

# External control in climate adaptation

## Promotion of climate change adaptation measures driven by Supreme Audit Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean—AdaptalInfra

External government control can secure a more effective oversight of sustainable infrastructure and its contribution to climate adaptation, environmental protection and human rights.

### Context

Climate change causes extreme weather events, which consequently harm populations, ecosystems and public services, especially the most vulnerable groups and regions. In 2023, several extreme weather events, such as storms, floods, landslides, droughts and high temperatures affected Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Essential public facilities - hospitals, bridges and highways - are particularly affected by these phenomena, as their functioning and accessibility may be at risk. Therefore, infrastructure needs to be designed in a sustainable manner in order to adapt to this situation and reduce its negative impacts.

The climate crisis represents one of the greatest challenges for the region, demanding not only responses to the natural disasters that have already been manifesting, but also a strategic approach that promotes more resilient and sustainable development in the long term.

External control has the potential to ensure that sustainable infrastructure is not just a promise, but a reality that benefits present and future generations. By auditing resources, practices and impacts, Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) enable the integration of sustainability and resilience in infrastructure projects, promoting a balance between economic development, social justice and environmental preservation.

### Objective

In this context, the Latin American and Caribbean Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS) and the German Cooperation, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, implement the regional project **Promotion of climate change adaptation measures driven by Supreme Audit Institutions**.

<b>Project name</b>	<i>Promotion of climate change adaptation measures driven by Supreme Audit Institutions (AdaptalInfra)</i>
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Implementing partners</b>	Member SAIs of the Latin American and Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS)
<b>Country</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Political partners</b>	Federal Court of Accounts of Brazil (TCU)
<b>Budget</b>	€ 2.500.000
<b>Duration</b>	October 2024 to September 2027

The overall objective of the project is to **establish the institutional requirements for conducting audits of sustainable infrastructure** by member institutions of the Latin American and Caribbean Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions.

With over 10 years of cooperation between OLACEFS and GIZ, the project establishes a strategic alliance to promote measures in the area of governmental control, so that public infrastructure projects are managed in an efficient and responsible manner.

The project is guided by an Advisory Group, composed of eight OLACEFS bodies, each responsible for a cross-cutting theme. The

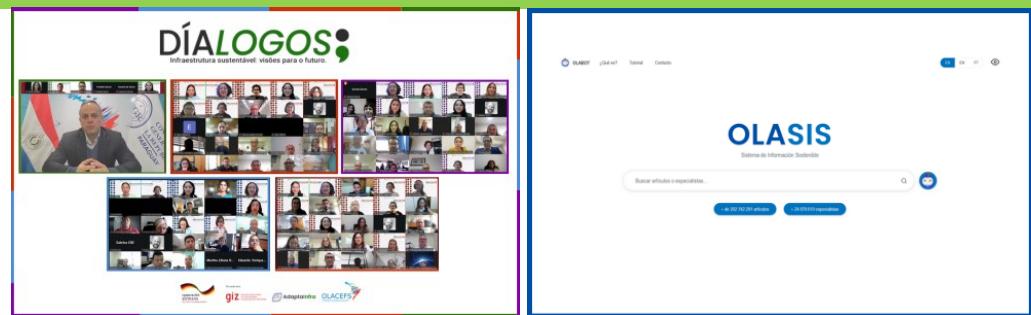


Left: Advisory Council's Project meeting

Right: AdaptalInfra's workshop

Left: Online Dialogues on Sustainable Infrastructure

Right: OLASIS Platform



group provides guidance on strategies and supports the planning, execution, coordination, communication, and monitoring of the project's technical cooperation.

## Methodology

The Project operates in two fields of action or components:

### Enhancing the effectiveness of infrastructure audit processes:

This involves the development and incorporation of tools, as well as capacity building, for sustainable infrastructure audit processes using information and communication technologies (ICT), with a special focus on gender equality.

### Promoting collaborative efforts:

This includes institutionalising exchange formats, such as dialogue events and working groups, between OLACEFS bodies and member institutions, as well as external stakeholders, on sustainable infrastructure and its contribution to environmental protection and human rights.

The project developed a data-driven communication strategy based on storytelling to create a persuasive, clear and precise narrative that promotes awareness and engagement.

In July 2025, the project promoted five online dialogues on sustainable infrastructure, addressing topics such as environmental management and resources, adaptive and resilient infrastructure, climate justice, innovation, citizen participation, regulatory frameworks, environmental auditing, and international cooperation. The series, which also involved governments and other stakeholders, fostered discussions at national and regional levels and engaged over 1,000 participants from several Latin American and Caribbean countries, reflecting their interest and the relevance of the topics discussed. The sixth dialogue will be

held in person and will address innovation of sustainable infrastructure oversight.

The project has developed a knowledge management platform called OLASIS (OLACEFS Sustainable Information System) that connects OLACEFS to millions of academic articles and researchers. The platform also features a chatbot (OLABOT) that can be used to achieve a better understanding of concepts, providing guidance and information to the Audit Community to assist in audits.

In addition, Adaptalnra drives innovation through an innovation fund for the development of digital tools. These solutions, which will be created by OLACEFS institutions' members teams, aim to support and improve audit processes in sustainable infrastructure. The winning teams will present their tools at the 2026 OLACEFS Steering Committee.



## Area of Action

The project is implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the open participation of the 22 Supreme Audit Institutions that make up OLACEFS, with a particular emphasis on the Amazon region.



More about OLACEFS's regional projects: <https://olacefs.com/giz/>

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