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## Climate change: Federal Environment Agency supports adaptation in Brazil

### Project launch in at-risk north-eastern region

Climate change is real, and the human population worldwide must adapt to its unavoidable consequences. This is especially true in developing and newly-industrialising countries which, although they are particularly affected by climate change, are often least to blame for the problem. The Federal Environment Agency (UBA) is coordinating a project of adaptation to climate change in Brazil, which is starting with a workshop in Rio de Janeiro for delegates from affected rural regions. The main focus is on the northeastern part of the country and its many small farmers, who have been plagued by drought and where the UBA is supporting an agricultural irrigation project that already enjoys international recognition. A solar-powered water supply system is to be installed, and cultivation and sales of regional products are to be promoted. In the course of the project's two-year duration, adaptation measures for other vulnerable regions in Brazil will be identified and communicated on location. "As a rich industrialised country we may not stand by idly as global warming renders entire swaths of land at the other end of the earth infertile, food becomes scarcer, and there is danger to life and limb", said Dr. Benno Hain, head of the new project in Brazil. "Instead we must launch smart projects that support countries like Brazil in their own efforts".

In addition to the UBA as project administrator, other parties involved include the "Centro Clima" climate centre set up specially by the Brazilian government, and sponsors from German development aid organisations present in Brazil, mainly the Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the German Development Service (DED). Their collective experience in the area of adaptation, in international and German-Brazilian cooperation on climate policy issues can be channelled directly to benefit the project's development.

Based on experience gained by the project partners, further adaptation projects are to be selected and introduced in other areas, e.g. the Amazon. Local stakeholders and non-governmental organisations will be involved and vouch for the transfer to the local population. Besides setting up a regional and national communications network, the project is intended to support national policymakers in adapting to climate change.

The project is funded by the International Climate Protection Initiative launched by the Federal Environment Ministry (BMU). The International Climate Protection Initiative supports projects in

developing, newly industrialising and transition countries in establishing a sustainable economy, conserving carbon sinks like the great forests of the world, and efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change. The BMU disposes of 120 million euros annually which are earmarked for this purpose, a sum generated by the sale of emissions certificates negotiated in European emissions trading.

Contact persons at the Federal Environment Agency are Dr. Benno Hain and Michaela Schaller. More information on the BMU's International Climate Protection Initiative is available at: <http://www.bmu.de/klimaschutz/downloads/doc/41703.php>.

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