# Urban KLIMA 2050 Project: Basque Country's Largest Climate Action

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URBAN KLIMA 2050

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## Introduction

The Paris Agreement intends to enhance and improve the global climate change responses by strengthening all actors' abilities to adapt to climate change's negative effects and promote climate resilience. At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, climate change adaptation received more attention than ever before and significant progress was made toward the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). However, considerable effort has to be done in order to take the GGA ideas to successful implementation.

In this framework, the Agenda 2030 has also pushed the discussion on the many opportunities to link two of the most pressing issues of our time, biodiversity loss and climate change, and how can we find solutions to protect development gains and expedite the path towards a more sustainable, healthy and equitable world for all. Its core principles of universality, interconnectedness, indivisibility and balanced integration of the environmental, social and economic dimensions are particularly relevant to the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.

## Project Summary

The Urban Klima 2050 integrated project (LIFE18 IPC/ES/000001) is a project created for implementation of the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country - KLIMA 2050 in the urban context.

It has the support of the European Union within the Integrated Projects programme for the mitigation of and/or adaptation to climate change.

The project aims to advance climate governance at all administrative levels and promote climate change integration in several sectoral policies, such as health, water resource management and energy, among others.

The Urban Klima 2050 focuses on demonstration and action, as well as on a participatory process and the involvement of a diverse range of stakeholders.

The project's actions are divided into five blocks: diagnosis, definition of action, pilot projects or demonstrators, empowerment for success and climate governance.

## Key Information

**Location**
Basque Country, Spain

**Areas of focus**
Integration of climate change into territorial planning and sectoral policies, climate governance, implementation of pilot actions and awareness rising

**Founded in**
2019

**Investment**
A total of 19.8 million euros for 5 years of experience (10.2 million euros by the European Commission and 9.6 million euros by 20 partner entities)

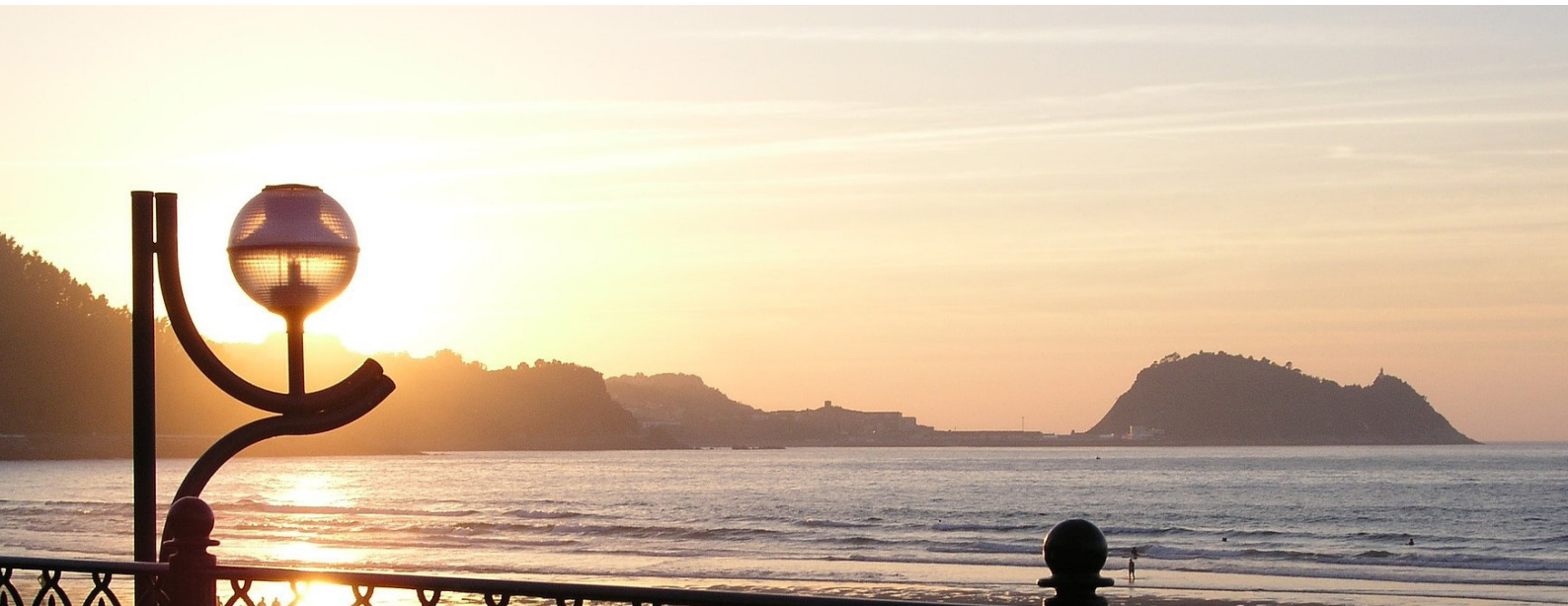
**Aichi Biodiversity Targets addressed**
Strategic Goals A, B, C, D and E

**Sustainable Development Goals addressed**
SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17

## Author

Ihobe, Basque Environmental Agency. Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment, Basque Regional Government.

Video monitoring systems to minimise the damage caused by the combined effect of waves and tides on the Zarautz waterfront



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# BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

## Geographical context and future climate projections

The Basque Country (or Basque Autonomous Community, BAC) is located at the south-east of the Bay of Biscay (Spain), in the south of Europe (Figure 1).

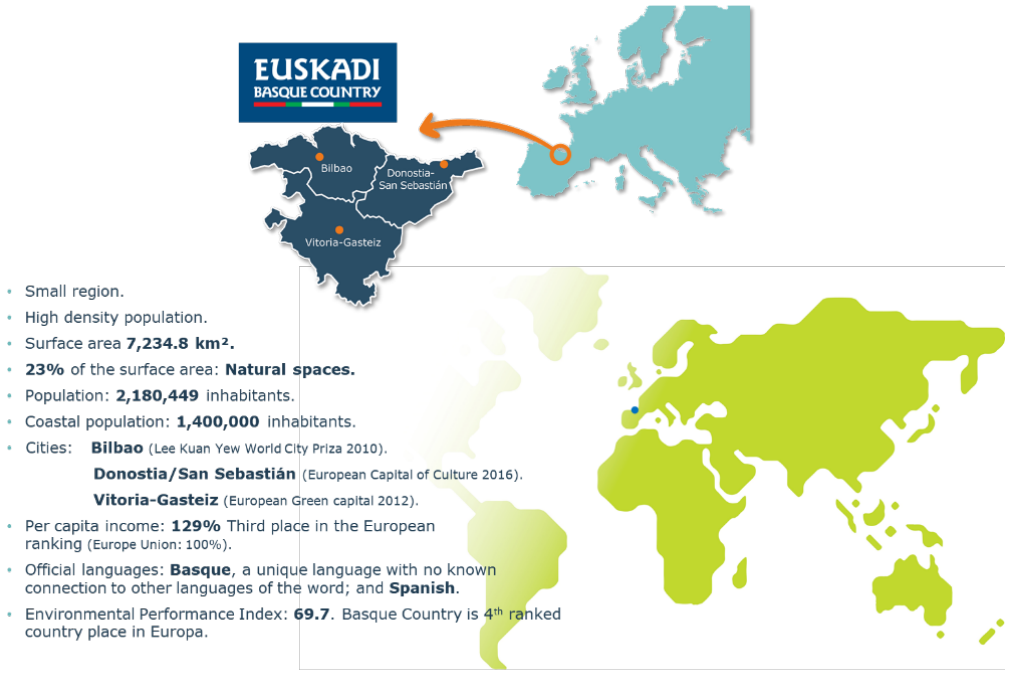



FIGURE 1. THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN FIGURES

Due to its location, close to the Pyrenees and the Cantabrian Sea, it is a very diverse region with a variety of ecosystems and a hotspot for biodiversity. In addition, it represents an important point of communication by road and train between Spain and France due to the mountain chain of the Pyrenees that separates both countries. Despite being relatively small (7,234 km²) two climatic bioregions are represented (the Atlantic and Mediterranean). Although the Basque Country is a rich (74,041,106 € GDP, 9% unemployment), highly industrialized and densely populated region (2,180,449 habitants, mid-small scale urban areas, 65% living close to the coastline), the Basque economy has started to decouple from GHG emissions due to the application of new technologies, energy savings and efficiency. There is a close relationship between Basque culture and nature. Also, part of its economy is still related to it (fisheries, livestock and agriculture) and 23% of its surface is protected due to its natural heritage. There is a wide representation of different European ecosystems, from coastal to mountainous, and it is a crossroad that connects the Iberian Peninsula with France.

The main climatic risks for the BAC are numerous and reflect the great variety of ecosystems and situations that can be found: flooding due to extreme precipitations (pluvial flooding), estimated to increase the number of days by 2100; flooding due to rivers exceeding their capacity (fluvial flooding); sea level rise, estimated by 2100 between 0.43-0.8 m; drought (15% of pluvial reduction estimated by 2100); temperature increase (1.5-5°C increase estimated by 2100) and fires.

## The climate regional framework

The Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050[1] - KLIMA 2050, defines a vision for the Basque Country to 2050, including 2 Objectives, 9 Goals, 24 Lines of intervention and 70 Actions (Figure 2). The Vision to 2050 states that '*the Basque Country has a low-carbon competitive economy, which is adapted to climate effects because of the consolidation of a knowledge-based climate change policy, which has allowed the opportunities offered by innovation and technological development to be seized. This has been possible thanks to the co-responsibility of all stakeholders of Basque society, driven by the exemplary action of the Public Administration*'.

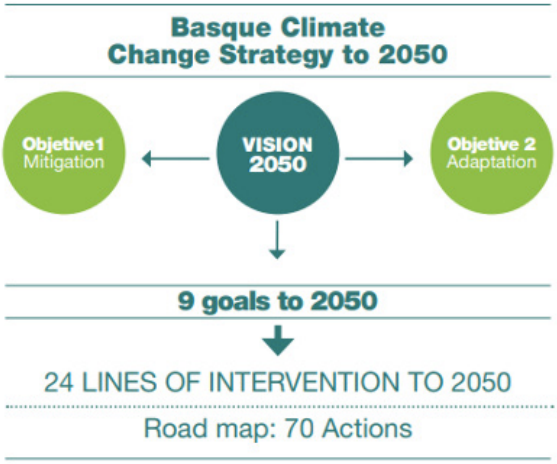



FIGURE 2. STRUCTURE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY TO 2050

With the aim of promoting comprehensive climate action in the territory, two objectives were defined: 1 to address mitigation efforts and 1 to promote resilience to climate change. To achieve the objectives defined regarding mitigation and adaptation, the definition of the 9 Goals was based on the sectoral analysis previously performed and needs for action have been identified (Figure 3).

| GOALS IN CLIMATE CHANGE | |
|---|---|
| G1. | Commitment to a low-carbon energy model |
| G2. | Moving towards zero-emissions transport |
| G3. | Increasing the efficiency and resilience of the territory |
| G4. | Making the natural environment more resilient |
| G5. | Making the primary sector more resilient and cutting its emissions |
| G6. | Reducing the amount of municipal solid waste generated and zero untreated waste dumping |
| G7. | Anticipating the risks |
| G8. | Driving innovation, improvement and knowledge transfer |
| G9. | Exemplary and responsible Basque Public Administration: a benchmark in climate change |

FIGURE 3. 9 GOALS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY TO 2050

The Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050 is implemented through five-year action plans, with the first action plan (2015-2020) already finished, for which monitoring and evaluation has already been carried out. 70 Priority Actions were defined to be implemented during the first period (between 2015 and 2020), with biennial evaluation of their progress. Currently, the Basque Country's 2021-2024 Energy Transition and Climate Change Plan is being defined, which will give continuity to climate action in the Basque Country, also combining the energy side with the aim of facilitating the achievement of climate neutrality and the resilience of the territory.

1 https://www.euskadi.eus/web01-a2ingkli/es/contenidos/documentacion/klima2050/en_def/index.shtml

The Basque Climate Change Strategy to 2050 itself is an example of co-creation with stakeholders as a very important participatory process[2] was launched to define its structure and governance. Several groups were created (Regional Government Departments, Basque Public Administrations, Municipalities and Citizens) for social dialogue and there is a commitment to periodically report its advances.

The strategy was published in 2015 (before the approval of the Paris Agreement) and in 2017 the first evaluation revealed that 90% of the actions had started. However, their degree of progress was more heterogeneous. In general, the mean progress of the strategy was 47% (Figure 4).

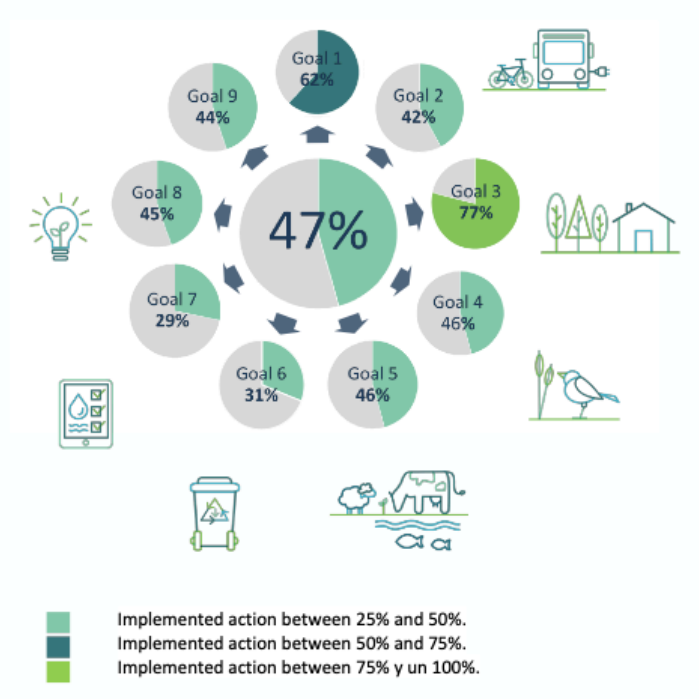



FIGURE 4. DEGREE OF PROGRESS OF THE 70 ACTIONS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY 2050 BY GOAL

In consequence, several priority aspects were identified to focus on the next years. To answer to these challenges, and to take a qualitative and quantitative leap on the mainstreaming of the Basque Climate Change Strategy to 2050, a LIFE IP project proposal was presented to the European Commission Call in 2018[3]. The aim was to facilitate and to accelerate the implementation process of the strategy.

## The social and political context

The climate change strategy also responded to a demand by Basque society: 90% of the Basque population think that climate change is happening (Figure 5).

72% of the population considers protecting the environment and combating pollution to be urgent and immediate issues, according to the Environment and Energy study (2017)[4] of the Basque Government's Sociological Surveying Office. Climate change was the second most important environmental problem, behind air pollution. 60% of the people surveyed believed that impetus should be given to the policies to protect the environment, despite the economic context. This reflects a growing public demand for action by the Basque Public Administration. In 2021, a new Sociological survey was conducted[5]. The degree of concern of the Basque society exceeds the European average and half of the Basque population thinks that climate action should be a regional priority.

The Basque Regional Government is fully convinced of the climatic challenge and the necessity of a new ecological transition. On the 30th of July 2019, the Basque Prime Minister declared the climatic emergency[6] and its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050, deploying the objectives of the Basque Climate Change Strategy 2050 and the Basque Energetic Strategy 2030[7]. The Basque Regional Government committed to promoting and agreeing on the necessary initiatives to act with ambition and urgency. They also called on the Basque Government and other public administrations

2 https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/es/debates/1020-estrategia-vasca-cambio-climatico-2050?stage=presentation
3 https://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/life/funding/life2018/integrated/index.htm
4 https://www.ihobe.eus/publicaciones/cambio-climatico-y-energia-estudio-percepcion-ciudadana
5 https://www.ihobe.eus/publicaciones/cambio-climatico-y-transicion-energetica-en-euskadi-2
6 https://bideoak2.euskadi.eus/2019/07/30/news_56172/Declaracion_Emergencia_Clim_tica.pdf
7 https://www.eve.eus/Publicaciones/Planes-Energeticos/Estrategia-Energetica-de-Euskadi-2030.aspx?lang=en-GB

to reflect the climate emergency in a transversal manner in all plans and programmes, as well as in the budget that it draws up from that moment on and asked to include specific expense items for 2020 in the regional budget.

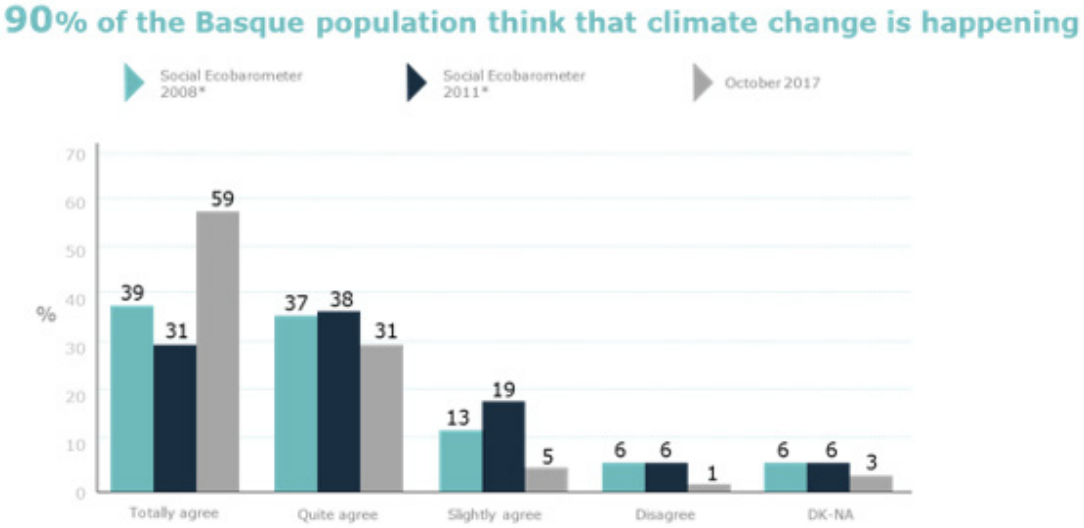



FIGURE 5. SOCIAL PERCEPTION EVOLUTION OF BASQUE POPULATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2021, the first draft of Basque Climate Change and Energy Transition law[8] was launched. This law will establish the legal-regulatory framework that will facilitate the achievement of the following objectives:

- Achieve climate neutrality in the Basque Country no later than 2050, allowing a just energy and climate transition process.
- Promote the decarbonization process in all Basque socioeconomic sectors, increasing economic activity, business competitiveness, the quality of employment and the well-being of society.
- Take advantage of the opportunities of the energy transition process to boost technological and business development capacities.
- Increase the resilience of the territory.

The objective of the present legislature (2020-2024) is to approve the law. In June 2021, an important public participation process was held.

8 https://www.euskadi.eus/gobierno-vasco/-/proyecto-ley/13-proyecto-de-ley-de-transicion-energetica-y-cambio-climatico/

Recovery of a Lawson cypress plantation in Donostia/San Sebastián

# KEY ACTIVITIES AND INNOVATIONS

## Good practice: a strong project proposal co-created by stakeholders

The Urban Klima 2050[9] integrated project (LIFE18 IPC/ES/000001) for the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country - KLIMA 2050 in the urban context (Figure 6) has been approved by the European Union within the Integrated Projects programme for the mitigation of and/or adaptation to climate change (call 2018).

**Systemic implementation of the CC action in the Basque Country for increased urban resilience as full territory enabler**

Reference: LIFE18 IPC/ES/000001 | Acronym: LIFE-IP URBAN KLIMA 2050

FIGURE 6. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION DATA OF THE URBAN KLIMA 2050 PROJECT

This project is led by the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment, through its Environmental Agency, Ihobe.

Integrated Projects implement climate plans or strategies at the territorial level. Urban Klima 2050 includes strategic measures to catalyze the process and to mobilize additional commitments and funding that will lead, in due course, to the full implementation of the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050. The project consortium is made up of around 20 institutions and organizations from all over the Basque Country, representing the 3 different governance levels (regional, provincial and local), regional agencies (energy and water) and research institutions.

With the approval of the Climate Change Strategy in 2015, several innovation calls were launched, and different projects were built collaboratively among the Basque regional authorities and stakeholders. This resulted in a workflow that helped to define a co-designed project. For 18 months, all the stakeholders were involved in the co-creation process of the project proposal. In consequence, a transversal and integrated project was defined.

## Innovative territorial and governance approach

Within the LIFE framework, the European Union establishes a maximum of one project per call, area and country. Thus, exceptionally, even though there was already an approved project[10] in Spain in this area, the European Union approved the project proposed by the Basque Country. The decision was motivated, among other things, by the focus on climate action in the urban environment, by the extensive experience in the field of climate change of the group of organizations participating in the project and their diversity, and by the high level of definition and implementation of the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050.

The approval by the European Union of the LIFE Integrated Project Urban Klima 2050 also provided the confirmation that the Basque Country has a well-coordinated climate change strategy with a climate governance framework, which covers its entire territory and brings together different public and private agents, in addition to promoting coordination with other organizations outside the Basque Country.

9 https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/5189

10 https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=6559

The implementation of Urban Klima 2050 is governed by the following values:

- Cross-cutting actions: integration of different tools to promote the resilience of municipalities in the face of climate change.
- The Basque Public Administration as an example: promoting new ways of governing so that the administration is the driving force for change.
- Innovation and opportunities: carrying out actions and pilot projects/demonstrations with applicable results that meet the needs of decision-makers and other stakeholders.
- Know how to transform: generation of knowledge to incorporate in decision-making.
- Participation processes: co-designing solutions with key agents and with citizens.
- Empowerment of citizens: for a lasting commitment to environmentally responsible behavior and healthier lifestyles.

**Restoration of forest cover in riverbanks of the Nervion and Zadorra rivers**

## Key activities: project objectives

A series of specific objectives has been established in the Urban Klima 2050:

- Integrating the regional climate change strategy into territorial planning and sectoral policies (health, water and energy).
- Launching actions in three pilot areas (on the coast, in river basins and in urban/periurban areas).
- Implementing the 24 Lines of Intervention of the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050.
- Improving climate change governance.
- Transferring the case studies developed in the project.

*Summary: the Urban Klima 2050 project in figures*

It is a LIFE Integrated Project of enormous magnitude, involving:

20 partner organizations.
40 concrete actions within its scope.
A duration of 6 years (2019-2025).
19.8 million euros of direct investment (10.2 million from the EU).
The anticipated mobilizing of more than 625 million euros.

The Urban Klima 2050 actions are divided into five blocks, in addition to the ones established by the LIFE call for proposals (Figure 7): we analyze (diagnosis), we define (definition for action), we act (pilot projects or demonstrators), we empower (empowerment for success) and we manage (climate governance).

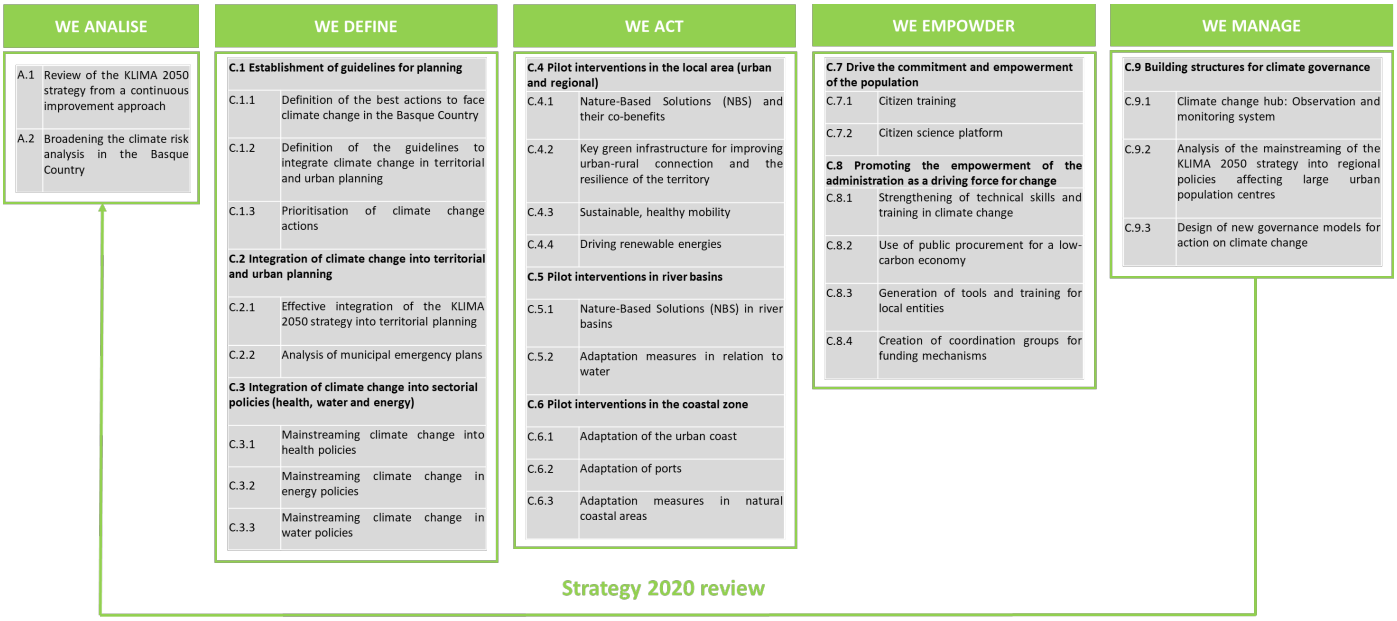



FIGURE 7. SUMMARY OF ALL THE ACTIONS PLANNED IN THE LIFE URBAN KLIMA 2050 INTEGRATED PROJECT (LIFE18 IPC/ES/000001)

## We analyse

The Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050 has already been revised based on an approach of continuous improvement. Furthermore, the 2021-2024 Action Plan has been drafted, which includes the identification of flagship initiatives for the next years.

A summary of the most relevant actions carried out until mid-2021:

- The tasks foreseen for the extension of climate risk analysis in the Basque Country are also being developed, among others such as the variable obtention with the loading of raw data and the development of susceptibility maps and hazard maps.

## We define

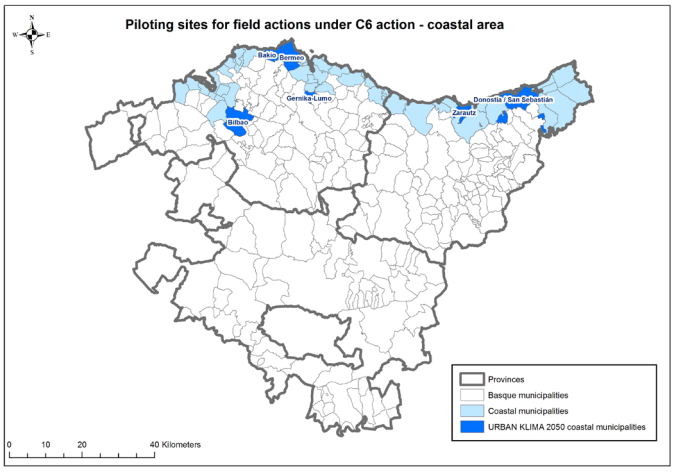
This block is designed to identify how, where and when to act to reduce emissions and achieve the resilience of the territory, in addition to setting guidelines for how to incorporate climate change into sectorial policies (Health, Energy and Water).

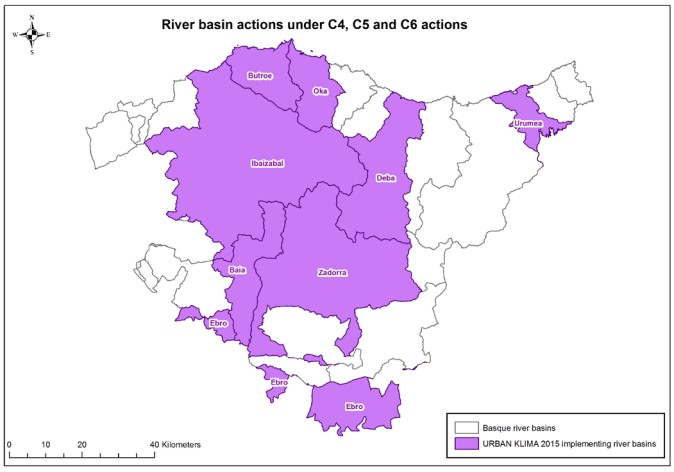
A summary of the most relevant actions carried out until mid-2021:

- So far, a knowledge base analysis has been conducted for the development of guidelines to integrate climate change in spatial and urban planning. On the other hand, the technical-environmental documents for processing the Territorial Sectorial Plan for Renewable Energies have been prepared.
- In relation to the evaluation of municipal emergency plans, different materials have been and are being done to facilitate the implementation of a meteo-climatic hazard index tool.
- Regarding the integration of climate change in Health Policies, a data base has been prepared and the monitoring programme of vectors has started.

## We act

Below are the maps (Figure 8) related to the intervention areas for the different levels of action of the project (coast, river basin and urban/peri-urban scales), as well as the location of the pilot projects that will be carried out within the framework of the Urban Klima 2050 project.



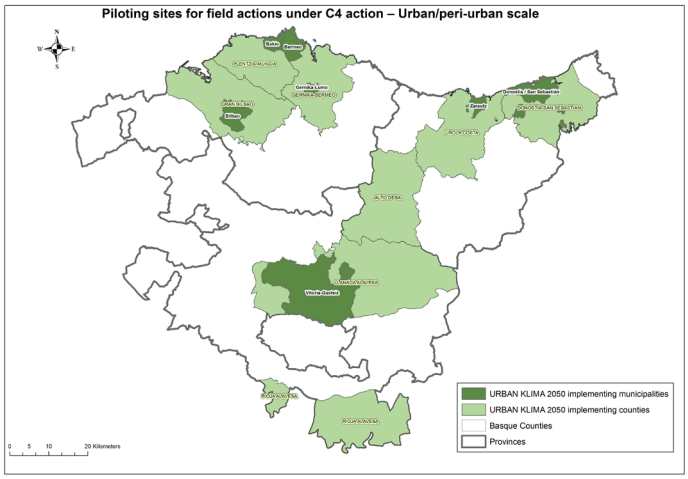



FIGURE 8. INTERVENTION AREAS AT COASTAL, RIVER BASIN AND URBAN/PERIURBAN SCALES FOR THE PILOT/ DEMONSTRATOR CASES

The pilot projects will be carried out mainly in urban areas such as Bakio, Bermeo, Bilbao, Donostia-San Sebastián, Gernika-Lumo, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Zarautz. The peri-urban areas where pilot projects will be carried out will be Urdaibai, the coast of Debabarrena and Rioja Alavesa. In the Butrón, Oka, Ibaizabal, Deba, Urumea, Zadorra, Baia and Ebro rivers, projects will be carried out in the river basins or at the river mouths (Figure 8).

A summary of the most relevant actions carried out until mid-2021:

- In coastal areas:

- A diagnosis and evaluation report has been prepared for the identification of alternatives to minimize the damage that the combined effect of waves and tides produce on the Zarautz waterfront. Furthermore a proposal has been developed for the boardwalk of this same municipality.
- A coastal videometry system has been installed in Mount Igeldo (Donostia/San Sebastián) to monitor the beaches of La Concha and Ondarreta (Figure 9).


FIGURE 9. VIDEOMETRY SYSTEM IN MOUNT IGELDO (DONOSTIA/SAN SEBASTIÁN)

- At river basin scale:

- A study has been developed for the later creation of a flood forest and marsh in Estepona river in Bakio (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10. IMAGE OF HOW THE FLOOD FOREST AND FLOOD MARSH WILL LOOK LIKE IN BAKIO (ESTEPONA RIVER)

- The diagnosis and identification of restoration actions has been advanced in some protected Natura 2000 sites in Álava/Araba (Lantarón and Labastida).
- Some minor interventions have already taken place for the improvement of the banks of the Errekatxulo regatta (Donostia/San Sebastián).

- At urban/periurban scale:

- Most of the actions related to green infrastructure have already started, some of them being at an advanced stage such as:

1. The naturalisation of the Artikutza dam (Figure 11).

FIGURE 11. NATURALISATION OF THE ARTIKUTZA DAM; BEFORE (ABOVE) AND AFTER (BELOW) INTERVENTION

FIGURE 12. RECOVERY OF A LAWSON RECOVERY PLANTATION

2. The recovery of a Lawson cypress plantation to replace it with autochthonous species (Figure 12).

- The catalogue of Nature Based Solution actions for the city of Vitoria-Gasteiz is already finalized.
- Photovoltaic panels have already been installed in 4 different locations in the city of Donostia/San Sebastián for self consumption (Figure 13).

FIGURE 13. PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS IN DONOSTIA SAN SEBASTIÁN

- For the promotion of sustainable mobility, a pedestrian/cyclable path is under construction in the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve and a study for electric mobility is being developed for the Vitoria-Gasteiz periphery.

## We empower

Collaboration will take place with both citizens and staff assigned to the administration to facilitate a change in habits through training and the design of new tools that allow progress to be made in this regard.

A summary of the most relevant actions carried out until mid-2021: For a better definition of the target agents, the psychological dimension was incorporated through the definition of behavioral profiles and the identification of the most appropriate methodologies to move them to action. To help with this innovative approach, a collaboration has been established with the Environmental Psychology team of the University of the Basque Country.

- For the development of the Public Administrations' staff's technical skills, an analysis of current knowledge has taken place to adapt the training programme to the actual needs.
- A tool has been developed for the calculation of GHG emissions at county level.
- Several calls have been launched to apply for funding for pilot projects or for the development of climate action and sustainable energy plans.

## We manage

Within the framework of this block, structures for climate governance will be created, such as the climate change hub, whose main function will be climate observation, and new models of climate governance will be defined.

A summary of the most relevant actions carried out until mid-2021:

- An ARMS (Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structure) equipment has been installed in Lekeitio to monitor the benthos (the community of organisms that inhabit the bottom of aquatic ecosystems) and study the changes taking place because of climate change.

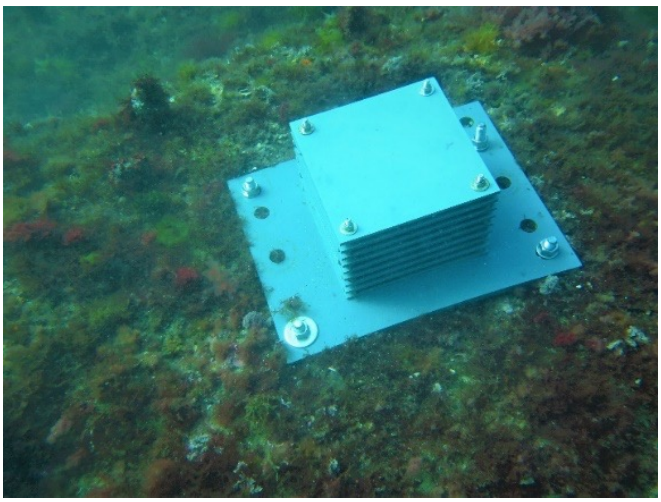


FIGURE 14. INSTALLED ARMS EQUIPMENT

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The project aims to mainstream innovative solutions for climate action at the regional level, mainly focused on adaptation. As it happens at the international level nowadays, it is not possible to define quantitative objectives nor indicators to address climate adaptation. Meanwhile, as specific indicators for adaptation to climate change are being defined and agreed upon internationally, the demonstrative pilot projects and actions would presumably increase the resilience of the territory as they will be implemented at a regional scale. For instance, linked to the effectiveness of Nature Based Solutions, it is expected by 2030 that, in pilot areas, water depth of flooded areas will be reduced by 30%, air temperature will be reduced by 2-5% and there will be a 10-20% reduction of mean radian temperature (Tmrt). It has been estimated that through the implementation of the pilot actions foreseen in the Urban Klima 2050 project, it is expected to achieve important environmental improvements by 2030 (5 years after the finalization of the project).

Additionally, as co-benefits from the adaptation action, it is estimated that:

- Related to mitigation, 6,450 $CO^2$ tons of GHG will be reduced by 2030 (baseline 2019).
- Air quality indicators will also be reduced by 2030: 7,520 Kg of $NO^x$, 7,390 Kg of $SO^2$ and 576 Kg PM.
- Due to the promotion of renewable energies, it is foreseeable to generate 18,900 MWh of energy and to have a petrol and diesel oil reduction of 241$m^3$.
- Related to pilot actions and biodiversity:
  - 12 hectares will be regenerated in coastal areas.
  - Riparian forest will be incremented by 4 hectares.
  - 15 hectares of peripheral urban land under agroecological management will be created.
  - 18 hectares of peripheral urban degraded land will increase their quality.
  - 15 hectares of Chamaecyparis lawsoniana - allochthonous monospecific forest species- will be replaced by autochthonous species.

Recovery of degraded areas and adaptation to climate change in the Atlantic slope and promotion of agroecological practices in Bermeo

## SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

The consortium that makes up the Urban Klima 2050 project has the indirect objective of mobilizing more than 625 million euros to carry out the complementary actions included in the project. Different funds will make their contributions to this deployment. For example: at the European level, the European Regional Development Fund (more than 25 million euros), other programmes such as Interreg, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (more than 6 million euros) and other European programmes such as Horizon 2020, DG Environment of the European Commission (more than 25 million euros); at the national level, through institutions such as the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Biodiversity Foundation (more than 7.7 million euros); at the autonomous community level, through regional funds from the Basque Government itself and the three Provincial Councils of Álava/Araba, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa (more than 559 million euros).

The society directly impacted by the project pilot/ demonstration actions represents 43% of the Basque population, covering 16% of the region surface (Table 1).

| LOCATION | SURFACE AREA (Km²) | POPULATION |
|---|---|---|
| Rioja Alavesa | 316.00 | 11,000 |
| Urdaibai | 224.00 | 46,788 |
| Debabarrena | 180.00 | 73,011 |
| Bilbao | 41.60 | 345,821 |
| Donostia / San Sebastián | 60.89 | 186,064 |
| Vitoria-Gasteiz | 276.00 | 244,634 |
| Bakio | 16.12 | 2,604 |
| Bermeo | 34.00 | 16,861 |
| Zarautz | 14.80 | 23,17 |
| Gernika | 8.60 | 16,869 |
| **Total** | **1,129.41** | **933,039** |
| **Percentage of the BAC (%)** | **16%** | **43%** |
| BAC | 7,234 | 2,164,311 |

TABLE. 1. GEOGRAPHICAL AND POPULATION COVERAGE OF THE PILOT/DEMONSTRATOR ACTIONS

Analysis of the current state and project for reinforcement of the Ondarroa harbour breakwater

## GENDER IMPACTS

The Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050 considered the gender impacts during its elaboration process, following the checklist for regional sectoral plans to integrate a gender perspective. Thanks to that, the strategy follows the mandate of the 4/2005 Regional Law[11] for the equality of women and men.

## POLICY IMPACTS

As climate change is a transversal challenge, the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country to 2050 has been designed as a cross-cutting tool of the Basque Government at the regional level, which has been coordinated by all its Regional Ministries (Industry, Transport, Housing, Security, Territorial Planning and Administration, Health, and Environment) and linked with the policies driven in the 3 Provincial Councils (provincial level) and their municipalities (local level). Furthermore, the strategy has been defined and created as an umbrella and benchmark for the other sectoral plans and policies of the Basque Regional Government that have an impact on Climate Change.

In consequence, the Urban Klima 2050 project will specifically focus on:

- Integrating the climate perspective in Territorial Planning and in Water, Health, and Energy sectoral policies.
- Developing local climate and energy plans, at municipality and county level.
- Defining municipal emergency plans.

The Urban Klima 2050 project will impact agents that are not part of the consortium because of the knowledge exchanged and the skills raised among pivotal stakeholders to catalyze the full implementation of the adaptive strategies. Therefore, the project will also favor the use of climate data when designing other policies. For instance, the Basque Climate Change and Energy Transition law currently in preparation will benefit from the progress of the Urban Klima 2050 project, allowing it to be more precise.

11 https://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-17779-consolidado.pdf

# FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Urban Klima 2050 project will be used to set up the basis and the structures to allow and to foster knowledge and experience sharing among stakeholders once it is over.

The project partners are especially committed to put the grounds in terms of regional capacities to maintain the continuity of the results, such as integration of climate change into Territorial Planning and Sectoral policies, climate governance, implementation of pilot actions or awareness raising. The communication and dissemination actions with other regional authorities and entities at the national and international level will contribute to the replication and transference of the adaptive strategies implemented within the project, thus assuring the long-term sustainability of the Urban Klima 2050 project.

Successful replication and transference require a clear plan at the outset, an evaluation strategy, a capacity building strategy as well as a legacy strategy that will reach critical mass during the project and in a short and mid-term perspective after its end.

The consortium partners are committed to the operation, maintenance, monitoring and dissemination of the actions and results over the long term, even committing their own resources to ensure the continuity and permanence of the project results and information dissemination beyond the project's lifetime. In consequence, all action coordinator partners will continue to invest 5% of their time to ensure the continuity of their own action while the project coordinator will keep dedicating 10% of its time to coordinate all the work.

The regional government is fully aware of the need of a long-term vision to address this challenge. As it has been mentioned before, the declaration of the climatic emergency in 2019 was an important milestone. To this extent, the project consortium and especially the project coordinator as regional authority will work in the establishment of new regional policies related to the most successful measures implemented during the project. These policies will be accompanied by financial resources to promote the active involvement of key actors in the implementation of adaptation measures to climate change proposed in the Urban Klima 2050 project. Nowadays, the project actions are co-financed with 10.2 million euros (51.7% of the total budget) by the European Commission via the LIFE grant programme. 9.6 million euros (48.3%) are financed by the 20 partner entities that participate in the project. Thus, financial sustainability is assured up to 2025.

Furthermore, ensuring long-term sustainability has been defined as one of the key project objectives. Thus, within the Urban Klima 2050 project, there is a concrete action (C.8.4. Coordination with other funding mechanisms) to support the development of financing. Through this action, an attempt will be made to mobilize additional sources of financing that allow the project to grow. In the future, the regional funding programmes from the Basque Regional Government and the mobilization of other European (European Regional Development and Cohesion Funds; European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; Horizon 2020 grant calls), national and regional funds will assure the continuation of the project.

Selection, design and execution of new interventions NBS in Vitoria-Gasteiz

## PARTNERSHIPS

The consortium brings together 20 organizations, which work in coordination to achieve the objectives set out in the Urban Klima 2050 project:

- Ihobe: Ihobe is the Environmental Agency of the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Government. It acts as the technical secretariat of Udalsarea 2030[12] and the Basque network of sustainable municipalities, and is entrusted with the monitoring of the Climate Change Strategy of the Basque Country 2050 and promoting coordination between agents and administrations for its implementation. This organization is the leader and coordinator of the project and will act as a facilitator for carrying out most of its actions.
- Basque Government: the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment, through the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve Service and Ports as well as the Department of Health will be those involved within the Basque Government in mobilizing the different agents to carry out their respective project actions.
- 2 Regional Agencies: EVE (Basque Energy Agency) and URA (Basque Water Agency) will be involved in various actions related to their fields of activity.
- 3 Provincial Councils (local, supramunicipal level): the presence of the Provincial Councils of Álava/Araba, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa is essential to implement the climate change policies.
- 7 Town/City Councils: Bakio, Bermeo, Bilbao, Donostia/San Sebastián, Gernika-Lumo, Vitoria-Gasteiz and Zarautz will work to implement actions on climate change in their respective municipalities.
- 5 technology centers (Research and Technological Development): Azti, BC3, Neiker, Tecnalia and Tecnun will give technological support in different projects and will help disseminate the results through conferences and publications.
- Naturklima: this recently created foundation will implement and promote actions and provide education

Peri-urban green infrastructure to improve the resilience of the territory

12 http://www.udalsarea21.net/Default.aspx?IdMenu=7ADD69FD-7B71-4861-AD3C-F526ACBDE138&Idioma=en-GB

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# REPLICATION AND APPLICABILITY

Pilot projects will be launched on the basis that in the future they will be scalable to other municipalities, districts, or basins of the Basque Country (Figure 8).

Moreover, this project was created with the intention of developing a strategy and implementation model of the regional climate change strategy that could be replicated at the national level and in other regions of the European Union. The geographic diversity of the Basque Country, the representativeness of many habitats and species and the diverse economic structure leads the Basque Regional Government to think that replicability of the Urban Klima 2050 project results to the whole EU-27 would be feasible. To achieve this, the dissemination of best practices at the international level will contribute to the replication and transference of the adaptive strategies implemented withing the Urban Klima 2050 project.

**Transferability**

- Of the process
- Regional Climate and Energy Strategy
- Sectoral policies with CC variable
- Emergency and Land Use Planning policies
- Tools
- Demonstration cases
- Mobilise the administration and citizens
- New climate governance models

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this project, please visit https://www.urbanklima2050.eu/es/

You can also contact us at info@regions4.org to set up an informative meeting, solve doubts and get support in implementing similar projects.

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## ABOUT

Regions4 (formerly known as the nrg4SD) is a global network that solely represents regional governments (states, regions and provinces) before UN processes, European Union initiatives and global discussions in the fields of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Regions4 was established in 2002 at the World Summit in Johannesburg and currently represents over 40 members from 20 countries in 4 continents. Through advocacy, cooperation and capacity building, Regions4 empowers regional governments to accelerate global action.

For more information visit: www.regions4.org

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#Regions4Biodiversity #RegionsVoice