12.0 Venezuela

CATIE	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (Spain) (Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Centre)
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
INIA	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (Chile) (National Institute of Agricultural Research)
MARN	Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales
MINAMB	Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente
OAS	Organization of American States
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

A. Adaptation Needs and Priorities

Venezuela's climate is susceptible to droughts, often related to El Niño events, and extreme rainfall events (República Bolivariana de Venezuela, 2005). Climate projections for the country estimate that temperatures will increase by 1° to 2°C by the 2060s, with minimum temperatures expected to increase twice as fast as maximum temperatures. In addition, decreasing trends for rainfall, especially in the South, are projected for Venezuela (República Bolivariana de Venezuela, 2005).

Venezuela has so far submitted only one National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which highlights that water, agriculture, coastal areas and socio-economy are among its priority sectors (República Bolivariana de Venezuela, 2005). The National Communication outlines its adaptation priorities as follows:

- *Water*: Promotion of water demand and supply management; implementation of legal norms on water use and price measures; use of fiscal measures; land use planning; institutional strengthening; social and organizational measures; awareness raising; further studies; and investments in infrastructure.
- *Agriculture*: Short term (up to five years): strengthening social organization; environmental taxes; implementation of good practices in agriculture; maintain livestock mobility in dry areas; adjust agricultural calendars; impact evaluation of adaptation measures; education of the rural population; and risk reduction planning. In the medium term (5 to 20 years): strengthening cooperative development and diversification; consolidate environmental taxes; consolidate good practices; develop and distribute hybrids and resistant crops; improve efficiency of water use; promote agroforestry; develop new technologies; use genetically modified varieties; and evaluate the impact of adaptation measures. In the long-term (after 20 years): consolidate agroforestry; consolidate crop substitution; and evaluate residual climate change impacts. A number of additional measures were identified in regional workshops, including: strengthening social organization; implementation of environmental taxes; supervised credit; policies to increase local value-added production; organization of the extension service; regionalized zonal planning; policies to diversify production; establish a network of real time weather stations; and capacity building.
- *Coastal zones* (measures regarding sea level rise): establish national coordination body on sea level rise; evaluation of coastal zones and islands regarding current and future use; analysis of coastal and marine topography, geology, geomorphology and oceanography; hydraulic analysis of river run-off; awareness raising; and strengthening the national oceanography network.
- *Socio-economy*: strategic areas for adaptation include: awareness raising; assessments in sectors like agriculture, energy, water, technology, ecology and the socio-economy; monitoring and field work; environmental participation, management and protection; sanitation and control of rivers and watersheds; and food security.

B. National Level Policies and Strategic Documents

Venezuela's current Social and Economic Development Plan (República Bolivariana de Venezuela, 2007), does not address climate change, and the country has not yet established a climate change strategy, action plan or policy. So far, Venezuela has submitted one National Communication to the UNFCCC (República Bolivariana de Venezuela, 2005), and the Ministry for External Affairs is the government's UNFCCC focal point. The Ministry for Environment (MINAMB, previous the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, MARN), however, deals with climate change issues at the national level.

Table 1: Key Government Policies and Reports reflecting Adaptation Needs, Priorities and Planned Actions

Name of Policy Action		Government Division Responsible	Status	Sector(s) of Focus	Summary description
1.	First National Communication to the UNFCCC	MARN	Published in 2005	Multi-sectoral	The First National Communication includes an analysis of climate variability and change as well as vulnerability and impact assessments for a range of sectors.

C. Current Adaptation Action

Adaptation programming in Venezuela is currently low when compared to other countries in South America. This level of action appears to be occurring exclusively through Venezuela's participation in multi-country projects and programs, all of which involve Latin American countries. Although the number of projects underway in Venezuela is limited, they are addressing a range of sectoral needs, including coastal zone management, the supply of freshwater, watershed management, urban issues, forestry, agriculture, and enabling government to understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Table 2: Current Adaptation Projects and Programs active in Venezuela

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
Participation in Regional and Global Actions								
1.	Design and Implementation of Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures in the Andean Region (PRAA Project)[259]	Implement measures to meet the anticipated consequences of the catastrophic glacier retreat induced by climate change through design and implementation of strategic pilot adaptation measures to address key impacts of glacier retreat, including: management plans for potable water systems in urban areas; promotion of less water consuming management practices in the agricultural sector; and measures to increase the natural water storage capacity of highland ecosystems.	SCCF, co-financing *Budget:* US$28.7 million	World Bank with Government ministries, regional organizations	Capacity building; Field implementation	2008–2012	Freshwater supply; Urban areas; Agriculture	*Regional:* Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
			In Venezuela: Further information required.					

[259] ALM, http://www.adaptationlearning.net/projects/regional-design-and-implementation-pilot-climate-change-adaptation-measures-andean-region; and http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/CARE_PRAA_Summary.pdf

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
2.	Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change [260]	To strengthen, in a coordinated and coherent manner, the institutional framework for planning and executing activities for the protection and sustainable management of the water resources of the Amazon River Basin, endeavoring to realize a shared vision of sustainable development in the region based upon the protection and integrated management of transboundary water resources and adaptation to climatic changes.	GEF, co-financing *Budget:* US$ 51.5 million	UNEP, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, OAS	Capacity building; Policy formation and integration	2009–2014	Watershed management	*Regional:* Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela
			In Venezuela: Further information required.					
3.	Review of the Economics of Climate Change in South America[261]	The purpose of the study is to make a socioeconomic analysis of the impacts of climate change in selected countries of South America, develop mitigation and adaptation policies and leverage financial resources. In addition, this project includes a component focused on the impact of climate change in coastal areas–C3A (Cambio Climatico en las Coastas de America Latina y Caribe).	IADB, UK, Denmark, Spain, EU, Germany	ECLAC	Assessment; Policy formation and integration	2008–2009	Coastal zone management ; Government	*Regional:* Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
			In Venezuela: Further information required.					
4.	Climate Change Vulnerability Evaluation of Coastal and Marine Areas[262]	This project is part of the Ibero-American Programme on the Evaluation of Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC) and aims to determine the impacts of climate change on the coasts of any country in Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. It has a particular focus on the dynamics of beaches, estuaries, lagoons,	Spain	ECLAC, University of Cantabria, national counterparts	Capacity building; Assessment; Knowledge communicatio n	2009–2011	Coastal zone management	Most RIOCC countries[264] including: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela

[260] IW-LEARN, http://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/Fsp_112799471058 and http://www.otca.org.br/gefam/
[261] ECLAC, http://www.eclac.org/dmaah/noticias/noticias/2/35232/samaniego_recc.pdf
[262] RIOCC, http://www.lariocc.net/riocc_principal/es/proyectos_iniciativas/proy_marc_piacc.htm

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
		deltas, cliffs and dunes, coastal erosion, flood risks and coastal infrastructure. This initiative is linked to the project "Economics of Climate Change in Central America - Phase II"[263] funded by IADB, UK, Denmark, Spain, EU and Germany.	*In Venezuela:* Further information required.					
5.	Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Ibero-America[265]	Part of PIACC, this project aims to generate new information and knowledge and strengthen the capacity of research institutions in the forestry sector on linking sustainable forest management with adaptation and mitigation to climate change. This includes strengthening specific research activities, developing and disseminating methodologies and case studies, strengthening human resources and fostering the representation of the forest sector in the regional and international dialogue.	Spain	INIA, CIFOR, CATIE, Polytechnical University of Madrid	Capacity building; Research; Knowledge communicatio n	2009–2011	Forestry	RIOCC countries, including: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
			In Venezuela: Further information required.					
6.	Climate Policy 2012: Extension of the global project "Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change"[266]	The UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean has expanded on the global project, "Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change" in the LAC region to provide technical support to national policy makers and its Country Offices and strengthen capacity on budgetary issues related to the post-2012 climate regime. Activities include technical backstopping for countries that begin to	Spain, UNDP *Budget:* US$3.6 million	UNDP	Capacity building; Policy formation and integration	2009–2011	Government	*LAC Region:* Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El

[264] The 21 member countries of RIOCC are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.
[263] ECLAC, http://www.eclac.org/mexico/cambioclimatico/index.html
[265] Proyecto MIA, http://www.proyectomia.com/
[266] UNDP, http://www.undpcc.org/content/act_latin-en.aspx and http://www.undp.org/climatechange/docs/EEG_Flyer_EN.pdf

Name		Objectives	Funder(s)	Implementing Agency(s)	Type of project	Duration	Priority Sector(s)	Geographic focus (if any)
		consider adaptation to climate change in their National Development Plans.						Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela
			In Venezuela: Further information required.					
7.	Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into National Development Processes in Latin America and the Caribbean	Build climate resilience of vulnerable human and ecological systems in the region by integrating adaptation options into national planning processes and building the associated capacity of key regional and national institutions. The project will: undertake impact and vulnerability assessments; identify good practices and gaps in integrating adaptation into policy and plans; and support adaptation planning and its integration into national development processes. It will focus on the most vulnerable sectors and ecosystems, especially water and agriculture.	Spain *Budget:* US$4,375,233	UNEP	Assessment; Capacity building; policy formation and integration	2010–2013	Government; Agriculture; Freshwater supply	*LAC Region:* Phase 1: 19 RIOCC countries[267] Phase 2: 3-5 countries (Dominican Republic 1st country selected)
			In Venezuela: Further information required.					

D. Proposed Adaptation Action

No proposed adaptation action has been identified in Venezuela.

[267] The 19 RIOCC countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

E. Assessment

Venezuela has submitted one National Communication to the UNFCCC that is extensive and offers many recommendations for adaptation action. However, no government action plan or strategies have yet been published. Furthermore, only a low number of current and no proposed adaptation activities have been identified. While these projects are addressing a range of sectors, gaps exist in areas such as gender and building the capacity of civil society. In sum, climate change does not appear to have been considered in development plans nor addressed much through adaptation action in Venezuela.

References:

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