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INVENTORY AND TOOL

Indicators for Planning and Monitoring the Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in Latin America

This summary sets out the main ideas that are covered in this Inventory and Tool. In the publication, key management and impact indicators are developed for adaptation to climate change measures, which will facilitate the design and monitoring of National Adaptation Plans. Based on the indicators, a tool is presented that will allow assessment of the adaptive capacity to climate change, in accordance with spatial scales that go from national to local.

This study is structured in six sections: **Inventory of initiatives and adaptation projects in EUROCLIMA countries**. 161 projects distributed over 18 nations are identified. The country with the greatest number of identified projects was Ecuador (42 projects), followed by Bolivia, Chile and Columbia, each with 15 or 16 projects.

Inventory of adaptation indicators. Two inventories are produced. The first covers 69 indicators identified in countries belonging to the Euroclima programme. The second inventory was made with 153 indicators of other projects to complement the information obtained in Latin America.

Matrix of identified indicators. A qualitative analysis was made that enabled methodological fallacies to be identified in the formulation and

definition of indicators. Furthermore, a categorisation and systematization process was developed. It was concluded that the adaptation indicators require more development and accuracy to be relevant in an assessment of the performance of adaptation projects.

Synthesis of existing indicators. At the design level of the monitoring and evaluation systems, gaps were found in concepts and the description of the adaptation indicators. Several indicators are "empty" because they do not relate directly or appropriately to the adaptive processes. There may be many initiatives, but with very few relevant actors involved and with limited long term impact on the people's livelihoods. Equally, there were weaknesses in the "proportionality" of the indicator's numerical scale.

Conceptualisation of a structure of indicators for adaptive capacity. The indicators to measure adaptive capacity to climate change were conceived as tools to quantify the magnitude of an adaptive response at different levels: national, sub-national and local. These indicators are related to the political spheres, strategic management and the actions that are taken in specific projects. The indicators are classified in several areas in accordance to their relationship with the actors involved and their adaptive management capacity: political capacity, capacity for knowledge or information management, ecosystemic capacity, social and financial/economic capacity.

Proposal of key indicators and tool for the evaluation of adaptation measures in the agriculture and food security sectors. A tool was designed to evaluate the performance of adaptive capacities to climate change, starting with a hierarchization using spatial scales that go from the national to the local, focussing on two areas: agriculture and food safety.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The results allow countries to evaluate progress in the development of competences and capacities in order to strengthen adaptation initiatives and measures.
- There is a rich diversity and an enormous amount of indicators (222), which reflect the high work intensity in the countries to obtain an accurate measurement of the effects of the multiple adaptation initiatives identified (161).
- Those indicators are prioritized and synthesized that allow assessment of advances and progress that countries can achieve with efficient and effective development of their adaptive capacities, so that they can know the status and development of their adaptive capacities through selecting 27 key indicators.
- The core base of the study and of the proposal is focussed on five defined capacities: institutional, ecosystem, economy, social and knowledge management. The proposed criteria allow the countries, in accordance with their own realities, to choose, design, adapt and apply the most relevant indicators.
- This proposal is conceived as a tool to reflect processes, so it can be used for decision making. The aim is also to assist in the development of collaboration platforms between public and private actors.

Thematic study N° 2: Inventory and Tool

Study objective: Through the generation of key indicators support the governments of Latin America in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of adaptation measures in the face of climate change, within the framework of public policies.

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The Focal Points in the 18 countries that participate in the Programme, defined the topics and objectives of these thematic studies according to their needs as policy makers; they also provided key data, reviewed and corrected reports.

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The EUROCLIMA thematic series can be downloaded at: www.euroclima.org

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