

Preface

The need for climate change adaptation is becoming more and more pressing, as a noticeable increase in both the frequency and intensity of extreme events is now being registered.

Adaptation, a process which entails anticipation of the adverse effects of climate change and the appropriate action needed to prevent or minimize the damage it causes, is now a priority for many countries across the world. Indeed, by pursuing appropriate adaptation strategies, it may be possible to cope with extreme events on the one hand, and protect human lives and property on the other. International cooperation in the field of climate change adaptation is very important, since climate change impacts transcend borders of individual states—such as with river basins—and their impacts vary considerably across regions.

Although there are many interesting and useful experiences on climate change adaptation across the world, only a few initiatives are ever documented or disseminated. This book addresses this need, since it provides concrete examples of concrete adaptation measures taking place in Latin America and in other parts of the world. Prepared in the context of the project “Climate Change Transfer Centers in Europe and in Latin America” (CELA), partly funded by the EU ALFA III Program, this book contains a wealth of information and experiences, illustrating how climate change adaptation is being implemented in practice.

Part I of this book deals with the impacts of change in regions and specific geographical areas, with examples predominantly from Latin America, meeting the need for analyses and projects which investigate the specific impacts of climate change in that part of the world. Part II tackles the management of climate change impacts and introduces projects, initiatives, and adaptation tools. Part III of the book emphasizes the role of policy-making and the contribution of information, communication, and stakeholders’ involvement.

Examples of works documented in this book include how to use scarce water resources more efficiently; how agriculture can be adapted to future climate conditions and extreme weather events; how to develop drought-resistant crops, and the important role to be played by information, education, and communication on climate change.

We hope this book will provide a valuable support to international climate change adaptation efforts, and the ability of countries and regions to cope with the multiple impacts of climate change across populations, economic sectors, and regions around the world.

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