

### 3. REDUCING RISK OS EXTREME EVENTS AND WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS.

Regarding the activities identified under the focus area “**Climate related risk and extreme events**” from the Nairobi Work Programme, which objective is to promote understanding of impacts and vulnerability, emphasizes current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development, the RIOCC has carried out some projects to achieve this objective, which is include in one of the specific objectives of the PIACC.

#### **Outputs and impacts of action**

PIACC has the specific objective of setting up synergies among key stakeholders in climate change adaptation in the region, including those associated with the linkage of natural disasters to climate extreme events.

In this sense, the **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)**, by means of its Regional Office for the Americas, is a regular key actor in RIOCC's meetings.

Activities carried out:

- ⇒ A regional seminar on “**Climate Change and Natural Disasters**” organized by RIOCC, took place in Guayaquil (Ecuador) in June 2006, with the participation of the meteorological, the climate change and the civil defence communities. The conclusions of the seminar highlight the need to reinforce cooperation among these three communities and identify elements to address it.  
([http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/sbsta\\_agenda\\_item\\_adaptation/application/pdf/action\\_pledge\\_riocc.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/sbsta_agenda_item_adaptation/application/pdf/action_pledge_riocc.pdf))
  
- ⇒ RIOCC has established a **work programme with the Regional Office for the Americas of the ISDR** (see textbox below), based in Panamá, which main objective is to identify and develop a set of activities with a practical focus, including:
  - Drafting guidelines for integrating climate change adaptation and natural disaster reductions
  - Enhancing the cooperation and information exchanges among national focal points on both fields, climate change adaptation and risk disaster reduction
  - Promoting the dissemination of selected material
  - Developing demonstrative pilot projects of how to integrate climate change adaptation and natural disaster reduction
  - Promoting the development of an integrated assessment report on climate change adaptation and natural disaster reduction in the region.

## **Co-operation between RIOCC and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)**

This co-operation, financially supported by means of Spanish contribution to the ISDR, tries to cover part of the demands that implies to coordinate efforts of knowledge and experiences exchange in relation with climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the region, which are oriented to strengthen the basis of information and knowledge of the national institutions responsible for its implementation.

The results of this project cover the following lines for action of the PIACC:

### **1. Institutional Strengthen**

- a. The Environment Ministry of Peru, in coordination with the Regional Unit for the Americas is developing guidelines in order to develop the National Action Plan for Climate change adaptation.
- b. Some contacts have already been made with focal points of the National platforms of different countries ( Ecuador, Uruguay, Brasil, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Nicaragua, Guatemala, México, Argentina) in order to promote their actions and try to achieve their commitments of starting or strengthening , at a national level, the dialogue and coordination of climate change and DRR .

### **2. Promote the exchange and free consultant of knowledge, experiences, tools, and methods related to impact, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change assessment.**

- a. Collaborate with the UNFCC Secretariat on the development of the Workshop on integrating practices, tools and systems for climate change risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programmes, in the framework of the NWP (La Habana Cuba. March 2009)
- b. Support the development of the first session of the Regional Platform for the DRR.
- c. Six countries of the region are attending the course "Local sustainable development and disaster risk reduction ", which is been given by the International Center of training of the OIT/ DELNET, interagencial effort coordinate by ISRD.

### **3. Promote the development of participatory projects about climate change adaptation in the main sectors and systems that have been considered, especially in tras-border projects, transectorial projects and / or in pan – sectorial projects.**

- a. Some preliminary contacts have already been made with AECID CEPREDENAC in order to establish coordination mechanisms for the identification of key areas of interest due to the impact of climate disasters that will help to formulate a draft of local development taking into account DRR and climate change, in the context of the New Centroametrica Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

### **4. Promote information and communication activities of the PIACC**

- a. The main activity related to this action will be to compile basic information about climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and afterwards distribute this information to the national focal points, as partners and stakeholders for its distribution at the local level.
- b. This action involves translation of relevant reports, guidelines of NWP information that have been selected in a coordinate way between RIOCC and ISDR. (coordination with ISDR-Americas)

### **5. Prepare reports about impacts, vulnerability , and adaptation to climate change assessment in the iberoamerican region**

- a. Promote actions of DRR and Climate change at the sub regional level in order to develop subregional reports that will be use as a guide for the formulation of strategies and programmes. These reports will take into account the adaptation to climate change process in the context of its respective mandates and will be in concordance with the particular conditions of each region.

### ***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 Co-operation between the RIOCC and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), will continue during 2010, some of the activities that are going to take place next year are:
  - Workshop on capacity building about Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change.
  - Develop pilot initiatives for an effective management of disaster risk, as a way to achieve climate change adaptation in the most important areas and fields.
  - The process of strengthen and creation of National platforms will continue
  - Give support in the UNFCCC process till COP 15 to specific focal points
  - Workshop of communicators
  - Support to elaborate the special report of IPCC on DRR

#### ***Opportunities***

- DRR is a key element identifies in Bali Action Plan for the adaptation building block, so is at the top of the agenda.
- Hyogo Framework offers a way to mainstream adaptation into DRR. At the same time Copenhagen agreement will hopefully offer an adaptation framework in which DRR will be integrated.

#### ***Challenges and further needs***

- There is a need to move from disaster management into risk management in the DRR framework.