

1. OVERCOMING CLIMATE DATA/ INFORMATION BARRIERS

Regarding the activities identified under the focus areas “**Data and observations**” from the Nairobi Work Programme, which objective is to improve collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate variability and change, and “**Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling**”, which objective is to promote the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change, the RIOCC (Ibero –American Network of Climate Change offices) has carried out some projects and activities to achieve these objectives, which are also include in the specific objectives of the PIACC (Ibero-American Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change), framework where the RIOCC initiatives and activities on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change are planned and implemented.

Outputs and impacts of action

Data and observations

RIOCC activities in this field are developed with the aim of promoting the implementation of the GCOS Regional Action Plans in Iberoamerica.

- GCOS Cooperation Mechanism has received regular financial support from Spain, in order to solve urgent needs in the observational networks in the region. In the last years some projects have been developed in the Global Upper Air Network (GUAN) and in the Global Surface Network (GSN) in Perú, Uruguay, Ecuador, México, El Salvador, Colombia, etc.
- GCOS Secretariat has been taking part in RIOCC meetings

Many activities related with the Systematic Observation are in progress under the Framework of the Conference of Meteorological and Hydrological National Services in Ibero-America. The Spanish Meteorological National Agency (AEMet), in coordination with the World Meteorological Organization, cooperates in a multilateral way developing projects and activities in the region in Institutional strengthening, Capacity building, Improvement of operational management of Meteorological Services...

Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

Brazil develops an intense activity in the field of regional climate scenarios. Its national capacity as well as its data and related products have been offered to the RIOCC members by means of the capacity building project “**Promote the use of the of the ETA/CPTEC regional climate model in Ibero- America**”.

This Project has been coordinated by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil, and has been supported by the Spanish Government, with the collaboration of the Economical Commission for Latino America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The activity has been structured in two technical workshops, with the aim to improve the capacity of the countries of the region in the use and application of the model Eta developed by CPTEC (Weather Prediction and Climate Studies Centre):

- First Workshop (Cachoeira Paulista, Brasil. July, 2008) was about the knowledge and management of regional climate scenarios. After this workshop the participants were able to apply at their national level all the information, data and capacity learnt,
- Second workshop (same place, September, 2009): the main issue was the scenarios implementation in different impact models in order to evaluate the vulnerability in different sectors and systems.

Besides these activities, regular capacity building training courses in the field of downscaling techniques are developed under the framework of the Conference of Meteorological and Hydrological National Services (HMNS) in Iberoamerica, with participation of technicians selected by RIOCC's members

Emerging opportunities, challenges and further needs

More activities that will help to achieve the objective of the NWP will be developed in the near future, while some of them have already started:

- The financial contribution to the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism, in order to solve urgent needs in the observational networks of the region, will continue.
- The promotion of the development of an Implementation Strategy for the GCOS in the Ibero-American region, in collaboration with the GCOS Secretariat.
- More capacity building workshops will be organized to provide continuity to the activities mentioned above on Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

Opportunities

- The conference of Director of HMNS is a well establish forum to promote the improvement of the systematic observation in the region.
- Systematic observation for adaptation is a key issue in the UNFCCC negotiation process

Challenges and further needs

- Need to set up and reinforce the systematic observational networks in the terrestrial and oceanic domains, widely based up to now in disperse projects
- Quantify in a disaggregated way (geographical and by domains and even by ECV) the financial needs for systematic observation
- Demonstrate the key role of systematic observation for adaptation purposes
- Synergies with all regional stakeholders
- Implementation of GCOS regional plans
- Set up and enhance links at a national level between data acquirers and data users.