

Further ☺

Argentina's Role in Global Warming and its Prevention

Stretching northward 3700 kilometers from Tierra del Fuego, Argentina has an array of climates in which the gradual changes of the planet over the last century have been observed. Many elements of Argentina's infrastructure and geography are threatened by the effects of global warming. Agriculture, freshwater availability, deforestation (and the resulting effects), and energy are a few of the most pressing examples.

Argentina has seen increased rainfall in its northern regions, resulting in floods in areas such as the Pampas. Conversely, a decrease in rainfall in the southwest region has been observed; combined with retreating glaciers due to increased temperatures, freshwater availability is on the decline in some areas (Magrin, 2007). Current projections predict that only one of Argentina's four cirque glaciers, the Martial Este Glacier, will survive the 21st century (Strelin, 2007). Argentina is one of several countries in Latin America whose main source of electrical energy is hydroelectric power. As river flow has ~~reduced~~ ^{decreased} from 30% to as high 80% in rivers that flow from various basins in South America, this electricity source is compromised (Magrin, 2007).

As a coastal country, sea level rise will encroach upon infrastructure in areas that already bear the brunt of increased storm activity (Magrin, 2007). Along with the rest of Latin America, agriculture will be severely impacted, again, as fresh water availability decreases and El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) patterns (the dominant factor in climate variability for South America) become less predictable; ENSO instability has

elevated heat and humidity levels spurring the onset of several plant and fungal diseases, as well as decreased dairy productivity (Magrin, 2007). ✓

Altering farming practices around deforestation and finding smarter ways to catch rainwater in Argentina's increasingly arid regions (Magrin, 2007) are temporary fixes. Argentina wishes to act in a way that, instead of solving problems as they arise, gets to the root of the apparent climate change. Forestry laws that center around sustainability and preservation have begun and will be intensified: protected areas are being expanded, subsidies for better forest management are being provided, and model forests are being designed to help communities better understand and emulate the nation's burgeoning efforts (Magrin, 2007). ✓

Argentina recognizes the necessity of educating and informing the citizens of its underdeveloped regions as to the potential dangers we and the world are facing. More informed citizens who see how a lack of preparation harms their well being will beget more cooperation and activism. Revisiting the ideas behind the water cultivating practices of our ancestors, it has been realized, would be advantageous. Certainly they had weather and climate variations to work around as well. Pre-Colombian engineering practices included rainwater cropping, filtration, and storage through simple yet intelligent irrigation methods (Magrin, 2007). ✓

The achievability of change in global policy and attitude is realized when ^{one} looks at the results of the Montreal Protocol, which helped to halt and soon, it is hoped, reverse the damage that was being done to the ozone layer. Just as global cooperation helped put an end to the atmospheric contaminants (Piacentini, 2007) that were causing that problem, Argentina hopes to lead the way resolving our current crisis. ✓ good!

Magrin, G., C.G. Garcia, D.C. Choque, J.C. Gimenez, A.R. Moreno, G.J. Nagy, C. Nobre and A. Villamizar, 2007: Latin America. Ch. 13 in: *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (M.L. Parry, O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson, eds.), Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press, p. 581-615, accessed via internet 10/30/07, <http://www.ipcc-wg2.org/>.

Piacentini, R.D., A.S. Mujumdar, 2007. Guest Editorial. *Drying Technology International Journal*, 25:9, 1403 – 1404.

Strelin, J. and R. Iturraspe, 2007. Recent evolution and mass balance of Cordón Martial glaciers, Cordillera Fueguina Oriental. *Global and Planetary Change*, 59, 17–26.