

Environment account challenges and the way forward

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Gustavo Luedemann, a researcher at Ipea's Directorate of Regional, Urban and Environmental Policies and Studies, started the panel discussion by relating the past remarks of a colleague from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (*Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística*—IBGE) regarding the incompatibility between accounts calculated by the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications (MCTIC) and by the IBGE. Naturally, MCTIC data are produced following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines regarding climate issues, while IBGE data are generated according to a statistical base. The 'Green Domestic Product' (*Produto Interno Verde*—PIV) legislation was highlighted as a facilitator to achieve compatible data.

André Luiz Campos de Andrade, from the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Presidency of the Republic, argued that with the advent of the new PIV legislation, the IBGE should assume a central role in the coordination of efforts regarding the implementation of the PIV. It will also be necessary for other public bodies to work in a cooperative and integrated manner. He explained that environmental accounts are also useful in assessing necessary initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr. Andrade finished his talk by stating that the use of natural resources must be transparent to society.

Wadih Scandar, from IBGE, summarised each issue discussed during the seminar. He noted that the community expressed concern with the production of information in Brazil. There is a positive context to test models aiming to make climate change assessments compatible with national accounts. That is evident regarding the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Adriano Santhiago de Oliveira, from the Ministry of the Environment, illustrated the complexity of accounting regarding adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. He cited the initiatives towards sustainable development undertaken by the private and public sectors in Brazil. How to translate this into financial terms? The Paris Agreement

comprised adaptive measures. Therefore, adaptation must also be accounted for. How to ensure financial flows to achieve climate resilience?

Moacyr Araujo, of the Brazilian Research Network on Global Climate Change (*Rede Brasileira de Pesquisas sobre Mudanças Climáticas Globais*—Rede Clima),² highlighted the importance of scientific research to the debate. The seminar participants agreed that Rede Clima has a crucial role to play in finding methodologies, such as those used in land-use accounting models, which have not even been considered internationally.

Marcio Rojas, Climate Coordinator at the MCTIC, explained the distinction between what is needed to meet national commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as national accounting requirements. IPCC guidelines must be followed so that the Brazilian efforts can be comparable to those from other countries. He stated that before the Paris Agreement, Brazil—through the Global Environment Facility (GEF)—developed the 'Mitigation Options' international cooperation project, which initially aimed to identify alternatives to mitigate emissions in key sectors of the economy but which ended up contributing to the definition of the Brazilian Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He presented 'Sirene'³ as the source of data on Brazilian emissions and asserted that it will be essential to invest in accounting efforts to achieve the NDCs pledged by Brazil.

Notes:

1. This seminar was a joint initiative between Ipea, the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística—IBGE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Brazil, requested by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, financially supported by the Institute for Climate and Society (ICS) and with the technical support of Rede Clima. Technical Rapporteur: Flávia Witkowski Frangetto. For additional information, see <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/eng/JP16_Report_International_Seminar_on_Linking_Climate_Change.pdf>.

2. See <<http://redeclima.ccst.inpe.br>>.

3. The system of Brazilian emissions accounting is available at <<http://sirene.mcti.gov.br>>.