

The Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC)



Contribution of a regional cooperative structure to the objectives of the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

RIOCC Pledges to Support the NWP

Submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat by:
The Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices

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BACKGROUND

The Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC in its Spanish initials) was created in 2004, supported by the Ibero-American Conference of Nations. Climate Change Offices from 21 countries belong to the RIOCC: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. The RIOCC is a cooperative structure that facilitates both North – South and South–South collaboration.

The RIOCC objective is to promote a permanent dialogue on climate change for a better understanding of the priorities, needs and gaps in the region. The working program establishes, among others, activities in impacts and adaptation to climate change.

During the 2nd Annual meeting of the RIOCC (Guatemala, October 2005), and as a result of an in-session workshop on adaptation to climate change, a proposal to create the Ibero-American Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC) came up. The PIACC, so, is the framework where the RIOCC initiatives and activities on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change are planned and implemented.

The UNFCCC Secretariat has invited pledges of actions to support the objectives of the NWP. This paper reviews PIACC’s objectives and activities that support the work areas of the NWP, and pledges future actions that will contribute in implementing the objectives of the NWP.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF NWP AND PIACC

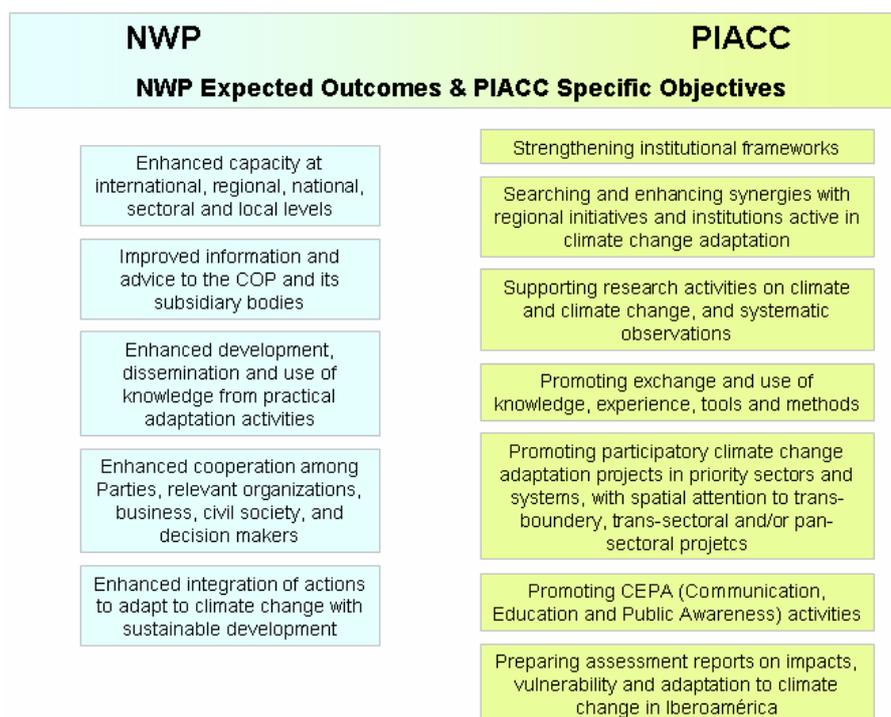
The general objectives of the NWP and the PIACC are shown below:

NWP <i>(decision 2/CP.11)</i>	General Objective	PIACC <i>(PIACC framework document)</i>
To assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation		Assisting RIOCC members to assess impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the sector, system and geographic area of interest
To assist all Parties to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound, scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability		Strengthening the development and implementation of Adaptation Strategies in the region

So, both Programmes have objectives closely aligned; perhaps PIACC, since it points at promoting an adaptation strategic framework for the countries of the region, has a more comprehensive and strategic goal.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF NWP AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF PIACC

According to decision 2/CP.11 and the framework document of PIACC, the expected outcomes of NWP and the specific objectives of PIACC are shown in the figure below:



There are many correspondences among both groups of expected results of NWP and PIACC. NWP targets on capacity building, knowledge generation and dissemination and cooperation at multiple levels, while PIACC also takes into consideration the development and implementation of participatory projects at regional level.

CONTRIBUTION OF PIACC TO NWP AREAS OF WORK PLEDGES FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The NWP is structured around nine areas of work: Methods and tools; Data and observations; Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling; Climate related risks and extreme events; Socio-economic information; Adaptation planning and practices; Research; Technologies for adaptation and Economic diversification.

The next paragraphs express, for some of these 9 areas, the PIACC activities in progress that are a contribution towards the objectives and expected outcomes of NWP, and the future action pledges that will be added in the short and medium term to this contribution. There are also references on how these activities respond to some of

the 12 "Call for Actions" elaborated at this time by the UNFCCC Secretariat, as a result of the first two workshops held under the Nairobi work programme, on climate related risks and extreme events and adaptation planning and practices.

Area 1: Methods and Tools

NWP Objective: Developing and disseminating methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning

PIACC Activities: Facilitating the development and the implementation of methods and tools for assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in different sectors and systems in Ibero-América

PIACC future action pledges: In the near future, two regional projects will be launched to promote development and use of common methodologies and tools to assess climate change impacts and vulnerabilities and to integrate adaptation considerations into sectoral planning and management:

- ⇒ Vulnerability assessment to climate change in marine and coastal areas of Ibero-America
- ⇒ Co-operative project on Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Ibero-America

Reference to the "Call for Action": These activities respond to the following "Call for Actions" (CFA):

- CFA n° 9: Assess the adaptive capacity of communities in coastal zones

Area 2: Data and Observations

NWP Objective: Improving collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate variability and change

PIACC Activities: This area is included in one of the specific objectives of PIACC. Many activities related with systematic observation are in progress under the framework of the Conference of Meteorological and Hydrological National Services in Ibero-America, and also by means of annual concrete actions funded by the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism. Spain regularly contributes with financial resources to this mechanism.

PIACC future action pledges: Next regional activities will be developed in the near future:

- ⇒ Spain will continue to give financial support to the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism in order to solve urgent needs in the observational networks in the region.
- ⇒ Promoting the development of an Implementation Strategy for the GCOS in the Ibero-American region, in collaboration with the GCOS Secretariat

Area 3: Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

NWP Objective: Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change

PIACC Activities: The PIACC activities include the enhancing of capacities in the field of generation and use of climate change models, both global and regional, as a key element for the impacts assessments to climate change.

Under the framework of the Conference of Meteorological and Hydrological National Services (HMNS) in Ibero-America, regular capacity building activities are developed in the field of methods of downscaling to generate climate change scenarios. Last edition of this training activity (course on *Methods for Downscaling to Generate Climate Change Scenarios*) was held in Bogota (Colombia) in April 2008

PIACC future action pledges: The next regional activities will be developed in the near future:

- ⇒ Brazil will host a capacity building activity aiming to promote the use of the Eta/CPTEC regional climate model in Ibero-America
- ⇒ Regular capacity building activities under the framework of the Conference of Meteorological and Hydrological National Services (HMNS) in Ibero-America

Area 4: Climate related risks and extreme events

NWP Objective: Promoting understanding of impacts and vulnerability, emphasizing current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development

PIACC Activities: PIACC has the objective of setting up synergies among key stakeholders in climate change adaptation, including those associated with the linkage of natural disasters to climate extreme events. In this sense, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), by means of its Regional Office for the Americas, is a regular key actor in RIOCC's meetings. Furthermore, a regional seminar on "Climate Change and Natural Disasters", organized by RIOCC, took place in Guayaquil (Ecuador) in June 2006, with the participation of the meteorological, the climate change and the civil defence communities. The conclusions of this seminar highlight the need to reinforce cooperation among these three communities and identify elements to address it.

PIACC future action pledges: In the near future, RIOCC is planning to establish a line of work with the Regional Office for the Americas of ISDR, based in Panama, in order to identify and develop a set of activities with a practical focus, including:

- ⇒ Drafting guidelines for integrating climate change adaptation and natural disaster reductions
- ⇒ Enhancing the cooperation and information exchanges among national focal points on both fields, climate change adaptation and risk disaster reduction
- ⇒ Promoting the dissemination of selected material

- ⇒ Developing pilot projects demonstrative of how to integrate climate change adaptation and natural disaster reduction
- ⇒ Promoting the development of an integrated assessment report on climate change adaptation and natural disaster reduction in the region

Reference to the “Call for Action”: These activities respond to the following “Call for Actions” (CFA):

- CFA n° 12: Assess and provide guidance on the links between disaster risk reduction strategies and adaptation

Area 6: Adaptation planning and practices

NWP Objective: Collecting, analysing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including projects, short- and long-term strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge. This will be done through facilitating communication and cooperation between stakeholders

PIACC Activities: Within its general objective of strengthening the development and implementation of adaptation strategies to climate change in the region, PIACC promotes a permanent exchange of experiences and information on national adaptation frameworks among all the RIOCC members through its inclusion as an ordinary item of the agenda of its annual meetings. These regular meetings provide the guarantee and firmness for the continuity of the PIACC.

PIACC has engaged several regional organizations active in climate change adaptation, with the aim of increasing synergies and working together and with the countries, go through with projects and exchange of knowledge and know-how. Among them, there are regional organizations such as CATHALAC, CATIE and ISDR-Americas that, as RIOCC, are included in the list of organizations that have expressed interest in participating in the implementation of NWP.

PIACC has also the specific objective of promoting Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA activities) in the region, and some outreach material has been produced to disseminate and make known the initiatives and their activities.

Another basic pillar of PIACC is to support the composition of a portfolio of adaptation to climate change projects. The results and outcomes of these projects feed the base of knowledge and practises in the region.

Furthermore, within the thematic window “Environment and Climate Change” of the Spanish Millennium Development Goal Fund¹, seven national projects from Ibero-America region (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru) have been selected and in most of the projects there are specific actions concerning mainstreaming adaptation into national policies.

¹In December 2006, UNDP and the Government of Spain signed a far-reaching agreement to establish a new fund to accelerate efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and to support UN reform efforts at the country level. The Spanish Government has committed €528 million to the MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F), to be programmed between 2007 and end-2010.

The Fund will operate through the UN development system and finance, typically, collaborative UN activities that leverage the clear value-added of the UN in the sector and country concerned, particularly where the UN’s collective strength is harnessed in order to address multi-dimensional development challenges. 57 countries are eligible to apply for assistance from the Fund.

The MDG-F will intervene in a number of thematic areas, including democratic governance, gender equality and women’s empowerment, basic social services, economic and private sector development, environment and climate change, culture and development and conflict prevention and peace building.

PIACC future action pledges: In the near future, it is planned:

- ⇒ Further engaging regional organizations, institutions and initiatives active in climate change adaptation in PIACC activities
- ⇒ Increasing the portfolio of adaptation projects, especially trans-frontier projects, trans-sectoral projects and/or pan-sectoral projects
- ⇒ Widening the systems, sectors and geographical areas covered by the projects
- ⇒ Organizing a workshop to analyse and assess adaptation projects in progress or already carried out in the region, and the effectiveness of the adaptation measures implemented
- ⇒ Setting up a dedicated website on the RIOCC and the PIACC
- ⇒ Reviewing finding and outcomes, and promoting information exchanges, from the projects, as they are implemented
- ⇒ Set up a training on-line course on International Climate Regime; one of the areas of study is related to Adaptation

Reference to the “Call for Action”: These activities respond to the following “Call for Actions” (CFA):

- CFA n° 1: Raise awareness on adaptation actions at international and regional levels in order to help facilitate coordination
- CFA n° 3: Improve guidance for adaptation planning at the national level
- CFA n° 4: Analyze and widely disseminate practical experiences on adaptation programmes, practises and activities

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