

The value of RIOCC

⊙ The Iberoamerican region faces common threats associated to climate change, both at regional and subregional level, and shares resources and social, economic and environmental characteristics. Countries are responsible for the design and development of their own policies against climate change, according to their national circumstances, but a regional approach generates benefits for the region as a whole.

⊙ The Network promotes the debate on several issues that go from scientific and technical aspects of climate change, to economic and political ones. These discussions have taken place in parallel to the progress of the climate change international negotiations, trying to develop activities that allow the implementation of the UNFCCC decisions

⊙ Several multilateral and regional organisations, collaborate with RIOCC: IADB, WB, CIIFEN, CATHALAC, CATIE, EC, ECLAC, UNFCCC, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ILO, OLADE, PAHO&WHO, IUCN, UNISDR, among others.

⊙ The Network has made an important effort to coordinate activities with other thematic networks in the region, including the Hydrological and Meteorological Services and the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.

The RIOCC activities are mainly supported by Spain, through the **Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment** and the **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation** from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.



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RIOCC has created a technical and informal space for the exchange of experiences, and also an opportunity for the identification of synergies and priorities from a regional perspective of cooperation by promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.



Iberoamerican Network of Climate Change Offices



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What is RIOCC?

The Iberoamerican Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC), created in 2004 by the Iberoamerican Forum of Environment Ministers meeting in Cascais (Portugal), is a regional cooperation network that gathers the national climate change offices of 21 countries of the Iberoamerican Community of Nations (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, España, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela). The Spanish Climate Change Office acts as the secretariat of the Network.



Objective

The main objective of the Network is to maintain a fluent and permanent dialogue to better understand the climate change priorities, challenges and experiences of the Iberoamerican countries.

The Network also pursues additional objectives, including:

- ⦿ generation, use and exchange of information and knowledge on climate change;
- ⦿ reinforcement of capacities and technology development and transfer in the areas of mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- ⦿ strengthening of institutional arrangements relevant for climate change, including coordination of relevant stakeholders.

How the Network works

The Network formally meets once a year to revise the activities carried out, to discuss specific relevant issues and identify new regional actions. Additionally, in the margins of the international negotiation sessions of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the members of the Network meet at a technical and ministerial level.



Thematic areas of work

The main activities identified by the RIOCC countries are:

- ⦿ Research and systematic observation of the climate system;
- ⦿ Climate change scenarios;
- ⦿ Adaptation to climate change;
- ⦿ Disaster risk reduction associated to extreme weather events;
- ⦿ Mitigation of climate change;
- ⦿ Carbon markets;
- ⦿ Emissions reductions from deforestation and forest degradation;
- ⦿ Climate change and legislation;
- ⦿ Finance and climate change.



Main activities

⦿ Institutional strengthening and capacity building.

The Network promotes the organisation of regional courses and workshops, both face to face and online, in the different areas of work identified as priorities by the countries. These actions promote the participation of technical experts as well as different stakeholders that take part in the development of climate change projects. The participant's profile covers different sectors and levels within the administration working on climate change as well as other stakeholders.

⦿ **Studies and regional projects:** the Network promotes the identification of projects and regional studies. In these studies and projects the regional approach has an added value when assessing the results. The project "Regional Study of the Effects of Climate Change in the Latinamerican and Caribbean coast" deserves special attention. Its results, available for all countries, allow, among other things, for estimation of the potential effects of the sea level rise in the coasts of the region.

⦿ **Other relevant actions:** the Network collaborates with the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by supporting the practical and technical application of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, it takes part in other forums and regional programmes and also in thematic missions.