

Bahia - Brazil

Multilevel Governance in Bahia

Bahia established its State Policy on Climate Change in 2011. In the process of its renewal, Bahia wished to reactivate the Bahia Forum on Global Climate Change and Biodiversity ([Inema](#), 2020). In Brazil since the 2000s, about 23 state or municipal forums have been created and coordinated by the “Brazilian Forum on Climate Change” at the federal level to assist the Presidency of the Republic. In Bahia, the renewed Forum will be composed of 14 governmental bodies and 14 representatives of business entities, academics and organized civil society, in charge of drawing up guidelines for the policy and approving the new State Plan to Combat Climate Change ([Government of Bahia](#), 2020).

No representative of municipalities seem to be associated with the Forum, but Bahia’s capital Salvador, also launched its first climate action plan in 2020 with 57 short, medium and long-term mitigation and adaptation actions, and with the goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2049. Because of the weak federal mobilisation, each government seeks to lead the subject, but the lack of top-down regulation does not facilitate the articulation between federated entities climate policies ([Climate Chance](#), 2021).

Monitoring Bahia’s mitigation policy

Bahia will start to monitor its GHG emissions with the new State Policy. In the meantime the spatialization tool created by the Climate Observatory in Brazil evaluates that Bahia, with 61 MtCO₂e in 2019, concentrates around 3 % of the GHG emission of Brazil ([SEEG](#)). Emissions in 2019 have decreased by 30% since 1990 and 17,5% since 2005. Emissions from land use and forestry have sharply decreased in Bahia by 66 % since 2005, which is encouraging since 7 of the 10

cities with the highest emissions in Brazil are located in the North region, and these emissions are the result of activities associated mainly to deforestation ([ICLEI](#), 2020). Salvador for example, beyond its Dial Atlantic Forest program, which provides native seeds for inhabitants, has planted over 51,230 trees, revitalized and expanded local parks and protected areas ([Cityfix](#), 2019). The recent federal trend may have reversed this progress.

Conversely, emissions from energy increased by 40 % over the same period, mainly due to transport, which accounts for over 50% of these emissions. For electricity production, Bahia was one of the first states to map the solar potential of its territory about ten years ago, and has adopted an offensive strategy to facilitate investments in wind power (standards for land regularisation, tax incentives) ([Inema](#), 2020) such as the on-going Statkraft’s 520 MW wind capacity project ([Statkraft](#), 2021), but not without consequences for land use ([Turkowska, O; and al.](#), 2021). Bahia now wishes to diversify its mix and invest in biomass for electricity and biogas production.

Adaptation

The growing impact of climate change has been a motivating factor to renew the State Policy and address better adaptation. 87% of Bahia territory is in the Area Subject to Desertification (ASD), the largest in Brazil, where 289 municipalities and 4 millions of people are located. The drought between 2012 and 2018 that occurred in Nordeste of Brazil was the longest in history. Bahia counts with 1,100 km long coastline, subject to erosion ([PBMC](#), 2019).

GHG EMISSIONS OF BAHIA 2005-2019 BY SECTOR (MTCO₂E). Source: [SEEG](#), n.d.

