

## ARGENTINA

### **Implementation of the Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures - Five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.**

#### **1. Mandate**

The COP, by its decision 1/CP.10, requested the SBSTA to develop a structured five-year programme of work for the SBSTA on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (hereinafter referred to as the programme of work). The COP at its eleventh session adopted a five-year programme of work contained in an annex, requesting SBSTA to start implementation of the programme of work by undertaking the initial activities specified in the SBSTA conclusions and elaborate further additional activities and modalities of the programme of work, *inter alia*. The SBSTA 25 agreed to further implement the programme through the activities contained in its conclusions. Under the activities undertaken in line with the objective in the annex to decision 2/CP.11 to advance subthemes b (ii), “Collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge”, and b (iv), “Facilitating communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society, and decision makers, and other stakeholders”, the SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat information on the issues contained in para. 44 of the conclusions.

Argentina welcomes this opportunity to provide information on relevant programmes, activities and views about the matter. This submission contains relevant information about two Argentinian institutions working on these issues.

**2. Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto (National University of Río Cuarto - Faculties of Agronomy and Veterinary, Economic Sciences and Human Sciences) Project on “Integrated Assessment of Social Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change Among Farmers in Mexico and Argentina”.**

Type of adaptation action	Title of adaptation action, including projects	Status of adaptation action	Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action	Concerns/ Barriers	Experiences/ Lesson learned	References
<b>Scope of adaptation action</b>						
<b>Sectoral Level</b>						
<i>Agriculture</i>						
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Irrigation	Under consideration	Hydrological studies.  Credit.	Cost of equipment.  Cost of maintenance.  Economics of scale.	Improved yields and reduced drought impacts.  Additional subsistence benefits.	(1)
<b>Practices</b>	Individual or system development; groundwater or surface water.					
<b>Technologies</b>						
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Insurance	Ongoing	Guarantees of contracts.  Market transparency.  Information	Political will.  Skepticism, distrust.  Low value crops.	Enables cost recovery after loss.  Facilitates agricultural diversification	(1)
<b>Practices</b>	Commercial, publicly subsidized or cooperative.					
<b>Technologies</b>						

Type of adaptation action (cont.)	Title of adaptation action, including projects (cont.)	Status of adaptation action (cont.)	Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action (cont.)	Concerns/ Barriers (cont.)	Experiences/ Lesson learned (cont.)	References (cont.)
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Infrastructure	Under consideration	Public funds	Competition for public funds. Local priorities.	Reduced uncertainty over production in flood-prone areas.	(1)
<b>Practices</b>	Drainage containment infrastructure Roads.					
<b>Technologies</b>						
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Technology	Ongoing	Time for technology development. Institutional coordination	Cost. Decline in public investment in research. Lack of explicit demand from social sector.	Reduces productivity gap between farmer groups. Increases economic margins.	(1)
<b>Practices</b>	Management (agronomic, financial, etc.)					
<b>Technologies</b>	Inputs (seeds, fertilizers)					
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Information	Under consideration	Information networks and intermediaries. Extension. Human resources.	Lack of organizational capacity. Lack of funding.	Better risk management and improved decision-making. Improved dissemination of technology. Greater access to public support programs.	(1)
<b>Practices</b>	Use of climate trends, variability, forecasts, markets, prices, new technologies.					
<b>Technologies</b>	Information network.					

(1) Working Paper N° 39. Local Perspectives on Adaptation to Climate Change: Lessons From Mexico and Argentina (Wehbe, M. et al). September 2006. Available at [http://aiaccproject.org/working\\_papers](http://aiaccproject.org/working_papers).

**3. Centro de Estudios en Cambio Climático Global – Instituto Torcuato Di Tella (Center of Global Climate Change Studies – Torcuato Di Tella Institute).**

Type of adaptation action	Title of adaptation action, including projects	Status of adaptation action	Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action	Concerns/Barriers	Experiences/Lesson learned	References
<b>Scope of adaptation action Regional Level</b>						
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Sustainable Development Paradigm global evolution and its expression in different cultural and economic environments.	First phase completed				
	Extreme weather events in the southern cone of South America.	Completed				
	Analysis of the ability of global climate models to represent temperature in southern South America, and future scenarios.	Completed				
	Evapo-perspiration scenarios for the Plata basin and for big rivers flows based on temperature scenarios.	Completed				
	Vulnerability to floods in the Plata basin.	Completed				
	Dam vulnerability to new climatic conditions.	Completed				
<b>Practices</b>						
<b>Technologies</b>						

Type of adaptation action (cont.)	Title of adaptation action, including projects (cont.)	Status of adaptation Status of adaptation action (cont.)	Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action (cont.)	Concerns/Barriers (cont.)	Experiences/Lesson learned (cont.)	References (cont.)
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Elabopration of criteria for a national adaptation plan <sup>1</sup>	Completed				
	Climatic trends, and past and future scenarios in Argentina	Completed				
	Hydrological trends	Completed				
	Urban vulnerability to high rainfall events.	Completed				
<b>Practices</b>						
<b>Technologies</b>						

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<sup>1</sup> The vulnerability to changes in the climatic and hydrological conditions of the main elements of the socio-economic and natural systems in Argentina was assessed. Problematic zones were identified and the potential vulnerabilities were identified and analyzed for each of them. Work has been done at three different levels. The first one is the assessment of changes for the planning level, with a thirty year horizon under different scenarios. The second level was the analysis of vulnerability of infrastructure and of the natural systems both under the current climate conditions and for future changes in each of the scenarios previously considered. Finally, general guidance is to be provided in order to prepare adaptation strategies in the different critical areas.

Type of adaptation action (cont.)	Title of adaptation action, including projects (cont.)	Status of adaptation Status of adaptation action (cont.)	Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action (cont.)	Concerns/ Barriers (cont.)	Experiences/ Lesson learned (cont.)	References (cont.)
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Growth limitation of the Cuyo region basins facing the effects of climate change.	Completed				
	Hydric offer research on irrigation oasis in Mendoza and San Juan provinces.	Completed				
	Climate change scenarios and its impact on river flows.	Completed				
	Estimation of the coefficients between the regional ways of variation of pressure at the sea level considering the observed data and the 2006 models of generation.	Completed				
	Improvement of the 2006 models of generation on rainfall shields and temperature estimation.	Completed				
	Development of high resolution climatic scenarios for the Patagonia and the Andes regions.	Completed				
	Economic assessment on climate change impacts at the Patagonia region.	Completed				
	Temperature trends and its potential impacts on the electricity consumption at the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires.	Completed				
<b>Practices</b>						
<b>Technologies</b>						

Type of adaptation action (cont.)	Title of adaptation action, including projects (cont.)	Status of adaptation Status of adaptation action (cont.)	Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action (cont.)	Concerns/ Barriers (cont.)	Experiences/ Lesson learned (cont.)	References (cont.)
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<i>Coastal zones (settlements)</i>						
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Coastal vulnerability to climate change and anthropogenic direct actions.	Completed				
<b>Practices</b>						
<b>Technologies</b>						
<i>Others</i>						
<b>Approaches/ Strategies</b>	Road and infrastructure vulnerability.	Completed				
<b>Practices</b>						
<b>Technologies</b>						

### Constraints and lessons learned

The nature of the needs, concerns, barriers and experiences and lessons learned, being common to all activities already undergone, under implementation, and/or under consideration, are treated together in the following items:

#### a) Needs in order to successfully implement the adaptation action

As adaptation actions are interlinked to government planning and investment decisions there is a need to increase the awareness of the decision makers related to climate change impacts and essentially to the need to consider adverse effects and vulnerabilities in their planning.

#### b) Concerns / Barriers

Main concerns are related to the political environment in which institutions dealing with climate change issues are doing their work.

The long term implications of climate change impacts, as contrasted with short term political goals, the continuous changes in the institutional setting in which climate change issues are addressed, and the instability of the technical human resources are some of the disadvantages faced by organizations.

The main barriers are related both to budgetary stringencies and financial constraints.

**c) Experiences/ Lesson learned**

The experience gained while undertaking the aforementioned activities is related to the understanding that:

- i. While financial resources are a key element, stability of scientific and technical teams is essential to avoid delays and preserve already acquired know how;
- ii. The implementation of soft measures (mainly related to knowledge dissemination, regulations and practices), is in many cases far more important than structural technological and equipment related investments;
- iii. Actions can be replicated at the regional level but there is a need to increase activities that allow discussion and consideration of shared concerns, similar impacts and replicable adaptation measures;
- iv. Vernacular knowledge should be considered in the elaboration of adaptation strategies.