

EcoAdapt project—climate change adaptation for local development



▲ Measuring climate parameters in the Jujuy Model Forest in Argentina.

The EcoAdapt project has been funded for a 4-year period (beginning in January 2012) by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme to promote integrated collaboration between science and civil society to benefit ecosystems and inhabitants in three areas in Latin America. EcoAdapt hopes to show that scientists working together with civil society organizations (CSOs) can help design strong socially and technically based strategies for adaptation to climate change. CSOs provide knowledge through their work in the field and with local communities, while researchers provide knowledge acquired through their social and biophysical science research.

This work of combining different types of knowledge and collectively generating new knowledge is the real challenge addressed by EcoAdapt to support communities living in the project's focus areas: Jujuy Model Forest in Argentina, Chiquitano Model Forest in Bolivia, and Alto Malleco Model Forest in Chile.

EcoAdapt considers that adaptation to climate change cannot be done individually, so collective efforts are needed to bring together organizations with complementary skills and fields of activity. The project consortium includes five CSOs and four research partners, including UR GREEN and UMR ART-Dev. Local stakeholders involved in the project are from model forest platforms (universities, national agencies, producers' associations, community councils, private operators, etc.). Internationally, the project also has connections with the Latin American network of climate change offices (RIOCC') and with the Ibero-American Model Forest Network (IAMFN).

The experience of the EcoAdapt project in creating adaptation plans will be utilized to benefit other areas where water-related conflicts could be worsened by the increasing impacts of climate change. To this end, EcoAdapt is using existing networks while strengthening and developing them so that the results are disseminated and shared, with new ideas also being introduced into the project.

Contact: Grégoire Leclerc, gregoire.leclerc@cirad.fr

For further information: www.ecoadapt.eu

* Red Iberoamericana de Oficinas de Cambio Climático.

Socioecosystem adaptation and transformation

Since 1994, the research unit Management of Renewable Resources and Environment (UR GREEN - CIRAD) has been investigating-in a systemic and interdisciplinary way—the role of ecosystems and the environment as a development sustainability factor. The unit provides knowledge, methods and tools to gain insight into ecological and social systems (i.e. socioecosystems [SES]). It focuses on different resources (water, forests, land, fisheries, etc.), which it studies on different scales-from village to region and sometimes to the country level, from areas delineated by social dynamics (pioneer front areas) to ecosystems

(watersheds, forest ecosystems, *etc.*). It spurs cross-disciplinary analyses on biodiversity, land, landuse changes, arbitration between conservation and usage, as well as access and types of appropriation of natural renewable resources.

The unit conducts research on all continents in association with many scientific communities in developed and developing countries. Although its headquarters are in Montpellier (France), the team is highly involved in studies in West Africa, the Indian Ocean region, Southeast Asia, and more recently in Central America and Brazil.

One of the unit's research priorities concerns adaptation and transformation. The aim is

to determine how a society in its environment, i.e. an SES, perceives given disturbances. This involves studying, through a set of concepts and tools, how the society prepares and reacts.

GREEN's research includes analyses and factors involved in modifying nature-society interactions within SES—changes in viewpoints and/or knowledge and/or practices, power games, network mobilization, socioeconomic and environmental processes. •••