

PfR Guatemala country factsheet

Country: Guatemala

Project Area: Chiquimula

Organization(s): Cordaid

Key data about the project area (area of the beneficiaries):

Population: 362,826

Geography: 2376 km²

Main livelihood sectors: agriculture, cultivation staple crops

Beneficiaries #:

Beneficiary groups:

What types of hazards occur in project site?

Floods,

12E was a tropical storm that caused heavy flooding in the department of Chiquimula.

How are these hazards exacerbated?

By human activity? (ecosystems degradation)

(?) Politics?

Drug-related violence has increased and is more visible. The clear examples are the declaration of state in Coban and Peten (first part of 2011) after violent actions related to drug trafficking. Some working areas are affected by the infiltration of drug trafficking (Izabal, Zacapa and Chiquimula).

Because of national elections and the transition of the new government in the last quarter of 2011, substantial changes in the key positions of both the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) and the National Commission on Protected Areas (CONAP) are expected.

During the second semester the case for the Granadillas Mountain was received by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR), in the hearings that resulted in 143 sessions. The case was filed on behalf of communities affected by the Lutheran pastor Jose Pilar Alvarez, Gerardo Paiz Mother's Collective Forest Ecologist and Mynor Perez Mutual Support Group. The case is to apply for recognition of the legitimate struggle for the defense of water, forests and biodiversity in Las Granadillas and the CIDH was asked to order the Guatemalan State to declare the area as protective springs reserve, as a human right of access to water for the inhabitants of Zacapa and Chiquimula. (more information can be found in the 2011 annual report)

(?) Economics?

mining activities

Climate change?

Projected changes for Central America show that unusually warm days and nights are likely to increase while unusually cold days and nights are likely to decrease. Heat waves and heat spells are also likely to be more frequent and longer in most of the region.

Models predict a median annual average temperature increase of 3.2°C for Central America, with a range of 1.8 to 5°C possible by 2080-2090 (A1B scenario). Rainfall is predicted to decrease at an annual median average of 9% with a range of -48% to +9% possible by 2080-2090 (A1B scenario). Extreme rainfall events have also become more frequent in recent years and tropical cyclones' intensity is expected to increase.

IPCC global projections also predict an increase of 0.18 to 0.59m in sea-level rise by 2200 but several other sources indicate that it could rise by as much as 1 meter.

How are people's livelihoods affected?

Human

Social

Physical

financial
Natural

What are the solutions offered by the alliance?

Preparedness
Early warning
Mitigation
development