



## **Cambio Climático y Planificación del Territorio: Casos de Estudio de Adaptación en Políticas Urbanas y Sector Privado**

*Climate Change and Territorial Planning: Adaptation Case Studies for Urban Policy and the Private Sector*

**February 25, 2015  
Bogotá, Colombia**

Wilson Center-USAID  
Climate Change Adaptation Seminar Series  
2013-2015

### **Event Summary**

#### **Overview**

On Wednesday the February 25, 2015, the fifth seminar of the Wilson Center-USAID Climate Change Adaptation Series was held in Bogotá, Colombia. The seminar, designed to bring new stakeholders to the adaptation discussion already underway in the country and create awareness among private sector, focused on private sector involvement in adaptation and urban planning. Within this frame, food security, natural disasters, population dynamics, ecosystem services, agriculture, insurance, infrastructure, territorial planning, and ongoing initiatives in Colombia were also highlighted.

The audience of the meeting reflected its goals: In order to broaden awareness and highlight the role of the private sector in adaptation initiatives in Colombia, priority to attend the seminar was given to representatives of the Ministry of Housing, which is the institution in charge of urban and territorial planning and has recently begun incorporating adaptation in their work. Members of the private sector--primarily developers and financial institutes—were also key participants, among other representatives of the Colombian government at national and subnational levels.

International speakers opened the day, with presentations on how they have incorporated resilience and adaptation to climate change within their sectors international funding and

development in the case of Steven Wilson, and urban development for Eric Kaufman. Sandeep Bathala from the Wilson Center's Maternal Health Initiative offered an overview and facilitated discussion on the linkages between urbanization, population dynamics, and climate change adaptation.

Also on the agenda were three panels featuring Colombians working in the areas of urban planning (with representatives of the city governments of Quito, Bogota, and Cartagena), the private sector (ProBogota) and domestic funding for adaptation initiatives (Findeter), and measuring adaptation progress in Colombia (the Department of National Planning—DNP and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development—MADS).

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Peter Natiello, Director of USAID Colombia and Cynthia J. Arnson Director of the Latin American Program at the Wilson Center opened the day's presentations, offering context for the meeting within the larger goals of USAID and global climate change adaptation movement. In order to provide greater clarity on the climate change challenges and adaptation needs facing our planet—and Colombia in particular—to an audience from diverse areas of expertise, Carmen Lacambra presented a brief summary setting the climate and adaptation technical bases for the audience.

### **International Presentations**

Dr. Steven Wilson, based at FOMIN—Washington, was first to present. Dr. Wilson focused on the need to engage the private sector on adaptation initiatives as well as the need to acknowledge, measure, and support initiatives arising from the private sector. Wilson noted that there are already many adaptation initiatives being implemented by private sector actors in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, food, and many other sectors, however because these are not labelled as adaptation-linked, they fall out of the climate change adaptation radar. Wilson also stressed the need for immediate action and the importance of clearly differentiating adaptation from mitigation. Wilson presented the audience with the ProAdapt program that FOMIN is implementing in several countries in the region, aiming to create climate resilience among micro, small and medium enterprises, primarily in the agriculture and tourism sectors. Discussion with the audience focused on incentives for the private sector to adapt and the continuing need for more action.

Eric Kaufman, founder of the Natural Resilience Fund and Built Environment, presented his experience working on public-private partnerships for climate resilience in the city of New York. Kaufman, with a background in commercial real estate, focused on his flagship development project in Stated Island (the New York Wheel, a tourist attraction and multi-use development), including the negotiation processes with local authorities, modification of designs for resistance to flooding, and the final resulting project. Kaufman emphasised that projects of this magnitude involve multiple stakeholders, both from the public and private sectors, and that internal politics among these stakeholders must be considered. Kaufman discussed his introduction to the importance of climate resilience and adaptation, after Hurricane Sandy had major impacts on coastal developments in the New York area, including several of Kaufman's projects. For the New York Wheel project, the federal government, the city government, and the private sector have been working together for mutual benefit. While including resilience features within the project design has been a challenge, Kaufman and his team have overcome much of this resistance through mitigation and energy costs savings. Kaufman emphasised that adaptation and resilience measures are cheaper when are thought through and included at the start of each development. He also noted that a key strategy for success in urban resilience is to decentralize services; this is especially important for growing cities in the developing world to consider, because if infrastructure is not yet in place there is more room to design and build for resilience, for being creative, and for including edge technology that is cleaner and effective.

### **National Panels**

Claudia Martinez, Executive Director of from E3 Asesorias and a leader in adaptation in Colombia, focused on the need to build bridges between adaptation and mitigation strategies. Martinez relates that, as climate influences both social and economic development goals, Climate Compatible Development should address inequity, reducing poverty, enhancing sectorial competitiveness at the local level, economic growth, and business development—it should be a vision for transforming the territory for the long term. Martinez presented adaptation advances from across Colombia, including Cartagena's adaptation plan, the territorial approach in the Huila Department—where adequate watershed management has been crucial for decision making—and the sectorial adaptation plan for roads in Colombia. Claudia highlighted the crucial role of multiple partners in reaching these development goals such as planning offices, productive sectors, information providers, and civil society.

The seminar's cities panel included presenters from Cartagena, Colombia (Dolly González); Quito, Ecuador (Diego Javier Enriquez Pabón); and, Bogota, Colombia (Javier Mendoza). All three presenters focused on the processes each city has undergone in order to create an adaptation plan. This panel was especially important for many members of the seminar's audience, given that many of the attendees were planning officers from other Colombian cities starting to develop adaptation plans.

Dolly González presented Cartagena's Plan 4C (Cartagena Competitive y Compatible con el Clima) which has been enhanced by the current administration but dates back to 2003 when Cartagena was identified by an Invemar technical assessment as the most vulnerable city to sea level rise. The planning process included taking a detailed vulnerability assessment, in which potential impacts were identified based on sea level rise and flooding projections. Plan 4C focuses on creating awareness, including communities, enhancing research and information, ecosystems restoration, and integrated economic development. The greatest challenges have been adequate information, monitoring and integration, prioritizing adaptation investments, territorial planning, stakeholder management, and the need for integrated strategies.

Diego Javier Enriquez Pabón, from the secretariat of environment in Quito, presented the process that his city has undertaken to integrate stakeholders, watershed management, and public participation. The Quito Adaption Plan focuses on information and knowledge, citizen participation, as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies within strategic sectors. Climate change impacts identified for Quito include temperature and wind pattern change, increased humidity, and potential for increased of extreme rain events. In order to adapt to these changes, the city has set a political and institutional framework, which includes a detailed assessment of the city's vulnerabilities, focusing mostly on fires, agriculture, health and ecosystems, and enhanced civil society participation. Urgent actions are being developed to enhance adaptation, particularly in the rural areas. Quito's leadership is reflected in will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Habitat Conference during 2016.

Javier Mendoza, current coordinator of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication for Colombia, was the leader of the PRICC project in Bogota, an integrated regional plan to address climate change in the Bogotá capitol region and the department of Cundinamarca. The regional approach has focused on strengthening institutions and enhancing inter-agency cooperation, in this case the government of Cundinamarca and the administration in Bogotá have joined

together for a territorial approach to climate change. There is a clear institutional commitment, including financial incentives for institutions to join the framework. Major challenges have been translating technical language to make it accessible to the decision makers, and to ensure that the adaptation strategies are tangible.

Discussions on this panel focussed on the identification of specific adaptation measures, particularly related to land use management. The audience brought up concerns about not knowing if these topics (impacts, consequences, and coping strategies) have been included in the discussions of the ongoing peace process in Colombia—no one in the audience or panel was able to offer clarification, as no one in attendance was allowed to officially comment.

The afternoon panel included presenters from the private sector—Maria Mercedes Jaramillo from ProBogota and Jessica Jacob of FINDETER. Jaramillo presented ProBogota's recently created initiative engaging various enterprises based in Bogotá, with the aim to promote a better city. (ProBogota supports the administration of the city by advocating for solutions, facilitating discussion, and promoting public policies.) Within the resilience framework, ProBogota is promoting sustainable development and urbanization by providing information and practices that are applicable in the city. ProBogota is promoting a future for Bogotá as a compact city in which displacement can be reduced, resources are used rationally, and risk is properly addressed while also responsibly managing natural resources, including the soil. While the organization itself is small, it is inviting civil society to participate in its working groups: urban planning, employment creation, security, public transport, and mobility and education.

Paula Jacob brought the perspective of FINDETER to the meeting—a government financial institution for development projects which was recently re-structured to focus on sustainable development and territorial development. Jacob presented examples of projects that the bank has financed related to climate change and resilience promotion in the country. These include the sustainable cities program (co-sponsored with the IDB), in which eight Colombian cities have been receiving/will receive funding for development projects, among them: Monteria, Valledupar, Pasto, Pereira, Manizales, Cartagena, Barranquilla, and Bucaramanga. The program considers four dimensions within each city: (1) climate change, (2) urbanization, (3) socio-economic conditions, and (4) governance and fiscal management. Jacob focused much of her presentation on a pilot project on recreational areas which has been developed in Barranquilla (although she emphasised the project is a true pilot program, and it its early

stages). FINDETER's work in urban areas aims to integrate the understanding of hazards, growth trends, services provision, costs, and the identification of sectors contributing the most to climate change.

The final panel on territorial management was led by representatives from the the Department of Planning and from the Ministry of Environment. Diana Hernandez from the Planning Department (DNP) presented the context for adaptation in Colombia, including the framework for action and goals identified within such framework. Hernandez highlighted the challenges of floods, decreased rural production, aquifer salinification, and loss of land in low coastal areas as the greatest impacts identified to date. As Hernandez explained, the urban context is extremely important in Colombia due to the large majority of Colombia's population living in urban areas (75 percent), the trend of growth in the country's major cities, and that these urban centers are also the main consumers of Colombian goods, water, food, and other resources. Among the actions identified to improve urban areas, DNP has identified: improving transport and mobility, water management, protecting green areas, reducing of dependence of one single source for basic services, and sustainable building as the main targets. Hernandez finished her presentation by introducing the collection of national strategies to address climate change, both those targeting mitigation and adaptation options: the National Adaptation Plan PNACC, Low Carbon Development strategy, the REDD+, and the financial strategy for disasters management.

Mariana Rojas from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) presented current tools for planning which are based in the public sector but are starting to incorporate the private sector. Although both mitigation and adaptation strategies have different aims, within the Ministry they both share common planning elements. The Ministry's role has been to provide methodological tools, create plans, implement actions, and monitor and evaluate. Rojas presented the evolution of the Ministry's accompanying role and its advances, while also focusing on further opportunities for adaptation.

### **Linking Population, Climate Change, and Territorial Planning**

Sandeep Bathala, Senior Associate from the Wilson Center, focused her presentation on the impacts of climate change on population dynamics and urbanization. Bathala highlighted the interactions between climate, health, security, population, and livelihoods, stressing that climate vulnerability is not static and is impacted by population dynamics. She continued by

emphasizing the impacts of climate change which are already being noticed and adaptation capacity is known to be restrained by development. The range population dynamics variables should be considered when planning for adaptation including: migration patterns, vulnerability gaps, population patterns, and vulnerable groups, including women. During the discussion, the audience highlighted an additional challenge in the Colombian context: on top of climate change related migration, cities have to plan to receive people internally displaced by violence.

## **Conclusions**

Dr. Wilson from FOMIN started the day stating that the private sector across the world is slowly waking up to the need to invest on adaptation and resilience. This might be more evident for the agricultural sector or those enterprises in which water is the baseline resource. Mr. Kaufman from the Nature Resilience Fund provided a clear example of the switch in New York City towards resilient development, in which the impacts of climate change are considered at the start of any development project. Kaufman stressed the difficult but crucial need to bring the public and private sectors together to invest on climate resilience. Following Ms. Martinez's presentation, the audience could better understand the very different approaches to address adaptation at the territorial and urban level—in both cases the true key is political will. Examples from the city level—the climate adaptation processes in Cartagena, Quito, and Bogotá, showed that despite many challenges, the process for planning for climate change adaptation has started across the region. All three cities consider crucial information and technical capacity, inter-institutional cooperation, and political will to be of key importance. Ms. Jacob also highlighted political will as a key challenge FINDETER experienced in the process of selecting the eight sustainable cities part of the its program. The presentation on ProBogotá's adaptation work, led by Ms. Jaramillo, presented an innovative approach from large enterprises based in Bogotá to support and promote a better, safer, and healthier city for the near future. Both the National Department of Planning (DNP) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) highlighted the advances in adaptation made so far in Colombia, which mainly been accomplished within territorial management through strategic thinking, plans development, and is now being incorporated and integrated into other sectors.