Adaptation Frontiers: Conference on European Climate Adaptation Research and Practice

Cross Continents Knowledge transfer, perceptions and alliances on how to improve Climate Change Communication: A bridge between Portugal and Brazil

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Introduction

In face of uncertainties associated with natural disasters, one of the challenges in Climate Change is improving adaptive capacity to environmental change and developing flexibility in response to crises and surprises. Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest in the world, with 191 M people (IBGE 2010). Due to its generous biodiversity, Brazil is considered a hotspot for ecosystems conservation. Climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability studies must be a priority and experiences, exchanged. Nevertheless the country needs to improve its adaptation capability. A bridge between South America and Europe could be made through a collaborative platform where Brazilians and Portuguese could exchange lessons learned and develop ideas for a better future. This paper collected the contribution of 30 Environmental Post Graduated Professors/Scientists at University Estácio de Sá- Brazil - on cost effective measures towards improved communication between both countries, since as published in the Horizon 2020 Thematic Workshops, "…international collaboration is considered vital to improve the EU innovation."

Methodology

We have conducted between the months of May and September 2013 a series of in depth interviews with 30 Scientists in Brazil, in order to highlight bottom-up ideas coming from highly graduated professors for a better and safer world.

Ours goals were to identify suggestions and build knowledge bridges that could help to further societal change. We also believe that the ideas suggested by these professionals might provide some guidance for European Finance Aid Projects, so as to help decision makers on which projects to support.

Results

The interviews were directed to the improve communication between Portugal and Brazil and collect opinions and suggestions for climate change adaptation.

The main results are:

•All Scientists claimed that they are *very worried* about Climate Change and its consequences.

Their main *worries* towards climate change are:

•Decreased capacity of ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration, climate regulation, water retention and purification, air purification, maintenance of soil fertility);

•Helping displaced populations due to sea level rise;

•Increase in climate-sensitive diseases or health issues;

• Lack of information and communication on Climate Change between Europe and South America.

Their *suggestions* towards Climate Change Adaptation and Communication include:

1. Exchange solutions on Waste Management;

2.Generate systematic Environmental Education programs in both countries;

3.Create health and information Programs that could serve both countries;

4.Improve Climate Change Education and Communication through a permanent Forum between Portugal and Brazil.

Conclusion

Creating a Climate Change Education and Communication platform, to exchange experiences and lessons from the field, building a bridge between Portugal and Brazil, since there are very few mechanisms of information access to the population in Brazil, as well as reinforcing Disaster Preparedness Education in both countries.

Picture 1: Brazilian endemic species: world largest megabiodiversity