respective strengths of business, NPO, and research players.

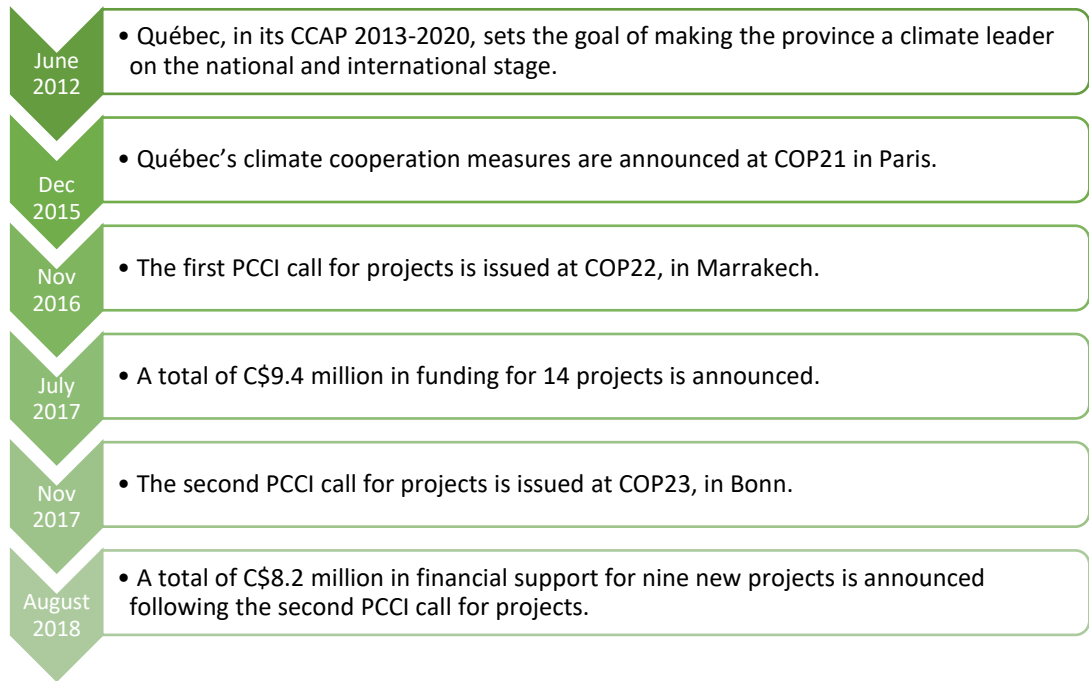
In keeping with Québec's approach to international solidarity, the projects have to be mounted in close cooperation with local organizations that are active in the field and understand the needs of local communities. The continued success of cooperation and solidarity projects is largely dependent on the quality of the partnerships established.

The Government of Québec has thus created an advisory committee to support the development and deployment of this new program, with a focus on partnerships. Envoy for Climate Change and Northern and Arctic Affairs Jean Lemire has been appointed chair of the committee, which is made up of representatives from international cooperation agencies, clean tech companies, and leading climate change researchers.

42 Québec organizations involved	54 local cooperation partners
12 companies	3 companies
14 NPOs	32 NPOs
16 research institutions	15 training and research institutions
	4 government agencies



Timeline



Funding

The total budget for the program is \$18 million for the period up to March 31, 2021. Funding is capped at C\$1 million per project.

The money for the program comes from Green Fund, a sustainable development fund that receives all of the revenue from Québec's cap and trade system, which is part of the Western Climate Initiative carbon market, in order to fund measures that fight climate change.

Results

- **Projects** – The PCCI received 106 funding applications across the two calls for projects. A total of 23 projects will be carried out with the allocated funding. Of these, 14 are led by Québec non-profit organizations (NPOs), six are led by Québec companies, and three are led by Québec research institutions.
- **Topics** – The funded projects reflect the wide variety of challenges faced by francophone countries and the needs of local communities. They also complement existing local initiatives. The topics covered by the projects include climate science, female entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, sustainable fishing, climate-responsive agriculture, agroforestry, waste management, water and soil quality management, and green buildings.



A few examples of projects:

Biothermica Technologies Inc. (Haiti)

This project aims to transform waste management in the municipality of Gonaïves, Haiti, through a residential garbage collection program, feasibility and engineering studies on the capture of biogas, the generation of energy from the waste and, at the end of the project, the issuance of carbon credits through the UNFCCC's Clean Development Mechanism.

Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie (Benin)

This project aims to provide support for two technical and professional agricultural training institutions in Benin—one in Sékou and one in Kika—with the aim of incorporating the impacts of climate change on agriculture and water resources into the educational programs. The project is partly based on an agroforest method involving ramial chipped wood technology and will improve the climate change resilience of 375 farms run by the schools' graduates.

Unisfera (Burkina Faso)

This project aims to propel the adoption of an ancestral building technique in which sundried earth bricks are used to build structures known as Nubian vaults. Nubian vault-type structures are more resistant to storms and extreme weather conditions and stay cool in hot weather. They last upwards of 50 years, compared to 10 years for the average conventional home in the Sahel. With Nubian vaults, there are no felling of trees and no GHG emissions from the production and transportation of cement and sheet metal.

Ouranos (Morocco)

The goal of Ouranos's project is to help Morocco's government agencies make greater use of the available scientific information on climate change and adaptations to climate change in their decision making. The project will involve the creation and operationalization of CAMELUS, an organization designed to connect scientific research and government bodies. In addition, over 500 Moroccan government employees will learn new approaches for taking climate change into account when revising public policy.

Challenges and key lessons learned

- One of the main challenges of the climate cooperation program is to foster the creation of partnerships between the private sector, international cooperation agencies and research institutions.
 - To succeed, PCCI documents clearly identify the criteria used to rank funding applications. Every project promoter was subject to these same criteria.
 - A concerted effort was also made to balance the mix of sectors and build on the strengths of each. The creation of an advisory committee that brings together the main actors in the field has been of great use in that regard.
- It is essential to provide the organizations running the projects with support in managing the challenges that inevitably arise with international initiatives. That's why the team in charge of the program offers personalized support for each organization aligned with the international solidarity practices adopted by the Government of Québec.

More information

International Climate Cooperation Program (PCCI) (in French):

mdelcc.gouv.qc.ca/programmes/coop-climatique-internationale/index.htm