

Colombia

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We have not developed Adaptation Strategies that have been evaluated. We are looking in the possible impacts of climate change in our country, which areas and sectors are going to be most affected and then prioritize areas to develop Adaptation actions. But, as Colombia is a megadiversity country, livelihoods are based on ecosystem services; we think that Ecosystem Based Adaptation (UICN 2009, World Bank 2009) is the best approach to be developed in Colombia. This approach considers increasing resilience of socioecosystems and reducing the ecosystems vulnerability at climate change. This approach suggests that ecosystems well managed have a big potential for adaptation, they resist and recover easily and faster to weather extremes and give multiple benefits to human population that depends on them.

We think that a country as Colombia must use methodologies to assess the costs and benefits of adaptation options such as Cost-Effectiveness Analysis and the Avoided Costs Methods to compare the suitablest adaptation action taking into account the financial system of Colombia.

We also consider that a country as Colombia should not use only economic methods, but use complementary methodologies as social evaluations. It is important to take into account the communities that are going to be most affected by climate change and with them choose and evaluate which adaptation actions are more suitable with their needs, climate threats, and realities of their life and livelihoods. For this, methodologies where the community can participate are the key for generate adaptation actions that are sustainable at short, median and long term.

We have learned that human populations in Colombia depend in the ecosystem services for their life. We have learned the complexity of socioecosystems and the need to create adaptation actions based in the state or trajectory in which the system is. We understand that we can not separate the socioeconomic systems to the ecological ones. We understand that is very important to include human populations in the design of adaption actions to accomplish multiple goals. We understand that we must attain the major number of goals that can be achieved in social, economic and ecological terms.

We understand that adaptation actions can not generate perverse incentives or wrong solutions in other areas of Colombia. Adaptation actions can not crash with development goals; instead, adaptation actions must always achieve win-win situations. We learned that we need urgently to avoid maladaptation actions.

We found some needs in all this exercise and discussion. We do not have any economic valuation of biodiversity and the ecosystem services in which the human population depends, making it difficult to add this in any economic exercise.