



25TH ANNIVERSARY
2000-2025

NDC Tracker

Visit the live web page at no-burn.org/NDC-Tracker

What is it about? Why?

Waste methane reduction is critical for climate change mitigation. According to the IPCC (2023), waste contributes around 20% to human-driven methane emissions which is responsible for nearly 45% current net global warming.

Action needs to be aligned with environmental justice (EJ) to avoid exacerbating social divisions and excluding critical stakeholders, especially in the informal sector. Guided by EJ principles, investing in community- and waste picker-led organic waste management projects is faster and cost-effective, and they also generate the greatest co-benefits.

NDCs go beyond just cutting emissions. They are meant to guide the transformation of societies in a fair and sustainable way, including actions on climate adaptation, support for vulnerable communities, and climate financing.

In 2025, stakes are high with the cyclical update of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – climate action plans that countries create as part of the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit climate change. Will countries be up to the challenge? GAIA's NDC Tracker aims to provide quick data and country profiles through the lens of the Environmental Justice Principles for Fast Action on Waste and Methane, which guides policymakers on how to craft programs and policies for tackling methane that can also help address interconnected equity issues. With this tracker, we hope to support communities with monitoring country-level commitments and progress, identifying gaps and opportunities to advance this critical agenda.

NDC Tracker

● Negative plan for the waste sector ● Positive plan for the waste sector ● Mixed plan for the waste sector



AT A GLANCE

Bangladesh

Score

12/30

Bangladesh's NDC is technology-focused and lacks waste prevention and justice-oriented actions.

Brazil

Score

13/30

Brazil's NDC offers solid framing and incentives but lacks enforceable targets, prevention measures, and technology safeguards.

Chile

Score

18/30

Chile's NDC has strong waste prevention and organics management policies and its justice emphasis can be strengthened with waste picker integration plans.

Colombia

Score

9/30

Colombia's socially-strong NDC is weakened by the lack of concrete climate plans for waste and no consideration for waste pickers.

Costa Rica

Score

20/30

Costa Rica's NDC promotes inclusive, just waste management but weakens zero-waste goals by supporting thermal waste-to-energy technologies.

Ecuador

Score

5/30

Ecuador's NDC includes landfill and separation measures but remains modest, lacking specific targets and waste picker inclusion.

Ethiopia

Score

7/30

Ethiopia's NDC effectively uses biological waste solutions without incineration, but neglects connection to livelihoods, equity, and community-led efforts.

Indonesia

Score

12/30

Indonesia's NDC integrates waste into national mitigation plans and emphasizes just transition, but lacks waste picker inclusion and promotes waste-to-energy incineration.

Kenya

Score

3/30

Kenya's NDC only briefly mentions waste and offers no commitments, targets, or environmental justice measures.

Liberia

Score

15/30

Liberia's NDC advances waste-sector mitigation but lacks waste picker inclusion and source reduction, limiting broader social and environmental benefits.

AT A GLANCE

Mexico

Score
21/30

Mexico's NDC values waste-sector mitigation and waste pickers' roles but weakens ambition by exploring waste-to-energy incineration and RDF for cement kilns.

Morocco

Score
19/30

Morocco's NDC prioritizes waste prevention and recycling, but its reliance on co-incineration and absence of waste picker integration weaken its justice focus.

Nepal

Score
10/30

Nepal's NDC sets clear timelines and collection measures but undermines them with waste-to-energy expansion and weak justice alignment.

Nigeria

Score
9/30

Nigeria's NDC prioritizes waste prevention and recycling but overlooks waste pickers' roles in climate mitigation.

Panama

Score
3/30

Panama's climate plan briefly acknowledges waste mitigation but lacks specific targets or policies for waste reduction.

Peru

Score
9/30

Peru's NDC promotes composting and inclusion but supports waste-burning and excludes waste pickers from equitable waste-sector transformation.

Rwanda

Score
11/30

Rwanda's NDC promotes methane reduction actions including composting but still supports incineration and neglects waste picker inclusion.

Uruguay

Score
10/30

Uruguay's NDC sets strong waste targets but weakens its approach with equity gaps and waste-to-energy promotion.

Zambia

Score
8/30

Zambia's NDC advances waste mitigation goals but ignores waste pickers' inclusion and fails to exclude harmful waste-to-energy approaches.

Zimbabwe

Score
6/30

Zimbabwe's NDC includes methane capture and composting but lacks upstream actions, environmental justice policies, and zero waste ambition.

Bangladesh



Score

12/30

Bangladesh's NDC is technology-focused and lacks waste prevention and justice-oriented actions.



Country profile – Bangladesh

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 29, 2025)

Key pledge: Establish waste treatment facilities for collection, composting, and recycling by 2035

Total score:

12/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (3/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (4/6)	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 (3/4)
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?
Yes. The NDC lists quantitative GHG reduction potential for waste management under mitigation options.	It has concrete actions for formalizing waste pickers into the formal system, through training and job creation through repair, reuse, and recycling hubs.	The NDC describes a consultative process involving government ministries, NGOs, private sector, and development partners.	No. The NDC promotes expansion of chemical recycling, including plastics pyrolysis and gasification.	It recognizes co-benefits such as air quality, universal health care, creation of green jobs, food security, and just energy transition.
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 waste management approach lacks upstream solutions, with a focus on source separation, composting, recycling, and refuse-derived fuel (RDF). It does not include prevention measures.	The informal sector is considered as part of inclusive consultation processes.			The NDC mainstreams gender equality and women's empowerment across all climate actions, including initiatives to support women and youth-led recycling enterprises and introducing disability-friendly waste facilities.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers?			
	The plan includes providing waste pickers with health care, protective personal equipment, and proper contracts for waste pickers.			

Analysis

What's good about Bangladesh's NDC?

Bangladesh's NDC explicitly recognizes the importance of centering climate justice in its mitigation plans, with concrete measures to provide social protection and integration of waste pickers into the formal sector. It has strong language on co-benefits of climate actions in the waste sector as well, such as promoting climate resilience, job creation, creating sustainable livelihoods, and fostering social equity, and commits to develop a national just transition framework and sectoral roadmaps in priority areas including waste management.

What's not good?

Bangladesh's NDC mostly addresses climate mitigation strategies in the waste sector through technological infrastructure build-out, falling short of a holistic upstream approach. It includes plans to expand waste-to-energy incineration and energy recovery of waste through pyrolysis and gasification, which are costly and polluting approaches to mitigating GHG emissions in the waste sector.

Summary

While Bangladesh's NDC recognizes climate justice, equity, and inclusion of marginalized groups such as women and girls, waste pickers, and people with disabilities, the current framework is heavily centered around technological fixes without upstream prevention efforts, failing to adhere to the waste hierarchy.

Brazil



Score

13/30

Brazil's NDC offers solid framing and incentives but lacks enforceable targets, prevention measures, and technology safeguards.

Country profile – Brazil

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on November 13, 2024)

Key pledge: Tax incentives for recycled materials and reuse by individuals, cooperatives, and grassroots organizations.

Total score:

13/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (8/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (3/6)	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?
Waste is a named mitigation sector with methane reduction prioritized, but there are no waste-specific, time-bound targets	Includes a tax incentive to support recycling and reuse activities by individuals, cooperatives, and grassroots organizations such as waste picker collectives.	Significant civil society engagement with specific workshops across many cities, but no waste-specific stakeholder mechanisms.	No. The NDC does not rule out WtE incineration, cement-kiln co-processing, or chemical/"advanced" recycling.	No. Co-benefits are mentioned only at an economy-wide level, not specifically for 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 advances some treatment options (anaerobic digestion, aerobic treatment i.e. composting) but lacks upstream prevention commitments and any phase-out of disposal or WTE.	While the NDC references broad stakeholder engagement and offers a tax incentive applicable to cooperatives, it does not explicitly list waste pickers as key stakeholders.			Equity concerns (gender, race) are acknowledged broadly across the plan, but they aren't translated into specific waste-sector commitments or safeguards.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? Yes, via the tax incentive.			

Analysis

What's good about Brazil's NDC?

Brazil's NDC elevates the waste sector as a distinct mitigation pillar and identifies organics management through composting and anaerobic digestion with methane capture. Circular economy references are referenced with respect to multiple ministries, and the tax incentive for recycled material purchases explicitly includes individuals, cooperatives, and grassroots organizations, creating a pathway for waste pickers to benefit from national climate planning. The national climate plan was developed through a participatory process engaging diverse stakeholders, and the NDC references reuse and recycling alongside organics management.

What's not good?

The absence of time-bound, sector-specific waste targets undermines accountability. Upstream prevention is not prioritized, and there is no commitment to phasing out disposal or false solutions like incineration. A bioplastics provision risks entrenching plastic production rather than reducing it. Waste picker integration is limited to indirect acknowledgement via incentives, with no formal plan for inclusion or protection. Justice measures are broad and not linked to waste-sector implementation.

Summary

Brazil's NDC combines solid policy framing with some concrete measures for organics management, plus potential benefits for waste pickers via tax incentives. However, without enforceable targets, upstream prevention, or explicit technology safeguards, it falls short of transformative change.

Chile



Score

18/30

Chile's NDC has strong waste prevention and organics management policies and its justice emphasis can be strengthened with waste picker integration plans.



Country profile – Chile

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 23, 2025)

Key pledge: Promote municipal organic waste recovery by 2030 (at least 50% of regions to have regional strategic plans by 2028)

Total score:

18/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (14/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (2/4)
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?
The NDC recognizes the importance of GHG emissions reduction strategy in the waste sector, referring to the national waste management policy framework (Law No. 20.920) and the Circular Economy Roadmap 2035.	No mention of waste pickers or informal sector workers.	Significant civil society engagement with robust regional multi-stakeholder consultations, with concrete plans to respect and incorporate indigenous and local ecological knowledge.	No. The NDC does not explicitly rule out WtE incineration, cement-kiln co-processing, or chemical/"advanced" recycling.	Certain co-benefits are recognized, including green, decent jobs, and reduced pollution, and equity.
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 mentions upstream solutions including food loss prevention and regulation of single use plastics. It also emphasizes material recovery of organic waste management, with no mention of waste-to-energy incineration.	No. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No.			It includes general language about equity, gender, inequality, Indigenous Peoples inclusion, etc. although not specifically in the context of waste-sector commitments or safeguards.

Analysis

What's good about Chile's NDC?

Chile's NDC firmly recognizes the critical value of mitigating climate impacts in the waste sector, centered around waste prevention (including prevention of food loss), recycling, and organic waste recovery. A positive aspect of Chile's NDC is that it explicitly incorporates the National Strategy for a Just Socio-Ecological Transition as its social pillar. This demonstrates Chile's commitment to embedding social equity, labor protection, and community well-being into its climate strategy, ensuring that the transition to a low-carbon economy is inclusive and just.

What's not good?

Although Chile's NDC includes a social pillar of just transition (La Estrategia Nacional de Transición Socioecológica Justa), promoting social equity and a fair low-carbon transition, it does not specifically recognize waste pickers despite their distinct contribution to collecting and recovering materials. In addition, ambiguities remain around controversial practices that involve waste burning.

Summary

Chile's NDC presents solid policy frameworks for climate mitigation in the waste sector, with concrete measures for waste prevention and organics management, while recognizing the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement, local knowledge, and co-benefits. The NDC can be further strengthened with specified measures that recognize and protect grassroots recyclers, ensuring a just transition as well as safeguards put in place against controversial practices, such as energy recovery through incineration or co-processing.

Colombia



Score

9/30

Colombia's socially-strong NDC is weakened by the lack of concrete climate plans for waste and no consideration for waste pickers.

Country profile – Colombia

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 25, 2025)

Key pledge: Reduce food loss and waste, strengthen recovery and redistribution as part of the climate plan.

Total score:

9/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (3/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (4/4)
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?
The NDC includes reducing food loss and waste, strengthening recovery and redistribution as one of the priorities.	No recognition or integration plan for waste pickers.	Institutional consultation mechanisms are noted for some of the key stakeholders, such as children, adolescents, and young people, Indigenous Peoples, ethnic groups, landworkers, etc.	The NDC does not exclude incineration or other false solutions.	It includes elaborated sections with concrete measures for women, children, Indigenous Peoples, landworkers, etc.
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 mentions food loss and waste reduction, composting, recycling, and anaerobic digestion/biogas as circular economy strategies, along with refuse-derived fuel (RDF)/mechanical and biological treatment (MBT).	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.			The NDC integrates cross-cutting principles for climate action, such as human rights, intergenerational equity, just transition, gender equity, differentiated approaches for ethnic communities and vulnerable populations, etc.

Analysis

What's good about Colombia's NDC?

Colombia's NDC generally recognizes the waste sector as one of climate mitigation areas, with some elements of the Zero Waste Hierarchy reflected in the strategies. The NDC shows exceptional commitment to social equity, by explicitly centering just transition, human rights, and gender equity, with concrete measures specifically addressing vulnerable groups such as women, children, ethnic groups, Indigenous Peoples, and landworkers, etc.

What's not good?

Colombia's NDC lacks concrete plans, strategies, and measures to implement its circular economy strategies, such as food loss and waste reduction, composting, recycling, and anaerobic digestion/biogas. It also demonstrates no considerations for waste pickers or waste management co-benefits.

Summary

Colombia's NDC reflects the country's strong commitment to social equity, integrating cross-cutting principles. However, this is significantly undermined by a lack of concrete plans and strategies for mitigation in the waste sector and a complete absence of considerations for waste pickers and the social/environmental co-benefits of waste management.

Costa Rica



Score

20/30

Costa Rica's NDC promotes inclusive, just waste management but weakens zero-waste goals by supporting thermal waste-to-energy technologies.

Country profile – Costa Rica

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on November 14, 2025)

Key pledge: 100% of the country's municipalities will implement separate collection and recovery of organic waste by 2030.

Total score:
20/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (9/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (6/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (3/4)
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?
Yes, the NDC explicitly recognizes the waste sector as a key mitigation area and sets quantifiable reduction targets, including organic waste reduction targets.	The NDC prioritizes waste pickers inclusion, with a focus on integrating them into the formal economy via employment opportunities.	The NDC was developed through participatory and consultative processes involving local governments, municipalities, civil society, and the integration of the vision and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples. Also the NDC institutes just transition as a transversal principle, requiring effective participation across all climate actions.	No, the NDC does not explicitly rule out these technologies; it specifically details plans for using refuse-derived alternative fuels in cement kilns and mentions implementing gasification plants and systems for energy utilization from waste.	Yes, the NDC maximizes co-benefits from mitigation actions, such as improved health, productivity, resilience, and quality employment.
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 generally follows the ZW hierarchy, focusing on prevention, separate collection, composting (with targets to treat a minimum of 154,000 tons of organic waste by 2035), and recycling. However, it deploys thermal processing such as gasification and co-incineration in cement kilns.	Yes, primarily through economic inclusion, local entrepreneurship, and the overarching framework of Just Transition. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? It aims to support their transition toward green jobs.			It explicitly seeks inclusion of women and sectors traditionally excluded (including waste pickers and indigenous peoples) in waste management and employment programs.

Analysis

What's good about Costa Rica's NDC?

Costa Rica's NDC shows strong commitments to improvements in waste management. Targets include 100% municipal separate collection and treatment of organic residues by 2030, treating a minimum of 100,000 tons, in line with the National Composting Plan. It clearly puts emphasis on social inclusion and prioritizes the integration of waste pickers into the formal economy, primarily securing opportunities for green jobs. Just transition is well recognized as an overarching principle, guiding effective participation across all climate actions.

What's not good?

Costa Rica's NDC still relies on thermal waste-to-energy technologies that undermine zero waste principles. It does not rule out incineration, gasification, or the use of refuse-derived fuels in cement kilns – approaches that pose environmental and social risks.

Summary

Costa Rica advances strong plans for waste management in the latest NDC, while emphasizing social justice, inclusive green jobs, open and participatory processes, and a just transition. However, its reliance on thermal waste-to-energy technologies undercuts zero waste ambitions, weakening the overall sustainability of its waste strategy.

Ecuador



Score

5/30

Ecuador's NDC includes landfill and separation measures but remains modest, lacking specific targets and waste picker inclusion.

Country profile – Ecuador

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on February 2, 2025)

Key pledge: Promoting source separation and organics management as part of its waste-sector mitigation strategy.

Total score:

5/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (3/16)	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?
The NDC explicitly includes the waste sector, quantifying its emissions share and identifying activities such as landfill methane capture, organics management, and source separation. However, it does not establish specific emission reduction targets.	The NDC does not mention or recognize waste pickers or informal recyclers.	General participatory principles are included (gender, interculturality, intergenerational equity), but there are no waste-sector-specific consultation mechanisms or grassroots integration.	The NDC does not exclude incineration or other false solutions.	Co-benefits of waste sector climate action are not referenced.
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 references source separation and organics management but places equal emphasis on landfill methane capture and energy recovery. There is no plan to phase out disposal.	No discussion of waste pickers' involvement in policy processes or sector planning.			Gender, multiculturalism, and intergenerational equity are included across the NDC, but they are not connected to waste-sector measures.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers?			
	No financial mechanisms or incentives for waste pickers.			

Analysis

What's good about Ecuador's NDC?

Ecuador's NDC explicitly acknowledges the waste sector, quantifying its share of national emissions (5.43% in 2022). It identifies specific actions such as methane capture at landfills, nationwide organics valorization, and source separation.

What's not good?

Overall, the NDC lacks measurable waste-sector targets, does not follow the full zero waste hierarchy, and omits upstream prevention and waste picker inclusion. There is no financial or policy support for informal sector workers, no explicit rejection of false solutions, and justice considerations remain disconnected from waste-sector actions.

Summary

Ecuador's NDC positions the waste sector as part of its climate mitigation strategy, with measures like landfill methane capture, source separation, and organic waste management. However, it lacks specific, quantifiable targets and includes no mention of waste pickers. Overall, Ecuador's waste provisions remain modest, leaving it in the red category.

Ethiopia



Score

7/30

Ethiopia's NDC effectively uses biological waste solutions without incineration, but neglects connection to livelihoods, equity, and community-led efforts.

Country profile – Ethiopia

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 26, 2025)

Key pledge: Solid waste coverage will rise from 61.3% to 83% by 2035.

Total score:

7/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (4/16)	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 (2/4)
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?
Yes, it explicitly recognizes the waste sector's emissions and includes a specific numeric reduction target.	No mention of waste pickers or informal sector workers.	Broad language on participation of different stakeholders, but not with concrete plans.	No. The NDC neither promotes nor rules out waste-to-energy incineration and other false solutions.	It recognizes co-benefits such as reducing pollution and flood vulnerability.
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 does not provide much detail on waste prevention or management strategies, other than expanding 'solid waste coverage' and scaling up biogas in the context of diversifying energy sources.	No. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No.			The NDC mentions that gender equality and social inclusion will be mainstreamed across all sectors through participatory implementation and monitoring.

Analysis

What's good about Ethiopia's NDC?

Ethiopia's NDC clearly recognizes the waste sector's role in national climate mitigation, with a quantified reduction target. The document reflects the country's priority of expanding collection and anaerobic digestion (biogas) with no reliance on waste-to-energy incineration and other false solutions.

What's not good?

Ethiopia's NDC remains institutionally and socially narrow, emphasizing infrastructure over inclusion. It makes no reference to waste pickers, informal recyclers, or community cooperatives, missing an opportunity to connect climate action with social protection and livelihoods. The NDC also lacks mention of recycling systems, EPR, or details of organic waste recovery, leaving unclear how the country will manage upstream waste prevention and material recovery.

Summary

Ethiopia's NDC provides a quantitative baseline for waste-sector mitigation and its avoidance of incineration and focus on biological solutions reflect a prudent, climate-consistent approach. However, there is a lack of linkage between waste management and livelihoods, community-led solutions, and equity.

Indonesia



Score

12/30

Indonesia's NDC integrates waste into national mitigation plans and emphasizes just transition, but lacks waste picker inclusion and promotes waste-to-energy incineration.

Country profile – Indonesia

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on October 27, 2025)

Key pledge: Achieve zero waste in 2040 and zero emission in 2050, by landfill mining from 2025, zero open burning from 2030, full implementation of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), etc.

Total score:

12/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (7/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (1/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (2/4)
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?
The waste sector is recognized as one of the key sectors with specific targets and implementation plans, anchored in Indonesia's Zero Waste Zero Emission in Climate Change.	Informal workers are mentioned in the context of just transition, without specific details.	Yes. The NDC includes an action plan to enhance stakeholder participation at all levels in building climate resilience, including in health protection and waste management.	The NDC promotes incineration and other false solutions, including waste-to-energy incineration (PLTSa), and waste co-incineration – supported by production Solid Recovered Fuels (SRF), Refuse Derived Fuels (RDF), and Municipal Solid Waste pellet for energy. Indonesia's national plan specifically includes waste-to-energy technology and landfill mining as strategies for achieving no new landfill by 2030 and zero landfill operation by 2040, starting 2025.	Certain co-benefits are articulated, especially for green jobs, gender and intergenerational equalities.
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?
While the NDC promotes food loss and waste reduction, composting, and black soldier flies, it's dominated by downstream measures such as implementation of waste-to-energy technologies, including landfill gas recovery for energy utilization.	The NDC doesn't mention waste picker participation.			Indonesia is developing a policy on just transition, which will cover women, children, youth, elderly population, people with different abilities, farmers, artisanal fishermen, informal workers, and people in vulnerable situations.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No financial or programmatic support identified.			

Analysis

What's good about Indonesia's NDC?

Indonesia's NDC demonstrates a comprehensive vision for the waste sector, recognizing waste as a key mitigation area and integrating it within national strategies. Inclusion of composting and black soldier flies, as well as food loss and waste reduction is a positive development. The country is currently in the process of preparing a policy on just transition, acknowledging informal workers and people in vulnerable situations, indicating a room for waste pickers integration in the future.

What's not good?

Despite its strong emphasis on just transition, it currently provides little detail on plans to integrate waste pickers and recognize them as a key stakeholder. The NDC promotes waste-to-energy incineration and other similar approaches, such as solid recovered fuels (SRF), refuse derived fuels (RDF), and municipal solid waste pellet production. Other end-of-pipe measures highlighted include retrofitting existing dumpsites with landfill gas recovery and landfill mining.

Summary

Indonesia's NDC presents a strong, integrated vision for waste-sector mitigation and highlights the importance of a just transition. However, it lacks concrete measures for waste picker inclusion and shows a weak emphasis on prevention measures, continuing to promote waste-to-energy incineration and other waste-burning practices.

Kenya



Score

3/30

Kenya's NDC only briefly mentions waste and offers no commitments, targets, or environmental justice measures.



Country profile – Kenya

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

Key pledge: No pledges or commitments made 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?
The NDC notes that the waste sector accounts for about 5% of national emissions and mentions the goal of sustainable waste infrastructure, but it does not include any sector-specific targets or detailed implementation plans.	No acknowledgement or integration plan for waste pickers in the NDC.	Commits to gender-responsive, inclusive climate planning processes, but without waste-sector-specific stakeholder engagement or mechanisms for participation.	Does not explicitly exclude incineration, cement co-processing, chemical recycling, or other false solutions.	No waste-sector relevant co-benefits identified.
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?
Mentions waste management in general terms but provides no upstream prevention commitments, concrete measures for reuse, recycling, composting, etc.	No mention of waste pickers as stakeholders. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No mention of financial support.			Highlights inclusion and gender equity in the national climate plan but not in the waste sector.

Analysis

What's good about Kenya's NDC?

Kenya's NDC acknowledges the waste sector's emissions contribution and incorporates high-level commitments to inclusive, gender-responsive climate planning. This sets a baseline for integrating broader social equity considerations into environmental policy.

What's not good?

The NDC contains no waste-sector-specific targets, upstream prevention measures, or plans for implementing the zero-waste hierarchy. Waste pickers are absent from all aspects of the plan, as there is no recognition, integration strategy, or financial support. The document does not rule out harmful waste-to-energy approaches, and there is no articulation of waste-sector co-benefits that could drive cross-sectoral action.

Summary

Kenya's NDC recognizes the waste sector only in passing and provides no concrete commitments for action. Without measurable targets, hierarchy-based measures, or inclusion of waste pickers, the plan risks leaving the sector's mitigation potential untapped. No notable change in waste-sector ambition compared to the previous NDC.

Liberia



Score

15/30

Liberia's NDC advances waste-sector mitigation but lacks waste picker inclusion and source reduction, limiting broader social and environmental benefits.

Country profile – Liberia

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 24, 2025)

Key pledge: By 2035, develop 50 small-scale composting stations with a production capacity of 500 tonnes/year.

Total score:

15/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (9/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (4/4)
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?
Yes, it added the waste sector as one of the key mitigation areas, with specific targets.	No mention of waste pickers or informal sector workers.	Liberia's NDC states that it is grounded in the principles of equity and climate justice, with a core objective to ensure all climate actions are designed in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive manner, empowering vulnerable populations including women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities.	No. The NDC neither promotes nor rules out waste-to-energy incineration and other false solutions.	It recognizes co-benefits such as creating green jobs, specifically in the waste sector, working with women and youth.
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 provides time-bound plans for expanding better waste collection systems, composting, recycling, and landfill gas capture. A pledge was made for composting, to develop 50 small-scale composting stations of degradable market waste with a production capacity of 500t/ year each by 2035.	No. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No.			The plan includes dedicating climate finance mechanisms to support women-led initiatives and ensure all NDC projects integrate gender-responsive planning and monitoring, including in the waste sector.

Analysis

What's good about Liberia's NDC?

Liberia's NDC has expanded mitigation efforts to new sectors including the waste sector, clearly recognizing the sector's role in national climate mitigation, with a quantified reduction target. The document reflects the country's priority of expanding collection, composting, and recycling, and anaerobic digestion (biogas) with no explicit mention of waste-to-energy incineration and other false solutions.

The NDC makes no specific reference to waste pickers or informal recyclers, missing an opportunity to connect climate action with social protection and livelihoods. The NDC also lacks a holistic approach to waste management, which would elevate mitigation potential and co-benefits by addressing the issue at the source, through prevention and reduction efforts.

Liberia's NDC positively expands mitigation to the waste sector with clear reduction targets and focus on composting, recycling, and biogas. However, it overlooks waste pickers' inclusion and upstream waste prevention, limiting its social and environmental co-benefits.

What's not good?

Summary

Mexico



Score

21/30

Mexico's NDC values waste-sector mitigation and waste pickers' roles but weakens ambition by exploring waste-to-energy incineration and RDF for cement kilns.

Country profile – Mexico

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on November 17, 2025)

Key pledge: Transition toward a circular economy as part of Plan México Goals for 2030

Total score:
21/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (11/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (4/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (4/4)
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?
Yes, the NDC explicitly recognizes the waste sector's significant GHG impact, attributing 9% of national emissions. The NDC includes a plan to transition toward a zero waste model.	Yes, the NDC recognizes the vital role of workers working on waste collection and recycling under an approach of social and climate justice, and mandates capacity strengthening.	Yes, the NDC requires continuous, meaningful, ample, and deliberative consultation and participation involving all sectors—including civil society organizations, academia, unions/labor actors, and Indigenous communities—through institutionalized governance mechanisms like tripartite social dialogues, specifically to integrate local knowledge and best practices into climate policy design and implementation.	No, the NDC does not explicitly rule out waste-to-energy incineration (<i>termovalorización</i>), cement kiln co-incineration, or chemical/pyrolysis recycling, as it mentions developing diagnostics for thermal valorization plants and promoting the use of fuels derived from residues in the cement industry.	Yes, the country strongly recognizes the co-benefits of waste sector climate action, including economic opportunities, job creation, and improved health and social welfare by mitigating environmental risks.
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?
While it prioritizes prevention, source separation, reuse, and recycling, it relies on incineration, landfill gas capture and utilization, co-incineration of refuse-derived fuels and biomass contained in solid waste in cement kilns.	It promotes equitable participation of waste workers and considers them as a key stakeholder group.			The NDC strongly highlights the importance of addressing structural injustices, adopting an intersectional approach to protect priority populations—including waste workers, women, and Indigenous communities.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers?			
	No financial or programmatic support identified.			

Analysis

What's good about Mexico's NDC?

Mexico's NDC demonstrates ambition in the waste sector by pledging a transition toward a circular economy by 2030, supported by a new General Circular Economy Law and efforts for waste prevention (including food loss and waste reduction), source separation of organic waste for effective treatment (primarily composting), and enhanced recycling infrastructure. The NDC explicitly recognizes the critical role of 'persons dedicated to the collection and recycling of waste'—although the terms 'waste pickers' 'informal sector' are not stated in the NDC— and mandates that measures be implemented under an approach of social and climate justice.

What's not good?

The NDC includes measures that conflict with the waste hierarchy, such as planning diagnostics for thermal valorization (waste-to-energy) plants and promoting fuels derived from residues, suggesting continued reliance on high-temperature thermal processes and disposal, while specific absolute reduction targets for the sector beyond 2030 are undefined.

Summary

Mexico's NDC clearly recognizes the potential and importance of waste sector mitigation actions. The plan mandates social justice and acknowledges the critical role of collection and recycling workers. However, the commitment is tempered by plans to study and implement waste-to-energy incineration and refuse-derived fuels to be used in cement kilns, suggesting continued reliance on destructive high-emission approaches.

Morocco



Score

19/30

Morocco's NDC prioritizes waste prevention and recycling, but its reliance on co-incineration and absence of waste picker integration weaken its justice focus.



Country profile – Morocco

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

Key pledge: Achieve 70–80% recycling rate for main waste streams by 2030, expand composting as part of national methane and biomass strategies.

Total score:

19/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (13/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (1/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (3/4)
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?
The waste sector is recognized as one of the key sectors with specific targets and implementation plans, anchored in the National Strategy for Waste Reduction and Recovery (SNRVD 2030).	It recognizes the need for integration of informal recyclers into formal value chains, but there is no formal consultative mechanism or representation framework specified in the NDC.	Yes. The NDC calls for broad multi-stakeholder consultation in implementing the national municipal solid waste management program (PNDM II) and Circular Economy Roadmap.	The NDC does not exclude incineration or other false solutions.	Co-benefits are well articulated, especially for green jobs, pollution reduction, improved air and water quality and health benefits, better urban sanitation, and soil quality across different sectors.
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 clearly prioritizes waste prevention, through minimizing material use, eco-design, and phasing out plastics.	Not recognized as one of the key stakeholders.			Morocco's NDC broadly integrates gender mainstreaming and social inclusion.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No financial or programmatic support identified.			

Analysis

What's good about Morocco's NDC?

Morocco's NDC demonstrates a comprehensive vision for the waste sector, recognizing waste as a key mitigation area and integrating it within national strategies such as the National Strategy for Waste Reduction and Recovery (SNRVD 2030) and the National Municipal Solid Waste Management Program (PNDM II). The NDC embraces the waste hierarchy, emphasizing prevention, recycling, and material recovery before energy recovery or disposal, with a strong cross-sectoral approach.

What's not good?

Despite its strengths, it provides little detail on how waste pickers will be integrated, offering no dedicated financial or institutional mechanisms for their inclusion. In addition, the NDC's focus on "valorisation énergétique (energy recovery)" includes co-processing in cement kilns without clear environmental safeguards.

Summary

Overall, Morocco's NDC presents a solid foundation for climate actions in the waste sector, with prevention and recycling/composting rightly prioritized. Co-benefits and interlinkages across sectors are well recognized as well. However, its promotion of co-incineration and lack of concrete waste picker integration plans fall short of translating its ambition into justice-oriented climate action.

Nepal



Score

10/30

Nepal's NDC sets clear timelines and collection measures but undermines them with waste-to-energy expansion and weak justice alignment.

Country profile – Nepal

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on May 19, 2025)

Key pledge: Promoting household and community-level biogas, improving waste collection and recycling, and constructing new sanitary landfills with methane recovery.

Total score:

10/₃₀

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (8/16)	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?
Nepal explicitly identifies the waste sector and lists time-bound program actions, and sets a sector-specific, quantified GHG reduction target for the waste sector.	No recognition or integration of waste pickers is specified.	The NDC references multi-stakeholder processes, but no waste-specific engagement framework is outlined and few details are provided.	The NDC actively advances WTE and refuse-derived fuels, and does not include exclusions or safeguards against false solutions.	Co-benefits are discussed broadly for the NDC, but not for the waste sector specifically.
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 sets concrete program targets for separate collection and recycling via material recovery facilities (100 municipalities by 2030; all by 2035) and commits to scaling organics management (composting and biogas) by 2030. It does not include, however, upstream prevention or a phase-out of disposal, and it promotes WTE and refuse-derived fuel expansion.	No waste-sector decision-making mechanisms that include waste pickers are described. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No financial or livelihood support measures for waste pickers are included.			Gender, equity, and social inclusion are noted as general themes throughout the NDC. However, there is no explicit linkage to waste-sector actions or justice-centered implementation.

Analysis

What's good about Nepal's NDC?

Nepal's NDC goes beyond generic mentions by setting time-bound operational targets in the waste chapter. It commits to material recovery facilities (MRFs) with segregation and recycling in 100 municipalities by 2030 and all by 2035, and to scaling organics management (composting and biogas) by 2030. It also introduces new standards for the waste sector and management of mountaineering/trekking waste. Additionally, the energy chapter targets household-level biogas uptake (hundreds of thousands of households by 2030/2035) which aligns with improved organics management.

What's not good?

There is no waste-sector GHG target, no prevention or extended producer responsibility, and no phase-out of disposal. The NDC promotes WTE expansion with specific targets for additional plants by 2030 and 2035, and sets a goal of researching options for the use of refuse-derived fuel. Additionally, it offers no recognition or support for waste pickers.

Summary

Nepal's NDC contains clear program timelines for material separation through Material Recovery Facilities and organics management and adds several practical waste-sector measures, but it lacks upstream prevention and justice alignment. Overall performance benefits from program specificity on collection and organics, but is offset by promotion of WTE and refuse-derived fuel, as well as a lack of strong upstream management options.

Nigeria



Score

9/30

Nigeria's NDC prioritizes waste prevention and recycling but overlooks waste pickers' roles in climate mitigation.

Country profile – Nigeria

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on September 22, 2025)

Key pledge: Recover and channel 50% of organic waste for composting to reduce the amount reaching disposal sites by 2035.

Total score:

9/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (4/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (1/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (2/4)
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?
Waste is included among sectors with quantified mitigation potential.	It mentions that there are opportunities to address challenges regarding waste pickers, with no further considerations or plans for waste picker integration.	The NDC mentions plans for tripartite social dialogue among government, employers, and workers' organisations, alongside broader stakeholder engagement, including private sector, communities, marginalised groups, academia, and development partners.	No. It mentions "waste-to-energy" and "waste-to-wealth" projects and their opportunities, with little detail. On the other hand, the NDC includes a zero-burn, safe and low-carbon healthcare waste management commitment by 2030 under the Health section.	Soil fertility and increased soil carbon are recognized as co-benefits of composting.
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 reflects expansion plans for composting and recycling, along with plans to reduce waste at source.	No. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No.			Gender, social inclusion and just-transition principles are mentioned, but not specifically in the context of the waste sector

Analysis

What's good about Nigeria's NDC?

Nigeria's NDC explicitly recognizes the waste sector as a national mitigation area, estimating a total reduction potential of about 12.5 Mt CO₂e. Key strategies include waste prevention at the source, composting and recycling, following the waste hierarchy. It does not refer to plans for establishing infrastructure for waste-to-energy incineration.

What's not good?

The NDC remains high-level and lacks operational clarity on how the waste sector's mitigation potential will be realized. Critically, it makes little reference to waste pickers or informal recyclers, missing the chance to integrate one of the country's largest contributors in the waste sector into formal waste-management systems.

Summary

Overall, Nigeria's NDC clearly identifies waste as a mitigation source and approaches the issue with waste hierarchy in mind, prioritizing prevention, composting, and recycling. However, the lack of recognition of waste pickers' contribution to material recovery is one of the notable gaps in the current climate mitigation plans in the waste sector.

Panama



Score

3/30

Panama's climate plan briefly acknowledges waste mitigation but lacks specific targets or policies for waste reduction.



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.

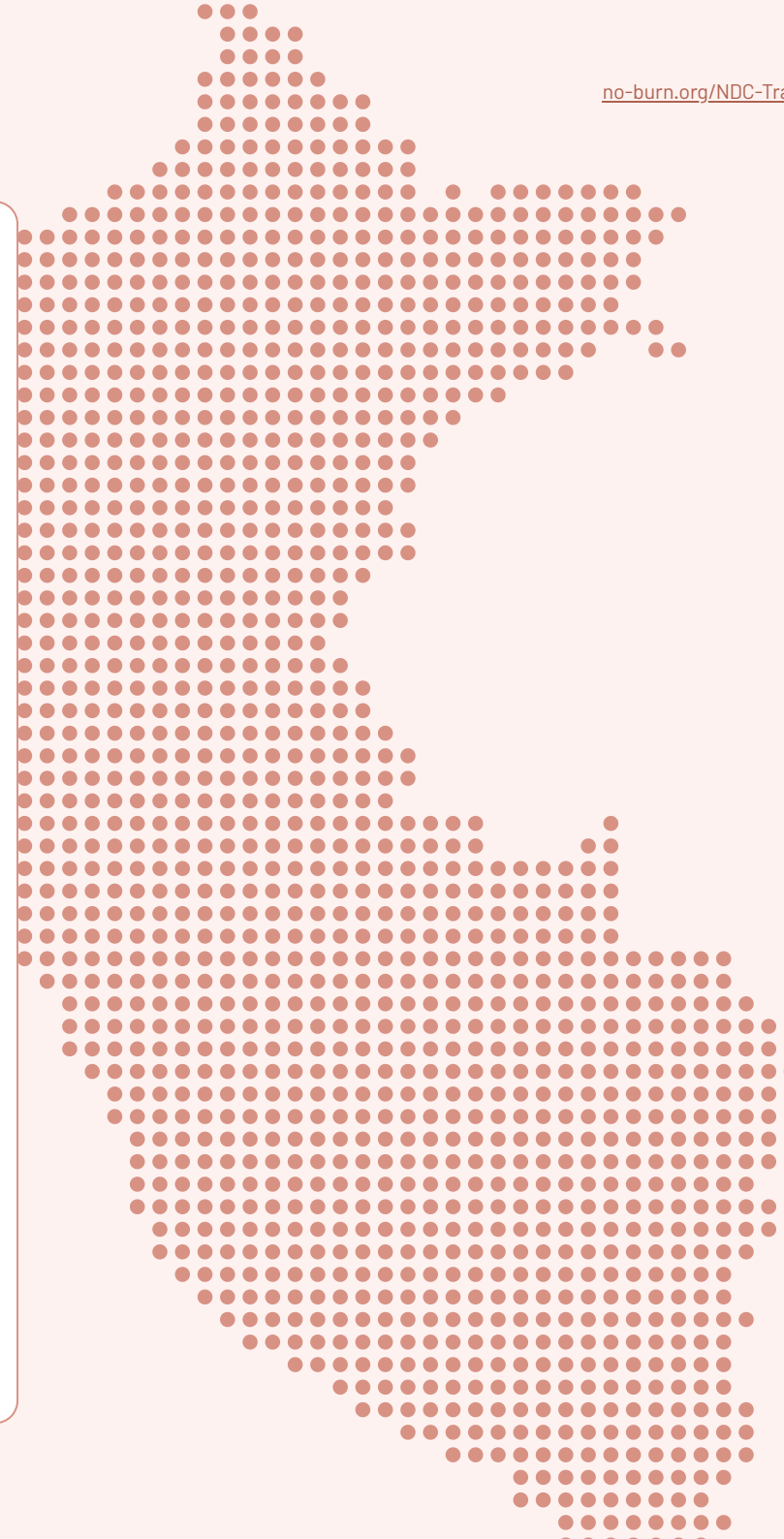
Peru



Score

9/30

Peru's NDC promotes composting and inclusion but supports waste-burning and excludes waste pickers from equitable waste-sector transformation.



Country profile – Peru

Total score:
10/30

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on November 6, 2025)

Key pledge: By 2035, Peru will promote just transitions towards sustainable and climate-resilient jobs that foster green employment, prioritizing climate change adaptation actions in the agriculture, fishing, energy, and waste sector.

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (5/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (3/4)
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?
Peru explicitly identifies the waste sector as one of the five key sectors with a concrete set of action plans. It specifically includes waste methane emissions reduction strategies.	No recognition or integration of waste pickers is specified, but there is a general commitment on just transition for workers by 2030 as part of the National Adaptation Plan, including for the waste sector.	The NDC references participatory, multi-stakeholder, and multi-level technical processes including workshops at various levels.	The NDC does not exclude thermal-based false solutions such as co-incineration at cement kilns and pyrolysis.	Co-benefits including green jobs are discussed broadly for the NDC, but not for the waste sector specifically.
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?
Peru's key waste-sector strategies include separate collection at the source, composting and anaerobic digestion. However it also promotes burning waste in cement kilns as cement industry's mitigation strategy, pyrolysis, semi-aerobic sanitary landfills, and sanitary landfills with gas capture as low-emission technologies.	No waste-sector decision-making mechanisms that include waste pickers are described. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No financial or livelihood support measures for waste pickers are included.			The NDC notes that Peru is moving toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development by 2050, through a just and inclusive transition with a focus on gender, which promotes equity and contributes to reducing structural inequalities, social and economic gaps.

Analysis

What's good about Peru's NDC?

Peru's NDC identifies the waste sector as one of its key mitigation areas, outlining strategies like separate collection, and composting and anaerobic digestion, in line with the National Circular Economy Roadmap 2030. It emphasizes just and inclusive transitions, gender equity, and green job creation, aligning national climate goals with broader efforts to reduce social and economic inequalities.

What's not good?

Peru's NDC promotes false solutions such as co-incineration, pyrolysis, and landfill gas recovery as "low-emission" technologies. It fails to recognize or include waste pickers in decision-making or provide financial and livelihood support, limiting its potential for equitable, community-centered waste-sector transformation.

Summary

Peru's NDC advances waste-sector mitigation through source separation, separate waste collection, and waste recovery – including composting and anaerobic digestion. It also commits to just transition, inclusive of women and waste workers. However, it still supports waste-burning technologies like waste burning in cement kilns and pyrolysis, while neglecting waste pickers' inclusion and financial support—limiting its potential for a truly equitable and just climate mitigation.

Rwanda



Score

11/30

Rwanda's NDC promotes methane reduction actions including composting but still supports incineration and neglects waste picker inclusion.

Country profile – Rwanda

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on December 8, 2025)

Key pledge: Separate recyclables, organic waste, and residual waste before disposal and increase composting and anaerobic digestion.

Total score:

11/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (7/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (2/4)
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?
Yes, it recognizes the waste sector as one of the key mitigation areas, with specific targets.	No mention of waste pickers or informal sector workers.	The NDC mentions an inclusive multi-stakeholder process engaging ministries, local governments, civil society, youth, women, children, and the private sector. It embeds principles of gender equity, climate-induced mobility, and green job creation, aligned with Rwanda's vision 2050, a national strategy for transformation.	No. The NDC includes plans to develop waste-to-energy incineration projects.	Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) reduction and air quality, disaster risk reduction, green jobs, etc. have been recognized, but mostly in the context of the agriculture 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 provides mitigation plans for the waste sector, including composting, anaerobic digestion, recycling, etc. However, it relies on waste-to-energy incineration and landfill gas recovery, recognizing higher mitigation potential of these approaches, compared to composting.	No. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No.			A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Index and Simulation Tool has been developed. Consultations with women, youth, civil society, and local governments were conducted to ensure inclusivity in NDC implementation.

Analysis

What's good about Rwanda's NDC?

Rwanda's NDC identifies the waste sector as a key mitigation area with clear targets for composting, anaerobic digestion, and recycling. It promotes inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement—integrating gender equity, youth participation, and green job creation—aligning waste management goals with national strategies for transformation and climate resilience.

What's not good?

Rwanda's NDC promotes waste-to-energy incineration and relies on landfill gas recovery, contradicting zero waste principles. It fails to recognize or support waste pickers, lacking financial or institutional inclusion measures. Also attention to addressing social inequities and pollution accountability within the waste sector is limited.

Summary

Rwanda's NDC advances waste-sector mitigation by promoting composting, anaerobic digestion, and inclusive stakeholder engagement aligned with national transformation goals. However, it still supports incineration and landfill gas recovery, fails to recognize waste pickers, and lacks commitments to social inclusion and justice-oriented climate actions for the waste sector.

Uruguay



Score

10/30

Uruguay's NDC sets strong waste targets but weakens its approach with equity gaps and waste-to-energy promotion.

Country profile – Uruguay

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on December 30, 2024)

Key pledge: Reducing food loss and waste by 50% by 2035, establishing a clear and ambitious waste-sector target.

Total score:

10/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (7/16)	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 (2/4)
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?
Yes. The NDC recognizes waste as a GHG source and sets specific reduction targets: all final disposal sites operating under methane-reduction technologies by 2035; a 50% reduction in food loss and waste by 2035; systems for segregated recyclables in all departments by 2035; and organic waste valorization strategies nationwide by 2035.	No. There is no mention of waste pickers or informal workers.	The NDC highlights participatory processes and ongoing planning instruments (e.g., the National Waste Plan). However, there is no evidence of specific engagement with grassroots or waste-sector organizations.	The NDC does not rule out any false solutions and instead states a general goal of increasing energy recovery from waste.	The NDC briefly links waste strategies to employment generation, resource use efficiency, and pollution reduction.
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 includes upstream measures such as waste prevention and reduction, diversion commitments like segregation, recycling, organics management, and food donation and animal feed. However, it also promotes energy recovery from waste, and does not articulate a phase-out of disposal.	Stakeholder processes are described generally, but waste pickers are not listed as key actors.			Gender is explicitly discussed in Uruguay's climate agenda, with a specific strategy and action plan referenced. But there is no link made to the waste sector, nor any mention of class/race-based justice in waste.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No financial programs or resources for waste pickers are proposed.			

Analysis

What's good about Uruguay's NDC?

Uruguay's NDC includes clear, time-bound targets in the waste sector, something most countries lack. By 2035, all final disposal sites are required to operate with methane-reduction technologies, food loss and waste is to be cut by 50%, and source segregation of recyclables and organics is to be implemented. It also recognizes waste management co-benefits such as employment generation and pollution reduction.

What's not good?

Uruguay's NDC weakens its alignment with the zero waste hierarchy by promoting energy recovery from waste, language that leaves the door open to incineration and the use of refuse-derived fuel. Waste pickers and informal workers are not mentioned, meaning there is no plan for their recognition, integration, or financial support. While gender and equity are integrated into the overall NDC framework, they are not applied specifically to the waste sector. Finally, while the targets are ambitious, implementation pathways, financing, and accountability mechanisms are only lightly described.

Summary

Uruguay's NDC has some strong waste management elements, providing specific, measurable waste-sector targets for food waste reduction, source separation of organics and recyclables, and methane mitigation as disposal sites. However, the inclusion of waste-to-energy language undermines hierarchy integrity, and the omission of waste pickers and waste-specific justice measures limits the plan's equity dimension. Overall, Uruguay presents a structured approach with both notable strengths and significant gaps.

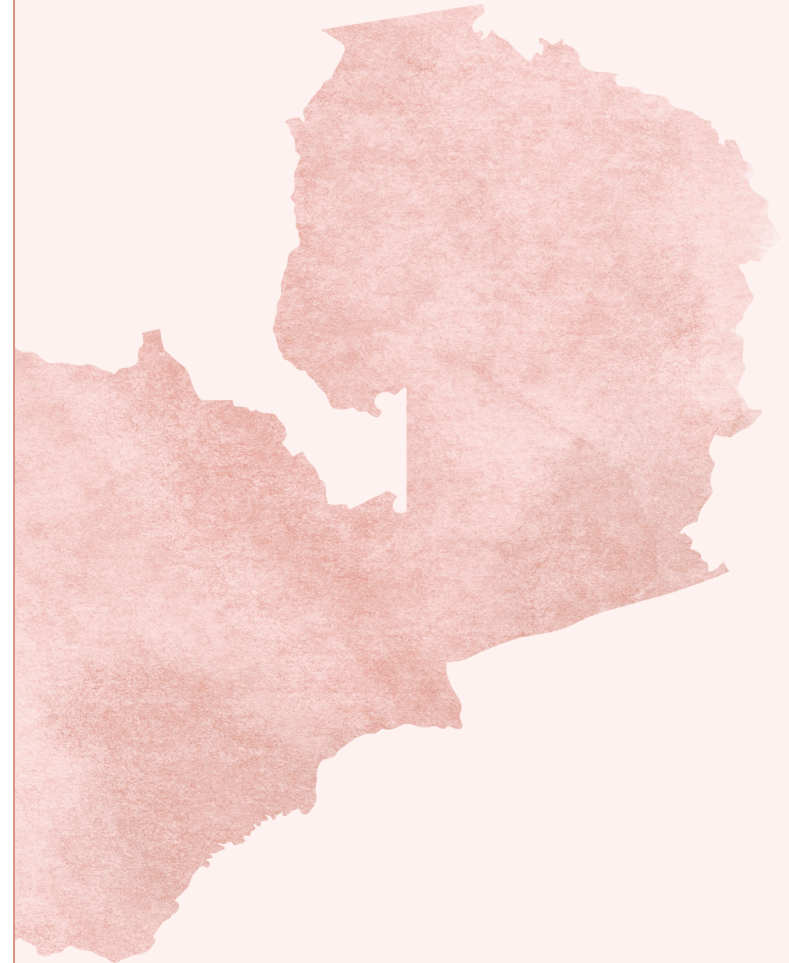
Zambia



Score

8/30

Zambia's NDC advances waste mitigation goals but ignores waste pickers' inclusion and fails to exclude harmful waste-to-energy approaches.



Country profile – Zambia

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on October 28, 2025)

Key pledge: Waste management (circular economy) initiatives will be deployed at scale country-wide.

Total score:

8/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (4/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (2/2)	4. Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability (0/2)	5. Support holistic solutions through systems change (2/4)
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?
Zambia's NDC clearly recognizes the waste sector as a key mitigation area and has strengthened plans for improving waste systems.	No mention of or integration plan for waste pickers.	Processes of stakeholder participation, covering development partners, NGOs, civil society, youth, children, women, people with disabilities, academia, and the private sector are described.	No exclusion of WTE or other false solutions.	Co-benefits such as jobs and livelihoods are referenced generally for various sectors, but no details provided and not waste-specific.
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?
It includes waste methane emissions reduction as part of The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), to be implemented through composting (introduced as "commercial aerobic structures of different sizes") and anaerobic digestion initiatives, along with regulatory and policy framework development.	No waste-specific mechanism for waste picker participation. 2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No mention of financial resources or programs for waste pickers.			Gender-responsive participation and governance are emphasized overall, but are not discussed in relation to the waste sector and no specific measures or programs are described.

Analysis

What's good about Zambia's NDC?

Zambia's latest NDC, unlike previous versions, strengthens recognition of the waste sector's mitigation potential by addressing the sector as one of the lead contributors of black carbon and outlining goals and actions, particularly for methane reduction through organic waste management.

What's not good?

Zambia's NDC fails to recognize contributions of waste pickers and informal workers, with no mention of them, and there are no commitments to inclusion, financial support, or participatory governance specific to the waste sector. The NDC does not explicitly rule out false solutions.

Summary

Zambia's latest NDC clearly recognizes the waste sector's mitigation role, outlining goals for methane reduction through organic waste management. However, it overlooks waste pickers' contributions, lacks commitments to inclusion or financial support, and fails to rule out false solutions such as waste-to-energy incineration.

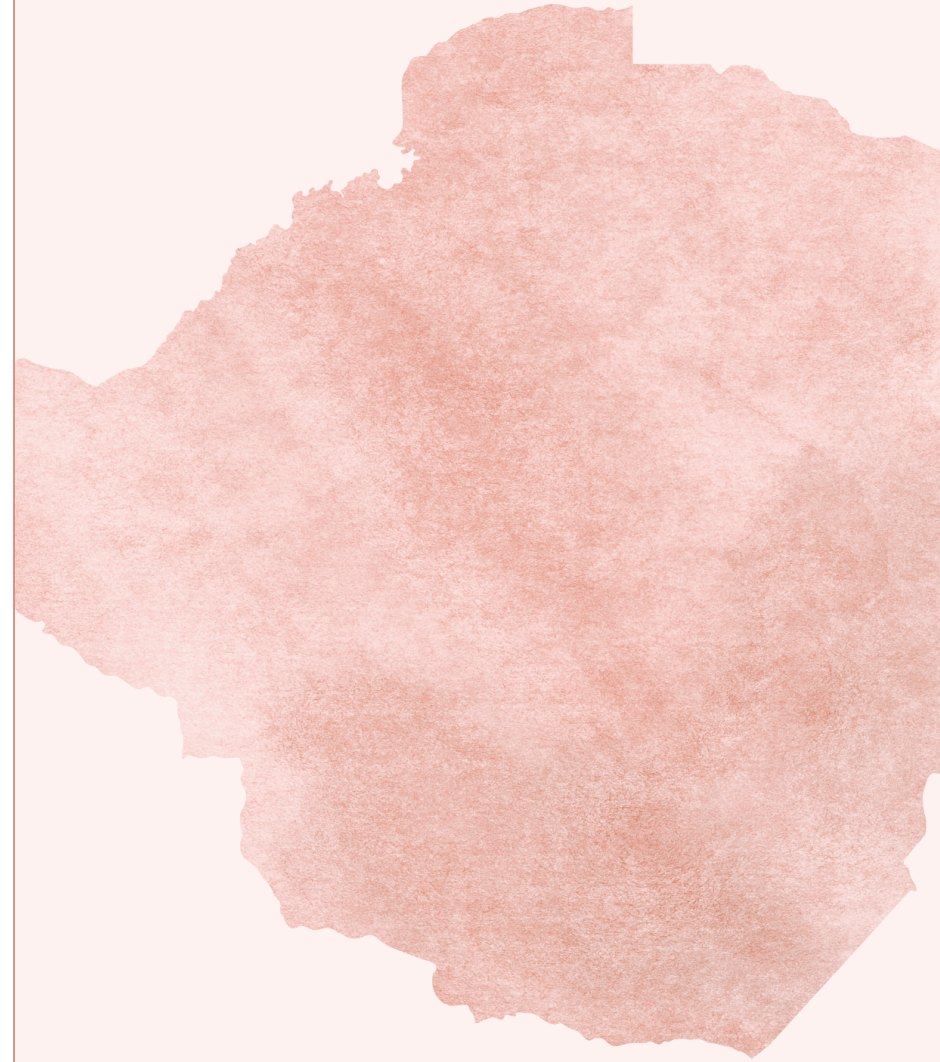
Zimbabwe



Score

6/30

Zimbabwe's NDC includes methane capture and composting but lacks upstream actions, environmental justice policies, and zero waste ambition.



Country profile – Zimbabwe

NDC link/date of latest update: [link](#) (submitted on February 10, 2025)

Key pledge: Capture 42% of methane from landfills for energy recovery and compost 20% of organic waste by 2035.

Total score:

6/30

1. Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity (5/16)	2. Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers (0/6)	3. Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge (0/2)	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?
Yes. The NDC sets specific technical targets: 42% landfill methane capture for energy use and 20% organics composting by 2035.	No acknowledgement or plan for waste picker integration.	No evidence of waste-sector-specific stakeholder engagement or grassroots participation mechanisms.	No explicit exclusions of incineration, cement co-processing, or chemical recycling.	No discussion of co-benefits from waste sector management.
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?
Advances landfill gas capture and composting but lacks commitments on prevention, reuse, recycling, EPR, or phase-outs of disposal and incineration.	No mention of waste pickers as stakeholders.			Addresses equity and inclusivity generally in climate action but not in the waste-sector context.
	2-3. Does the country provide financial resources to waste pickers? No mention of financial support for waste pickers.			

Analysis

What's good about Zimbabwe's NDC?

Zimbabwe's NDC formally recognizes the waste sector's contribution to emissions and sets measurable technical targets: capturing 42% of landfill methane for energy use and composting 20% of organic waste by 2035. It also references circular-economy practices in the hospitality sector and empowers Urban Councils with legislative authority to enforce waste management. These provisions, if implemented and monitored, could deliver real methane reductions.

What's not good?

The strategy is heavily end-of-pipe, centering on landfill gas capture rather than upstream prevention, reuse, or large-scale recycling. While it mentions circular economy concepts, there are no concrete upstream targets or detailed implementation plans. The NDC omits any recognition or integration of informal waste pickers, offers no dedicated stakeholder engagement platforms for the waste sector, and does not provide financial or policy support for waste workers. It also fails to exclude incineration or other false solutions. Broader co-benefits, such as green jobs or public health gains, are acknowledged only in relation to solar energy, not waste.

Summary

Zimbabwe's NDC is notable for including measurable landfill methane capture and composting targets and limited circular economy references. However, the absence of systemic upstream measures, justice-centered policies, and strong commitments to Zero Waste principles keeps it in the red category. There is no evidence of a significant shift in ambition or approach since the previous NDC cycle.

GAIA NDC Tracker Tool & Methodology

The tracker follows a set of criteria anchored to the five EJ principles for Fast Action on Waste and Methane. The NDCs submitted by GAIA's priority countries* on or after November 13, 2024 were rated based on the following components:

*including countries that signed the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) and the Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration (ROW).

The analysis is based solely on the text of the NDCs, and does not fully reflect other national waste policies or plans. Each NDC received a green, yellow, or red score as follows:

- Countries with points between 21-30
- Countries with points between 11-20
- Countries with points less than 10

EJ PRINCIPLE 1

Respect planetary boundaries to ensure intergenerational equity

Up to 16 points

- Waste sector recognition
- ZW Hierarchy

EJ PRINCIPLE 2

Respect for all waste pickers and waste workers

Up to 6 points

- Waste picker integration
- Inclusion and participation in decisionmaking
- Financial support for waste pickers

EJ PRINCIPLE 3

Enhance inclusion and build from local knowledge

Up to 2 points

- Stakeholder engagement

EJ PRINCIPLE 4

Respond to pollution and environmental harm with accountability

Up to 4 points

- No false solutions

EJ PRINCIPLE 5

Support holistic solutions through systems change

Up to 4 points

- Co-benefits
- Equity, inclusivity, gender, and race

For a detailed scoring rubric, please visit:
www.no-burn.org/NDC-Tracker-Methodology

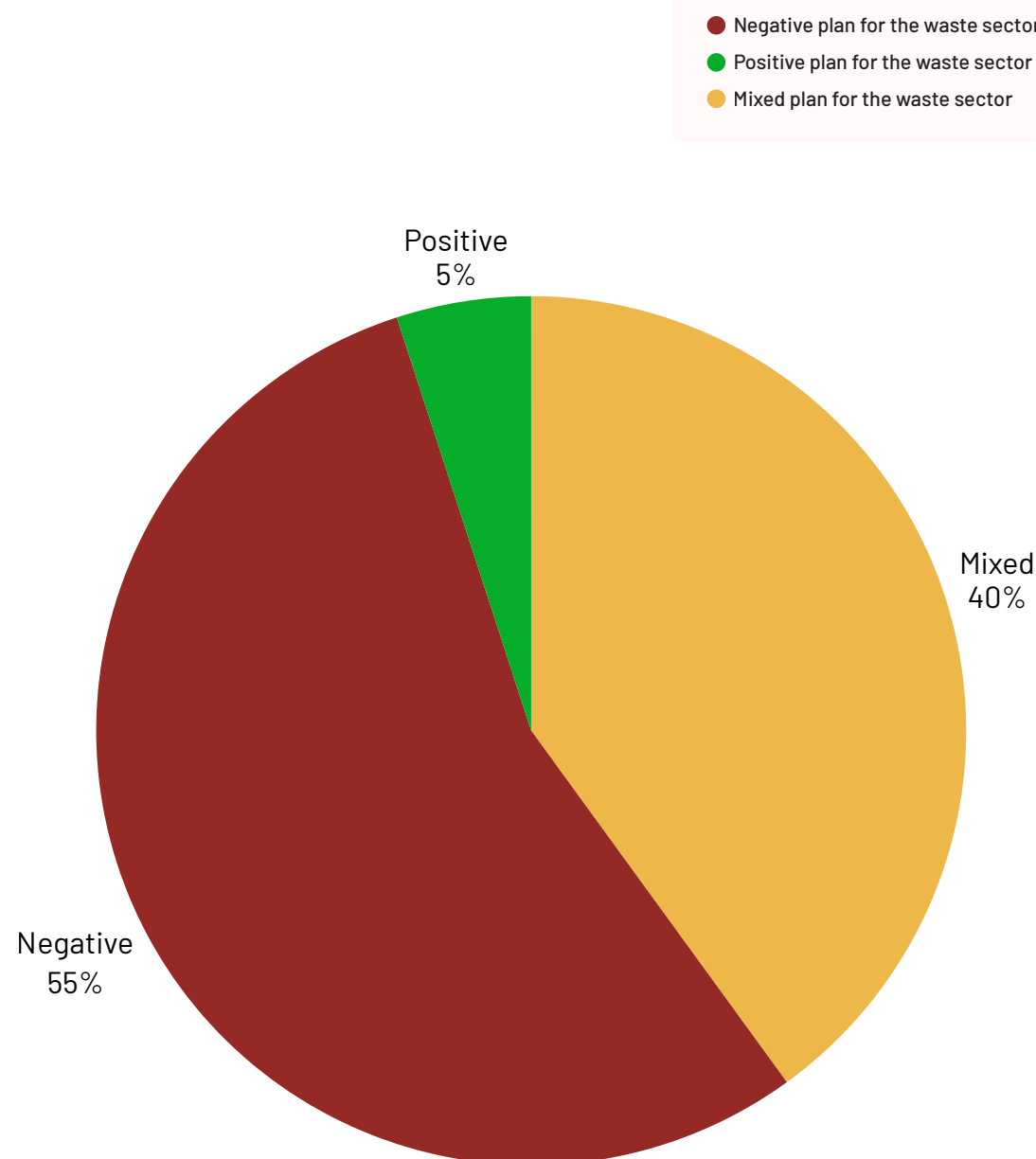
Key Findings

Rising Ambition on Waste Methane and Environmental Justice – Yet Gaps Remain

Our analysis of **20 country NDCs**, prioritizing updated submissions from signatories to the **Global Methane Pledge (GMP)** and the **Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration (ROW)**, shows growing recognition of the waste sector's role in climate mitigation and social equity—alongside important gaps that still need to be addressed.

Overall Trends

- **40% (8 countries)** present **mixed climate plans** for the waste sector, combining positive measures with approaches that risk undermining climate and social outcomes.
- **55% (11 countries)** continue to rely predominantly on **negative approaches**.
- **5% (1 country)** has reached the level of a **fully positive climate plan** according to our criteria.



Key Findings

Progress Since NDC 2.0

Several countries show **significant improvements** compared to their previous NDCs:

- **Brazil** has shifted from no recognition of the waste sector to a solid policy framework with concrete measures for organics management.
- **Mexico** has moved from general waste management improvements to a comprehensive **zero waste policy framework**, explicitly mandating social and climate justice for workers in waste collection and recycling.

Growing Focus on Environmental Justice and Just Transition

An encouraging number of countries are strengthening commitments to **environmental justice and just transition**, signaling more inclusive climate pathways:

- **Bangladesh** commits to developing a national just transition framework and sectoral roadmaps in priority areas, including waste management, with plans for waste picker integration.
- **Nigeria** highlights opportunities to address challenges faced by informal workers within just transition and sustainable development discussions.
- **Chile** includes a social pillar for just transition focused on social equity and a fair low-carbon transition, though stronger language on waste picker integration is still needed.
- **Colombia** incorporates job retraining and skills development for the circular economy sector within its just transition framework.
- **Costa Rica** emphasizes social inclusion and prioritizes integrating waste pickers into the formal economy, particularly through the creation of green jobs.

Remaining Gaps

Despite this progress, key challenges persist:

- **Waste picker integration and social equity** remain uneven across NDCs, revealing a gap between rising climate ambition and effective social justice implementation.
- **Thermal waste-to-energy expansion** appears in the plans of **Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Rwanda, Uruguay, and Zambia**. These approaches risk locking communities into polluting, carbon-intensive, and costly infrastructure, undermining opportunities to build healthier communities, create green jobs, and advance genuinely sustainable zero waste solutions.

CALL TO ACTION

Towards An Environmentally Just Climate Finance for the Waste Sector

To achieve justice-oriented waste methane reduction, **policymakers and financiers must redirect resources away from polluting false solutions and toward proven, community-centered approaches.** True climate action in the waste sector cannot leave people behind—it must actively integrate **waste pickers and waste workers** into the design and implementation of waste systems.

The **Environmental Justice (EJ) Principles for Fast Action on Waste and Methane** provide guidance for governments, financiers, and stakeholders on how to embed justice and equity into climate strategies. At the heart of this effort lies a crucial opportunity: ensuring that **NDCs prioritize zero waste solutions** and that climate finance is designed to support their effective implementation.



Key Recommendations

NDC Integration: Zero Waste as a Climate Priority

Future NDCs must explicitly integrate the waste sector and prioritize zero waste strategies—composting, recycling, and reduction—over harmful technologies such as incineration, in order to achieve rapid methane reductions, unlock co-benefits for communities.

Align Climate Finance with NDC Ambition

For NDCs to succeed, climate finance must flow toward zero waste systems. This means creating clear, direct, and inclusive pathways for local governments, waste picker cooperatives, and community organizations that are already delivering effective solutions. Finance should cover operational costs and long-term sustainability, not only capital-intensive infrastructure, and it must strengthen sub-national capacity through training and technical support.

Communities at the Center

Municipal solid waste management is a public duty, and the people who sustain these systems—especially waste pickers in the Global South—must be recognized as essential climate actors. Inclusive systems that safeguard their rights and livelihoods are central to delivering both climate and justice outcomes.

Co-Benefits as Core Benefits

Zero waste strategies deliver more than methane reductions. They create jobs, protect health, improve urban resilience, and reduce inequality. These co-benefits are in fact core benefits, and must be fully recognized in NDCs and finance flows.

The Way Forward

Climate finance in the waste sector must be **environmentally just, socially inclusive, and explicitly tied to NDC commitments on zero waste**. This is not only the fastest way to cut methane emissions—it is also the most equitable, cost-effective, and sustainable path forward.

Key Facts



70%

As much as 70% of global GHG emissions are associated with the materials economy (for extraction, production, distribution, transportation, etc.)



20%

20% of anthropogenic methane emissions come from the waste sector.



95%

Waste methane emissions can be reduced by 95% thanks to source separation, composting, bio-stabilization, and bio-cover for dumpsites in the waste sector.

Resources



Ramping Up Ambition on Waste Methane and Just Transition in Indonesia

Recommendations for Indonesia's Second NDC

**NDC
Indonesia**



NDC 3.0: Incorporating Municipal Solid Waste Management into Chile's Climate Justice Agenda

Following the Guidelines of the Social Pillar and Promoting a Socio-Ecological Transition to Reduce Methane Emissions

NDC Chile



South Africa's 2025 NDC

Prioritizing the Waste Sector for Methane Reduction and a Just Transition

**NDC South
Africa**



**Environmental Justice
Principles for Fast Action
on Waste and Methane**



GAIA's NDC Scorecard 2021



GAIA's NDC Checklist 2024



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