

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION IN

COLOMBIA

AN EXCERPT FROM

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A Review of Climate Change Legislation in 99 Countries



Michal Nachmany, Sam Fankhauser, Jana Davidová, Nick Kingsmill, Tucker Landesman, Hitomi Roppongi, Philip Schleifer, Joana Setzer, Amelia Sharman, C. Stolle Singleton, Jayaraj Sundaresan and Terry Townshend

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Colombia

Legislative Process

The Republic of Colombia is a unitary republic, governed by representatives of the people, who are elected through direct vote. The three branches of governmental power are the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary. The 1991 Constitution is the source and origin of all laws and it overrides them all. The legislative power is vested in a bicameral Congress composed of a Senate, with 102 members, and a House of Representatives with 163 members. Senators and Representatives are elected to four year-terms and may be re-elected for indefinite terms. The last elections for Congress took place in March 2014, and the next election will be in 2018.

Bills are usually submitted to the Secretariat of either chamber of Congress. The bill is first published in the Congressional Gazette and then assigned to one of seven standing committees by subject matter. The president of each committee assigns one or more members to act as bill sponsors and present a report to the committee (also published in the Congressional Gazette). The bill is then debated, amended, voted on and, if approved, submitted to the plenary of each chamber. The bill is assigned one or more sponsors in the plenary session where again it will be debated. The chamber may decide to send the bill back to the committee whenever its text becomes significantly different from the one originally submitted. Once the bill is approved by one chamber, it will undergo the same process in other chamber. The standing committees of each chamber may be called upon by the President of the Republic to debate a bill jointly for reasons of urgency.

Once approved by Congress, the bill is submitted to the President who may object to it for reasons of convenience or constitutionality. Objections by reasons of constitutionality are submitted to the Constitutional Court. If both chambers, by simple majority votes, override the President's objections for reasons of convenience, or if the Court dismisses objections for reasons of constitutionality, the President is required to sanction and enact the bill as law. Promulgation of a law takes place by its publication in the Official Gazette and its entry into force takes place at that time or on the date indicated in the statute.

The structure of Government and the supreme set of norms are provided by the Constitution. Congress in turn approves laws with varying hierarchy that in all cases must be consistent with the Constitution. Most statutes are ordinary laws. International treaties duly ratified by Congress also have the status of law. The Constitution grants the President regulatory power to issue decrees, resolutions, directives and orders that must conform to existing laws. Decrees and Resolutions are usually issued and enforced by the government ministries and agencies.

Approach to Climate Change

Colombia adopted the UNFCCC in 1994 and approved the Kyoto Protocol in 2000. The second National Communication, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2010, presented the national inventory of GHGs for 2000 and 2004. The sectors that caused most GHGs in 2004 were: land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) 42%; agriculture 38%; energy 37%; solid waste 6%; and industrial processes 5%. When the total emissions of agriculture are added to those of LULUCF, activities within this sector account for around 80% of total emissions in 2000 and 2004.

One of the first policies addressing climate change was the Guidelines for Climate Change Policy, issued in 2002 by the then Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development and the National Planning Department (NPD). These guidelines described the implications of climate change and presented strategies that the country should follow in order to comply with the international

obligations derived from the UNFCCC. In the same year the Colombian Office for Climate Change Mitigation was set up as the body in charge of promoting CDM projects.

Recent climate policy has been defined by the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES). CONPES is responsible for developing the climate change components of the National Development Plans into policy documents. CONPES 3700, of 2011, defined the need of an institutional framework for climate change. It also established the National System of Climate Change (SISCLIMA) as the institution in charge of co-ordinating and promoting climate change action and policy. Since the document was drafted, the Government has been preparing a Presidential Decree by which the System will be formally created. Once this process is finalised, SISCLIMA will co-ordinate the implementation of the four climate change priority strategies defined by the government: the Climate Change National Adaptation Plan (CCNAP); the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy (CLCDS); the National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+); and the Strategy for Fiscal Protection Against Natural Disasters.

Although SISCLIMA has not yet been officially formalised, the members of its financial council have been meeting regularly since 2013 in order to identify the challenges and opportunities in climate change project financing. The National Planning Department, as the Secretariat, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been leading this process and inviting institutions to become members.

Colombia has been successful in leveraging funds under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the government has tried to establish a system of payment for environmental services for climate change mitigation through the CDM. The 1995 National Biodiversity Policy introduced the concept of environmental services and biodiversity risk owing to climate change. In 2011 a new biodiversity policy was formulated to comply with recent international commitments and new climate change adaptation policy. In 2003, CONPES introduced the national strategy of payment for environmental services (PES) for climate change mitigation through the CDM.

The Colombian Low-Carbon Development Strategy was launched in 2012 as a tool to deliver the objectives of the National Development Plan 2010–2014 and the CONPES Document on Climate Change by promoting efficient low-carbon growth. It foresees the identification of a GHG emissions baseline and the formulation and implementation of low-carbon development plans (Mitigation Action Plans) for energy, hydrocarbons, mining, agriculture, transportation, industry, waste and housing. On the basis of these results, appropriate policies, NAMAs and projects are being implemented. With the support of the EU, the UK and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UNDP will contribute to the implementation of the strategy by providing information for the development of emissions baselines and cost-effective sectoral action plans and public policies. It will also strengthen the capacity of ministries to integrate low-carbon aspects into their activities. In addition, USAID will continue supporting the Colombian Low-Carbon Development Strategy with institutional strengthening through experts serving as focal point in the ministries.

Following the recent presidential election, a new National Development Plan for 2014-2018 is being prepared, with peace, social equality and education set as the new national priorities. Climate change is expected to be present in this plan, allowing for a move away from the design of strategies and plans towards implementation and mainstreaming of climate change action.

Energy supply

Colombia's power sector relies heavily on installed, large capacity hydropower units. The installed power mix is 64% hydro, 31% natural gas and coal, and 5% other sources and cogeneration. This structure results in a low carbon footprint, among the lowest in the region.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is playing an active role in establishing renewable energy policies. Aiming to diversify the national energy system, the government is promoting the use of 'non-

conventional renewable energy sources' (FNCER). Regulatory agencies are defining and creating regulations for the integration of FNCER regulations. FNCER, as outlined in the law, are "energy sources available worldwide that are environmentally sustainable, but in the country are not used, or are used marginally and not widely commercialised".

The law details measures that the government will take to foster the development of energy generated from forestry and agricultural biomass, and solid waste; reforestation activities; and solar, wave, wind, small hydroelectric and geothermal energy. The Law establishes the legal framework and identifies the instruments to promote the use of non-conventional energy sources, particularly renewable sources, and to foster investment and research in, as well as development of clean technologies. The law points to courses of action Colombia may take to comply with international commitments it has undertaken in the areas of renewable energy, efficient energy management and GHG emission reductions, as contemplated under the Colombian law that adopts the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) statute.

In the Cancun Agreements, Colombia committed to no less than 77% of the total installed capacity of electrical energy generation coming from renewable sources by 2020. It also committed to promote production growth of biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel – without threatening forest ecosystems and food security – by strengthening national market participation and by ensuring a minimum mandatory 20% biofuel mixture of total fuel volume.

Energy demand

Colombia is not one of the world's leading energy producers, but it is a net energy exporter. Demand for energy has been increasing over the past decade and is expected to grow at an average of about 3.5% per year through 2020. The difference between its energy production and consumption has been due mostly to oil and large coal exports. The country is a modest energy user and CO₂ emitter. The power sector already has a very low carbon footprint.

In past years Colombia has achieved significant advances in energy demand, recognising the need to increase energy efficiency especially in the power, industrial, residential and transport sectors. The Programme for the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Other Non-Conventional Energy Forms (PROURE) promotes the rational and efficient use of energy and alternative energy sources. There is also a law to promote efficient energy management, prescribing actions in both energy efficiency and demand-response. It also seeks to establish a Fund for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency (FENOGE) to finance renewable energy projects such as building small-scale self-generation and promoting practices for best efficiency.

Based on PROURE, industrial sector has the following sub-programmes: optimisation of electricity use for the driving force; optimisation of boiler use; efficiency in illumination; energy management in the industry with an emphasis on cleaner production; cogeneration and auto-generation; rational use and energy efficiency in small and medium enterprises (SMEs); optimisation of combustion process; and optimisation of the cold chain. For 2015 the energy saving goals for industrial sector are: electricity 3.43% and other energy sources 0.25%. For commercial and service sectors, the PROURE programme determined programmes on diffusion, promotion and application of technologies and good practices in illumination systems, refrigeration and air-conditioning; design, construction, energy reconversion, and efficient and sustainable use of building; characterisation, indicator management and technical assistance; and updating or technological conversion of public lighting.

The UNDP is supporting a project (2011-2016) to accelerate the adoption and implementation of energy efficiency standards and labels throughout the Andean region. It will also facilitate harmonisation of test procedures, standards and labels among participating countries. The project aims to reduce total residential and commercial final energy consumption by an average of 5%, resulting in a similar reduction of carbon emissions by the year 2030 and ensuring more environmentally sustainable and economically efficient development.

REDD+ and LULUCF

Colombia is one of the world's megadiverse countries, hosting close to 14% of the planet's biodiversity. In 2008 it signed up to the "zero deforestation in the Amazon by 2020" pledge and began working on REDD+ in 2009. Since then, Colombia has been active in the UNFCCC REDD+ negotiations where it supports market-based mechanisms and has been a proponent of the idea that REDD+ should accommodate a sub-national approach. It became a member of the advisory committee of the Jurisdictional and Nested Requirements (JNR) working group of the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS), of the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and since 2013 has been a partner country of the UN-REDD+.

Colombia's Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) was accepted by the FCPF in 2008 and USD200,000 disbursed to help it prepare its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). In 2011, the FCPF Participants Committee and Technical Assessment Panel approved its fifth R-PP, authorising a grant of a further USD3.4m for readiness preparation. Colombia subsequently adapted its R-PP using the harmonised FCPF/UN-REDD framework.

With the support of GIZ, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) is working on the draft and implementing its national REDD+ strategy. In the meantime, Colombia is taking a staggered approach to REDD+ readiness, prioritising the Amazon and Pacific regions, which together account for 75% of Colombia's forest. There are more than 50 REDD+ initiatives, one of which (the Chocó-Darien Conservation Corridor) is already producing credits in the voluntary market. In the Cancun Agreements, Colombia committed to reduce Amazon deforestation to zero by 2020.

Adaptation

Climate risk prevention has become increasingly important. This has been strongly influenced by the impacts of La Niña, a hydro-climatic event that in 2010-2011 affected more than 3.2m people and was responsible for considerable asset losses. This catastrophe highlighted the impact climate change events could inflict on the country and their threat to the achievement of economic growth and competitiveness objectives.

The most recent climate risk assessment took place in 2010 under the Second National Communication on Climate Change. During 2015 a new assessment will be performed as part of the Third National Communication on Climate Change. However some regions and sectors have undertaken vulnerability analysis to identify the most vulnerable areas and prioritise adaptation measures. Colombia has made progress in formulating climate change adaptation plans at a regional and at a sectorial level.

The current National Development Plan (2010-2014) includes elements of sustainable economic growth, environmental sustainability and risk prevention. It identifies conflicting sectors such as mining, agriculture, housing and infrastructure, and it links climate change adaptation to development goals.

The National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (PNACC) was launched in 2012. Its objectives are to increase knowledge of the potential risks and opportunities associated with climate change and climate variability, to incorporate climate risk management in territorial and sectoral planning and to mitigate the climate change vulnerability of ecological and socio-economic systems. This is an initiative led by the National Planning Department, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, and the National Disaster Risk Management Unit, with the participation of the productive sectors and the territorial stakeholders. The Plan will set the conceptual bases and methodologies for each sector and territory to identify their risk, prioritise actions and formulate their own sectoral or territorial adaptation plan. Five documents have been written under the PNACC: the Adaptation

Conceptual Bases (ABC), the Roadmap for the formulation of territorial and sectoral plans, Guidelines for Community based Adaptation, Guidelines for mainstreaming climate change into land planning instruments (currently under elaboration), and the Roadmap to incorporate climate change into environmental licences (currently under revision).

In addition, sectoral adaptation plans and strategies are being developed, such as the “Agricultural Sector Climate Phenomena Adaptation Strategy”; the “Study to determine Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation options for Colombia’s (hydroelectric) Energy Sector”; and the “Long-term Climate Change Vision for Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure” and “National Road Network Climate Change Adaptation Plan”.

Colombia: Legislative portfolio

Name of law	Law 1715, regulating the integration and promotion of non-conventional renewable energy to the national energy system
Date	17 May 2014
Summary	<p>The Law aims to promote the development and use of non-conventional energy sources, mainly renewable energy sources, in the national energy system, by integrating them into the electricity market and in other energy uses. The Law seeks to promote efficient energy management, which comprises both energy efficiency and demand response.</p> <p>The Law establishes the legal framework and mechanisms to promote the use of non-conventional energy sources, and to foster investment, research and development of clean energy technologies. It seeks to set lines of action to comply with commitments made with regard to renewable energy, efficient energy management and GHG reduction, such as those acquired by approving the Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).</p> <p>The Law allows the release of surplus energy into the network for all self-generators. Surplus energy of small self-generators that use FNCER is recognised as energy credits, which can be negotiated according to regulations issued by the Energy and Gas Regulatory Commission. The Law introduces a new classification for self-generators: small and large scale, but only in reference to the form of energy delivery that is classified as small scale by the Mining and Energy Planning Unit.</p> <p>This Law also signals spot energy prices to domestic demand, guaranteeing the participation of end-users in the electricity market, as they have the opportunity to make decisions according to the consumer price signal observed, particularly during peak hours.</p> <p>Distributed generation is also an important modification of the electricity sector. The new Law allows a generator close to consumption centres and connected to a Local Distribution System to deliver energy directly to consumers.</p> <p>Incentives for FNCER include those related to: (i) tax, through deductions on the investment income statement related to these purposes; (ii) tariffs, through the exemption from payment of import duties on machinery and equipment for this type of generation; and (iii) accounting, where an accelerated depreciation on assets is permitted.</p> <p>The Law provides for the establishment of a Non-Conventional Energy and Efficient Energy Management Fund (FENOGÉ), which may finance all or part of the programmes and projects for the residential sector, at levels 1, 2 and 3, as long as they involve small scale, self-generation solutions and promote energy efficiency and good practice.</p> <p>UPME and CREG are responsible for issuing regulations applicable to FNCER, establishing new self-generation schemes, and setting price signals. The Law provides the government 12 months to issue such regulations.</p>

Name of law	Law 1523, adopting the National Policy of Risk Management and the National System of Risk Management
Date	24 April 2012
Summary	<p>The Law regulates the creation of the National Policy of Risk Management with the objective of identifying, monitoring and analysing risks, preparing measures to address situations of emergency. Other measures include financial instruments and a comprehensive communication system.</p> <p>The Law also establishes the National Risk Management System responsible for integrating various stakeholders (public and private entities) in the development of policies, plans and other institutional mechanisms that address risk management.</p>

Name of law	Law 1450, establishing the National Development Plan 2010–2014
Date	16 June 2011
Summary	<p>The Law addresses environmental sustainability and risk prevention as one of the bases of the plan. It further orders there to be territorial and sectoral adaptation plans.</p> <p>It foresees the implementation of a National Climate Change Policy and the design of a National Climate Change System. The law also call for the identification and prioritisation of climate change adaptation measures in the framework of a National Adaptation Plan and the strengthening of data generation for sectoral and territorial vulnerability analysis. Finally, it proposes the adoption of a low-carbon development strategy including emission reductions from avoided deforestation and the identification of commercial barriers associated with carbon footprint standards and labelling schemes.</p>

Name of law	Law 788/2002, establishing the Tax Reform
Date	27 December 2002
Summary	<p>The comprehensive tax reform introduces several provisions in support of the development of renewable sources of energy. The sale of electricity from wind energy, biomass or agricultural waste is to be exempted from income tax for 15 years, as long as the following criteria are satisfied: participation in CO₂ permit trading in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, and reinvestment of at least 50% of revenues from the sale of permits in social projects situated within the area served by the utility.</p> <p>In addition, it was established that the importation of machinery and equipment for the project which generate GHG reduction certificates will be exempt from sales tax (IVA), both on the product and on related services.</p>

Name of law	Law 697, promoting the Rational and Efficient use of Energy and the Use of other Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Regulated by Decree 3683 of 2003 and Decree 2688 of 2008, further regulated by Decree 2331 of 2007 and Decree 895 of 2008 phasing out incandescent lighting, Decree 2501 of 2007 on energy use of energy-transforming and energy-using products; Decree 3450 of 2008, Resolution 180540 of 2010, Resolution 182544 of 2010 and Resolution 180173 of 2011 banning the commercialisation of low-efficiency lighting and Resolution 180606 of 2008 on technical specifications for lighting in public buildings
Date	3 October 2001
Summary	<p>This Law declares the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and the Use of other Non-Conventional Energy Sources as a public interest issue and as a national priority to ensure energy supply, competitiveness and environmental protection.</p> <p>The State is mandated to establish the legal, technical, economic and financial framework needed for the development and application of the law and the development of short-, medium- and long-term projects. It is planned to set up a Programme for the Rational Use of Energy and the Use of Renewable Forms of Energy (PROURE) under the auspices of the Ministry of Mines and Energy.</p> <p>It is also intended to develop political guidelines and strategies along with instruments to promote non-conventional energy sources, with the main emphasis being placed on</p>

regions that do not have access to electricity. Special obligations are foreseen for public service companies. The government shall support energy efficiency and renewables research and development programmes. Companies that manufacture or import components for use in exploiting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are to receive special assistance.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is responsible for the promotion, organisation, facilitation and monitoring of energy efficiency and renewables programmes under the PROURE Programme to be gradually expanded to cover all the energy chain.

Colombia: Executive portfolio

Name of Policy	National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation
Date	31 August 2012
Summary	<p>The National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation's objectives are to increase knowledge of the potential risks and opportunities associated with climate change and climate variability, to incorporate climate risk management in territorial and sectoral planning and to mitigate the climate change vulnerability of ecological and socio-economic systems. It promotes a planned, territorial environmental development compatible to Climate Change variability through short, medium and long term actions.</p> <p>This Plan seeks the mainstreaming of climate variables and projections into environmental, territorial and sectoral planning, effectively decreasing the vulnerability of populations, ecosystems and productive sectors, and increasing the social, economic and ecosystems capacities to answer to climate events. The plan needs to be an instrument to establish strategic guidelines and bring effective tools to prioritise adaptations measures, as well as to guide sectors and territories in the development of strategies and adaptation plans to reduce their vulnerability and associated risks.</p> <p>The implementation of the plan is divided into four phases. Beginning in 2012, the first two stages were conceptual and methodological, followed by the detailing of specific sectoral and regional plans. Phase four, implementation of measures, began in 2013, while monitoring and reporting, the final phase, began in 2014.</p>

Name of Policy	Colombian Low-Carbon Development Strategy
Date	February 2012
Summary	<p>The Colombian Low-Carbon Development Strategy (ECDBC) was launched in February 2012 as a tool to deliver the objectives of the National Development Plan 2011–2014 and the CONPES Document on Climate Change by promoting efficient low-carbon growth. It foresees the identification of a GHG emissions baseline and the formulation and implementation of low-carbon development plans for the sectors of energy, mining, agriculture, transportation, industry, waste and construction. On the basis of these results appropriate NAMAs and projects will be put in place. With the support of the EU, the UK and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UNDP will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy by providing information for the development of emissions baselines and of cost-effective action plans and public policies. It will also strengthen the capacity of the ministries to integrate low-carbon aspects into their activities.</p> <p>The LCDS seeks to explore ways in which Colombia can contribute to the challenge of mitigating global climate change, while adapting to the impacts of changing climatic conditions domestically. Colombia sees potential co-benefits in terms of the LCDS contributing to economic, social and environmental goals. For instance, in terms of economic competitiveness it sees potential gains by increasing energy efficiency and hence production costs. Planning documents publicly available on the LCDS refer to the development of working groups to examine the potential mitigation and adaptation benefits in each sector of the economy, in addition to production of sector-specific abatement curves.</p>

Name of Policy	Document CONPES 3700, sets the Institutional Strategy for the Articulation of Policies and Actions in Climate Change
Date	14 July 2011
Summary	<p>The main objective of CONPES 3700 is to outline a mechanism for institutional co-ordination to incorporate climate change into sectorial and territorial decision making, the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA).</p> <p>CONPES 3700 recommended the creation of SISCLIMA as the official national institution to coordinate and propel climate change actions. Within these actions, SISCLIMA will co-ordinate the implementation of the four climate change priority strategies defined by the government: CCNAP, CLCDS, ENREDD+ and the Strategy for Fiscal Protection Against Natural Disasters. It is expected that these strategies will need to formulate their own financing strategy and to add a component for private sector investment.</p> <p>The proposed approach is one whereby climate change initiatives will be built through a bottom-up approach. Four permanent committees at the base of the SISCLIMA structure will coordinate, shape and implement sectoral and territorial policy as well as international affairs for climate change adaptation and mitigation based on detailed technical studies carried out on specialised working groups. The Finance Committee (FC) will act as coordinator of financing activities and offer support to those initiatives seeking financial support by directing efforts to identify and coordinate sources of finance available at the national and international levels. Finally, at the very top of the system, the Inter-Sectoral Commission on Climate Change (COMICC) will bring together various ministries and key national institutions to co-ordinate and direct institutional efforts on climate change and act as the connection point between SISCLIMA and the wider government, including the presidency. COMICC will also share findings and guide policy at the highest level of the national government on climate change issues. The final structure however is still under revision.</p> <p>A Presidential Decree is required to give effect to CONPES 3700. At the time of writing (November 2014) this has not been issued and meanwhile successive drafts of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) have introduced further refinements. For example, CONPES 3700 envisages that SISCLIMA will be directed by an Executive Committee (COMECC). The latest drafts of the R-PP have sought to make SISCLIMA's governance more inclusive; COMECC has now become an Inter-Sectoral Committee (COMICC).</p>

Name of Policy	Resolution 18-0919 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy Adopting the Indicative Action Plan 2010–2015 to develop the Programme for a Rational and Efficient use of Energy and of other Non-Conventional Energy Sources
Date	1 June 2010
Summary	<p>The Plan introduces energy efficiency sectoral sub-programmes for the residential sector (phase out of incandescent bulbs, introduction of energy-efficient stoves, low-energy housing construction), industry (optimisation of energy use in cold chains, boilers, lighting, combustion processes, cogeneration), commercial/public (promotion and implementation of best practices in refrigeration, lighting, building stock retrofit and low-energy new building) and transportation (modernisation of fleets, best practices, modal shift).</p> <p>The Plan also introduces provisions for the expansion of non-conventional renewable energies (FNCEs) differentiating between zones connected to the national power grid and zones not connected.</p> <p>The Plan is to be carried out by the Inter-sectoral Commission for the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and of Non-Conventional Sources of Energy (CIURE).</p> <p>The Plan introduces differentiated sectoral energy saving targets for 2015: housing (9.21%), industry (3.68%), commercial/public (2.66%) and transportation (1.29%). The targets for FCNEs for connected areas are of 3.5% in 2015 and 6.5% in 2020 and of 20% for 2015 and 30% by 2020 for non-connected areas. The targets will be subject to annual revisions and adjustments.</p>

Name of Policy	National Energy Plan 2006–2025
Date	10 October 2006
Summary	<p>The Plan establishes a series of long-term strategies and recommendations to inform decision-makers and orientate the formulation of energy supply policies adequate to face global productivity and competitiveness conditions.</p> <p>It includes an analysis of current energy needs and scenario for the evolution of the energy needs of the country and its supply alternatives as well as the possibilities for energy supply integration at regional and international levels. The document proposes the analysis of specific long-term projects including the construction of a refinery on the Pacific, the regasification of natural gas in the north and an increase in exports of value-added oil and coal-based products.</p> <p>The document defines five principal objectives, the main of which is to maximise the energy sector's contribution to sustainable development. The objectives include the following: using resources to meet national demand while preserving the energy sector's long-term sustainability; consolidating regional energy integration; increasing vertical integration in the country's energy market; developing price structures to guarantee market competitiveness; and maximising coverage and access to energy throughout the country.</p> <p>Five horizontal elements fundamental for the attainment of these objectives are also analysed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• non-conventional energy sources and rational use of energy• environmental and public health protection• science and technology• institutional and regulatory framework• information, promotion and capacity-building <p>The government's goals on energy policy include the promotion of the energy sources with the highest potential in the country and especially renewables on the basis of their environmental benefits, full development of Colombia's natural potential for the production of biofuels taking into consideration evaluations of technical, economic and environmental feasibility for domestic and foreign markets and institutional reforms to increase energy efficiency in the energy sector such as the proposed Office for the management and development of biofuels.</p>

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