

The Durban Summit: Consequences for Latin America

3

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Editorial



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DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

The road forward from COP 17

The 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa, has led to the creation of a road map for the renewal of the Kyoto Protocol with a binding legal framework, the definition of the structure of the Green Climate Fund and a commitment not to increase the average temperature of the Earth by more than two degrees centigrade.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean played an important role in the process of discussing and bringing to the forefront the effects of climate change on the future of their peoples and the environment. This Newsletter presents various views and reflections about the results obtained in the Durban conference, from the perspective of environmental policy administrators and planners in Latin America, the European Commission, civil society organisations and the media.

The variety of views included in this issue of the Newsletter reflects that the debate on the actions to be taken by countries in the face of climate change is not only of interest to political decision makers, but also to other actors in society.

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Interview with Ms. Jolita Butkevičienė

Director Latin America and Caribbean,
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What were the key elements in the EU's negotiation strategy in Durban?

The strength of the European Union's (EU) negotiation strategy in Durban was that it presented its position jointly and firmly and spoke with one voice on behalf of all the Member States and the European Commission. The EU made it clear that it would commit itself to a second round of the Kyoto protocol only on the condition that there was an agreement on a road map for ensuring that a future agreement would be legally binding. The strategy of maintaining this united position, while accepting proposals from the different parties, was attractive for the Least Developed Countries and the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, and in the end also for many middle-income countries.

So what were the main results of Durban?

After long negotiations, a consensus was reached on the Durban Platform with the road map (key years: 2015 and 2020) so that all the parties could enter a binding regime. The result was that the Green Climate Fund was approved and various key Cancun agreements were made fully operational, including the Adaptation Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. An agreement was also reached for a second period of commitment to the Kyoto Protocol starting on 1 January 2013. It is a pity, though, that a more rigorous and transparent process has still not been defined for the application of accounting rules to measure progress towards the agreed targets.

What achievements, and what failures of the COP17 do you consider of particular relevance for Latin America?

Among other achievements, there has been significant progress for REDD+, in particular for mixed mitigation and adaptation approaches that emphasise the potential for profits in adaptation, development and biodiversity at a local level. At the same time, the Green Climate Fund, which now has an institutional setting, will undoubtedly be of use for channelling resources to the region. Although most Latin American countries are of middle or middle-high income and will not be priority targets, they will be eligible. But more clarification is still required on the mechanisms and sources of long-

term finance if the Fund is to operate effectively.

How would you characterise the participation of Latin American countries in COP17 in Durban?

There has been great commitment on the part of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that the negotiations conclude with significant agreements. There have been important proposals from individual countries, supported by others in the region and from other parts of the world, and these were reflected in the final texts. There was also a willingness to listen, discuss and reach commitments where necessary and possible. What has not emerged yet is a common vision, a single position, that would give more force to the region in this and other forums where global agreements are being discussed.

How is this participation being noted in other processes designed to reach regional and global agreements?

I noticed at the very recent 18th Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Environment Ministers that the countries of the region are drawing increasingly closer and speaking with a single voice, despite their undeniable differences. During this Forum and the ensuing Quito Declaration, it could be seen that environment ministers were giving increasing importance to the subject of climate change, and searching for a high level of consensus, particularly with a view to Rio+20. This is important in terms of the participation of the region in the current UNFCCC processes, as both the results of Rio+20 and the common positions of LAC will give greater importance to their concerns and interests with respect to subjects such as green economies, REDD+, the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Committee, common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR), and other issues. The 18th Forum called for greater regional political dialogue, and the EU aims to contribute to this through programmes such as EUROCLIMA, which facilitates regional meetings of the 18 member states in the programme. It will, for example, co-finance the 1st Regional Dialogue on Climate Change Finance, organised by the government of Honduras and planned for the beginning of May 2012.

Key Outcomes of the Durban Climate Change Conference

Artur Runge-Metzger and Stefan Agne

Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission



Artur Runge-Metzger
Diretor "International
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The agreement reached at the UN climate conference in Durban can be considered a breakthrough in the fight against climate change. After two weeks of negotiations, the 195 Parties to the UN climate change convention agreed on a roadmap, proposed by the EU and supported by Least Developed Countries, Small Island States and many Latin American countries, for drawing up a new legal framework for climate action by all countries. The Durban conference also agreed that there will be a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It made operational the new Green Climate Fund for developing countries and put into full operation the Cancun agreements.

Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

Durban launched a process – the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action – to develop a new Protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force that will be applicable to all Parties to the UN climate convention. It will take into account each country's responsibility and respective capability to act, going well beyond the simple dichotomy between developed and developing countries. The new instrument is to be adopted by 2015 and to be implemented from 2020.

At the initiative of the EU and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the conference also agreed to identify, in 2012, options for closing the "ambition gap" between current emissions reduction pledges for 2020 and the goal of keeping global warming below 2 °C. In November 2010, the United Nations Environment Programme published The Emissions Gap Report, which states that the implementation of the high end of Cancun pledges and of strict accounting rules would lead to about 60% of the emission reductions required to stay below 2 °C global temperature increase. The remaining 40%

of reductions will require substantial additional efforts.

Kyoto Protocol

In the Durban Package it was formally decided that a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will run from 1 January 2013, thus avoiding a gap at the end of the first commitment period, which ends in 2012. New rules on forestry management approved as part of the package will improve the Protocol's environmental integrity. However, the USA, Russia and Japan declared that they would not sign up to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which implies that less than 15% of global emissions will be covered under Kyoto.



Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, at the negotiations in Durban, South Africa.

emissions and of mitigation actions taken by developed and developing countries. This is a key measure for creating transparency and building trust between Parties, and will allow monitoring the implementation of the voluntary pledges by more than 60 countries, including all the major economies, outside the Kyoto Protocol.

New mechanisms and sectors

A new market-based mechanism will be established in the coming year to enhance the cost-effectiveness of actions to reduce emissions, which will complement the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). A process is also launched to consider climate issues related to agriculture, with a view to taking a decision at the end of 2012. These provisions are highly relevant for Latin American countries.

Overall, Durban provides a good basis for a stronger international climate change treaty and for enhanced cooperation between developed and developing countries in designing and implementing concrete measures to fight climate change and adapt to climate change.

Green Climate Fund and other new bodies

The Durban outcome makes operational the new Green Climate Fund (GCF) by agreeing on its broad design and governance arrangements. The GCF is expected to be one of the major distribution channels for multilateral climate finance and to have a catalytic role in promoting low-carbon climate resilient growth. In Durban, Germany pledged €40 million and Denmark €15 million for the GCF. As the next steps the Board will have to be appointed and the interim Secretariat to be established. Moreover, the new Technology Mechanism and Adaptation Committee have also been agreed and can start operating in 2012.

Transparency

The Durban Package improves the measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas

The Directorate-General for Climate Action ("DG CLIMA") was established two years ago, in February 2010, to lead the EU in international negotiations on climate, to help the European Union to deal with the consequences of climate change and meet its targets for 2020, as well as to develop and implement the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). For further reading: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index_en.htm

Consequences of COP17 for Latin America: the Vision of 7 EUROCLIMA participating countries

Jan Karremans

EUROCLIMA Technical Assistance Director

In January, the team of EUROCLIMA asked the Focal Points to send their impressions of the Conference of the Parties in Durban, the COP17, for this e-Newsletter. A number of the Focal Points and their teams submitted their responses to four specific questions sent to them. Their reflections are important in presenting the view from some of the government offices linked to the fight against climate change, specifically about what the "Durban Package" would mean for their countries and for the Latin American region in general. These reflections do not necessarily represent the position of each government with respect to the results in Durban, but they do provide an important inside perspective.

In general, there is agreement that significant progress has been made in implementing the COP16 Cancun agreements, but at the same time there is disillusionment with regard to other aspects: the pace of progress, the absence of commitments on the part of some important countries with respect to greenhouse gas emissions, lack of clarity ("vagueness" in some aspects) and uncertainty about the operational implementation of the agreements. There is disillusion about the lack of agreement with respect to the subject of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), and doubts with respect to the long-term financing of the Green Climate Fund. For some countries the amount, availability, flexibility and transparency of the resources in these funds is of particular concern; but at least there is greater clarity about the institutional architecture and an express willingness to get the Green Climate Fund up and running.

The fact that the countries of South and Central America are in general not among the priority targets of the Fund means that for some the subject of its transparency and management is key, as funding is necessary and will be vital in improving the resilience of these countries to climate change. For the same reason, even though many of these countries have relatively low levels of greenhouse gas emissions, the Adaptation Committee and the mechanisms of Technology Transfer are considered of great importance. It is to be hoped that between 2012 and 2015 there will be significant progress in implementing the agreements in this respect, although it is recognised that a new difficult phase of negotiations begins now within the framework of the Durban Platform towards a binding legal instrument to be implemented starting in 2020.

The extension of the Kyoto Protocol starting in January 2013 is considered important. However, it has still not met expectations because some important Parties are missing. This will seriously reduce its potential effect on mitigating global warming, as will the lack of definition with respect to the monitoring period. The Clean Development Mechanism is therefore considered key for a number of countries in their progress towards mitigating climate change.

The so-called "Durban Package" is generally seen as a great step forward. It is a holistic approach to the problems, although more ambitious progress is still required on the implementation of the Cancun agreements if they are to be applied in the shortest possible time.

To sum up, although the conclusions of the 17th Conference of the Parties held in Durban generate encouraging expectations for the countries of Latin America, it cannot be denied that there is some scepticism and concern focusing on the lack of commitments on the part of a number of developed countries, and on the future funding of actions that are necessary to strengthen the resilience of countries in the region with respect to climate change.


On asking the participating countries of EUROCLIMA what the consequence of Durban would be for the region as a whole, the answers stressed effects that were similar to those for the individual country. However, they also highlighted the great contrasts between the countries in the region with respect to emissions and capacities for response. The Durban Package is considered positive for the region; for a number of countries, it is above all positive in terms of adaptation, technology transfer and capacity strengthening. Some show concern about the level of the region's representation in upcoming decision-making processes dealing with preparation, negotiation and implementation.

In the next section we present the detailed reflections of seven EUROCLIMA participants about what Durban means to each country with respect to the subjects indicated.


Reflections on Durban by EUROCLIMA participant countries

The following texts are our translation of the original answers in Spanish (<http://www.euroclima.org/boletin3>)

1. What do you think in general terms about the agreement (the Durban Platform) to develop (by 2015) a new protocol, or another legally binding instrument for reducing emissions, to be implemented from 2020?

 **Argentina:** A new protocol or another legally binding instrument including all the developing countries would impose the need to develop an internal articulation for


reaching a consensus between the different sectors about the best way forward with respect to the national economic and social development plans, in order to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a contribution to the international effort, while taking account of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR). This process of structural development has already been initiated within the framework of the national strategy on climate change. However, if there is an international framework the efforts would have to be adapted to the standards agreed under the Convention.


 **Colombia:** The agreement is a step forward towards the achievement of a legally binding agreement covering all the countries that are parties to the Convention. This has always been Colombia's goal, and in this sense, the agreement is a positive step forward. The immediate consequence is the start of a difficult period of negotiation to reach this goal. If such an agreement is reached, in the long term Colombia would aim for the implementation of a system of rules to combat climate change at a global level, with the country's adaptation and mitigation requirements assisted by a multilateral regime.




European
Commission




 **Ecuador:** Ecuador's current and historical emissions are marginal, so we would want to see guarantees that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility is respected.

 **El Salvador:** In general it is an outcome that will contribute to the stabilisation of the levels of greenhouse gas emissions. It is true that to a certain extent, it alters the historical responsibility of developed countries with respect to the phenomenon; this represents a failure of common but differentiated responsibility, which would have to be compensated by the funding mechanism. The result makes the country responsible for promoting mitigation measures that little by little lead to the establishment of a low carbon economy.


 **Honduras:** Actions based on the Bali Action Plan must continue to be supported. A second commitment period would mean a greater commitment on the part of all countries to reduce the effects of climate change.


 **Nicaragua:** The agreement does not explicitly include commitments by the main emitters, and it is not at all ambitious with respect to the size of the problem. This means it will be impossible to meet the target of reducing gases and stabilising the temperature at 2 °C. The new protocol does not respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, because developing countries are included as parties to the commitments to mitigation. A road map has also been defined to prepare the commitments. This should be adopted in 2015 and enter into force in 2020, meaning that we would have a period of time without any commitments in force, e.g. 2012-2015, 2015-2020.


 **Paraguay:** Depending on the degree of optimism with which it is viewed, Durban may be considered a small step forward or a failure. In general, the Durban Platform is favourable because it allows us to nurture hopes to positively redirect the fight against climate change. However, the lack of definition in the Package, with decisions that have a broadly uncertain content, means that it is not possible to clearly see what the medium and long-term effects will be. It also leaves open the possibility that the future mechanism with legally binding


results will be even weaker than the Kyoto Protocol. It may definitely be considered not to have met expectations fully. The consequences for Paraguay are that because of the vagueness regarding the future of the Convention in general it will mean the maintenance of the status quo until Doha, and there can be no hope of any ambitious progress being made.


2. What do you think about the Green Climate Fund (GCF)?

 **Argentina:** It is an important step forward in funding climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. This is particularly true for Argentina, as it is a middle income country, and will not be one of the priority recipients of funding. Nevertheless, the existence of the Fund will generate a new phase in terms of mobilising funding, from which all developing countries will benefit.

 **Colombia:** The GCF is a key element in the international architecture of climate change and should serve to channel resources efficiently into financial assistance for climate change in the long term in countries such as Colombia. Putting it into operation is undoubtedly among the positive elements in the results of Durban. For Colombia, however, there is still nothing clear about what the long-term sources of finance for the Fund's operation will be. Without clarity in this respect the GCF will remain at the level of good intentions.

 **Ecuador:** It is an opportunity to finance the fight against climate change at a global level, provided that the "promises" of funding become a reality. We consider it important that the World Bank is only a Trustee of the Fund temporarily and that there will later be a process of inclusive international selection.

 **El Salvador:** It is good news for everyone. As a country, we will be able to consider a better mechanism for boosting investment in our process of adapting or in our capacity to adapt. The creation and development of this financial mechanism is extremely important and necessary for the country. Although in principle it will be a mechanism balanced between mitigation and adaptation, we would want adaptation to be one of the main components eligible for funding.


 **Honduras:** Access to the funds is vital for the country, as it will provide financial resources for executing national policies, plans and programmes focused on increasing the country's resilience.

 **Nicaragua:** The programmed funds of USD \$100 billion a year to finance the climate are very limited in terms of demand by countries and the size of the problem. The full costs of adaptation, remediation and restoration will not be able to be funded. The intermediation by the World Bank or GEF (using the legal figure of the World Bank) will mean a lack of transparency and create bureaucracy in assigning resources and intermediation, leading to high costs for our countries. Our position is that a new mechanism for implementation should be created under the framework convention.

In addition, the emphasis given to African countries and islands leaves the vulnerable Latin American countries, particularly those in Central America, at a disadvantage in terms of budget allocation.


At the same time, although the sum of USD \$100 billion per year was defined for financing the climate, there is no clarity about the commitments for each country and it will not be up and running until 2020. It is obvious that there is no feeling of urgency on the part of the developed countries.


As a member of the interim committee for preparing the Green Fund (2011), Nicaragua proposed using the same means with which the IMF resolved the financial crisis of the banks in one week: "Special Drawing Rights (SDR)". If the climate is an urgent issue that is linked to our survival, SDR should also be used for the swift resolution of the financing of the Green Fund.


 **Paraguay:** The good thing about the Green Fund is that it has created an institutional architecture that until now was only embryonic. The World Bank has been identified as a key player. The 100 billion are only a promise and will not be provided by the developed countries. Thus the money will come from a carbon market that has collapsed, from private investment, loans that will have to be repaid, and from the developing countries themselves. Even so, it can be considered that significant progress has been made on this matter.


The positive consequence for Paraguay will be the chance of opting for the funds once they are set up.


3. What do you think of the extension of the Kyoto Protocol?


 **Argentina:** As it is the only existing legal instrument for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the Kyoto Protocol is key to trying to limit the increase in global temperatures. It will have a major impact on all countries, in particular developing ones. At the same time, depending on the situation of the carbon markets (and their contribution to the adaptation fund), it is important to send a positive signal that allows the trading of carbon credits: if there are no agreements projects in the process of elaboration will lose their validity, impacting the fight against climate change.

 **Colombia:** The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is one of the goals of Colombia and Latin America, and a significant achievement of Durban. However, the extension of the commitments through this instrument is not enough. It must give way in the short term to a regime that includes all the countries that are parties thereto. If not, Kyoto by itself will be incapable of producing the results needed to avoid catastrophic consequences for Colombia and the region as a whole.


 **Ecuador:** Despite the agreement on the Second Commitment Period of the Protocol, we consider that the environmental integrity of the planet is under threat, as the fundamentals of this instrument have been lost. We believe that the only thing worth saving is the continuity of the Mechanism for Clean Development.

 **El Salvador:** The news was expected and there has been a concerted effort to achieve this result. For this country it is basic for financing through the Clean Development Mechanisms, which in turn finances the Adaptation Fund.

 **Honduras:** There have to be negotiations not only about the second period but also those following it to guarantee that the global temperature does not rise more than 1.5 degrees centigrade, which would be fatal for the most vulnerable ecosystems and societies.

 **Nicaragua:** The extension of the Kyoto Protocol through a road map does not reflect the urgency of the climate risks expressed in the IPCC's Report 4, or the origins of the emissions in developed countries. This is particularly true since Canada, the USA, Russia and Japan have decided not to endorse the Kyoto Protocol.

The extension is not just: it frees developed countries from binding and ambitious commitments, and leaves to one side the basic principles of common but differentiated responsibility.


 **Paraguay:** The promises of reducing greenhouse gases for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, now with the unambiguous absence of the United States, Canada, Japan, Russia, Australia and New Zealand, represent less than half of what is needed to maintain the increase in temperature at under 2 °C. The second period of the Kyoto Protocol will be adopted just after COP18. There is also a lack of definition regarding whether the second period of the Kyoto Protocol will be for 5 or 8 years.


This decision therefore only partially satisfies what was established in Paraguay's National Position, because although it is true that Durban did not represent the end of the Protocol, it will also not continue under the expected conditions.


4. What do you think about other key aspects of the Durban Package (such as the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Mechanism, the ad-hoc Working Group, etc.)?


 **Argentina:** The framework of adaptation, with all its elements (the Committee, the NAPs, the Loss and Damage programme, etc.) represents great progress in positioning how adaptation is tackled within the framework of the Convention. This will make a big contribution towards progress in a holistic approach to the processes of adaptation, at both a local and international level. With the progress made in technology (Committee and Mechanism), tackling climate change has taken on a new dimension, since as it cannot limit the increase of temperature to less than 2 °C, the technology transfer processes for adaptation and the process of adaptation themselves will


be key for all the developing countries. This is applicable equally to the whole region of Latin America.


 **Colombia:** Although there was progress on some important aspects of implementing the Cancun agreements, the package of Durban decisions in general was far from ambitious. There are still many questions pending negotiation if we are to achieve full implementation of the Cancun agreements.

 **Ecuador:** We consider the creation of the Adaptation Committee extremely important and we hope it becomes operative as quickly as possible. It gives the opportunity to strengthen the Convention in matters of adaptation.

 **El Salvador:** It is key for providing valuable access to these bodies and to contributing more effectively to the phenomenon of climate change. For this country these are complementary elements for making better and more accessible contributions to the problem and challenge of climate change.

 **Honduras:** They are groups that help strengthen processes within the UNFCCC, but that have to be up and running in the short term. For Latin America as a whole they will provide greater representation for the region and give greater relevance to important subjects such as adaptation, technology transfer, capacity strengthening, etc.

 **Nicaragua:** Adaptation Committee: with a total of 16 members at a global level, Central America will have little chance of being represented, particularly if the countries of Africa and the islands are given priority.

 **Paraguay:** It is very difficult to comment on this now, as the agreements reached have been very generic in all aspects. It is a question of waiting to see how 2012 works out and thus having a clearer view of what the Durban agreements actually mean.

In two side-events at the COP 17, EUROCLIMA presented its objectives and progress through 2010 - 2011



Side events of EUROCLIMA at the COP17, from left to right: César Carmona (JRC), Jimmy Ferrer (CEPAL), Catherine Ghyoot (EuropeAid), Céline Dondeynaz (JRC), Jan Karremans (Technical Assistance - EUROCLIMA)

During two side-events of COP17, the EUROCLIMA programme presented its objectives and its progress during 2010-2011. After an overview of the programme by the Regional Programmes Unit Latin America and the Caribbean - EuropeAid, the Technical Assistance presented the latest e-Newsletter dedicated to the theme of Water and Climate Change in Latin America. Fredy Génez in representation of the national Focal Point of the programme from Paraguay explained how the exchange of experiences during regional meetings organized by EUROCLIMA this year, have helped Paraguay orient the process of formulation of its own National Policy of Climate Change.



Most of the morning session was dedicated to the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the EC, that discussed with the audience its preliminary results on research and training in the field of Climate Change (Soils, Water, Agriculture, Desertification and Drought, and Bioenergy and Biofuels). During Q&A a replication in Africa of the EUROCLIMA approach in linking science and

policy was suggested by a representative of the African Union.

In the afternoon, after an introduction by EuropeAid/G/2, the Technical Assistance presented the communication strategy of the Programme: website, e-newsletters, virtual training courses, thematic studies, and regional meetings. The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador and pro tempore president of the CCAD, Dr. Herman Rosa Chávez, illustrated the growing frequency of weather related disasters in his country, and emphasized the importance of socioeconomic information to convince policy-makers of the need for urgent action and the financial and social consequences of inaction in the face of Climate Change.



Minister
Herman Rosa Chávez,
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources,
El Salvador

Following his intervention, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) of the UN, presented the results obtained within the EUROCLIMA programme on social and economic impacts of Climate Change: research, training and the establishment of a network of socioeconomic climate change experts, that functions as information exchange platform. ECLAC gave an overview of the key facts and figures resulting from their research. Specific information on the Economy of Climate Change in Central America was presented, as well as the resulting policy implications: A comparison of scenarios of rising temperatures showed the serious impacts on biodiversity, access to water, agricultural productivity, food security and poverty, resulting of insufficient mitigation actions. There is sufficient opportunity in Central America for green fiscal policies, and strategies towards low carbon economies. During Q&A,



a representative of indigenous groups from Mexico emphasized the importance of action for safeguarding their livelihoods and showed an interest in participating in the EUROCLIMA programme. Other questions: whether Climate Change will be a key issue during next year's EU-LAC Summit, gender considerations and horizontal dialogues.

For more information:
<http://www.euroclima.org/eventos/cop17>



Progress and plans of the EUROCLIMA components

Dialogue, Coordination and Communication Component:

The EUROCLIMA programme, through EuropeAid's Regional Programmes Unit, Latin America and Caribbean, in coordination with the Technical Assistance has brought together the Focal Points and their representatives from the whole region on two occasions in 2011. These meetings have served to define key issues of the programme, such as the objectives and expected products from six short thematic studies aimed at providing the climate change offices in Latin America with tools, guides and inventories for political decision-making. The studies are aimed at analysing climate change in relation to its impact on coastal areas, the impact on the quality of land, agricultural planning based on prediction of extreme events, indicators for planning and monitoring adaptation initiatives, adaptation at the level of river basins, and finally the subject of NAMAs for urban areas. The results are expected to be published midway through this year.

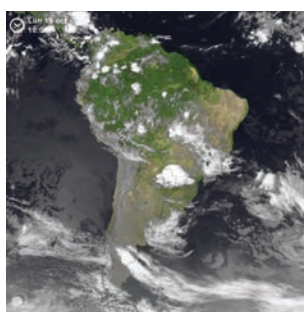


At the same time virtual courses are being prepared on strategic planning of political advocacy and on financial instruments for mitigation and adaptation. A meeting is expected with the Focal Points in May in Honduras to define the actions under the programme and to participate in the first Regional Latin-American Dialogue on Climate Change Finance. This event is being organised by the Government of Honduras, with financial support from the EUROCLIMA programme and other international donors. The next three issues of the e-bulletin of the programme will deal with the following subjects: the economy of climate change in LA; soils and climate change in LA; and financing and climate change in LA.

For more information:
<http://www.euroclima.org/home>

Biophysical Sciences Component:

Within the framework of this component, implemented by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), research has been carried out on climate change and natural resources in Latin America: water, soils, bio-energy, drought and desertification and agriculture. Databases have been improved in partnership with scientists and political decision-makers from the countries participating in the programme and information-exchange networks have been launched or enhanced. Also, software has been developed to store data and interpret various climate phenomena, and to provide growth simulations for various crops under different climate scenarios. At the same time, training has been provided in the subjects indicated. Work is being carried out together with the appropriate institutions in Latin America on a Soil Atlas for the region. Its publication is planned for the end of 2012. The 2012 Calendar is an example of this group's work (<http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Awareness/calendar2012.html>). The previous issue of this e-Newsletter outlined the progress made on the subject of water (<http://www.euroclima.org/newsletter2>), and explained the coordination with respect to the RALCEA programme of EuropeAid (<http://www.aquaknow.net>).



Workshops have been planned starting in May and carrying on until October to present the results of the various researches organised by JRC-EUROCLIMA, in some cases including training in the handling of data and specialized software. Participation in Rio+20 is foreseen, and research results will be presented in various scientific articles and conferences.

For more information:
<http://www.euroclima.org/biophysic-sciences>

Socio-economic Sciences Component:

ECLAC is the institution responsible for this component. In 2011 it organised three intensive training courses for government representatives and members of the Climate Change Network (RSCC). Participants acquired knowledge on the methodology and tools needed for the quantitative analysis of the impact of climate change, with the aim of improving their decision-making and moving towards sustainable economic growth with social inclusion in the region.



Three detailed studies were completed on subjects related to climate change in the region: greenhouse-gas emissions; quantitative tools for analysing socio-economic impact; and the impact on poverty and income distribution. After final revision they will be distributed in May. Work on five other studies related to climate change has begun. They cover the following areas: employment; the socio-economic impact on LA of policies adopted in developed countries; low-carbon growth; adaptation strategies according to income strata; and mitigation linked to socio-economic groups and compensation measures. The results will be available from August and September this year.

The Climate Change Network was launched in February 2012. It brings together experts and stakeholders from the three sectors of society (government, business and civil society) who are committed to the development of climate-compatible socioeconomic systems.

For more information:
<http://www.cepal.org/ccas/>

DOCUMENTS

CAEMA Bulletin Volume 11, No. 2, December 2011



<http://www.euroclima.org/publicaciones/cop17>

This edition of Fair Trade CDM from CAEMA is related to decisions on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that emerged from COP17 in Durban and its consequences for Latin America. They believe that the results strengthen the CDM and remove any doubts about its existence and long-term usefulness.

CELA Newsletter, Issue 1 /2012



http://www.cela-project.net/download/CELA_newsletter_2012_01_english.pdf

This electronic newsletter of CELA (Climate Change Technology Transfer Centres in Europe and Latin America) gives a review of the results during 2011, as well as an outlook of major activities and outputs for 2012. CELA is part of the ALFA programme of EuropeAid.

The effects of climate change on the coast of Latin America and the Caribbean: dynamics, trends and climate variability.



<http://www.euroclima.org/publicaciones/regionales>

Prepared within the framework of the Regional Study of the Effects of climate change in LAC, it analyses the changes detected in the coastal dynamics of North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Websites on COP 17 and Latin American

The EUROCLIMA e-Newsletter makes available a number of information resources accessible via the Internet related to COP17. The emphasis is on sites that reflect the consequences of Durban for Latin America.

More links on, <http://www.euroclima.org/enlaces-web/cop17>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



http://unfccc.int/portal_espanol/items/3093.php

A portal in Spanish with information about the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Durban. It has some basic information available, as well as official documents and a press service. It warns users that there is only limited documentation in Spanish, but provides access to the English version.

OXFAM international - Spain



<http://www.oxfam.org/es/crece/content/cumbre-de-la-onu-sobre-el-cambio-climatico-2011-durban-sudafrica>

This link provides an analysis from OXFAM's perspective of the process developed by the 17th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP17). It gives access to informative videos and blogs about the position of civil society with respect to the negotiations and the results of the event in Durban, South Africa.

Intercambio Climático (Climate Exchange)



<http://www.intercambioclimatico.com/2011/12/14/claroscuros-de-durban-la-cop-mas-larga-de-la-historia/#more-3803>

This is a blog by the Latin American Climate Platform (PCL) that operates in partnership with AVINA, the Foundation for Latin American Future, Brown University and the Watson Institute for International Studies. It is an unprecedented initiative that aims to create responses from Latin America to the global problem of climate change. The link given here analyses what it considers the notable and questionable aspects of COP17.

Institute for Studies on Conflict and Humanitarian Action (IECAH)



http://www.iecah.org/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1774:durban-en-america-latina&catid=15:articulos&Itemid=9

IECAH analyses the action of Latin American countries with respect to the process developed from Cancun to Durban. It warns of the presence of natural phenomena such as the effect of climate change and the vulnerability of countries in the face of a lack of investment on mitigation and adaptation. It includes an audio

interview with a representative of this organisation, where he reflects on the actions of industrialised countries.

Durban: Good news for Latin America?



http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/noticias/2011/12/111211_durban_conclusiones_america_latina.shtml

"Many observers say that the Durban agreement represents an important if modest step forward, but a great number of tough negotiations are on the cards before an agreement can be reached for 2015," says one of the paragraphs contained in the BBC report.

Governments admit the need for a universal climate treaty



<http://www.ips.org/TV/cop17/gobiernos-admiten-necesidad-de-un-tratado-climatico-universal/>

"The world is heading towards a dangerous planetary warming. But when the 17th climate summit concluded in South Africa this Sunday the 11th, governments agreed to discuss a new global treaty to tackle greenhouse gas emissions," comments the Inter Press Service news agency.

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European Commission
Joint Research Centre
www.ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc



United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
www.cepal.org

DOCUMENTS

SUPPORTING A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE The EU and developing countries working together - 2011



<http://www.euroclima.org/publicaciones/comision-europea>

The document highlights actions of the European Union together with partner countries in the whole world, related to climate change adaptation and

mitigation in agriculture, forestry, energy, research and other sectors.

Special reference to programmes in the LAC region:

- **RALCEA:** Network of Knowledge Centres in the Water Sector in Latin America, page 16
- **GUYANA:** Sustainable coastal zone protection through mangrove management, page 30
- **CLARIS-LPB:** La Plata Basin: climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, page 33
- **AMAZALERT:** Raising the alert on links between climate and land use change in the Amazon, page 33
- **EUROCLIMA:** Science and Policy...jointly fighting climate change, page 37
- **CARIBE:** Sustainability of the energy sector in the Caribbean, page 40

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2 to 4, 2012

Regional Coordination Workshop of EUROCLIMA and First Regional Dialogue on Climate Change Finance Honduras

http://www.euroclima.org/eventos/taller-y-dialogo-honduras_es

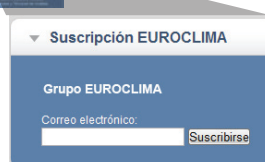
The focal points of the 18 participating countries of EUROCLIMA will meet during one day with the technical team of the programme (experts from JRC; ECLAC, Technical Assistance and the European Commission) to discuss progress in research and training by the programme, and to exchange experiences in the fight against climate change in their countries. They are expected to participate the following two days in the First Regional Dialogue on Climate Change Finance, organised by the government of Honduras (SEPLAN and SERNA), that will bring together experts and political decision makers from Latin America and the Caribbean.

CREDITS

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www.euroclima.org

Visitors to the EUROCLIMA portal can sign up to receive this regular e-mail newsletter.

The portal also contains information about the programme and its components, the national Focal Points and the agencies responsible for the theme of climate change in each country, along with the Programme workshops, courses and seminars.

