ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PLANING HORIZONT

V. Barros July 21, 2009

ADAPTATION

• ANTICIPATORY

• **REACTIVE**

ANTICIPATORY

• REMOTE IN TIME

Technology? Social and economic changes? Lack of social and political interest

- PLANNING HORIZON
- Infrastructure
- Land use planning
- Forestry

ALTHOUG CLIMATE IS SLOWLY CHANGING

IT HAVE ALREADY CHANGED

THEN ADAPTATION TO WHAT?

To climate variability To observed climate change To near future climate change

REACTIVE ADAPTATION IN ARGENTINA

Expansion of humid conditions to the west



Negro: 1950-1969

rojo: 1980-1999

Doyle 2006



Core region of agriculture expansion favored by the precipitation change

Cultivated surface in millions of hectares



 Santiago de Estero + Salta + Chaco + Córdoba + Formosa + Tucumán: Semiarid fringe

○ Santa Fé ○ La Pampa + San Luis ●Resto de País

Buenos Aires + Entre Ríos

Last 30 years:

From 30 M Ton of grains to 90 M Ton

Prices and Technology, but also climate



EXPANSION OF THE AGRICULTURE FRONTIER

AND IN THE TRADITIONALLY PRODUCTIVE REGION: + PRECIPITATION = +PRODUCTIVITY

Autonomous adaptation

- Result from massive, but individual decisions
- Starts after the change (reactive)
- It can lead to erroneous decisions (In the long range) maladaptation
- In this case: the deforestation in the Chaco region
- Or if the change is reversed by the interdecadal variability

Main factor for adaptation:

AWARENESS OF THE CHANGE

IN THE KEY ACTORS

CONCURRENT FACTORS

ANTICIPATORY ADAPTATION PLANNING HORIZON Climate scenarios: are less uncertain?



ANTICIPATORY ADAPTATION PLANNING HORIZON

Climate scenarios: are more uncertain?



Mean annual discharge (m³/s)



INTERDECADAL VARIABILTY

• Not only adds uncertainty to future scenarios

• Masks past trends and difficult awareness

PERIOD OF INTENSE NIÑOS 1970-2000

• **SINCE 2000:**

PHASE OF WEAK NIÑOS ?

LIMITING FACTOR TO ANTICIPATORY ADAPTATION

UNCERTAINTY

ADAPTATION TO NEAR FUTURE :

• ANTICIPATORY ADAPTATION SEEMS MORE LIKELY IN THE CASE OF NO REGRET OPTIONS

• INCREASE RESILIANCE

ADAPTATION TO EXTREME EVENTS

Increase in Mean



Large percentage change in extremes



IPCC Extreme Events and Disasters

Oslo, Norway March 2009

Rate of the annual frequency of precipitation events with more than 50 mm between two 20-year periods, 1983/2002 and 1959/1978.



Re and Barros, 2008

Rate of the annual frequency of precipitation events with more than 150 mm between two 20-year periods, 1983/2002 and 1959/1978.



Are We Seeing Changes in Climate Extremes?

- Yes, there is evidence for observed changes in weather and climate extremes.
- Model projections suggest we will continue to see changes.
- Some changes have been attributed to human-induced climate change.



IPCC Extreme Events and Disasters Oslo, Norway March 2009

IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON EXTREME EVENTS AND DISASTERS, MANAGING THE RISKS

Due 2011

SEA LEVEL RISE IMPACT ON BUENOS AIRES COAST











El aumento del nivel del Río de la Plata

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MAPAS DE RIESGO 2030





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