

Adaptation measures for climate change scenarios in the coastal zones

National audit abstract	
Country	Brazil
The Name of the Audit	Adaptation measures for climate change scenarios in the Brazilian coastal zones
Publication Information	October 2009; Brazilian Court of Audit, Judgment N° 2.354/2009 – Plenary; available in Portuguese at www.tcu.gov.br

The national audit objectives

To assess the status of the actions led by the Federal Public Administration in order to adapt Brazilian coastal zones to possible impacts of climate change.

The scope of the audit

- Identification of coastal zones' vulnerabilities and the potential risks of climate change in different scenarios; development of actions in response to possible impacts of climate change in the coastal zones; structure and implementation of the defined public policies.
- Audit period covered or end date of audit process: 2008.
- Audited federal entities: Civil Cabinet of the Presidency, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of National Integration, Ministry of the Interior, National Agency of Aquatic Transportation, National Department of Civil Defence, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, University of Sao Paulo, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, National Institute of Space Research, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Ministry of Health).
- Audited state entities: Pereira Passos Institute (Rio de Janeiro Mayor's office) and the Environmental Sanitation Technological Corporation of the State of Sao Paulo.

Conclusions of the audit findings and key recommendations

The complex characteristics of the national coastal zone are heightened by its vast length, stretching around 8,500 km, and by its demographic density, given that it is home to more than 25 percent of the country's population.

The existing studies on vulnerabilities of coastal zones are not enough to assess climate change risks and impacts. The country does not have a permanent and centralized system to coordinate and store monitoring data on oceanic variables. Monitoring is currently done in a decentralized way by several public institutions, by universities, and by research institutes. Therefore some oceanic variables important for the construction of scenarios are not monitored. Furthermore, the National Plan on Climate Change does not set guidelines for adapting public policies for coastal zones. The existing public policies in sectors potentially affected, as the marine shipping sector and civil defence sector, are still at an early stage of planning the inclusion of adaptation actions.

The SAI recommended that

- the institution responsible for implementing the National Plan on Climate Change develop an action plan to implement a permanent system to monitor the oceanic variables and build a data bank that could store this information and the time series necessary to model scenarios of possible climate change impacts;
- the National Council of Water Resources take measures to integrate the management of hydrographic basins to the estuarine systems basins and coastal zones; and
- the National Council of Environment consider possible climate change impacts in the environmental licensing related to projects in the coastal zones.