

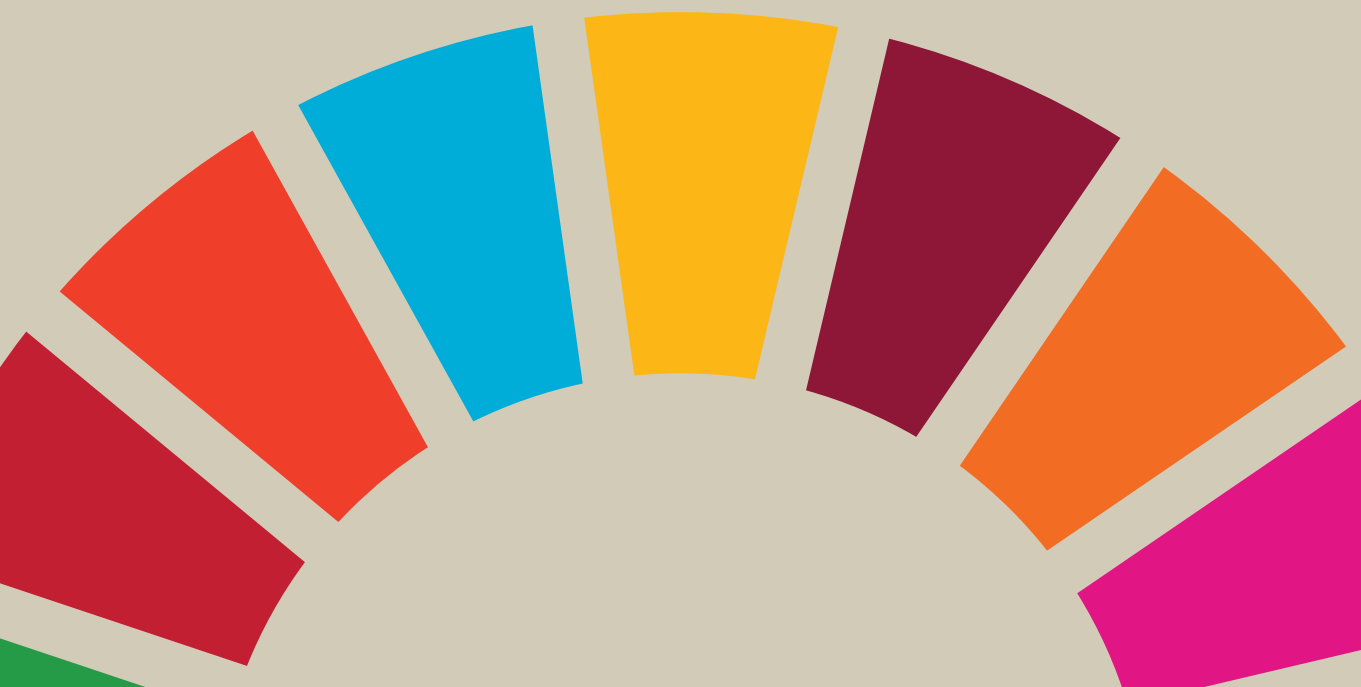
SDG 13



Take urgent actions to fight climate change and its effects

VERÓNICA SERAFINI GEOGHEGAN

Climate change affects all countries on all continents, producing a negative impact on their economies, the life of people and communities. We can reach viable solutions so that countries can have more sustainable economic activities and be more respectful with the environment, solutions that we need to implement.



Introduction

DECIDAMOS, CADEP and OXFAM, three non-governmental organizations in Paraguay, made an alliance to create synergies between the civil society, the private sector and local governments to implement concerted and sustainable actions oriented to provide a positive impact on accomplishing SDGs 1, 2, 10 and 13 in Paraguay. This effort is supported by the international cooperation of the European Union.

In this project, CADEP elaborates reports that monitor the progress made by Paraguay in terms of complying with the mentioned SDGs. Indicators for each SDG is calculated with data of the National Household Survey, 2017. Also, these reports include policies, programs and actions implemented by the Paraguay government on each one of the SDGs: ending poverty (1), zero hunger (2), reducing inequalities (10) and action for climate (13).

SDG 13



Climate action

Adopting urgent measures to combat climate change and its effects is the thirteenth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the United Nations (UN). The relevance of this SDG is based on the harmful effects of climate change on people, especially poor and vulnerable people, women and children.

There is a wide scientific consensus on actions provoked by human beings as the principal causes of climate change. Ever since the 1950s changes observed on climate had no precedent in centuries and thousands of years. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, the volume of ice and snow has decreased and concentration of greenhouse gases has increased. Each one of the three last decades has experienced successively warmer climate (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2013, p. 4).

1 THE SITUATION IN PARAGUAY

Paraguay counts with great natural wealth and its territory is crossed by multiple water courses that conforms a waterway to the River Plate Basin sitting on the Guarani Hydro Aquifer. Clean energy is produced from these water courses with two binational hydroelectric plants: Itaipu at the border with Brazil and Yacyreta at the border with Argentina, on the Parana River (Secretaría del Ambiente [SEAM], Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo [PNUD] y Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial [FMAM], 2017, p. 21).

In 2017, gross energy supply in Paraguay came from hydroelectricity (60.9%), and biomass (39.1%) (Viceministerio de Minas y Energía [VMME], 2018, p. 16). However, energy consumption is predominantly biomass (44.2%) and fuels (40.1%), while hydroelectricity represents only 15.7% of the energy matrix (VMME, 2018, p. 26).

Forestry is another important sector of Paraguay's natural wealth. This sector is showing a slow decline in recent years compared to other sectors due to the loss of wood wealth and fragmentation of forest resources. (SEAM, PNUD y FMAM, 2017, p. 21). In 2012 it was estimated that the forest mass of Paraguay reached 17,200,000 hectares, of which around 2.6 million hectares were located in the eastern region of the country, while 14.6 million hectares were located in the western region or Chaco (Instituto Forestal Nacional [INFONA], 2012, p. 17).

In terms of ecosystems and biodiversity there were 50 protected wild areas in around 6.0 million hectares that represented 15% of the national territory in 2007 (Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas del Paraguay [SINASIP], 2007).

In terms of production, agriculture is the predominant activity. By 2017 agriculture represented 12.3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and cattle raising around 5.5%. Thus, total agriculture activities participated with 17.8% of the GDP in Paraguay (Banco Central del Paraguay [BCP], 2019).

This great dependence on the primary sector causes Paraguay to be highly vulnerable to weather conditions in two ways. First because agricultural production and exports are based in a basket too much concentrated in meat and soybean, both very sensible to climate changes. And, secondly, the underdeveloped infrastructure and logistics capacity related to international trade makes the country to be very dependent on the flow of navigable rivers (SEAM, UNDP and GEF, 2017, p. 26).

The variability of the climate is very significant in Paraguay, going from periods of drought to floods, which are usually associated with a climate phenomenon known as "El Niño". Rain anomalies attributed to El Niño result in flooding in the Paraguay and Paraná river basins, affecting riverside cities as Asunción, the Capital, Bahía Negra and

Concepción in the North, Pilar and Encarnacion in the South (SEAM, UNDP and GEF, 2017, p. 32).

The Development Bank of Latin America (Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina-CAF) elaborated an index of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. This index assesses the risk of exposure to climate change and extreme phenomena in relation to current human sensitivity and the capacity of countries to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change (SEAM, UNDP and GEF, 2017, p. 28).

This index placed Paraguay 8th out of 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of vulnerability and adaptation, meaning Paraguay is within a category of “extreme risk”. Paraguay and Bolivia present the highest vulnerability to climate changes in South America, according to this Index (CAF, 2014, p. 9).

2 POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The National Constitution of Paraguay (1992) guarantees the right of all people to inhabit a healthy and ecologically balanced environment (Article 7th). It establishes social objectives as “...preservation, conservation... and improvement of the environment, as well as its reconciliation with the integral human development”.

In terms of international agreements, Paraguay is part of the Climate Change Agreement (Rio 92), the Kyoto Protocol (1999) and the Paris Agreement (2015).

Paraguay sanctioned Law 3.239 / 2007 “On the Water Resources of Paraguay”, which aims to regulate management of all territories with water resources, in order to be social, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Law No. 4.241 / 2010 was also enacted stating the interest of national restoration and conservation of forests that protect water channels in the country. The National Forest Institute (INFONA) is in charge of enforcing this Law.

In terms of norms regarding climate change, Law 5.875/2017 establishes that its main purpose is to “Contribute to implementing actions that reduce vulnerability, improve capacities of adaptation and allow to develop proposals to mitigate the effects of climate change produced by greenhouse gas emissions”. This law also establishes the conformation of National Policy of Climate Change and a National Plan of Climate Change (SEAM, PNUD y FMAM, 2017, p. 98).

A National Plan of Climate Change was elaborated in 2014. Phase I of this plan is directed to a Mitigation Strategy, more specifically oriented to the use of clean sources of energy for industrial purposes. Phase II of this Plan is directed to an Adaptation

Strategy to climate change, oriented to diminish vulnerabilities and to increase resilience in order to confront several impacts of climate change (SEAM, PNUD y FMAM, 2017, p. 103).

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES), jointly with UNDP presented the document “National Strategy of Gender in the face of Climate Change”, in 2017. This strategy aims to: “Actively and effectively promote the incorporation of the gender perspective in the adequacy, development and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of public policies of climate change, as well as civil society actions, in order to achieve the well-being of the population, respecting the needs and interests of men and women”(SEAM y PNUD, 2017, p. 27).

References

- Banco Central del Paraguay (2019). Anexo Estadístico del Informe Económico. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in en: <https://www.bcp.gov.py/anexo-estadistico-del-informe-economico-i365>.
- Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina. (2014). Índice de vulnerabilidad y adaptación al cambio climático en la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Caracas: CAF. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: <http://scioteca.caf.com/handle/123456789/517>
- Congreso del Paraguay. (10 de Julio de 2007). Ley de los recursos hídricos del Paraguay. (Ley N° 3.239 de 2007). En Gaceta Oficial N° 137. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: <http://www.csj.gov.py/cache/lederes/G-137-20072007-L-3239-1.pdf>
- Congreso del Paraguay. (20 de Diciembre de 2010). Ley del restablecimiento de bosques protectores de cauces hídricos dentro del territorio nacional. (Ley N° 4.241 de 2010). En Gaceta Oficial N° 250. Downloaded in April de 2019. Available in: <http://www.csj.gov.py/cache/lederes/G-250-22122010-L-4241-1.pdf>
- Congreso del Paraguay. (15 de Setiembre de 2017). Ley nacional de cambio climático. (Ley N° 5.875 de 2017). En Gaceta Oficial N° 185. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: <http://www.csj.gov.py/cache/lederes/G-185-27092017-L-5875.pdf>
- Grupo Intergubernamental de expertos sobre el cambio climático. (2013). *Cambio Climático: Bases físicas. GT I al Quinto Reporte de Evaluación*. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/publicaciones/publicaciones/guia-resumida_ar5-ipcc_tcm30-177777.pdf
- Instituto Forestal Nacional. (2012). *Informe de Gestión – Año 2012*. San Lorenzo: INFONA. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: http://www.infona.gov.py/application/files/7614/2774/3766/INFORME_DE_GESTION_2012.pdf
- Secretaría del Ambiente Sostenible y Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (2017). *Estrategia Nacional de Género ante el Cambio Climático*. Asunción: PNUD Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/es/home/library/womens_empowerment/estrategia-nacional-de-genero-ante-el-cambio-climatico.html.
- Secretaría del Ambiente, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo y Foro para el Medio Ambiente Mundial. (2017). *Plan Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático*. Proyecto TCN e IBA. Asunción: SEAM. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: <http://dncc.seam.gov.py/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Plan-Nacional-de-Adaptaci%C3%B3n-al-CC-2017.pdf>
- Viceministerio de Minas y Energía. (2018). *Balance Energético Nacional 2017. En términos de Energía Final*. Asunción, Paraguay. Downloaded in April 2019. Available in: <https://www.ssme.gov.py/vmme/pdf/balance2017/BEN2017.pdf>

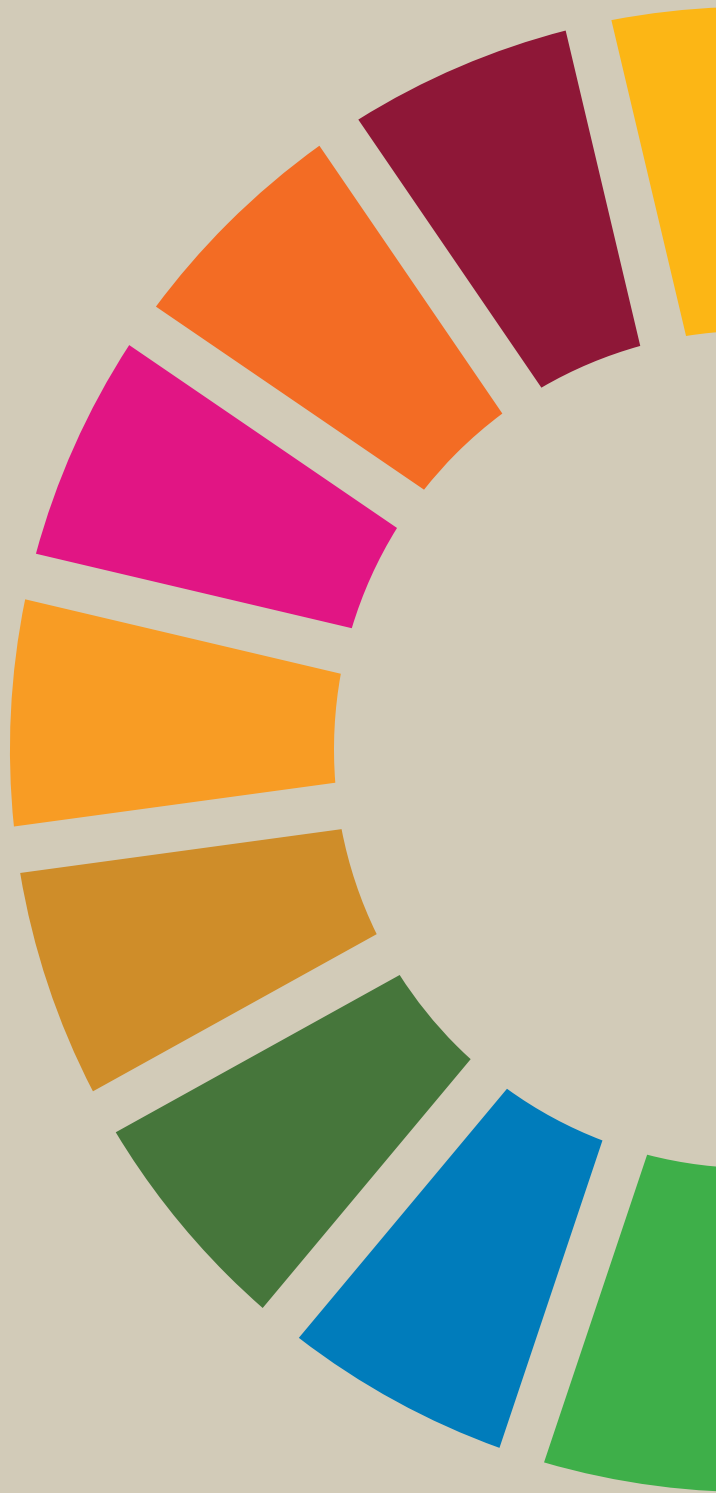
This publication has been prepared with the financial support of the European Union.
Its content is the sole responsibility of **Centro de Analisis y Difusion de la Economia Paraguaya (CADEP)**
and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Thanks to Benjamin Boccia Galiano for his support and collaboration to the research team.

© Centro de Análisis y Difusión de la Economía Paraguaya, CADEP
Piribebuy 1058, Asunción - Paraguay
Phones 452 520 / 454 140 / 496 813
cadep@cadep.org.py
www.cadep.org.py

Design and layout: Karina Palleros
Print: QR Impresiones
Asuncion, July 2019



SDG 13



Climate
action