

**Directorate of Climate Change
Department of Adaptation
Training Workshop on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
4 to 7 September 2017
San Jose Costa Rica**

Questions and Answers Requested to Dominican Republic

1. Key vulnerabilities.

The Dominican Republic, because of its geographic position and island status, is highly vulnerable to meteorological phenomena: hurricanes, tropical storms, troughs, etc., exposing the territory to dangerous situations and considerable economic and social damages.

The key vulnerabilities in the country are poverty due to the fact that around 40% of the population lives, human settlements, floods, prolonged droughts, landslides and cyclones.

2. The SDGs that are being served by the country.

In February 2016 the government of the Dominican Republic issued a presidential decree to activate a High-level Inter-Institutional Commission for Sustainable Development Goals, with a mandate to oversee and implement Agenda 30. The objective of the commission is to integrate SDGs into all Governmental planning instruments, especially in the 2012-2030 National Development Strategy (NDS).

According to the analysis carried out by the high level commission, the vision, objectives and goals of the SDGs are highly consistent with the National Development Strategy. In that sense, we proceeded to adapt and integrate the SDGs to the NDT.

Each and every SDGs is being served by the country and is a priority agenda for the government, with an emphasis on education, health and poverty. For each of them, strategies and public policies have been worked out for compliance.

The government has been working to continue with the end of poverty by continuing to implement successful Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) implementation programs and continue SDGs No.1. The country also initiated a process of consultation and drawing up roadmaps on a national strategy that would enable the country to eliminate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The state is in an educational revolution, achieved 4% of GDP for education, extension of school curricula and an extended batch program. It is investing in health, rehabilitation and construction of dozens of hospitals, expansion of national health insurance coverage. Exemption incentives have been created for the implementation of renewable energies.

In environment and climate change, the government has dedicated Axis No.4 of the NDS to these two themes, specific objective 4.3.1., Establishes a reduction of vulnerability, progress in adaptation to the effects of climate change and contribute to the Mitigation of its causes. The country has pledged in its Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce emissions by 25% by the year 2030 on the basis of the year 2010.

3. National adaptation policies, mandates / directive, etc.

In 2008, the National Council for Climate Change and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) were created, with the main functions of formulating, designing and implementing public policies on climate change.

In the last amendment of the Constitution of 2010, the Dominican Republic incorporated Adaptation to Climate Change as a fundamental element of the Public Policy of territorial organization and efficient and sustainable use of the natural resources of the Nation (Article 194).

Law No. 1-12 of the country's National Development Strategy (NDS) 2030 establishes indicators to adapt to climate change. As a national policy it is established to incorporate adaptation to climate change as a transversal policy within the NDS, and its articulation with other transversal policies. Provide a favorable political and institutional framework for climate change resilient development.

In addition, we have the National Policy on Climate Change (Decree 269-15); Decree 23-16: Directs the High-Level Inter-Institutional Commission for Sustainable Development; The Economic Development Plan Compatible with Climate Change; The National Plan for Comprehensive Risk Management (2011) of Disasters in the Dominican Republic; Map of Poverty 2014 in the Dominican Republic; National strategy to strengthen human resources and skills to move towards green development, with low

Emissions and climate resilience: National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector of the Dominican Republic (2014). Plan of Action of Technological Needs - for the Adaptation of the DR.

4. Priority themes / sectors for adaptation.

The most vulnerable sectors identified are: Water for Human Consumption, Energy (component of electricity generation), National System of Protected Areas, Human Settlements and Tourism.

The planning blocks for the strategic approach to adaptation are the following:

- Ecosystem-Based Adaptation / Ecosystem Resilience
- Increased Adaptive Capacity and Reduction of Territorial / Sector Vulnerability
- Integrated Water Management
- Health
- Food security
- Infrastructure
- Floods and Droughts
- Coastal-marine
- Risk Management and Early Warning Systems

5. Progress in NAPs:

- Has initiated and started the process.

Within the framework of the Second National Communication in 2009, the Dominican Republic developed the National Adaptation Plan of Action (PANA, 2008 (for its acronym in Spanish). As part of the Third Communication one of the main components was the revision and updating of PANA 2008, resulting in the product: "National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dominican Republic - PNACC-RD 2015-2030".

The update document presents the contextualization of adaptation to climate change in the Dominican Republic with the socioeconomic and socio ecological context. A brief summary of climate analysis and climate and hydrological scenarios and the transfer of technology for adaptation to climate change are presented. A synthesis of the vulnerability and impact of climate change and climate variability is developed. The conceptual framework of adaptation to climate change and new approaches to adaptation to climate change:

NAPAs and NAPs, projected and nationally determined contributions), the synergy between mitigation and adaptation.

A roadmap for adaptation was recently developed. This roadmap was elaborated within the framework of the 3rd National Communication.

- **As, what were the activities, there are published materials and results.**

It was a participatory work where the sectors and key actors for the process and their level of influence in the execution were identified. Workshops were held for the selection of criteria and priority adaptation measures.

The following activities were carried out:

- The key players in the country were invited
- Questionnaires were used to collect information.
- Delivery of exhibitions and speeches in the workshops.
- Referral of draft reports for review and incorporation of suggestions.
- Sending reports of each stage in electronics to the parties involved in the process.

- What milestones were achieved in the process, (including results)

As part of PNACC-RD, climatic scenarios were developed for the Dominican Republic, which helps to understand the changes generated by the climate and a better understanding of climatic phenomena and their projections. In addition, vulnerability and impact studies on climate change and adaptation measures were developed with strategic approaches in different sectors.

- When it is likely to produce and communicate its NAPs.

It is expected that next year will be available to the public. It is still under review.

- There is some support (technical / financial) received by the government in the implementation of the process, if so in which area greater support is obtained.

Support has been received from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), The Global Environment Facility (GEF). UNDP supporting technical and contracting consultants, and GEF with funding.

- You have tried to access the green climate fund, share your experience.

There is a proposal in formulation for the Green Climate Fund called "Capacity building to advance the process of the National Adaptation Plan in the Dominican Republic". The purpose of this proposal is to build sustainably the country's capacity to identify, prioritize, plan and implement measures that address medium- and long-term adaptation needs. In addition, reduce the vulnerability of the country to the impacts of variability and climate change through the creation of adaptive capacity and resilience.

The proposal was developed with the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment Program) who hired a consultant. In February of this year 2017, several consultation meetings were held at the internal level of the Ministry of the Environment, and external with different public and private institutions to identify the needs and contributions to the proposal. Currently the proposal is under review, it was sent to UN Environment in Nairobi.

6. National Adaptation Initiatives.

The Dominican Republic with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has a portfolio of projects in adaptation, with the support of different donor entities and implementing institutions:

- Dry Central Corridor and arid zones of the Dominican Republic, (Formulation).

National Adaptation Plan Process In the Dominican Republic, (Formulation).

- A Community based early Warning System in every pocket from Santo Domingo, D.N, (Implementation).

- Project Improving Climate Resilience in the Province of San Cristóbal, Dominican Republic. Integrated Management of Water Resources and Rural Development Program, presented to the Adaptation Fund, (Implementation).

- Coalition of Resilient Cities, (Implementation).

- Adaptation of coastal marine areas, (Implementation).

- Landscape and resource management to increase carbon stocks in Central America (REDD + Landscape / CCAD-GIZ), (Approved).

- Evaluation of actions of vulnerability and adaptation to the Climate Change in the countries of the RIOCC, (Formulation)

- Adaptation based on ecosystems in regions of high climatic variability in the Dominican Republic, (Concept Note)

- Adaptation to Climate Change in arid and flood areas (Concept note)

- Proposed Initiative of Productive Investment for Adaptation to Climate Change, (Concept Note).

The Dominican State is also developing several projects in Adaptation among them is the project of Urban Transformation and Environmental Sanitation of La Vega, "which will impact more than 60,000 people adjoining the El Riíto and Camú River, that city of La Vega. The works include apartments, bridges, treatment plants, avenues, channeling the Camú River, sanitary solutions, among others.

There is also the La Nueva Barquita project, which consisted in the design and construction of an integral development of approximately 52 hectares located on the northern shore of the Ozama River in Santo Domingo Norte, which included the recovery of the riparian habitat of an area of 12 Hectares in the sector of La Barquita, in Santo Domingo Este, place where the families to relocate lived; Both areas are at high risk of flooding and landslides. With a relocation of more than 5,500 residents.

Another project of adaptation of the State is "Integral Urban Transformation New Domingo Savio", similar to the project the boat. The initiative will benefit 45 thousand people from two neighborhoods: La Ciénaga and Los Guandules located in the lower basin of the river Ozama. Construction of housing, development of new roads and sanitary system of the whole sector is considered.

There is also the agroforestry project also carried out by the State called "Project of Sustainable Development in the Sierra de Neyba, Bahoruco Province", aiming to contribute to the sustainable development of the communities of the Sierra de Neyba in the Bahoruco Province through reforestation, Agricultural production and the strengthening of local capacities.

Specific objectives are: **a)** To develop sustainable sources of income for residents of the Sierra de Neyba communities in Bahoruco Province; **B)** Contribute to recover the water catchment capacity of the Sierra de Neyba in the Bahoruco Province; And **c)** Strengthen local capacities of agricultural production and sustainable management of Natural Resources.

Components:

1) Sustainable Agricultural Production; 2) Reforestation and Conservation; 3) Exploitation of Value Added; 4) Training and 5) Incentives for Transformation.

Produced by:

Esmeldy García Martínez
Adaptation officer in charge
Directorate of Climate Change
Esmeldy.garcia@ambiente.gob.do / esmeldy.garciam@gmail.com