

Country profile – Panama

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 30, 2025)

Key pledge: None specified for the waste sector.

Total score:

3/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (1/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (1/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (1/4)
1-1. Does the NDC explicitly recognize the waste sector's GHG impact and set specific reduction targets?	2-1. Is the country planning to recognize and integrate waste pickers into the formal system?	3-1. Are there plans for meaningful consultation with local orgs, unions, integration of best grassroots practices?	4-1. Does it explicitly rule out waste-to-energy incineration, cement kiln burning, chemical recycling/pyrolysis?	5-1. Does this country recognize the co-benefits of waste sector climate action?
Panama's NDC mentions that the country has set a 2035 carbon neutrality goal for different sectors, including the waste sector.	No recognition or integration plan for waste pickers.	The NDC generally notes multi-stakeholder consultations that were conducted for the NDC preparation.	The NDC does not exclude incineration or other false solutions.	Co-benefits for climate mitigation work in general are mentioned, but nothing is linked to the waste sector.
1-2. Is the country following the ZW hierarchy? Based on detailed approaches mentioned in NDC	2-2. Does the country include waste pickers as one of the key stakeholders?			5-2. Does this country highlight the importance of addressing class, race, and gender-based injustices? Particularly in the waste sector?
The NDC describes no plans or management strategies for waste beyond briefly mentioning reducing waste as a part of a transition to a circular economy without concrete measures for doing so.	No mechanisms for waste pickers' participation in planning or governance. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No financial or programmatic support identified.			Equity, inclusivity, and just transition are highlighted as the country's priority in climate actions, although it is not specifically linked to the waste sector and is lacking concrete measures.

Analysis

What's good about Panama's NDC?

The NDC briefly acknowledges the waste sector as one of the mitigation areas. In general, it notes that the country prioritizes the most vulnerable sectors and promotes a just transition that integrates human rights, gender equality, equity, decent work, and poverty reduction, committing to recognizing existing social inequalities and fostering the involvement of historically excluded groups.

What's not good?

Panama's NDC does not set any specific or quantitative waste-sector mitigation commitments. It overlooks the zero waste hierarchy and fails to describe concrete measures such as source separation or organics management. The document also provides no discussion of waste pickers or waste management co-benefits.

Summary

Panamá's NDC briefly acknowledges the mitigation potential in the waste sector, with an assumption that the implementation of relevant policies, plans, and measures will contribute to reducing the overall waste generation beginning in 2030. However, the NDC lacks specificity, targets, or policies to support how the country will achieve waste reduction.