



Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean

Science, Education and Policy for People: Putting Knowledge into Practice

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CA-486/07

Helen Adams

Assistant Programme Officer

Adaptation, Technology and Science Programme UNFCCC secretariat

Nairobi

Dear Ms. Adams:

On behalf of CATHALAC I would like to thank you for the invitation to participate in the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Certainly this is an excellent opportunity not only to increase knowledge, but also to continue contributing information on the adaptation to climate change process in the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, and beyond. This is particularly an ideal opportunity to share the achievements obtained throughout several years of execution of the UNDP/GEF Project, "Capacity Building for the Adaptation to Climate Change, Phase II in Central America, Mexico and Cuba", that focused on strengthening regional, national, institutional and individuals in human systems, such as water, agriculture and health, among others. With this effort we are posed and visualize a generation of improved strategies and integrated short and long term goals.

As the immediate integrated process towards adaptation, CATHALAC supports the countries in the Mesoamerican Region in the areas of numerical weather forecast, climate scenario development, Earth Observation Systems (in the context of GEOSS and GCOS), forest fire monitoring, land use change, disaster management and adaptation to climate change through the Regional Visualization and Monitoring System (SERVIR), with the financial and technical support from USAID and NASA. All the above is accompanied by freely and wide dissemination of web-based geographic information systems and technologies as well as knowledge sharing, in service of the people of the region and as part of CATHALAC's vision to deliver timely support and solutions in the context of the MEAs, particularly the UNFCCC

The impact of the above has been beneficial, since all the available information have been utilized in the region for decision making.

Taking advantage of the Center's vast regional capacity and experience in impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change the Iberoamerican Forum of Environmental Ministers have designated CATHALAC as the Latin American Center for Emerging Environmental Problems and Climate Change. In fact due to the benefits such as; political impact and lessons learned on regional adaptation, we will eagerly continue to seek partners to join us in developing a third phase and attain continuity on this midterm process to benefit society.

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As a way of increasing the impact of our common goals and objectives, I am enclosing a matrix showing the common activities between the Nairobi Work Program and the Adaptation to Climate Change project in Latin America, Mexico and Cuba.

Best Regards,



EMILIO SEMPRIS
Director



CATHALAC Principal Project Thematic Areas
 "Capacity Building for the Adaptation to Climate Change, Phase II in Central America, Mexico and Cuba"
COMMON THEMATIC AREAS

<p>Thematic Areas Nairobi Programme</p>	<p>Facilitate dissemination and sharing of experiences & lessons learned in ACC</p>	<p>Application an development of methodologies and tools for impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessment</p>	<p>Develop methodologies and tools for adaptation planning, measures and actions and integration with sustainable development</p>	<p>Exchange of information on observed climate change impacts, including those observed through traditional knowledge</p>
<p>Development, availability and use of climate models and development of, access to and use of climate change scenarios.</p>	<p>Identification of reduction uncertainties</p>	<p>Enhance capacity and experience with the use of these different models, statistical approaches and outputs and any available training opportunities</p>	<p>Analyse means to improve the availability and applicability of climate change modeling and downscaling data to policy makers at all levels</p>	
<p>Experience with assessment and management of current and future climate-related risks and impacts</p>	<p>Ability, gaps, needs, opportunities, barriers and constraints to predicting climate variability, impacts and extreme events across regions and hazards.</p>	<p>Socio economic information related to climate change</p>		

