

I Regional Meeting on Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica, 3 – 6 April 2006

SUMMARY

The I Regional Meeting on Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation was realized at the Tropical Center for Agricultural Research and Higher Education (CATIE), located in Turrialba, Costa Rica, from 3 to 6 of April 2006. Thirty participants came from Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Canada, West Africa and Indonesia, representing national and regional institutions working on adaptation to climate change, meteorology, forestry and natural resources management. This event contributed to strengthening inter-institutional relations and the formation of a community of practice on climate change adaptation in Central America.

Three important results were achieved during the meeting. First, the linkages and contributions of the Project TroFCCA¹ to the II National Communications of the three countries (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras) where the Project is working in Central America. The national offices in charge of preparing these Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change will pursue these efforts beginning by the I trimester 2006, until second semester of 2008, or I semester 2009. This timeframe falls well within the lifespan of TroFCCA.

Second, the exchange of experiences and information relevant for the implementation of the Project will allow planning in a way that TroFCCA will complement and create synergies with national and regional actors, and avoid duplication of efforts. Representatives of the national offices for climate change from Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras presented their institutional and political progress in adaptation and natural resources management. The efforts on capacity building achieved by the Regional Project on Climate Change Adaptation, and executed by CATHALAC with support from GEF-UNDP, will contribute to national strategies for adaptation and will be a baseline for many initiatives that TroFCCA will promote.

Third, following a session of group work and a plenary discussion, participants contributed to the selection of relevant socioeconomic sectors for TroFCCA. Two sectors of socio-economic importance were retained: i) drinking water, and ii) Energy, particularly hydroelectric power generation. It was also recommended that TroFCCA should look at the energy from biomass (i.e.: firewood) since this is the main source of energy for a significant segment of the rural populations of Honduras and Nicaragua. These two sectors were selected for their dependence on goods and environmental services, particularly hydrological services, provided by forest ecosystems. In the future, the Project will concentrate efforts on defining vulnerability of these two sectors to climate change, and eventually provide elements for adaptation strategies at the national levels.

The possibility of TroFCCA's support to the formulation of projects on climate change adaptation within the UNFCCC, was also explored, since there is currently funding available from the GEF, which would be channeled through representations of the United Nations Development Program.

A Spanish version of the proceedings is available. More information can be obtained by visiting the following websites: www.catie.ac.cr/cambioglobal, www.cifor.cgiar.org/trofcca, or by e-mail to cjperez@catie.ac.cr

¹ This event was organized by the Project "Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation"-TroFCCA- executed jointly by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and CATIE with support from the European Commission