

Federal Court of Accounts – Brazil (TCU) - Auditing Climate Change Policies

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TCU's mandate and jurisdiction

1. Role of Supreme audit institution;
2. Mandate: M&E compliance with the law and international agreements, government program performance and federal expenditures (public policies);
3. Tools: recommendations and determinations (enforcement).



Working Group on Environmental Audit – WGEA / INTOSAI

1. Proposal of international audit in 2008 – 14 countries;
2. According to domestic needs and preferences, each institution could assess the performance of their respective government in different sectors.
3. Memorandum of Understanding Unep X WGEA



TCU's efforts

1. Three audits in adaptation policies: coastal zones, agriculture and livestock and water safety in semiarid areas;
2. M&E: data, identifying vulnerabilities, developing adaptation measures, implementing adaptation measures and M&E;
3. Follow-up to identify progress in these sectors and to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations (2011).



Main conclusions (2008 audits)

1. Lack of adaptation goals in the national plan on climate change;
2. Need to review policies of specific sectors to incorporate guidelines of the National Plan on Climate Change;
3. Macro-scale vulnerability studies don't support decision makers - studies need more details by region;



Main conclusions (2008 audits)

- Conflicts of jurisdiction and lack of coordination between federal and state managers;
- Few concrete actions regarding adaptation
- Need of implementing permanent monitoring system of oceanic variables and consolidation of isolated databases;



Main conclusions

- Deficiencies in the identification of potential risks arising from climate change –

Cause: difficult access to meteorological data

- » Historical series still in printed forms (books, notebooks, maps etc)
- » Charging for providing meteorological data
- » Deficiencies in collecting meteorological data



Recommendations

- To make available the historic series of meteorological data in electronic media, in order to support the development of models to predict future climate changes of the country;
- to allow access to long term meteorological data for all institutions, in order to enable climate studies;
- to consider climate change scenarios in the development of public policies.



Communication strategies

- Distribution of summaries and reports to managers;
- Dissemination Seminar in 2009;
- Inputs to international report of WGEA;
- Inputs to audit guidance produced by SAI of Norway;



Communication strategies

- Production of instructional programs for the TV channel of House of Representatives;
- Monitoring meeting in 2011;
- Presentation of the results in a parallel session at Rio+20 (2012);
- Debate in the Parliament in October of 2013;



National progress and audit results – Follow up

- Creation of the National Center for Monitoring and Disaster Alert;
- Open access of the historical series of meteorological data to researchers;
- Implementation of the project to digitalize and make available climate data;



National progress and audit results – Follow up

- The national water agency started to consider climate change scenarios when planning and implementing public policies for the management of water resources;
- Launch of the first plans for sector adaptation, such as the health sector plan
- Project to development various resistant crops to the stresses of drought seasons and high temperatures.



Lessons Learned

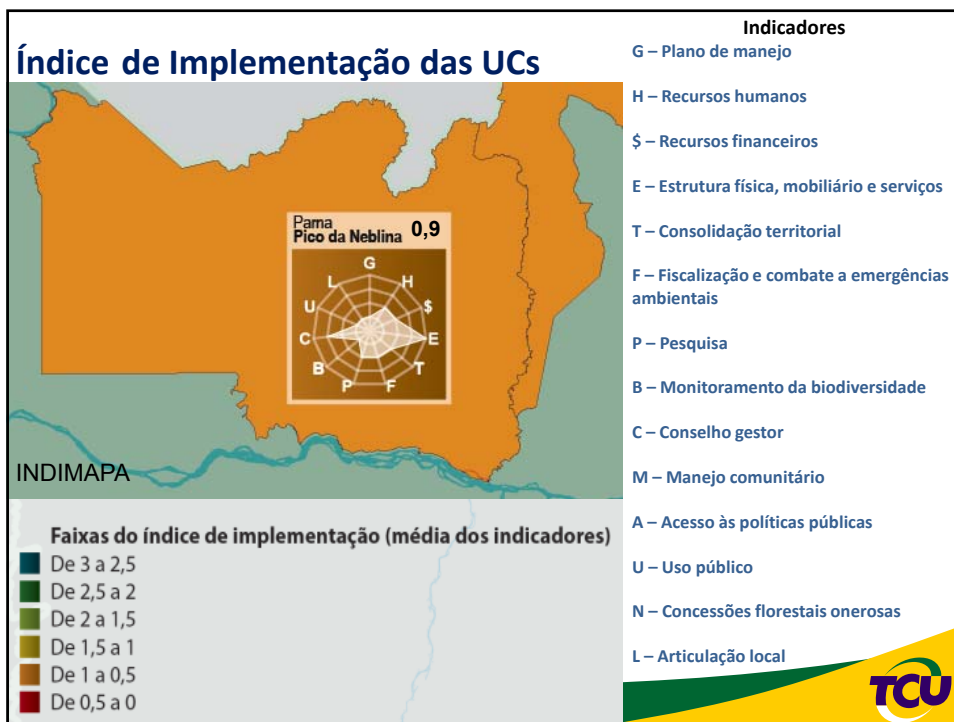
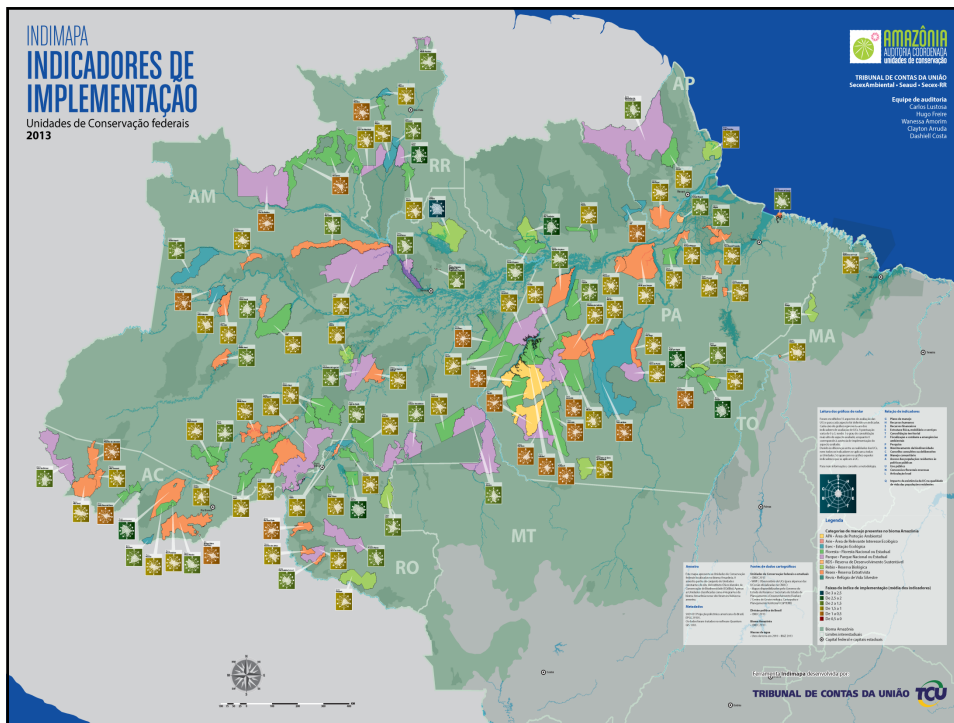
- Need to transform technical data into information for the decision maker;
- Even facing lack of adaptation targets on the national plan, SAIs have an important role raising awareness and including the theme in the agenda of the public policy makers;
- Opportunity to identify good practices;
- The reports are instrument of transparency.

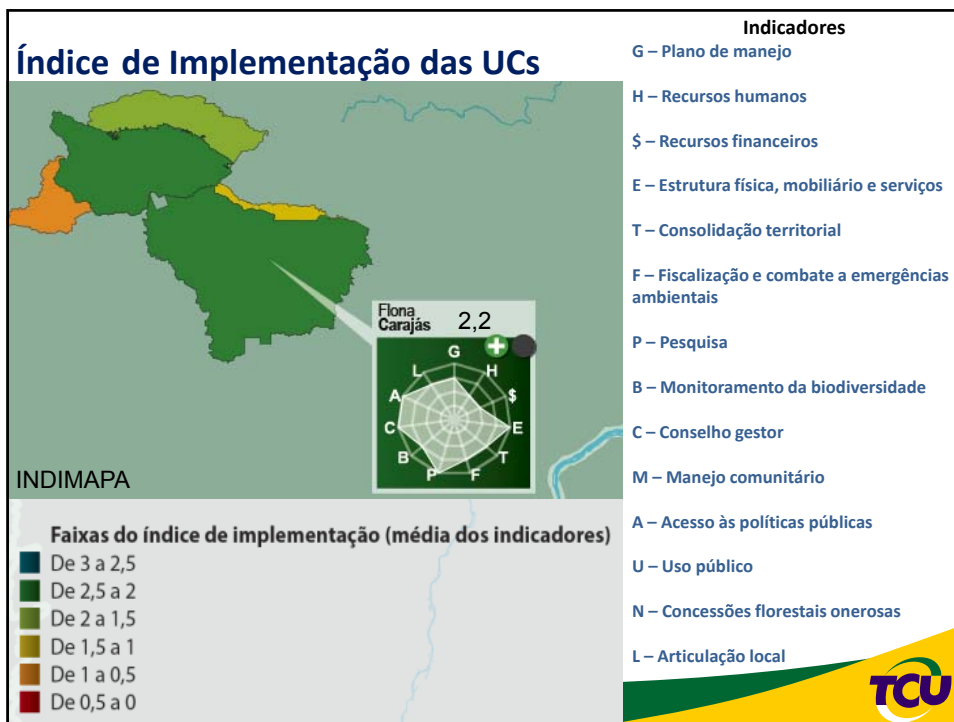


Challenges

- to invest in adaptation measures when there is a big gap of meeting basic needs of the population;
- To build reliable indicators and make impact analysis when there is no clear targets for adaptation plan;
- To incorporate adaptation measures in the public policy.







THANK YOU!