

Work Plan Adaptation - iCS

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Adaptation - Work Plan

The work plan in few words

The plan focuses on expanding actions related to adaptation and resilience, given the accelerated impact of climate change and the need to avoid greater impacts in the future. With this, the iCS seeks to raise the level of ambition and commitments regarding adaptation and resilience to climate change, making the topic a fundamental priority of its overall strategy for 2025. The plan has three main objectives:

- To guide action plans in the public and private sectors, driving integrated programmatic approaches;
- To promote new approaches to expand public and private funding for adaptation and resilience;
- To create incentives for communities to become more involved and better at adaptation.

iCS additionality on the topic

Within its traditional scope, iCS becomes key to changing the approach to adaptation in Brazil, from a view of incremental cost and isolated investment to a systematic management and incorporation of risks and opportunities, from policy planning to the implementation and consolidation of investments and learnings necessary to deal with current and future climate impacts.

The objective is to improve the identification and understanding of opportunities and risks by supporting the development of tools, strengthening governance, and improving institutional

and regulatory conditions. Furthermore, it aims to promote the integration of sectoral policies for effective management and response to disasters, fostering improved disaster forecasting and management capacities and financial protection strategies focused on the most vulnerable people.

Relevance of the topic

The need for adaptation is central to strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change. [Article 7 of the Paris Agreement defines the global goal of "enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change".](#) It requires making financial flows consistent with a climate-resilient development pathway. The implementation of national and local adaptation plans, capacity building and technology, and increased financial flows are noted as essential tools for implementing adaptation actions.

Particularly in developing and the most vulnerable countries, strengthening resilience to reduce existing climate risks and prevent the emergence of new ones requires the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures that prevent and reduce the degree of exposure to disaster risks and vulnerability, in line with their own national objectives, to mobilize the necessary financial resources and, ultimately, reduce potential damage and losses in lives, livelihoods and economic assets.

It is worth remembering that Brazil is currently investing in infrastructure necessary for the economy until the 2050s/2060s. The continuation and deepening of the climate crisis could compromise this investment, both due to the direct impacts of extreme weather events and the rendering of areas unsuitable for urban life and agricultural production, to mention two essential economic activities.

Action Context

Adaptation, along with mitigation, forms the basis of the response to the climate crisis. The increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events reflects the acceleration of this crisis, [While greenhouse gas emissions are growing globally, reaching 57 billion tCO₂e in 2023, 1.3% higher than the previous year.](#) Given this scenario, this work plan seeks to integrate adaptation actions into the financing of current and future projects, promoting their cross-sectoral incorporation across different sectors, without the need to create a separate portfolio for this purpose.

It is important to point out some challenges and areas for concern:

- There is the issue of narrative lag, a separation between mitigation and adaptation, which is present throughout the climate community. This dichotomy can lead to misguided questions, such as "invest in mitigation or adaptation?", which is all the more pressing the shorter the available resources. Current initiatives lack an integrated approach to address mitigation and adaptation simultaneously, in a scenario of highly vulnerable infrastructure, particularly in coastal areas, with the poor often located in climate-vulnerable zones.
- The limits of adaptation must also be considered, as it is not a "universal and lasting" remedy. Any adaptive measure – however technological, effective, or replicable – has its limits. For temperature increases above 2°C, most adaptive measures are superseded by

the impacts of climate change. However, this does not mean that adaptations should not be made; on the contrary, it is necessary to be aware that without a drastic and global reduction in emissions, there is no solution.

- The inefficient and limited financing point where, alongside the demand for more globally available resources for climate investment, it is imperative to "spend better" what is already part of current spending and investments in various geographies. [In Brazil, the PAC \(Growth Acceleration Program\) alone foresees public and private investment of R\\$1.3 trillion by December 2026](#), but without guidelines or climate impact and risk assessments. Integrating mitigation and adaptation is crucial; the total "waste" is much greater in an economy of approximately US\$1.5 trillion. Furthermore, within the private sector, financial mechanisms are not yet adequately adapted to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices. Given informational asymmetries, concerns persist regarding the sustainability of the rural insurance sector and public guarantee programs for small farmers.
- There is a lack of data to assess the costs of inaction and a scarcity of scientific information for broader audiences. Seasonal climate events continue to deviate progressively from patterns, while gaps exist in Brazilian tools to provide indicators of physical climate risk for adaptation plans by governments and the private sector. Key productive sectors, such as agriculture and energy, lack forecasts beyond meteorology and short-term climate scenarios.
- Vulnerable production structure, dependent on agriculture and hydroelectric power. Agriculture is one of the sectors most impacted by climate change, affecting important agricultural regions and small farmers. Progress is still limited in the dissemination of priority practices/systems for adaptation (innovation, diversification, and reduction of dependence on more vulnerable crops).
- Finally, the low participation of civil society. Although recent climate events have boosted awareness of the importance of adaptation, cultural barriers and a lack of knowledge about the potential impacts of climate change, and about existing resilient practices and systems in different regions and populations, remain, hindering meaningful engagement.

Action strategy

In line with the context above, establishing the foundations for adaptation efforts in Brazil fundamentally requires understanding the potential impacts, investing in adequate preparedness and infrastructure, and actively involving communities, especially the most vulnerable, as key players in implementing the strategy. Thus, the three proposed fronts for the adaptation plan correspond to three structures of society:

- Public authorities, including the state's technical and scientific apparatus responsible for guiding what should be included in the action plans of the public and private sectors;
- The financial and economic sector, responsible for the flow of resources necessary for the transformations (adaptation + mitigation) resulting from climate-related plans, programs, and projects; and
- Civil society, understood in a broad sense, whose participation in the desired transformations is better (self-)led the better informed and effectively heard and served they are.

Work fronts

1. Public Policies, Regulation and Institutions

On this front, the plan foresees actions at two levels. On the one hand, providing technical inputs to guide decisions, through the promotion of connections and the availability of climate data services for key stakeholders (scientists, policymakers, funders) and the general public, implementing innovative forecasting services and a robust platform for national climate adaptation planning by governments and the private sector, demonstrating that the cost of inaction outweighs the cost of mitigation and adaptation, and supporting initiatives to communicate climate science to different audiences. On the other hand, working with national and subnational entities to increase the capacity to assess climate risks, integrate adaptation into key policies to reduce exposure to these risks, customize adaptation measures to planning, and implement effective adaptation strategies that align with national objectives (concessions, PPPs, fiscal management, and response measures).

Key activities in this area include:

- Strengthening the Adapta Brasil platform and the Seasonal Climate Forecasting Service
- Targeted partnerships with scientists who disseminate messages about the urgency of climate action
- Commissioning and broad dissemination of strategic assessments on the cost of inaction
- Promoting improvements in governance and institutions, both local and inter-federative, that allow for better planning and implementation of actions related to adaptation, resilience, and disaster response.
- Enhancing regulatory frameworks and supporting the development of public policies at the federal and subnational levels for the implementation of adaptation, resilience, and disaster response measures.
- Supporting the inclusion of adaptation in the Climate Plan from an investment perspective.
- Implementing thematic packages (infrastructure, urban mobility, waste) that group mitigation and adaptation, including the Green and Resilient Cities Program and the Espírito Santo State Pilot. Climate crisis response actions that combine mitigation and adaptation, such as rules for public procurement and contracting, procurement, and the Brazilian Sustainable Taxonomy, conducted by the Ministry of Finance (MF).

2. Economy, Financing and Investment

In front 2, the plan will focus on creating a more favorable environment for public and private investment, ensuring that climate risks are adequately considered in investment portfolios and supporting investors in identifying and deciding to invest in climate-resilient ventures, developing technical resources (guidelines, case studies), with the ultimate goal of achieving more resilient economic systems. In this context, it will seek to identify projects that can successfully unite local farmers, energy companies, and researchers to develop innovative technologies, through the promotion of dialogue, studies and technical analyses, and the fostering of knowledge exchange.

Key activities in this front include:

- Analysis of mechanisms of the Harvest Plan, the National Program for the Recovery and Conversion of Degraded Pastures (PNPCD), and rural insurance (Catastrophe Fund, Rural Insurance Observatory, Agro +Sustainable);
- Creation of a guideline for agrivoltaic energy (combined use of land for energy generation and large-scale agricultural or livestock production) in the semi-arid region;
- Mobilization of resources for basic infrastructure (energy, water) in rural communities and thematic packages, including the Espírito Santo State Pilot;
- Development of an adaptation taxonomy for the infrastructure sector.

3. Community and Civil Society Engagement

In the third and final front, the plan will support capacity building and awareness raising within civil society, encouraging participation and education, and ensuring access to information, as well as integrating the perspectives of different populations in the development and implementation of adaptation policies and plans, recognizing them not only as groups directly affected by climate change, but also as key actors. Overall, the iCS will contribute to consolidating a strategy that translates scientific analysis and adaptation decisions into messages that can be effectively communicated to the population. Such a strategy may have different approaches, including media outlets, but also the existence of spaces for the active participation of civil society.

Key activities in this front include:

- Communication campaigns for farmers, funders, donors, etc.;
- Funding for organizations supporting communities and local movements to build climate resilience;
- Training community groups to strengthen local prevention and encourage private sector participation.

Key partners

Regarding partnerships, the plan envisions broad participation, ranging from academic entities, research centers, and think tanks, to business associations, banks, investors, insurance companies, national and subnational governments, development finance institutions, and other international organizations.

Specifically, potential partners for each front include:

- Front 1: INPE/CEMADEN, IPEA, ITAUSA, USP, SBPC, Ministries of Cities and Finance, municipalities and regional governments, Consórcio Brasil Verde, Petrobras, FGV/IBRE, INSPER, CDRI, NU. FGVCes, ZeroCem, CBC, FGV-CEAPG, Discovery Associates, Jataí Institute, Talanoa, JUMA, IIS, Celso Furtado Institute.
- Front 2: ANBIMA, CNSEG, Atlantic Council, BNDES, Caixa, BB, Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock, and Agrarian Development and Family Farming, EMBRAPA, CNA, FGV Agro, SPIC, Auren, AES, ASA, UFAL, E+, Eletrobras, CONTAG, OPSAN, MDS, MST.
- Front 3: Vladimir Herzog Institute, Indigenous Work Center, Amazon Cooperation Network, Alma Preta Institute, The World We Want Institute, COIAB, CBDES, FBDS, Yialeta, City Lab, Mapinguari and Utopia Negra.

How the plan connects with the others

The adaptation plan operates across the four strategic axes of the iCS, in accordance with its potential to comprehensively impact various sectors of the economy and society. With a common approach for public and private actors, articulating the network of governments and businesses in favor of adaptation, actions of the plan directly linked to the axes "land use transition, food systems and bioeconomy" and "energy, industrial and transport transition" are articulated with themes and critical points of the axes "Climate policy and institutional framework" and "Agents of change for climate action", to enhance and scale results on different fronts.

Adaptation + UTSAS: iCS works with a front related to agricultural actions, studying the modeling of the impact of climate change on the production of second-crop corn, aligned with the development of recommendations for agricultural policies, focusing on the Safra Plan, for the incorporation of adaptation mechanisms; in addition to a front with evaluation covering priority themes, such as insurance for restoration and the insurance sector with nature and bioeconomy.

There is work underway to implement a livestock-forestry integration module in the Amazon to develop a replicable model. A pilot project has already been carried out, which motivated the planning of a replication course in more areas and advocacy for the Family Farming Adaptation Plan.

Finally, support for the development of the Food Security Adaptation Plan and the development of a Food and Climate Guideline for the Ministry.

Adaptation + Climate Policy: The work focuses on strengthening the federal pact for the implementation of climate actions, supporting subnational entities in implementation, diplomacy, and climate negotiations, and on the investment plan to support the climate plan.

It also works on improving regulatory frameworks for disaster management by federated entities and access to justice in case of disasters. The strategy permeates the strengthening of political and legal solutions for adaptation and climate disasters, focusing on territorial protection by those affected and on the institutional perspective.

On the topic of the costs of inaction in the face of climate change, it places Adaptation on the agenda.

Adaptation + Agents of change: Work is underway to build and strengthen the ecosystem of technical and advocacy organizations.

Adaptation + TEIT: Adapting the energy sector to climate change involves a series of measures to ensure energy security, affordable tariffs, reduce vulnerabilities, and increase the system's resilience. In this sense, iCS promotes studies and dialogues to overcome challenges to the expansion of renewable sources, such as solar and wind, to reduce dependence on

hydroelectric generation, which is sensitive to rainfall variability. At the same time, iCS works on developing alternative operating models for the electricity sector to maximize renewable generation and preserve hydroelectric reservoirs, thus supporting agents such as ONS, ANEEL, and EPE.

In the area of decarbonizing industry and attracting green investments, iCS has primarily supported the development of low-carbon supply chains, supporting the development of the neo-industrialization and powershoring agenda in the Northeast region, as well as the development of financial mechanisms to attract investments and decarbonize industrial processes in the country in partnership with the MDIC (Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade). iCS has also promoted the circular economy as a vector for mitigating emissions and building industrial resilience with grantees and partners active in the MDIC's National Circular Economy Forum, the WBCSD and UNEP's Global Circularity Protocol, as well as supporting studies focused on developing financing mechanisms and international experiences in the adoption of circular practices by carbon-intensive sectors.