

**Contribution UNFCCC Expert Workshop on local coping strategies and technologies for adaptation/ and UNEP conference theme on “Livelihood at risk of climate change”- New Delhi, India**

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Colombia published its First National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change in the year 2001. The Colombian Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environmental Studies ( Ideam) acted as coordinator for the production of communication.

At the present time we have UNDP technical and financial support to strengthen this communication according to the recommendations; especially in the field of the deficient information identified in basic data for the greenhouse gas inventories for energy, agriculture, land use and forestry. The finished report will be available August 2004. One of the main points of discussion is that sometimes the problems with the IPCC vulnerability and adaptation method do not apply to all countries in the same way.

**1. Colombia has taken a number of actions to mitigate greenhouse gases emissions since 1994. Some examples are:**

- 1.1 In energy : The National Energy Plan was formulated , gas conversion programs ( emissions control), the National Cleaner Production Policy;
- 1.2 In agriculture with ecological production.
- 1.3 In land use changes and forestry with the Forest Policy, The Strategic Plan to Restore and Establish Forests and the National Forests Development Plan.
- 1.4 In waste disposal : with The Integrated Waste Disposal Management Policy.
- 1.5 Measures for clean development mechanism with a research funded by the Swiss government and the World Bank. The NSS was produced in 1999.

**2. In vulnerability and adaptation the following local measures are being implemented:**

- 2.1 Integrated management of *coastal areas* that established by the government for the coast such as the preservation of wetlands ,

regulation of land use and activities in threatened zones by flooding, and the protection of zones of major socio-economic interest.

2.2 Identification of new guidelines for the adaptation of *ecosystems* to climate change that imply land use regulations and include the concept of a principal ecological structure for the country. In the paramo ecosystem for example, there is a priority to control the advance of human activities to implement a policy designed to gradually limit social and economical activity and to declare these zones to be a biodiversity protected area .

2.3 Advances in agriculture are being made with recent evaluations of land suited for different activities like intensive farming ; taking into consideration the impacts of irrigation projects and the different desertification processes. More emphasis and capacity building is being promoted to include the subject of water resources and also the need for remote sensing information, and a sustainable agro-technological calendar.

2.4 Intensive research is being carried out with human health issues like dengue and malaria. The discussion of chemical control has a lot of controversy, especially the use of DDT. Medical research in malaria and a new vaccine for malaria is one of Colombia's main contribution to the world. Campaigns have been successful to prevent the mosquito from breeding, and to bring consciousness to the people on the relationship between water, mosquito and malaria and dengue.

No matter how much Colombia works hard on strategies and technologies and complies to its responsibilities within the framework convention in climate change, we have to face the fact that we have a fundamental added barrier which is that of a third world country involved in a long armed conflict.

- ❖ Poverty affects 60% of the population, unemployment is estimated in 18% and according to the last UNDP report on human development, Colombia is ranked 68<sup>th</sup> in the world.
- ❖ The armed conflict/ a war which has lasted over 40 years and which at the present time is at its highest peak in impact and effects on the population.

These two points are important because I think we should highlight the urgent need to understand the relationship between climate and society, and these should be included in our second national communication . The social and political issues of climate change are yet to be understood and discussed ; a new conceptualisation of

climate change seen as a historical and social process is necessary, as well as the influence of globalisation and how this affects participation in development. In Colombia we have no research on these aspects. We need to define a more multidisciplinary methodology which includes society in the technical discourse of climate change.

The armed conflict aggravates processes of climate change. The armed conflict has a direct impact on land conversion; it implies deforestation, contamination ( especially of chemicals used to eradicate illicit crops and oil discharges caused by terrorist attacks, erosion; use and management of natural resources, competition for water and other natural resources, forced migration ( displaced communities/internal refugees) and food scarcity. The environmental degradation of war is incalculable and it is a threat to our rich biodiversity and cultural diversity ( which includes traditional and millenary strategies and technologies to cope with the climate related hazards and risks). We are losing the knowledge at the grass root level.

Hopefully the meeting in New Delhi can be the occasion to make contacts with other countries so we can bring these subjects into the discussion- and propose a future workshop on these subjects.