



Adaptation to Climate Change – Case Study Bolivia

Ernst Basler + Partner develops adaptation strategies for the indigenous population in the highlands of Bolivia.

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Client	Ernst Basler + Partner, Basler Fonds (internal research project)
Project Partners	Qhara Qhara Suyu (local organisation)
Project Description	<p>Climate change is strongly impacting developing countries because they have less means and especially lower financial possibilities to adapt to climate change. Ernst Basler + Partner analyses possible adaptation measures in the highlands of Bolivia and develops strategies for the indigenous population to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Climate change has global impact and especially for developing countries, the missing financial means make it difficult to adapt to climate change. Bolivia contributes with 0.04% to the greenhouse gas emissions, but will be one of the ten most impacted countries of climate change worldwide.</p> <p>Ernst Basler + Partner analysed together with the local organisation Qhara Qhara Suyu the situation of the indigenous population in the highlands of Bolivia. The project included the identification of the impacts of climate change, the development of possible adaptation strategies and the elaboration of the optimal adaptation program.</p> <p>The case study resulted that dry periods in the region will extend and water scarcity will exacerbate. This influences the agricultural earnings and compromises the food availability in the region. To improve the living conditions in the region, the analysis identified four major aspects: Secure the food availability, diversify the income sources, strengthen the local institutions and improve the access of information and capacity building of the local population. Together with local actors, three strategies have been developed and evaluated: 1 – Business-as-usual; 2 – Integrated water management; 3 – Diversification of income sources. The resulting optimal adaptation program is the combination of the last two strategies. Therein, the secure food availability is the most important issue. This is complemented by a sustainable management of water resources and the development of new income sources in the region. For all these aspects, specific proposals were developed.</p>
Period	2010 – 2011
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