

Adaptation to climate change and sustainable development

Eduardo Calvo

University of San Marcos, Peru

In the second decade of the twenty first century is evident that mankind shall adapt to the consequences of changes in the global climate system. Those changes will have a wide range of impacts in both ecosystems and socioeconomic systems, even with surprises and possible non-linear changes with unpredictable consequences. The only possible solution seems to adapt systems to climate change impacts. These adaptation processes implies several types of investment in an era when economic and financial resources seem to be scarcer than ever.

For societies, to decide where, in what and how to allocate those scarce resources in such case, is not only a matter of economic decisions, but also of ethical decisions, based on political and cultural dimensions. In this paper, the different possible allocations from various economic and ethical points of view are visited, particularly under border conditions like those produced by extreme events.

This process of decision making needs to maximize several outputs: enhanced resistance to the impacts of climate related events, resilience to reestablish the social and economic functioning after the event. In this paper, the different possible optima for different actors are explored. Finally, the author will present the possible negative consequences based on examples on how are current concrete situations managed in a suboptimal way due to decisions based on unclear and non-optimal processes to elaborate them.