

Fundación/Instituto Torcuato Di Tella (ITDT)- Argentina
Activities that are being undertaken related to the assessment of costs
and benefits of adaptation options

Verónica Gutman, ITDT

UNDP launched a global project, “Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change”, in May 2008, to better understand the magnitude of funds needed to tackle climate change now and in the long term. Developing countries participating in the project are undertaking assessments of investment and financial flows (I&FF) to address climate change for key sectors.

ITDT is the Regional Center of Excellence that gives support, providing training and technical backstopping to the ten Latin American and Caribbean countries that are currently participating in the UNDP global project: Paraguay, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Colombia, St. Lucia, Nicaragua, Peru, Ecuador and Uruguay. Participant countries from Africa are Algeria, Gambia, Liberia, Namibia, Niger, and Togo; while the countries participating from Asia are Bangladesh, Nepal and Turkmenistan.

Participating countries conduct I&FF assessments for selected key sectors over a six-month period and will present their results at national workshops in 2010. Countries have selected two to four key sectors to assess, and will consider either mitigation and/or adaptation options for each sector. The analysis is focused on estimating the additional investments flows (investments in physical assets such as infrastructure) and financial flows (mainly programmatic measures) that are needed to implement these measures with a 2030 time horizon. The project has developed a methodology guidebook for conducting national I&FF assessments of mitigation and adaptation measures aimed at addressing climate change in the selected key sectors. For each chosen sector, the I&FF are estimated for a baseline scenario (reflecting a continuation of current policies and plans) and for an adaptation/mitigation scenario (reflecting additional measures to address climate change). The difference between these flows represents the sector-specific adaptation/mitigation I&FF needs.

This analysis does not explicitly consider the benefits derived from implementing adaptation or mitigation measures (although countries are encouraged to report such benefits qualitatively). In addition, there is no consideration of uncertainty, either in relation to the range of climate projections or the range of adaptation options.

For the time being, our institute has undertaken technical trainings in six countries (Costa Rica, St. Lucia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Paraguay). One country is currently finishing the I&FF analysis and in other countries the assessments are already underway. Some others are still at the beginning of their assessments, which are expected to be finished by December 2010.