

1. Title

Regional TEM-A: Adaptation planning for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems

2. Organizer/Collaborators and Panelists

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 Supported by the UNFCCC secretariat (Adaptation Programme)

Moderators and panelists see 3 below.

3. Event structure/agenda

14:00– 14:10	Opening Remarks	Ignacio Lorenzo - Uruguay Pilar Bueno - AC Co-Chair
14:10– 15:20	<p>Session I: Gaps and needs for adaptation planning</p> <p>This session examines how information and knowledge gaps on adaptation are being addressed by different actors at various scales. Case studies from national and regional perspectives will be featured.</p> <p>Guiding question(s): tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can exchange of information at the science/policy interface be optimised to provide knowledge, services and pave the way for action and for policy to identify scientific needs?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Why isn't this happening? (what are the barriers)</i> o <i>Are there successful examples that can be replicated?</i> o <i>Who is well positioned to influence this and facilitate a change?</i> - <i>What are the gaps and needs, including for finance, for the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in the region? How can these be addressed – are there any “low-hanging fruit”?</i> 	<p>Moderator: Enrique Maurtua Konstantinidis, Regional Coordinator LatinoAdapta</p> <p>Panel:</p> <p>Bárbara Tapia, Vice-President of the WMO Commission for Climatology (CCI) and Chairman of Working Group on Climate of Regional Association III (South America)</p> <p>Focus: Regional Climate Center (RCC) support to National Meteorological Services (NMHNs) in risk management and adaptation</p> <p>Nestor Mazzeo, SARAS Institute - Regional Centre for Climate Change and Decision Making</p> <p>Focus: Strengthen decision-making on climate change, resolving the specific knowledge gaps previously identified and facilitating access and understanding of relevant information for adaptation (tbc)</p> <p>Gladys Santis, Especialista en Adaptación, Oficina de Cambio Climático, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente de Chile</p> <p>Focus: Experience in NAP design and formulation and adaptation action implementation in relation to the gaps and needs.</p>

<p>15:20– 16:30</p>	<p>Session II: The importance of indigenous peoples and local communities in adaptation planning</p> <p>This session looks at the significant role that indigenous peoples, local governments and local communities can play; and examples of how indigenous knowledge can be integrated into adaptation planning and action.</p> <p>Guiding question(s): tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can indigenous knowledge be communicated and integrated into adaptation planning and the formulation and implementation of NAPs?</i> - <i>How can planning processes take better in to account indigenous and local communities, and how can local governments feed in to a higher degree?</i> 	<p>Moderator: Zelmira May, <i>National Programme Specialist for Education, UNESCO - Montevideo</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Jordan Harris, <i>National Director, Adapt Chile</i></p> <p>Focus: Experiences from Network of Municipalities in Chile</p> <p>Sineia Bezerra do Vale, <i>Coordinadora del Departamento de gestión territorial y ambiental del Consejo Indígena de Roraima – CIR / Coordinadora de la Cámara Técnica de Cambios Climáticos del Comité Gestor de la PNGATI (Política Nacional de Gestión Territorial y Ambiental de Tierras Indígenas) / Miembro del Comité Indígena de Cambios Climáticos - CIMC</i></p> <p>Focus: Incidencia indígena en la implementación del Plan Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio del Clima de Brasil - PNA, avances y desafíos (Indigenous incidence in the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan to Brazil’s Climate Change - NAP, progress and challenges).</p> <p>María Victoria Chiriboga Nielsen, <i>Viceminister, Ministry of Environment of Ecuador</i></p> <p>Focus: tbc</p>
<p>16:30– 16:40</p>	<p>Short break</p>	
<p>16:40– 17:50</p>	<p>Session III: Opportunities for advancing regional action for adaptation planning for the vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems</p> <p>This session will explore concrete and pragmatic ways, that may be used to increase capacity for resilience and sustainability through cooperation, including through the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).</p> <p>Guiding question(s): tbc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can adaptation action be scaled up and scaled out?</i> - <i>How can the NAP-SDG framework</i> 	<p>Moderator: Marianela Curi, <i>Directora Ejecutiva, Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (Ecuador)</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Cecilia Hidalgo - <i>Plenary Professor Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina</i></p> <p>Focus: Enhancing interdisciplinary, inter-institutional, intersectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement and cooperative action on adaptation</p> <p>Prof. Omar Defeo - <i>CRN Investigator of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), Universidad de la República de Uruguay & Dirección Nacional de</i></p>

	<i>support effectively this work?</i>	<p><i>Recursos Acuáticos</i> Focus: Science-policy action in South America: the hotspot of the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean</p> <p>Mónica Gómez - <i>Adaptation advisor in the Climate Change Division of Uruguay and NAP Coastal Coordinator</i> Focus: Regional opportunities to enhance and strengthen the implementation of NAPs in Uruguay</p> <p>Eduardo Bustos, <i>Director de Extensión, Global Change Center, Catholic University, Chile</i> Focus: Collaborative processes (co-creation) on adaptation at basin level.</p>
17:50– 18:00	Wrap up and closing	Julio Cordano, Chile

4. Summary of discussions

There was a productive exchange between the presenters and the discussants throughout the event. A number of key themes emerged, including the following:

Moving from planning to action and transformation

The complexity of working across sectors, of planning in uncertainty, and of the range of levels and scales can be a barrier for taking action. Adaptation planners should ask “What do we want to protect?”, and “What opportunities can we take advantage of?”. Developing countries have the opportunity to develop in a resilient and green way. The main purpose of events like these is to help the region to implement adaptation in a transformative way, to become more resilient and to be able to implement the NDCs and NAPs. It was discussed that the Adaptation Committee is a valuable tool for countries to help them to plan and adapt. The TEP-A is an innovation that has provided a lot of learning, regionally and globally. The topics have been chosen carefully, to get to the heart of the needs of developing countries.

Adaptation across time-scales, levels and sectors

The need for adaptation to be planned and implemented at different scales (long-, medium-, short-term) and across different levels and sectors was highlighted numerous times. There can be tensions between national and sub-national governments/communities, and these tensions need to be overcome if transformation towards resilience is to occur. There is also the need for exchange between rural areas and the capitals, to inform planning. Regarding sectors, many, like the financial sector, do not see the urgent need for adaptation. Cross-sectoral cooperation and information-sharing are thus key.

Adaptation as a cycle

Given that new knowledge is emerging constantly, adaptation processes should be cyclical and iterative, to integrate the best available knowledge, monitor, and improve. The example of Uruguay's NAP was relevant to this topic, as the speaker noted that it includes 5-year cycles. It was also noted that the UNFCCC process has institutionalized cycles through the global stocktake, and that countries can align their adaptation planning with those 5 year cycles. The importance of adaptation communications was also noted in this regard, with participants acknowledging that these are discussed in the ongoing negotiations, to be finalized in Katowice.

The co-construction of knowledge and of policy

Participatory approaches are necessary for good adaptation. Panelists and discussants mentioned numerous ways that different groups should feed into the process, from the co-construction of knowledge to the co-construction of adaptation NAPs. This includes co-construction across the vertical levels of government, integrating sub-national and rural governments/municipalities more in the planning process. Key groups that were also emphasized were indigenous peoples, women, the youth and farmers. By braiding traditional knowledge and climate science, adaptation can be more successful. One example that was given was that of peoples in Brazil. Indigenous communities have a wealth of knowledge of nature and how to forecast and adapt to changes, through their close interaction with delicate ecosystems. They also have their own calendars, based on nature. Organizations are bringing this knowledge together to co-create better climate science.

Translating information for different audiences

There is a need to better communicate climate science and information about adaptation. Tailoring such knowledge for audiences, including policy-makers, is imperative if it is to become mainstreamed into decisions that affect vulnerable communities. An example was given, that many farmers in the region require climate services but are unable to understand the technical jargon. Thus climate scientists need to also become communicators, or to work closely with those who have skills in communication and dissemination.

Moving from technical discussions to negotiations

There is no question that adaptation is important for the region. Climate action only makes sense with adaptation. This is not always evident in the negotiations, which tend to focus on mitigation. The LAC region has a key role to play in ensuring balance, given that adaptation is an urgent need for LAC countries. It is invaluable to be able to get together in the region, to recognize shared vulnerability and shared opportunity, and to work together towards Katowice and beyond. This TEM-A can help to mobilize the discussion that is needed about the politics of adaptation, and to reinforce a network of people dedicated to adaptation across all levels.

Regional solidarity for adaptation planning and implementation

Participants noted that events like these present an invaluable opportunity to get together in the region and to be able to share experiences. Many issues related to climate change are transboundary, and the only way to address them successfully is through regional collaboration. It was mentioned that the LAC region has solutions, has expertise, and has relatively less language barriers than many other regions. This opportunity for solidarity should be tapped into even more, so that the region can develop faster and become resilient to the impacts of climate change. This was pointed out numerous times, particularly in the context of climate science and the generation of adaptation information. One example given was that of the biophysical changes happening in

the ocean, and how the area shared by Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina is a “double hotspot”, with climate-induced warming and high-levels of biodiversity.

South-South cooperation

Linked closely to the discussion on regional collaboration, there was much discussion on the role of developing countries, and how they are leaders in adaptation because it is a matter of urgency for them. Many developing countries have become “climate change laboratories” (a term used by the Chilean representative to describe his country), with numerous kinds of climate hazards challenging them, often in parallel. The need for South-South cooperation is increasingly critical, including in terms of developing metrics and indicators for adaptation. This does not mean that all countries in the region share the same risks, or have the same needs/capacities. Asymmetry exists within the region, both within countries (e.g. between sectors) and between countries.

Complementarity with other processes

Participants noted that adaptation under the Paris Agreement, and UNFCCC process is general, is linked to other relevant processes. Examples given were the Sendai Framework, the SDGs, and the recently adopted Escazu Agreement.

5. Possible follow-up or recommendations/concrete opportunities

The COP invited¹ Parties and non-Party stakeholders to organize regional technical expert meetings, building on existing regional climate action events, as appropriate, with a view to examining specific finance, technology and capacity-building resources necessary to scale up actions in regional contexts, including through regional mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and to provide their reports thereon to the secretariat as input to the technical examination processes.

During the regional TEM-A for the LAC region, it was noted that further regional TEM-As would benefit the region. Participants emphasized the need for enhanced regional collaboration, and a dedicated space to be able to share knowledge and identify opportunities. TEM-As are innovative in their design and the strong collaboration between Parties and non-Party actors, and should continue to be the vehicle through which different actors can share knowledge and mobilize action on adaptation.

Throughout the discussion, a number of opportunities for concrete action emerged. Those that could be responsible for realizing such opportunities are varied, and include national governments, sub-national leadership, the Adaptation Community, the UNFCCC process, the climate science community, individuals, etc. They are listed below, although this list is not exhaustive:

- Enhanced downscaling of climate science;
- Tailored communications of climate science;
- Multidisciplinary and long-term regionally-collaborative research, with adequate funding, to improve climate services;
- Financing for regional climate services, and for adaptation projects and programmes;
- Participatory approaches to co-construct knowledge and policy;

¹ Decision 13/CP.23, paragraph 9.

- Continued regional collaboration on climate science, further south-south cooperation opportunities;
- More information on climate impacts and how to assess risk;
- In the short-term, robust systems of monitoring and assessing adaptation;
- Enhanced capacity at the local level for impact assessments;
- The integration of gender as a topic in workshops, and more capacity building for women, including indigenous women, female leaders (e.g. mayors);
- The integration of traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples in decision-making;
- The sharing of strategies for building cohesion across levels and across sectors;
- Enhanced integration of climate change education;
- City and municipal adaptation strategies to complement national strategies.