

Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors (AIACC)

Description	AIACC is a global initiative to advance scientific understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation options in developing countries. AIACC aims to fill gaps in the current understanding of vulnerability and opportunities for adaptation by funding, training, and mentoring developing country scientists to undertake multisector, multicountry research of priority to developing countries. AIACC takes an approach to assessment that is research driven and focused on building capacity. While it does not prescribe an explicit framework for undertaking vulnerability and adaptation assessments it does offer a toolkit for researchers that is useful in the design of projects, as well as the tenets of a general approach. The AIACC regional studies are diverse in their objectives, scientific methods, and the sectors and systems to be investigated, but they share a common second generation assessment approach that places understanding vulnerability at the center of the assessment, engages stakeholders in the assessment process, and gives priority to strengthening the information base for making decisions about adaptation to climate change.
Appropriate Use	The 24 AIACC studies (funded to date) are best used as a source of lessons concerning the process or elements of the process of assessing vulnerability and adaptation options in particular sectors and regions. The AIACC web page can also be consulted for a listing of tools and methods that might be of use in designing such an assessment.
Scope	All sectors, all regions.
Key Output	Adaptation options to reduce vulnerability and risk.
Key Input	Stakeholder generated information about exposure, vulnerabilities, changes, risks, and driving forces.
Key Tools	Stakeholder analysis, sustainable livelihoods and indicators (see Section 3.5), decision support systems, multicriteria analysis (see Section 3.2), cost-benefit analysis, among others (see http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/aiacc/toolkit.html).
Ease of Use	Depends on specific application.
Training Required	Depends on design of particular assessment and tools employed.
Training Available	A formal series of workshops has been held for the benefit of project participants with several meetings scheduled for the near future (http://www.aiaccproject.org/meetings/meetings.html). Proceedings of past meetings can provide a useful source of information about AIACC projects and approaches. Mentoring and networking also comprise important components of the process, with regional meetings scheduled and an online discussion group planned. Regional networks will have the capacity to support continuing investigations and can be an important source of technical support (http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu:9080/aiacc/network.jsp). The AIACC Technical Committee provides guidance on project design, assessment methods, scenario development, and use and training to AIACC projects.
Computer Requirements	Depends on design of particular assessment and tools employed.
Documentation	http://www.aiaccproject.org/ .

Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors (AIACC) (cont.)

<i>Applications</i>	Applications across a wide range of regions, countries, sectors, systems, and groups. There is a web-based information network to share information from the AIACC regional assessments (http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/aiacc/) and a synthesis of AIACC projects (http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/aiacc/synthesis.html).
<i>Contacts for Framework, Documentation, Technical Assistance</i>	The project is managed by the AIACC Science Director and Project Coordinator and overseen by the AIACC Implementing Committee. The AIACC Technical Committee, including a Scenarios Advisory Group, provides guidance on project design, assessment methods, scenario development and use, training, and selection of projects. Sara Beresford, AIACC Project Coordinator. Tel: 202.462.2213; e-mail: sberesford@agu.org or general inquiries to aiacc@agu.org .
<i>Cost</i>	Depends on design of particular assessment.
<i>References</i>	A listing of AIACC reports and publications can be accessed at: http://www.aiaccproject.org/publications_reports/Pub_Reports.html .