



## REGIONAL THEMATIC PRIORITY: WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

With the aim of raising awareness and increasing the technical understanding on the impacts of climate change on water resources, as well as giving a more coherent voice to the water community in the global debate, and providing a platform to share water-based adaptation experiences, a group of organizations has come together in the Americas in a **Regional Policy Dialog on Water and Climate Change**. This Dialog has already led to the production of a regional policy paper, which presents nine related public policy recommendations. These recommendations were presented in the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16).



The process is moving fast ahead, towards other regional and global events, such as the World Water Week in Stockholm, COP 17, the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and the Earth Summit (Rio +20). Through this process, there are two main objectives:

- Defining and achieving **SMART targets** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound) and
- Carrying out a **WISE process** (*Wide Involvement Stakeholder Exchanges*)



## What are the SMART targets on water and climate change in the Americas?

The following two targets will be the common thread to the Regional Policy Dialog in the coming years, and will be the main activity of this thematic priority of the Water Forum of the Americas (WFA).

### 1. Inventory of adaptation actions

An inventory of water-based climate change adaptation actions and experiences is being carried out in the Americas, be they public policies, laws, projects, programs, or other activities, and at local, national and supranational levels.

Coordinated by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), this target bears the name “**Water and Adaptation Actions in the Americas**” (WaterAAA). The inventory will provide quantitative and qualitative input to feed the thought process on the factors that affect the implementation of adaptation measures in the Americas, such as institutional arrangements, financing, capacity development and monitoring and reporting on activities.

A selection of cases from the inventory will be made to illustrate the nine policy recommendations in the regional policy paper, as well as being presented in the upcoming events in the Regional Policy Dialog. This selection will not exclusively seek to highlight the most successful actions in terms of numbers, but those that reveal the most relevant experiences and lessons learned. Special emphasis will be placed on actions that have the potential to be upscaled and replicated in other parts of the region.

To view the actions that are currently part of the inventory and to upload your own experiences, [please click here](#).

### 2. Stimulation of adaptation plans that consider water resources

The second target under this regional priority aims to stimulate water being fully considered in the existing and future adaptation policies. Taking its baseline as March 2009, the date of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, the target will favor the creation of a specific number of national and local adaptation plans that consider water, or the inclusion of water in existing plans, with two deadlines, March 2012, and March 2015, the dates of the next two World Water Fora.

The precise number of plans considered under this target is to be defined shortly, since an analysis is currently taking place of the baseline of plans that existed in the region in March 2009 that considered water resources. By mid-July, the exact percentage that it is hoped to reach under this target by 2012 and 2015 will be defined. The plans considered as part of this target should be established by national or local governments in the Americas, although to enhance their sustainability, they should ideally consider the active involvement of other non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector.

By sharing experiences through the first target, and by promoting them through the regional policy paper, it is hoped that a greater number of nations, cities, states and regions contemplate the importance of placing water at the heart of their adaptation plans. The leader of this target is the National Water Commission of Mexico (Conagua).

## How to get involved in the WISE process?

This process is open to any individual or organization that is interested in collaborating with the common objective. Take part through the following means:

- Share your water-based adaptation action through the WaterAAA inventory by [clicking here](#);
- If you are a representative of a national or local government, and if have not got an adaptation plan, or if you are involved in one that does not truly consider water resources, by consulting the experiences in the WaterAAA, you will find useful information in this sense. And if this is the case, please share this activity so that it can be considered in the report of the second target to the next World Water Fora, by writing to [cinternacional@conagua.gob.mx](mailto:cinternacional@conagua.gob.mx)
- Send your comments on the regional policy paper; to consult it, [please click here](#);
- Take part in the following preparatory events:

Event	Date	Venue
Dialog on Climate Change Disaster Management: the perspective of the international water community	June 23	Mexico City, Mexico
Regional meeting and thematic session for the 6 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum	June 27-29	Sao Paulo, Brazil
Workshop on the “Water and Climate Change” thematic priority	August 8-9	Mexico City, Mexico
Regional Seminar on Water and Climate Change in the Americas during the World Water Week	August 24	Stockholm, Sweden
XII Meeting of the Conference of Ibero-American Director Generals of Water (CODIA)	November 1-3	Buenos Aires, Argentina
7th Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management (D7)	November 13-19	Medellin, Colombia

For more details on this process, please write to: [cinternacional@conagua.gob.mx](mailto:cinternacional@conagua.gob.mx).

### **About the regional priority on water and climate change**

The issue of water and climate change is one of the six thematic priorities identified by the Water Forum of the Americas towards the 6th World Water Forum, the next edition of the world's biggest water event, which will be held in Marseilles, France from March 12 to 17, 2012. Together with the themes of drinking water and sanitation; governance and Integrated Water Resources Management; water for energy; water for food; and water for ecosystems, the activities within these working groups will make up the position of the Americas in this event.