

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	December 16, 2011	Entry Number:	1172
Case Study Name:	Participatory river basin management in the Sao Joao River, Brazil: a basis for climate change adaptation?(case study)		
Author:	Pereira, L.F.M., Barreto, S., Pittock, J.		
Document Type:	Paper in scientific journal		
Year:	2009		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	Climate & Development		
Full Citation:	Pereira, L.F.M., Barreto, S., Pittock, J. 2009. Participatory river basin management in the Sao Joao River, Brazil: a basis for climate change adaptation?(case study). <i>Climate & Development</i> , 1, 261-268.		
Region:	Latin America and Caribbean		
Country:	Brazil		
Ecosystem Type:	Lotic ecosystem (river basin)		
Social Characteristics:	Coastal community		
Scale of Study:	Community/municipality		
Resource Type:	Water		
Type of Initiative:	International NGO initiative		
Community Based Work:	Environmental management		

Keywords:	Adaptation; Brazil; climate change; institutions; river; Sao Joao; water
Summary:	<p>This paper describes an empirical case study of enhanced water management in the Sao Joao River basin on the southeast coast of Brazil between 1999 and 2008. The autonomous adaptation measures applied are assessed to derive lessons for more effective climate change adaptation. In response to severe eutrophication of their coastal lakes, effective, local multi-stakeholder institutions were established under the auspices of the Consorcio Intermunicipal Lagos Sao Joao from 1999 to improve basin management. Having significantly reduced the pollution problem, other environmental challenges are now being addressed. In managing environmental problems with multiple causes and effects, engaging multiple stakeholders and communicating the need to change environmental management, these local institutions have established the types of capacities needed for climate change adaptation. Factors contributing to the strengthening of this adaptive capacity include: engagement of local non-governmental organizations, companies and municipal governments; leadership and development of a collective identity; enabling national and state water laws; an ability to raise funds; and implementation of an iterative, adaptive management approach to environmental management.</p>