Executive Summary of Final Report

Mid-Term Evaluation of IKI project 23_I_414_Global_A_2050 is now - LTS

Argentina, India, and Indonesia

IMAP GmbH

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Project description

This report presents the findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) of the multi-country project *“2050 is Now – Aligning climate action with long-term climate and development goals”*. The project is financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUKN, formerly BMUV). The project supports Argentina, India, and Indonesia[1] in strengthening long-term climate governance, advancing the operationalization of Paris-compatible Long-Term Strategies (LTS), and improving the alignment of long-term visions with sectoral and subnational plans. It is implemented between June 2023 and May 2027 by a consortium led by the World Resources Institute (WRI), together with IDDRI, NREL, 2050PP, SDSN/FABLE, Fundación Bariloche, WRI India, WRI Indonesia and WRI Brazil.

The project was originally conceived in 2019 to support governments in developing and applying LTS and, subsequently, in strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Its logical framework is structured around five outputs that guide the project’s strategic orientation. These outputs seek to: (i) generate transparent modelling tools and comparable analytical ranges; (ii) support nationally relevant long-term scenarios and sectoral pathways; (iii) strengthen integration of long-term planning into sectoral and subnational decision-making; (iv) enhance policy dialogue and multi-actor coordination; and (v) contribute to global knowledge and learning on LTS operationalization. Together, they form the conceptual and operational backbone of the project’s ambition to enable data-driven, forward-looking climate governance.

Delays in funding approval and geopolitical shifts meant that implementation began after participating countries had already submitted their first LTS. This required a strategic pivot from LTS formulation toward LTS operationalization, placing greater emphasis on modelling, capacity development, policy-relevant evidence generation, and subnational planning pilots. Despite such contextual shifts, the project continues to address core country needs related to long-term decarbonization pathways, institutional capacity, and the incorporation of evidence-based approaches into planning, budgeting and investment decisions.

Evaluation objectives, intended use of findings and methodology

The MTE was conducted between January and October 2025 to assess the project’s progress, identify emerging lessons and provide actionable recommendations to improve delivery, institutionalization and sustainability during the remaining implementation period. The evaluation is formative in nature and is intended to support the implementing consortium, political partners and ZUG in steering the project based on evidence and mid-course learning.

The evaluation applies four of the six standard IKI criteria—relevance; planning, steering and coherence; effectiveness; and transformational impact and sustainability—and reviews safeguards through plausibility checks. These criteria were complemented by cross-cutting learning questions designed to assess internal consortium coordination, the quality of government ownership and the extent to which project modalities support institutional uptake. Together, these dimensions allow the MTE to focus not only on what has been produced, but also on how well the project’s delivery model enables long-term integration and future use.

A mixed-methods approach was applied, combining an in-depth review of project documents, a Theory of Change workshop, thirty-seven semi-structured interviews in Argentina, India and Indonesia, an online stakeholder survey and validation meetings with consortium partners. The approach was deliberately formative: rather than expecting measurable impact at mid-term, the evaluation prioritized practical insights and time-bound recommendations to improve delivery, strengthen institutional anchoring and enhance the likelihood of future outcomes.

Triangulation across sources was applied systematically, and contribution analysis was used to assess plausible influence in politically dynamic and multi-institutional environments. Given the early stage of implementation and the long-term nature of intended results, the MTE focuses primarily on institutional and

[1] Brazil was added to the project in January 2025 and was not part of the MTE.

process-level changes. The main users of this evaluation are the implementing consortium, political partners, implementing organizations, ZUG and the German funding ministries.

Main findings per evaluation criterion

Relevance

The project demonstrates strong relevance across India, Indonesia and Argentina by aligning its objectives with evolving national priorities and long-term planning needs. **In India**, the project operates in a policy environment emphasizing development, energy security and industrial competitiveness, anchored in a 2070 net-zero commitment. The project's modelling tools and analytical ranges have enabled internal planning discussions within domestic planning and governance systems. Collaboration with NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ensures that modelling aligns with nationally salient policy questions. Expansion into subnational work in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh addresses known weaknesses in State Action Plans on Climate Change by offering transparent, replicable evidence to inform state-level strategies.

In Indonesia, where climate and development planning are unified under the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), the project responds directly to a clear institutional demand for long-term scenario analysis to inform the Indonesia National Mid-term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025–2029 and provincial RPJMD cycles. Co-production of modelling with BAPPENAS, Bogor Agricultural University's Center for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management (CCROM-IPB) and Bandung Institute of Technology's Center for Research on Energy Policy (CREP-ITB) has strengthened ownership and facilitated the integration of results into national and provincial planning documents. Subnational pilots in Bali, East Kalimantan and Southeast Sulawesi illustrate the project's ability to address data and capacity constraints in decentralized planning contexts. The project's technical teams also contributed modelling inputs to Indonesia's Second NDC, reinforcing alignment with national strategic needs.

In Argentina, relevance has been shaped by a rapidly evolving political environment and the restructuring of climate governance following the 2023 administration change. Despite reduced central-level engagement, the project remains relevant by supporting the Energy Secretariat through rigorous modelling and by maintaining analytical capacity within universities and provinces. Provincial actors such as Córdoba, Jujuy and Santa Fe show strong readiness to integrate modelling outputs into their long-term planning frameworks, thereby sustaining the project's relevance even under national uncertainty.

Across all three countries, governments emphasize the need for stronger modelling capacity, better integration of long-term objectives into sectoral plans, and reliable evidence to guide investment decisions. The project's focus on LTS operationalization and its supply of transparent, domestically adaptable tools directly addresses these needs and reinforces its strategic relevance.

Effectiveness

The evaluation finds that the project has achieved notable technical progress, with a substantial body of modelling tools, analytical scenarios, policy briefs and capacity-building activities delivered across the three countries. These outputs have begun to inform planning processes—for example, contributing to Indonesia's early RPJMN deliberations, supporting state-level strategies in India, and guiding provincial climate and energy discussions in Argentina. Subnational engagement, in particular, shows strong uptake where mandates are clear and leadership is stable, as seen in Bali, Palembang, Córdoba and Gujarat.

In parallel, the project's global workstream has made meaningful contributions through comparative research, methodological development and international convenings that connect country experiences to global learning processes. These activities have helped validate modelling approaches, provided platforms for cross-country exchange, and strengthened the visibility of partner-country work within broader LTS/NDC discussions. Global products—such as shared methodological notes, long-term planning guidance and multi-country analyses—have supported coherence and provided practical reference points for national teams.

However, outcome-level progress remains uneven. Delays in packaging and documenting tools, combined with limited handover arrangements, have slowed institutional adoption. Political transitions, frequent changes in focal points and limited availability of technical counterparts have further constrained continuity, especially at national levels. In some contexts, isolated work within individual work packages has reduced opportunities for integrated delivery.

Despite these challenges, the project has strengthened analytical capacity and generated credible evidence that is increasingly entering policy discussions. Consolidating handovers, improving stewardship arrangements and prioritizing a small number of demonstrative pilots will be essential to translate technical achievements into durable institutional practice during the remainder of the implementation period.

Planning, steering and coherence

Strategic planning and overarching project design are adequate, but operational steering has faced recurrent challenges. Annual planning processes have remained responsive to evolving political contexts, yet implementation has often been slowed by leadership changes within government counterparts, requiring re-engagement and recalibration of activities. These dynamics have created delays and increased transaction costs.

At consortium level, coordination challenges stem from complexity in roles, uneven availability of technical experts, data, and sequencing gaps between modelling work, policy engagement and communications. These issues have affected the project's ability to synchronize delivery with policy windows. While the consortium brings strong technical depth and benefits from connections to global LTS/NDC platforms, internal coherence has been hindered by the absence of simple service agreements, shared delivery protocols and a common coordination dashboard. Strengthening joint planning and clarifying responsibilities will be essential for ensuring smoother, more cohesive delivery in the remainder of the project.

Transformational impact and sustainability

The project has laid important foundations for future transformational impact. Universities and technical agencies have strengthened modelling capacity; multi-model literacy is improving; and subnational governments are increasingly embedding long-term planning methods into their internal processes. These developments mark significant progress toward institutionalizing evidence-based climate planning.

However, system-level transformation is still emerging. Legal mandates for long-term planning are incomplete, inter-ministerial coordination remains inconsistent and financing mechanisms for sustaining modelling work are insufficient. Sustainability is further constrained by gaps in stewardship of tools and datasets, incomplete handover strategies and capacity limitations at subnational levels. The project's long-term impact will depend on focused consolidation efforts, including securing institutional anchors, formalizing handovers and supporting practical applications that demonstrate durable value.

Safeguards

The project's low-risk classification remains appropriate. No environmental or social safeguard concerns were identified. Gender, equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) considerations are integrated in several components, though their implementation varies across countries. There is scope to further strengthen gender-responsive and socially inclusive analytics within modelling exercises to ensure equitable and representative planning.

Recommendations

Against this evidence, the MTE offers an actionable set of recommendations designed to increase the probability that project outputs will be institutionalized before the project ends. The following are the proposed recommendations for the project:

1. Recalibrate the results framework to capture real contributions to capacity and uptake to reflect political and institutional realities. The results framework should be revised to reflect differentiated institutional baselines, political sensitivities, and more realistic intermediate outcomes—such as incorporation of scenarios in planning documents, sectoral roadmaps, or provincial strategies. This recommendation is directed at the project consortium and ZUG.

2. Shift emphasis from tool development to policy uptake and embedding. Many technical models and tools are already developed. The focus now should be on institutional embedding and practical use, especially in sectoral and subnational planning. Governments and partners should prioritize the integration of outputs into existing planning processes. This recommendation is directed at national coordinators and political partners.
3. Seize windows of opportunity in NDC processes, particularly in Argentina and India. The project should respond proactively to the explicit requests from Argentina's Directorate of Climate Change and India's NITI Aayog to contribute to the preparation of the forthcoming NDCs. This recommendation could also be relevant to Indonesia, which has submitted its Second NDC by helping to cascade and translate the commitments for government (e.g., technical ministries, subnational governments) and non-state actors (e.g., businesses, industries, communities).
4. Strengthen internal consortium coordination and role clarity. Siloed approaches and gatekeeping behaviors have weakened coherence. Therefore, a stronger, transparent coordination mechanism is needed. This recommendation is relevant for consortium partners, supported by ZUG.
5. Enhance inclusion of non-state stakeholders. The project's influence will increasingly depend on equipping non-governmental actors who can shape policy debates and ensuring their structured participation in national planning and decision-making processes. This recommendation is directed at consortium partners and national coordinators.
6. Improve monitoring and qualitative narratives for uptake and learning. Reporting should go beyond indicator completion to document how outputs are being used and what institutional changes they are enabling. Storytelling and narrative reporting are essential to capture the project's contribution to long-term change and generate learning. This recommendation is relevant for the consortium and ZUG.
7. Strengthen MSME and private sector engagement through targeted pilots. Building on existing sectoral dialogues, the project should implement targeted pilots that test sector-specific decarbonization pathways with direct relevance for agribusiness associations and industry associations. This would help close the gap between academic modelling and practical business needs. National Coordinators, agrobusiness associations, and consortium partners are key targeted actors to implement this recommendation.

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