National System to Monitor Impact of Adaptation Efforts

**CHALLENGE**

Colombia’s Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has led a country-wide effort to create and use a system to track, monitor and evaluate adaptation actions. To accomplish this, the country required a methodology and indicators to better understand and compare results of efforts to adapt to climate change.

**CTCN SUPPORT**

- Identification of good practices regarding the monitoring of adaptation efforts globally and in Colombia
- Design of a national monitoring system, with protocols and baselines established for indicators
- Identification of an institutional framework to host and implement the monitoring system

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

- Increased national capacity to capture the extent to which Colombia’s adaptation efforts lead to enhanced resilience to climate change, with a specific focus on agricultural, human health and transportation sectors. (In 2014, the agricultural sector had an estimated value of 3.6 billion USD).
- Improved decision-making will contribute to increasing the resilience of 53 million hectares of primary forest ecosystems and the life-giving services they provide to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**CONNECTING COUNTRIES TO CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS**

The Climate Technology Centre and Network promotes the transfer of climate technologies at the request of developing countries for energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient development.

By connecting stakeholders with technology experts from around the world, the CTCN delivers customized capacity building and technical assistance aligned with national climate objectives.
The CTCN gratefully acknowledges the support of:

Indicators available on Colombia’s environmental website

THE STORY

This assistance helped Colombia to develop specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) indicators to serve as the basis of country’s integrated adaptation monitoring system and protocol. The effort was lead by the Directorate of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS-DCC), in close coordination with the National Department of Planning (NPD), the Colombian Institute for Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGR).

The result, facilitated by CTCN partners CATIE and the UNEP DTU Partnership, is a set of proposed indicators for adaptation, mainly oriented at measuring adaptive capacity and sensitivity to climate change, and classified according to the availability of data, the urgency to obtain information for decision-making and the difficulty in measuring and interpreting data. This information is accessible in real time through a web based platform created with Ministry of Environment funds and being used by municipal governments throughout the country to understand adaptation local impacts and make investment decisions.

The overall system is helping the country to report on adaptation outcomes and provides a practical platform for exchange and analysis of experiences with other countries, such as Costa Rica and Mexico. Colombia’s experience has now led to similar initiatives in Costa Rica and Honduras.