

Submission from Colombia on Capacity Building

The Colombian Government welcomes the opportunity to present its views on the activities undertaken pursuant to decision 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10 which should include, inter alia, such elements as needs and gaps, experiences and lessons learned:

1. Information and knowledge sharing activities to strengthen national capacities

A. Second National Communication: The document presents the national inventory of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases for 2000 and 2004. It includes an analysis of socioeconomic and physical characteristics that determine Colombia's high vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change. It identifies the possible areas and sectors which could implement mitigation strategies. It indicates the possible impacts of climate change as well as the risks and vulnerabilities, and it includes some guidelines regarding possible adaptation measures to be implemented. The National Communication is an important reference document for the understanding of evidences and challenges of climate change for Colombia.

B. Second National Communication for Children: This version of the Second National Communication is meant to diffuse valuable information on the vulnerability of the country and the regions to climate change among young people. It looks forward to empowering the youth and increase their knowledge on the basic climate change facts and create public awareness among the new generations. It contains an interactive CD with games and relevant data on climate change in Colombia. For more information, visit the following webpage: <http://www.cambioclimatico.gov.co/ninos/index.html>

C. National Climate Change Portal: This website is created upon an inter-institutional effort, dedicated to knowledge spread and dissemination of national actions on climate change, in order to get the whole population involved with climate change and the challenges that it poses for the country.

The address is: www.cambioclimatico.gov.co. Some of the available documents are: First and Second National Communication on Climate Change; Strategy for Education, Training and Public Awareness on Climate Change; studies on vulnerability and adaptation of the country; the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases and many more current data on the subject.

It also has a section dedicated to children with interactive games to facilitate the learning and commitment of citizens on this issue from an early age.

2. Activities undertaken to strength community capacities to address climate change:

A. National Strategy on Education, Training and Public Awareness on Climate Change: The National Government, under a participatory process, produced this Strategy in order to guide actions for the diffusion of knowledge and scientific information, to a set an understandable language that is also culturally relevant and that it becomes useful. To download this documentation, please visit: <http://www.cambioclimatico.gov.co/publicaciones.html>

- B. Capacity-building for response policies to address Climate Change: In response to the impacts of climate change in the country, and looking forward to having a strategic vision over the country's needs and actions to address climate change impacts, the National Government is currently preparing National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change. The Plan stresses the need to include climate change considerations in the environmental, territorial and economic sectors' planning, and to make decisions based on facts and projections, and thus, reduce the vulnerability of populations, ecosystems and sectors as well as to increase capacities to respond to climate events and disasters.
- C. Capacity building for Clean Development Mechanism formulation. The National Designated Authority (Ministry of Environment) holds periodic capacity building programs for the structuring process of the CDM project to the different sectors that can get benefited from this Kyoto Protocol facilitating mechanism.
- D. Pilot projects: The Government at the different levels has supported different projects or programs that due to the lack of previous similar experiences, have become representative pilot project through which a very important process of capacity building was held. Some of the key national/regional projects are the following:
- Integrated National Adaptation Project (INAP)
 - On the issue of marine and coastal areas, the program NCCSAP - Colombia,
 - Joint Program for the "Integration of ecosystems and adaptation to climate change in the Macizo Colombiano" (United Nations), which included an important component of communities
 - Formulation Process of the National Adaptation Plan for the agriculture service
 - Formulation Process of the Adaptation Plan of Cartagena.
 - Inclusion of climate change criteria in the Local Land Plan (POT) of Cartagena
 - Integrated Regional Plan for Climate Change in the Capital City Region (PRIC), in Bogotá and its surrounding region

3. Activities undertaken to strengthen communities at local levels to address climate change:

- A. Climate Change Regional Nodes structuring process: Given the relevance of climate change and the importance of counting with the own views of the regions, the regional environmental authorities of the "Coffee Region" (Zona Cafetera), CARDER, CVC, CRQ, CORPOCALDAS and CORTOLIMA, decided to make a joint work for the implementation of actions that help the region to face the impacts of climate change. Some of the most relevant activities are the following: training, diffusion, dissemination of specific experiences, knowledge sharing. The program has seen so successful that it has positioned this "eco-region" as a successful pilot experience that should be replicated in the other seven regional nodes, but also in other countries. Joint work between the National Environmental System (Ministry of Environment and Regional Autonomous Corporations) and the National System for Disaster Attention and Prevention and Disaster Prevention (Risk Management Directorate) is in progress in order to establish the other regional nodes.
- Given the vision of the new Government of Colombia, the Nodes are been restructured in order to harmonize them with the "hydrographic areas" that have already been identified.

- B. Strengthening Institutional Capacities for integrated risk management in the Caribbean Region
This project is currently implemented by UNDP and the Risk Management Directorate and will have joint activities with the EuropeAid/128320/C/ACT/Multi Project regarding the strengthening of institutional capacities to implement comprehensive risk management local practices as well as climate change adaptation measures in insular and coastal zones in the Colombian Caribbean Region.

4. Additional Capacity building needs for Colombia: Given the current national circumstances, as well as the recent decisions of the UNFCCC, Colombia identifies the following needs:
- a) Strengthening of capacities of the different Ministries and representative sectors, in order to mainstream adaptation and mitigation actions and measures.
 - b) Technical and scientific support for the formulation and implementation of NAMAS.
 - c) Capacity building and training on technical support for implementation and assessment of mitigation and adaptation technologies, following the results of the current process of "technology needs assessment".
 - d) Training for measurement and reporting on Green House Gases emissions, for NAMAS implementation.