



Systemic Impact Across Agricultural Value Chains

in Central America through a Climate Adaptation Index (AEI)



Heifer technician Brayan Matamoros, left, demonstrates the kind of plant material that can be used as fertilizer to community members in Olancho, Honduras. Heifer International Photo

Context

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns resulting in more frequent and intense extreme weather events, disruptions to ecosystems and biodiversity and threats to food and water security. While there has been a dramatic increase in climate change resources across the board, mitigation strategies receive significantly more funding than adaptation strategies. Mobilizing adaptation funding is vital to respond to this growing threat, especially in developing countries.

As climate change drives business risks and costs up, the private sector is increasingly seeking ways to improve and scale adaptation investments. However, current adaptation programming lacks a unified systematic approach, a coherent strategy and standard, alignment with national strategies and the ability to track investment in adaptation. Supporting such work with a tool or index that provides simple, qualitative results could allow for greater coordination of mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Overview

Heifer International and Conservation International developed and launched the Adaptation Equivalency Index (AEI) in Guatemala and Honduras with funding from the Global Environment Facility.

- This tool is designed to decrease loss of habitat and improved ecological resiliency by supporting an increase in adaption investment from the private sector using a standardized, quantifiable approach.
- The AEI enables smallholder farmers, processors and companies in Guatemala and Honduras to capture the full value of their adaptation action along the supply chains for coffee, cocoa and spices.
- The Ministries of Environment and Agriculture in both countries are working alongside Heifer International to shape the AEI and socialize it with key national actors.
- The initiative identifies, tests, ranks and scores adaptation solutions. The project encourages corporate and private sector partners to increase demand for AEI scoring.
- The index has been designed to integrate with existing environmental strategies to ensure that the innovation builds on work that has already been developed. This innovation enables companies to easily report on investments and outcomes for adaptation in a similar manner to which they already report on carbon emission mitigation strategies.

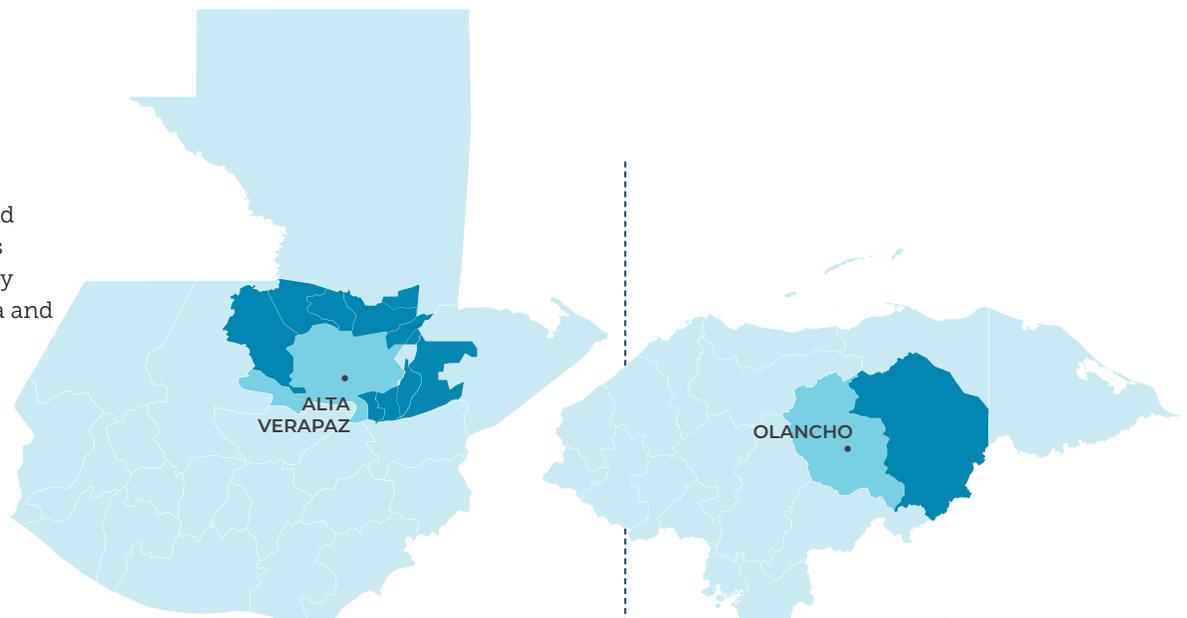


- Multi-national and national level private sector partners have helped develop and pilot the AEI to confirm that it can be easily adopted by the private sector.
- The index supports stakeholders to encourage, measure and deepen their investment in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts to build resilience and create lasting impact.
- Heifer manages the index, which is now ready for use. Organizations wishing to access it must visit agroadaptacion.com and complete the request form. Once a username is assigned, they can access the platform through the website or download the "Agroadaptación IEA" mobile application from the Google Play store.

Countries

The AEI has been developed and tested in two countries that are heavily impacted by climate change: Guatemala and Honduras.

 Project Area



Value Chains

In Guatemala, the project focuses on the allspice, cardamom and cacao value chains.

In Honduras, the project focuses on the cacao and coffee value chains.

GUATEMALA



ALLSPICE



CARDAMOM



CACAO

HONDURAS



CACAO



COFFEE