



## **HUILA 2050: PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 2012-MARCH 2013**

**Prepared by Grupo E3 SAS  
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**For**



## I. INTRODUCTION

The idea of developing the *Huila 2050: Preparing for Climate Change* project originated in February 2012 after USAID and FCMC officials traveled to Colombia. After several consultations with governmental and non-governmental entities, it became clear that there was a need for a project combining Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancements of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) and adaptation in the upper Magdalena River basin. The Magdalena River basin covers 274,000 km<sup>2</sup>, almost one-fourth of the Colombian territory, and contains two-thirds of the country's population. Within the basin, the department of Huila has all the country's major industrial sectors, as well as a strong environmental corporation. The regional and national governments were interested in working on climate change and there were relevant projects ongoing in the department, making implementation a smooth process.

In March 2012, the consulting firm E3 was hired to prepare the project, involve relevant stakeholders and coordinate the formulation of the action plan. The project began officially on April 16, 2012. The regional environment authority, as well as the regional government, responded very positively to the project proposal, as did other major stakeholders in the department. National authorities were enthusiastic about developing the country's first departmental climate change action plan. The project's general objective is to support the Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Upper Magdalena Basin (CAM) and Huila's departmental government in developing a comprehensive climate change action plan combining both mitigation and adaptation issues (through REDD+ and LEDS).

The initial project work plan included 10 general activities to be developed over a one year period. The following table shows these general activities.

**Table 1: Huila 2050 2012 Work Plan, General Activities**

<b>Activity 1</b>	Formalize the Departmental Climate Change Council (DCCC)
<b>Activity 2</b>	Support institutional strengthening of CAM
<b>Activity 3</b>	Facilitate the process of discussion on the methodology and actions to develop the Climate Change Action Plan
<b>Activity 4</b>	Develop a vision in the framework of the Huila 2050 project through a series of dialogues and scenario building exercises involving key regional actors
<b>Activity 5</b>	Coordinate the development of studies that will contribute to a better understanding of climate change for decision-making processes
<b>Activity 6</b>	Develop climate change capacity-building activities at the local and municipal level, including REDD and LEDS mechanisms
<b>Activity 7</b>	Support productive sectors in delineating a low carbon strategy, starting by the coffee sector and silvopastoral systems
<b>Activity 8</b>	Develop a Climate Change Action Plan for the Department of Huila, based on the completed studies and conclusions from workshops

<b>Activity 9</b>	Scale-up results to influence regional and national decision-making processes
<b>Activity 10</b>	Develop a work plan, including budget and activity timeline, for 2013-2014

## II. ACTIVITIES

Below is a sampling of different activities carried out between April 2012 and April 2013.

### Activity 1: Formalize the Departmental Climate Change Council (DCCC)

#### First DCCC Meeting (October 2012)

The Council's first meeting took place at CAM on April 26, 2012. All relevant stakeholders attended and stayed for the entire day.

Figure 1: Composition of the DCCC



The process to elect a representative nongovernmental organization (NGO) took place in September 2012. CAM issued an open invitation to all NGOs working in the department. Eight responded, from which one was elected by other NGOs.

Municipal majors elected a representative during one of CAM’s board sessions. There are four mayors on the board who are elected by all of the mayors in the department, and from that group, one was elected as a representative in the DCCC.

**Second DCCC Meeting (October 2012)**

On October 16, 2012, the Council met once more and representatives from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) also attended the meeting. They presented their proposal to model water resources in the Upper Magdalena Basin using the WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning) model.

E3 consulted three times with the company that operates the Betania hydroelectric plant, and is building the El Quimbo plant, Emgesa, and Ecopetrol to invite them to participate in the project and attend Council meetings. However, they did not attend any of the meetings. Nevertheless, Emgesa was very collaborative—organizing meetings in their offices to understand the project and providing useful information. The E3 Director, Claudia Martinez, and the FCMC LEDES Focal Point, Stephen Kelleher, also met with Emgesa to seek more active interest and engagement in the project.

**Activity 2: Support Institutional Strengthening of CAM**

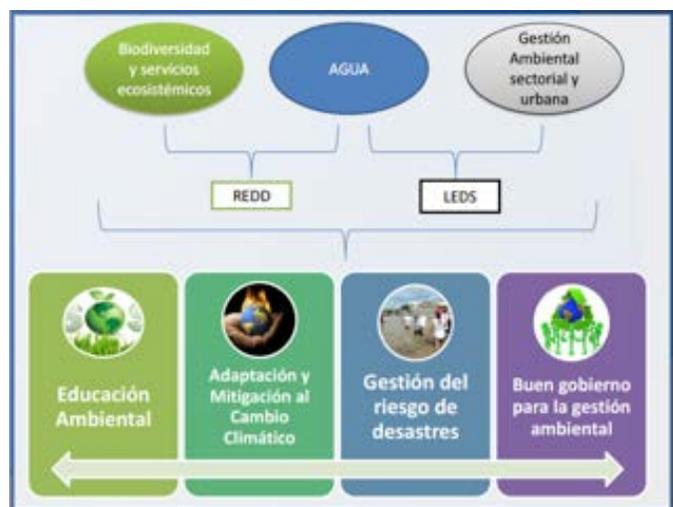
USAID/Colombia hired a full time consultant, Jonathan Romero, to work at CAM in Huila and to support CAM in its commitments related to climate change.

**Inclusion of Climate Change in CAM’s 2012-2015 Action Plan (late 2012)**

A great effort was made to include climate change as a main theme in CAM’s 2012-2015 Action Plan. E3 suggested including climate change as both a transversal theme (see *Figure 2*) and as a concrete program to ensure resources would be specifically destined to climate change related projects and concrete actions would be carried out. The plan did end up with a specific climate change action plan, in addition to several other transversal activities.

The plan was approved by CAM’s board on August 2012, and very positive comments were received on the decision to include climate change. It is important to note that by law, the corporations are not obliged to include climate change in their activities. Therefore, having CAM as the first corporation with climate change as a

**Figure 2: CAM 2012-2015 Action Plan, Transversal themes**



transversal subject in the action plan is an example for the rest of the corporations.

### **Creation of a GIS for Huila**

CAM doesn't currently have a geographical information system (GIS). They have information that has been gathered through different consultancies, but much of it is outdated, comprising only final reports and images, and not systematized. Therefore, creating an information system is a priority for the corporation and would be a very useful tool in its decision-making processes. This situation was discussed with FCMC and funds have been set aside in the E3 budget to support CAM in this endeavor.

Additionally, E3 recently met with Rodrigo Suárez, newly appointed Climate Change Director at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), who said ANLA (the National Agency for Environmental Licenses) already has a good GIS that could perhaps be used by Huila. A meeting was arranged in April 2013 with the Climate Change Direction, ANLA and E3. It was determined that using ANLA's system could work, provided that an arrangement was agreed upon by CAM and ANLA. Following this meeting, a meeting was held between the Director of CAM, the Director of ANLA, and E3, where CAM and ANLA agreed to sign an agreement to allow CAM to use ANLA's system. E3 also spoke with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), who has already done the vulnerability assessment for the Cauca region and have good information that could be applicable for use in Huila.

### **Activity 3: Facilitate the Process of Discussion on the Methodology and Actions to Develop the Climate Change Action Plan**

#### **Scenario Analysis Seminar (April 2012)**

A one-day seminar on the methodology for scenario analysis was organized on April 26, 2012, with the support of FCMC, coinciding with the inaugural meeting of the DCCC. The discussion on the methodology was very interesting to advance thinking on various elements of the Action Plan, as participants had not had much exposure to climate change information.

#### **USAID-FCMC Mission (January 2013)**

From January 23 to 26, 2013, a mission from USAID/Washington, Colombia and FCMC visited Huila to learn about the Huila 2050 project and assess its progress. Christine Pendzich, Bruce Bayle, Erik Streed, Christopher Abrams, Kristine Smathers and Daniel Lopez visited the region. During their visit they had meetings at the Governor's Office and CAM, a meeting in San Agustín with local communities and the municipal mayor, and a meeting with Pitalito's municipal mayor. They also participated in the Second Dialogue on Climate Change which was organized as a part of the project.

#### **First Technical Committee (TC) Meeting (March 2013)**

In order to continue advancing towards achieving the goal of the Huila 2050 project: *Formulating a Climate Change Action Plan* for the Department of Huila, it was decided that a

Technical Committee that could guide the process should be created. The first meeting of the Committee was held on March 14 and 15, 2013, in Rivera, Huila. During the meeting participants discussed: expectations for the Climate Change Action Plan; inputs for the plan already developed or under development; other inputs that were still needed; the final structure and content of the plan; and how to implement the plan once formulated. Additionally, the mechanisms for coordinating the work of various actors involved in the Huila 2050 project and the formulation of the Climate Change Action Plan was discussed. The meeting was very useful for defining important aspects related to how the Climate Change Action Plan will be further developed in 2013-2014.

#### **Activity 4: Develop a Vision in the Framework of the Huila 2050 Project through a Series of Dialogues and Scenario Building Exercises Involving Key Regional Actors**

##### **First Dialogue on Climate Change (June 2012)**

The First Dialogue on Climate Change took place on June 12, 2012, and the event was extremely informative. Regional, national, and international speakers presented and shared excellent information. The objective of the First Dialogue was to inform the general public about climate change and generate a sense of ownership of the Huila 2050 project. The slides of all presentations made in the event are currently available on CAM's website<sup>1</sup>.

##### **Second Dialogue on Climate Change (January 2013)**

The Second Dialogue organized in the context of the Huila 2050 project took place on January 25, 2013, in Pitalito, Huila. The dialogue's theme was *Water And Climate: Elements For Adaptation To Climate Change*. It was attended by representatives of several producer associations (cattle ranchers, coffee, fruits and sugarcane), as well as environmentalists, regional authorities, and the civil society.

Two local newspapers published articles on the dialogue. Below are the links to the articles:

- <http://www.diariodelhuila.com/site/index.php/menu-regional/31264-el-cambio-climatico-no-es-solamente-calentamiento>
- <http://www.diariodelhuila.com/site/index.php/menu-regional/31305-en-2050-el-huila-sera-30-mas-seco-ideam>

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<sup>1</sup> To access the presentations, go to [www.cam.gov.co](http://www.cam.gov.co); click on the link to the Climate Change, located on the right hand side of the webpage; and then click on the link "Diálogo I Cambio Climático: "Entendiendo el cambio climático", located at the bottom of the page.

**Picture 1: Second Dialogue on Climate Change - *Water And Climate: Elements for Adaptation to Climate Change*, Pitalito, Huila, January 25, 2013**



*Different experts involved in the project and the local community listen to one of the presentations made during the Dialogue*

First row from left to right Laura Forni- SEI; Bastiaan Louman- CATIE & project consultant; Erik Streed- USAID/FCMC; Claudia Martínez- E3; Jonathan Romero- CC Coordinator CAM

### **Activity 5: Coordinate the Development of Studies that will contribute to a Better Understanding of Climate Change for Decision-Making Processes**

One of the main objectives of FCMC and E3 engagement in Huila in 2012 was to ensure that CAM included climate change as a transversal theme in its Action Plan— which ultimately was achieved. Other studies undertaken or in preparation include:

#### **Land Use Plans Environmental Guidelines**

In 2013, all municipalities in Colombia must redo their Land Use Plans (or “POT” for their initials in Spanish). Environmental corporations, such as CAM, have to produce environmental guidelines for these plans. With the assistance of E3, CAM produced these guidelines, including a chapter on climate change.

The Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) and Abt Associates were contracted by USAID/Colombia to carry out studies on the framework of the project. Abt is doing hydrological modeling of the Suaza river basin using the SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) model and SEI is doing hydrological modeling for the upper Magdalena River basin using the WEAP model. Their scopes of work are summarized in a table included in the E3 2013 Work Plan.

## **Identification of Public and Private Resources that could be Channeled to Climate Change Strategies in the Department of Huila (January 2012)**

In 2012, E3 commenced a study on the financial resources in the Department of Huila that could be channeled into climate change strategies. Several meetings were held with institutions in Huila and a first draft was prepared with the available information. This study was later finished by Guillermo Rudas, a renowned Colombian economist who specializes in environmental economics. The report's executive summary has been translated into English and E3 plans to have it printed in the near future.

### **Studies Suggested during the First Technical Committee Meeting**

During the first Technical Committee meeting it was suggested that the following studies should be carried out as inputs for the Climate Change Action Plan:

#### *Projection of Changes due to Climate Change*

The idea of this study was to contribute to identifying expected changes under different climate change scenarios relative to the principal thematic areas of the Climate Change Action Plan<sup>2</sup>, while also taking into account the transversal themes. A review of existing information about edapho-climatic requirements of crops and ecosystems overlain with real-time locations of crops and ecosystems in the department, in order to project how these may change over time was proposed. This would give an idea of the viability of current crop cultivation areas (part of sensitivity to climate change).<sup>3</sup>

The work carried out by SEI will provide information related to the hydrology of a specific sub-basin as a detailed example of the kind of hydrological information that is needed and can be built upon. Additionally, RECCLISA (the Institutional Network on Climate Change and Food Security) is planning to do a study on agricultural vulnerability for the department. Any additional information requirements related to this matter will be included as actions to be carried out in the future in the Action Plan, but a study of this nature will not be carried out as an input to the Action Plan, given time constrictions.

#### *Vulnerability Study*

In addition to considering exposure and sensitivity to climate change, this study will place special attention on the population's adaptive capacity, which will make it very useful for identifying relevant adaptation measures. In order to estimate adaptive capacity, information related to the population's access to human, social, financial, physical, and natural capital will be used. Rodrigo Suárez, newly appointed Climate Change Director at MADS, is very interested in having the Climate Change Direction involved in the vulnerability study for Huila, as he thinks this experience could be used as an example for vulnerability studies in other departments of the country.

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<sup>2</sup> Proposed during the first Technical Committee meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Taken from the document presented by Bastiaan Louman to E3 based on the conclusions of the first Technical Committee meeting.

## Activity 6: Develop Climate Change Capacity-Building Activities at The Local and Municipal Level, including REDD and LEDS Mechanisms

### Cooperation and Knowledge Workshop (September 2012)

A workshop was organized in September 2012 for FCMC and USAID-collaborating institutions to present possible contributions to the Huila 2050 project and to discuss these potential contributions with local stakeholders. In addition to representatives from FCMC and USAID, collaborating institutions and many of CAM's professionals, the following people also attended the workshop: the Climate Change Director at MADS, the Coordinator of the Global Change Group at IDEAM (the National Institute for Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies), several DCCC members and the Director of Asocars (the Association of Environmental Corporations). The workshop was called *Cooperation and Knowledge Workshop* because it was also intended to be a capacity building workshop where local stakeholders could learn from the international experts and engage in discussions with.

**Picture 2: Knowledge and Cooperation Workshop, September 5 2012, Neiva, Huila**



*FCMC and USAID collaborators, CAM employees, and other participants listen to one of the presentations made during the workshop*

Front row from left to right: Fred Stolle- WRI; Stephen Kelleher- FCMC; Santiago Enríquez, Rodolfo Camacho, José Rafael Córdova- Abt. Associates

Other scenarios where the project has been presented include the *Huídrósfera Week* (the departmental version of the National Science, Technology and Innovation week for which the theme of water was selected in 2012), and Expo SENA (a fair organized by the National Learning Service). For the *Huídrósfera Week* a calendar was made on the topic of water and climate change to be given to major institutions as an awareness raising and educational tool.

### **Regional Visits: Pitalito**

A trip to Pitalito was organized in the days following the Cooperation and Knowledge Workshop. Stephen Kelleher of FCMC, Fred Stole of WRI, and Steve Panfil of CI joined Claudia Martinez, Jonathan Romero, and Alejandra Campo of E3 on the visit. During the trip, a meeting was held at the offices of San Agustín's Municipal Government with people from the ONF (Office National des Forets) project, municipal government employees, and local community members who participated in ONF's project. Additionally, the group visited an eco-trail managed by members of the local community; met with farmers that created a revolving loan fund to finance investments in their small agri-businesses; visited a project for trout production; and met with an association of women coffee growers. The visits were very helpful for understanding the situation in the south of Huila and for identifying opportunities for interaction and collaboration with the ONF project.

### **News and Communications**

Several articles related to the Huila 2050 project have been published in Huila newspapers (written in Spanish). A section about the project was included in a program created for national television and supported by the Ministry of the Environment. The Huila 2050 project also has a new logo, used in the front page of this report, which was designed as part of the contract to produce the 2013 calendar for the *Huídrósfera Week*.

### **Activity 7: Support Productive Sectors in Delineating a Low Carbon Strategy, Starting by the Coffee Sector and Silvopastoral Systems**

The regional branch of the National Coffee Federation and Huila's cattle ranchers committee have been actively involved in the seminars and dialogues. The goal is to work with these associations to develop sectorial plans that help these sectors transition to low carbon emission production practices and implement adaptation measures— something both associations are very interested in.

E3 contacted Claudia Sepúlveda, from the Cattle Management and Environment Program at Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), with the cattle ranchers committee. She helped the committee in designing a proposal for the Science and Technology Fund of the national royalties system to finance silvopastoral projects.

The coffee association also presented a proposal to this fund, which included two activities related to climate change: adjusting production systems considering the effects of climate variability; and genetically improving coffee varieties so that they are better adapted to climate change. Two meetings were held with the association to present and discuss the Huila 2050 project, which ultimately helped develop the proposal.

## **Activity 8: Develop a Climate Change Action Plan for the Department of Huila Based on the Completed Studies and Conclusions from Workshops**

The Technical Committee of Climate Change for Huila delineated the action plan in a two day process with inputs from all the participants. The action plan designed has a strict chronogram of activities that is being followed. The month of April 2013 was dedicated to understanding what information was available for the climate decision making process for Huila and who can help develop a vulnerability assessment.

Bastiaan Louman, leader of the Climate Change Program at CATIE, was hired to help formulate Huila's Climate Change Action Plan, as both CATIE and Bastiaan have considerable experience working in climate change. The proposal uses the Action Plan to turn Huila into a Climate Smart Territory, following the model developed at CATIE, balancing development with mitigation, adaptations and low emissions development objectives.

The first Technical Committee meeting produced a series of outcomes that will be used for guiding the process of developing Huila's Climate Change Action Plan during 2013. These outcomes include defining the thematic focal areas for the plan, identifying additional studies required to inform the plan, a chronogram of activities for Huila 2050 and the identification of information available and information needed with respect to the Plan's final content.

## **Activity 9: Scale-up Results to Influence Regional and National Decision-Making Processes**

### **Huila 2050 as a National Example**

The Huila 2050 project is seen by national environmental authorities as a model for others to follow. This has encouraged authorities to be very involved in the project, attending all activities to which they are invited. Other environmental corporations are also seeing CAM as the leader with respect to climate change.

### **Regional Climate Change Nodes**

Jonathan Romero, the consultant hired by USAID/Colombia to support CAM in its commitments related to climate change, attended the three meetings of the Regional Climate Change Nodes that were organized by MADS. The nodes are groups of several departments that meet regularly to discuss their advancements in relation to climate change and learn from each other's experiences. The meetings took place in Bogotá, Paipa, and Neiva on November 8 and 9, 2012, December 4, 2012 and April 5, 2013, respectively. The Ministry decided to hold the most recent meeting in Neiva after attending the project's first Technical Committee meeting, since they were very excited with its progress, and thought it was important for other corporations to learn about it.