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SEMARNAT

## Adaptation to climate change in the water sector in COP 16

Rotterdam, October 1st, 2010



[www.gobiernofederal.gob.mx](http://www.gobiernofederal.gob.mx)  
[www.semarnat.gob.mx](http://www.semarnat.gob.mx)  
[www.conagua.gob.mx](http://www.conagua.gob.mx)

### The National Water Commission of Mexico

Created in 1989, the CONAGUA is an administrative, normative, technical, consultative and decentralized agency of the Mexican federal government, whose mission is to “manage and preserve Mexico’s water and its inherent public goods to achieve a sustainable use of these resources, with the co-responsibility of the three tiers of government and society-at-large”.

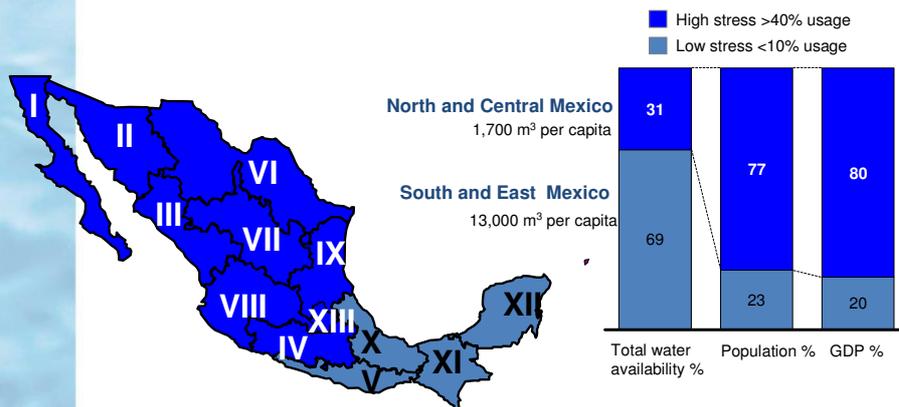


## Why is adaptation to climate change a priority for the CONAGUA?

- Water is not about climate change; it's about **economic, social** and **environmental development**. Climate change threatens that development (GWP)
- The **impacts of climate change** in the water sector (in quantity and quality) **affect other sectors** (agriculture, energy, industry, tourism, etc)
- Planning adaptation measures **reduces the intensity** of these impacts. Simply reacting to situations as they occur **multiplies the financial and environmental costs**



## Mexico is prone to climate variability, both in space...

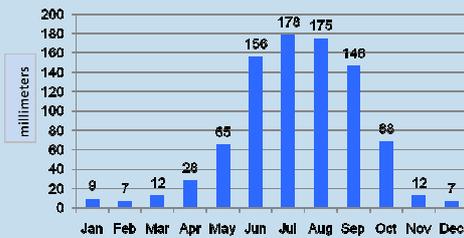


On average Mexico has annual availability of ~4 300 m<sup>3</sup> of water per capita, but a large part of the country is water stressed



... and in time

Average annual precipitation in Mexico City:  
863 mm



68% of the precipitation in Mexico falls  
between June and September, mainly due  
to cyclonic movements



The current situation is highly favorable to  
discuss the impact of climate change on water  
resources

- Mexico is the host country of this year's **COP 16**, from November 29 to December 10
- It is unlikely that there will be a **legally binding agreement** on mitigation at the COP 16; smaller agreements may be reached between blocks of countries on issues such as adaptation
- The abnormally high **rainfall** and the subsequent **floods** in Mexico this year have focused public attention on this issue





### Overarching aims of this activity

- **Raise awareness** among the public and decision makers on the importance of adaptation in the water sector
- Provide a platform for a **coherent and single voice** for the water sector in the international debate on climate change, and take this voice to decision makers (“outside the water box”)
- Push for the **formal recognition** (in the long term) of this priority issue in the UNFCCC
- Show that even without any recognition, the water sector **IS** adapting to climate change (it has no choice!)



**CONAGUA**  
Comisión Nacional del Agua

## What are we doing (globally)?

- Putting together a **global alliance** to support this initiative and to prepare a white book, to be presented in COP 16
- Supporting the Water and Climate Coalition in **lobbying** for the formal recognition of this priority issue in the UNFCCC
- Writing or commissioning high-level **editorials** on the issue (Mexican and international)
- Organizing a **Water and Climate Dialog (WCD)**, a series of activities during COP 16



## Organizations initially taking part in this global alliance

- CONAGUA
- World Bank
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- UN-HABITAT
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC)
- Water and Climate Coalition (WCC)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Water Association (IWA)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- among others



## What are we doing (regionally)?

- Structuring a **Regional Policy Dialog** in Latin America and the Caribbean on adaptation to climate change in the water sector
- Preparing a series of **key policy recommendations** to be presented at COP 16
- Organizing a session during the WCD, "**Latin America meets the regions** on water and climate change adaptation", to discuss these policy recommendations with other regions



## Partners in the Regional Policy Dialog in Latin America and the Caribbean



## What are we doing (nationally)?

With the support of the World Bank:

- Summarizing the **adaptation activities** already carried out by the CONAGUA and producing a national climate change **adaptation strategy** in the sector (to be launched at COP 16)
- Pilot climate change **modeling and planning exercise** in one basin in Mexico (River Yaqui in Sonora)
- On-line **training course** for the water sector on climate change



## Main achievements in 2010

Signing of the DPL and Technical Assistance Program with the World Bank (April)

Launch of the Water and Climate Coalition (June)

LAC process: workshop in June, XI CODIA in August and Ministerial Panel in September

Formation of a global alliance on water and climate change (September)

**Water and Climate Dialog in COP 16**



## Water and Climate Dialog in Cancun

- Bringing the **water community**, the **development community** and the **climate change community** together
- Bridging **technical** and **political** scopes of activity, with a high media presence
- Sessions for those physically in Cancun and those who are not (the latter through the GDLN network)
- Entirely **webcast** in real time, through a dedicated website



### Initial program of the Water and Climate Dialog

Date	Saturday November 27	Wednesday December 1	Thursday December 2	Friday December 3	Monday December 6 (tbc)
<b>Status</b>	Informal event	Associated event	Associated event	Associated event	Official side-event
<b>Focus</b>	Warm-up with negotiators	5 panel debates (morning and lunch) / UN Water event (afternoon)	“Water day” very high level media-friendly debate	Latin America meets the regions on water and CC adaptation (morning) / Private sector participation (lunch) / CC scenarios workshop (afternoon)	High-level panel
<b>Where</b>	Hotel Fiesta Americana Coral Beach				COP 16 venue (tbc)
<b>Convened by</b>	Water and Climate Coalition	CONAGUA and partners (morning) / WWAP (afternoon)	CONAGUA and partners	CONAGUA and partners	CONAGUA



## How to support this initiative

- Raise **awareness** on the matter – speak up and write about it, be spokespersons!
- Support or join the **global alliance** on water and climate change adaptation
- Contribute to the **Regional Policy Dialog** in Latin America and the Caribbean, sending your comments on the document
- Take part in the **Water and Climate Dialog** in Cancun, during this year's COP 16



Water community



Development community



Climate change community



**Do we all live in different worlds?**

Courtesy of Alex Simalabwi, GWP



**¡Muchas gracias!**

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