

4. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING

Regarding the activities identified under the focus area “**Adaptation planning and practices**” from the Nairobi Work Programme, which objective is to collect, analyse and disseminate information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including projects, short- and long-term strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge, the RIOCC has carried out some projects to achieve this objective, which is included in one of the specific objectives of the PIACC.

Outputs and impacts of action

PIACC, within its general objective of strengthening the development and implementation of adaptation strategies to climate change in the region, promotes a permanent exchange of experiences and information on national adaptation frameworks and activities among the entire RIOCC members through its inclusion as an ordinary item of its annual meetings agenda. These regular meetings provide the guarantee and firmness for the continuity of the PIACC.

- PIACC has engaged several regional organizations (such as CATHALAC, CATIE, ISDR-Americas, CIIFEN...), institutions, and initiatives, active in climate change adaptation with the aim of :
 - Increasing synergies and working together and with the countries.
 - Go through with projects and exchange of knowledge and know-how.
- PIACC has produced outreach material to disseminate and make known the initiatives and their activities (brochures).
- PIACC has supported the composition of a portfolio of adaptation to climate change projects. The result and outcomes of these projects feed the base of knowledge and practises in the region.

More activities that are going on:

- The Increase of the portfolio of adaptation projects, especially trans-frontier projects, tras-sectoral projects and/or pan-sectoral projects.
- The widening of systems, sectors and geographical areas covered by the projects
- Analyse and assess adaptation projects in progress or already carried out in the region, and the effectiveness of the adaptation measures implemented. (Workshop to assess adaptation measures to climate change in Iberoamerica, more information in the textbox below).
- Keep updated and maintain a dedicated website on the RIOCC and the PIACC (<http://www.lariocc.net>)
- The review of all the findings and outcomes, as well as the promotion of information exchanges , from the projects, as they are implemented
- Regular training **on-line course** on International Climate Regime, in which one area of study is related to adaptation.
- Capacity building courses in mainstreaming climate change adaptation into project formulation

Workshop to assess adaptation measures to climate change in Iberoamerica

This workshop took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia (6-8 October 2008) in the PIACC framework, satisfying one of the commitments acquire by RIOCC as a contribution to the achievement of the NWP objectives. The workshop was proposed by Colombia during the technical meeting of the RIOCC (COP13 UNFCC). The workshop was organized by Spain and Colombia.

This workshop has gathered:

- Members from climate change offices form 18 countries of the region
- Several experts that had contributed to the 4th IPCC report
- Experts from international organisations and regional institutions that are very active in climate change adaptation. (CATHACAL, EIRD).
- Members from the PNUD
- Members from financial institutions with activity in the region, as the World Bank, and the Interamerican Bank of Development

Objective

The main objective of the workshop was to establish a meeting forum between members of the climate change offices of the region, experts, members from regional centers, etc, for the review, exchange and debate of knowledge, experiences, methods, tools, practices, and different approaches in relation to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change assessment in the RIOCC countries, in order to evaluate adaptation measures that are taking place in some Iberoamerica countries.

The workshop was structured in different thematic sessions:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction related to climate change
2. Water resources
3. Agriculture
4. Biodiversity and Coastal areas
5. Projects formulation

There was another session in which some projects related to different sectors from the ones mentioned above were analysed. In each session, presentations were developed, and afterwards some debates about the results and lessons learnt took place, as well as some recommendations and needs were detected.

Some relevant conclusions and recommendations emerging from these sessions are:

- Some tools and methods can be use by both climate change adaptation and DRR communities in order to make the asses process of vulnerability and adaptation easier at a national level.
- Establishment of interistitutional mechanism of coordination at a national and regional level will help to exchange knowledge and experiences between DRR and climate change adaptation communities, compatible with sustainable development actions and the achievement of millennium goals.
- Natural protected areas are starting points to develop a climate change adaptation strategy in sectors including water resources and agriculture. There are also protected spaces where is possible to gather synergies over big environmental problems, as lost of biodiversity, desertification and climate change.
- Conservation and restoration of ecological systems will help to maintain environmental goods and services from ecosystems. The protected areas system is a key element of this strategy.
- Water management is closely related with risk minimization in agriculture production and the water supply for human use.

- Because the climate is not stationary right now, actual hydrological planning, based in historical series of data is not adequate.
- Climate change adaptation projects should consider, future climate uncertainty sources and future impacts uncertainties. This obliges to maintain maximum flexibility to design and redesign, continuously, adaptation measures in the different sectors.
- Climate change adaptation should be integrated into sectorial regulations for planning.
- Communication, diffusion, education and awareness are transversal to all projects and key elements for an effective implementation of all the measures.
- Engineer, architects, urban planners, and other actors involve in the design of coastal infrastructures should have some knowledge about geodynamic and environmental concepts as well as knowledge of climate change impacts.
- Climate change adaptation should be an inclusive sectors and populations process, where participation may be a relevant element for success in policies and measures implementation. These policies and measures should be assumed as their own by local and regional governments.
- Climate change adaptation on health needs more studies in Iberoamerica, the developed experiences prove the enormous potential benefit for the region that impact assessment and vulnerability over health can suppose, as well as the adaptation measures adopted in this field.
- There is a need to develop capacity building workshops and activities about how to formulate adaptation projects, including cost analysis, monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation measures.

More information about this workshop can be found at the website:

(http://www.lariocc.net/riocc_principal/es/proyectos_iniciativas/tal_eva_med_ada_cc.htm) where the report with all the main conclusions is also available.

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.

Opportunities

- The RIOCC wants to keep on going together in capacity building and exchange of knowledge and experiences.
- PIACC and RIOCC as an open forum, transparent, participative, regular and periodic, for the identification of needs, and agree and implementation of actions.
- Spanish Cooperation Network of Training Centers in IberoAmerica can be consider as a well establish infrastructure that can be use by the RIOCC and PIACC

Challenges and further needs

- Keep the momentum about climate change adaptation
- Increase the number of regional projects
- Strengthen national climate change adaptation units in the countries of the region
- Focus PIACC in two directions, (i) internal at regional level and (ii) external, as an example for other regions
- Couple PIACC to Copenhagen agreement
- Establish more synergies between the regional centres active in climate change adaptation