

# Inter-Agency Technical Committee of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Twelfth Forum of Ministers of the Environment  
of Latin America and the Caribbean

Bridgetown, Barbados  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2000

A. Preparatory Meeting of Experts  
2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2000

Distribution:  
Limited  
UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.6  
1 February, 2000  
Original: Spanish



The World Bank



United Nations  
Development  
Programme



**UNEP**  
United Nations  
Environment Programme  
(ITC Coordinator)



Economic Commission  
for Latin America and the  
Caribbean



Inter-American  
Development Bank

## Basis for an environmental vision for Latin America and the Caribbean

*Basis for an environmental vision for Latin America and the Caribbean*

This document was prepared by the Inter-Agency Technical Committee on the basis of the mandates of the Eleventh Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Perú, March 1998). The work was carried out by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the lead agency. The purpose of the document is to provide the Forum with support for discussing and approving courses of action in the sphere of the Regional Action Plan for the period 2000-2001.

## Table of Contents

1. Background .....	1
2. Needs .....	1
3. Results.....	1
4. Products.....	2
5. Strategic Elements.....	2
5.1. Data analysis and integration .....	2
5.2. Environmental Assessment.....	3
5.3. Strategic monitoring of environmental issues and early warnings.....	4
6. Activities .....	4
7. Implementation Modes .....	5
Annex I. Strategic Elements.....	6
Annex II. Activities/projects related to this proposal .....	7
Annex III. Web pages of the Ministries and Authorities of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (as of January 2000) .....	10

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘



## 1. Background

- Decision 24 of the X Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 1996) requesting, (a) the creation of a data and information system based on the subsystems that are being developed in the region. This system should include information on the interregional co-operation relevant to the process and the essential offers and capacities of each country; and, (b) the development of environmental and sustainability indicators at the national and regional levels to strengthen national capacity to manage data and information.
- Decision 8 of the Inter-Sessional Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (September 19, 1998. New York, U.S.A.), requesting elements to generate a regional environmental vision, as the starting point for a managerial information system to support decision making, which includes indicators and quantitative goals and budgetary requirements.

## 2. Needs

- Elements to generate a regional environmental vision that may allow the development of comprehensive environmental policies with real impact on the sustainable use of environmental and natural resources.
- Effective institutional mechanisms for the implementation of policies and agreements on conservation and the sustainable use of environmental and natural resources.
- Strengthening the capacities of Ministries of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to produce and exchange information that facilitates decision making and stimulate horizontal co-operation in environmental and sustainable development issues of regional priority.
- International community and United Nations System actions, in co-operation with the governments of the countries of the region, to reduce and prevent environmental emergencies due to natural or human induced disasters.

## 3. Results

- An environmental vision for Latin America and the Caribbean that includes:
  - A system for the exchange of environmental information, harmonised at the regional level, to support decision making in environmental and sustainable development issues and that it will permit the articulation of networks, meta-databases, and relevant databases existing in the region (and out of it), as the first step to implement a regional vision.
  - A methodology harmonised at the regional level, to prepare national (and regional) reports about the status of the environment, present trends and policies, as the basis to formulate environmental policies.

- Proposals for environmental and sustainable development indicators -including georeferenced indicators, harmonised at the regional level, and the technological tools required to manage them.

#### **4. Products**

- a) An environmental vision for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b) An information exchange system, harmonised at the regional level, that is dynamic, open and decentralised, based on Internet sites of the Ministries of the Environment (or their equivalent) in the region and "harmonised" Pages reflecting thematic/priority areas and the interests defined by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- c) "Harmonised" Web pages in the Internet sites (mirrors) -or links- of the agency members of the Interagency Technical Committee, and other international agencies, including the United Nations System, related to the Forum of Ministers and its different bodies.
- d) Links to institutional Internet sites of the main actors in the non governmental area – national, sub regional or international, that include results deriving from other environmental initiatives relevant to the environmental management of the governments of the region.
- e) Installed capacity in the Ministries of the Environment of the Region -or their equivalents- to host Web pages and sites and to manage electronic information (search and exchange of information and relevant data).
- f) A proposal on environmental and sustainability indicators at the national and regional levels.
- g) A methodology for the formulation of national and regional reports on the state of the environment and environmental policies.

#### **5. Strategic Elements**

(See **Figure 1** in **Annex I** to this document).

##### **5.1. Data analysis and integration**

In order to achieve appropriate environmental management, reliable, understandable and timely data and information are required. These data must be analysed, interpreted and summarised into tables, charts and indicators so they can become useful information for policy decision makers. The process through which these data are transformed into information is one of the weakest links in the information cycle, oftentimes its importance is ignored, and not sufficient funds are allocated for its development. In general, the few existing data available for environmental management are of low quality and not comparable.

Therefore environmental data and information management must centre on:

- Stimulating the generation of high quality data sets, updated and of easy access, to help decision making in the priority areas defined by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, as well as to assess their environmental policies.

- Catalysing the development of an integral reference framework of information for environmentally sustainable development, promoting the use of state-of-the art-technology for information presentation and dissemination, as well as the development of analyses tools as environmental sustainability models or indicators and georeferenced information systems, amongst others.
- To promote the use of Internet-based environmental information systems, linked at the regional and subregional levels (open and decentralised systems), to better reflect local issues and needs.
- To continue supporting the development of environmental and sustainability indicators, particularly georeferenced ones, to improve environmental assessments and management in the region.

## **5.2. Environmental Assessment**

Environmental assessment is essential for an appropriate environmental and natural resources management. Environmental reports are one of the most effective ways to develop, organise and communicate information to decision makers on the situation of current environmental trends, their causes, policy answers -current and future – and their impact at the regional, subregional and national levels.

The methodology UNEP is currently developing as part of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process, is proposed as the base mechanism for environmental assessment and +reporting in the region. The GEO process is a concerted methodology for the preparation of Environmental reports that permits comparing the environmental situation at a regional level, as a result of the application of national and international policies and agreements. As a direct answer to the request of the Ministers of the Environment, the GEO process has enabled the development of an consultation and participation mechanism that ensures the validation of the selection of environmental themes that are important and priority for the region.

Therefore, for environmental Assessments we are proposing:

- To support the preparation and publication of integral national and sub regional environmental assessments in the context of GEO process and methodologies, based on a network of collaboration centres in the region, and through the participatory consultation process that supports it.<sup>(1)</sup>
- To emphasize, in the environmental assessment reports, the causes, impacts and policy answers, as well as the answers of the society and the impact of the development programs as part of the generation of information required for an appropriate environmental management.
- To develop specific environmental information products for policy decision makers and international agencies (and regional) involved in environmental management and development.

---

**(1)** UNEP has established cooperative agreements with the following research centres in Latin America and the Caribbean: Universidad de Chile (Centro de Análisis de Políticas Públicas); Universidad de Costa Rica (Observatorio del Desarrollo), IBAMA (Brazil); Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, CIAT (Colombia); y el Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciales (Brazil).

- To strengthen the institutional capacity of the governments of the region, for data analysis and generation of assessments and reports, thus permitting a significant increase in the availability of policy information relevant to environmental and development issues, at a national and regional level

### **5.3. Strategic monitoring of environmental issues and early warnings**

Considering all the Interagency co-operation mechanisms existing in the United Nations Systems and other International Agencies 1 activities related to the strategic monitoring of environmental topics and early warning must concentrate on the prevention and mitigation of natural or anthropogenic disasters, with a great negative impact of the environment and surrounding communities.

In that sense the strategy proposes to concentrate activities in:

- Strengthening the region s institutional capacity to asses and reinforcing the existing ties and interactions amongst environmental priorities and sectoral policies.
- Reinforcing the co-operation existing amongst the Technical Interagency Committee amongst others the United Nations system agencies, Intergovernmental and regional organisations, the scientific community and other sectors of civil society to identify emerging environmental topics and their possible implications
- Developing long term scientific and institutional mechanisms, for an early warning for environment problems that could result in environment of human disasters, or emergencies of conflicts requiring international actions.

## **6. Activities**

- a) The conceptual design of a harmonised regional system, including linkages of WEB pages of Ministries of the Environment – or their equivalents and government and non government organisations in the region. This concept must include amongst other things the creation of a “ regional co-ordination ” for an information system that will guarantee activities harmonisation and inter-institutional linking, the establishment of an advisory Committee “ for theme issues (i.e., to make sure that priorities defined by the Forum of Ministers and related information will be reflected in the pages) and technologies; and the articulation of institutional information policies with access and distribution needs of the users and suppliers of environmental information
- b) Designing a “Home Page-type” to be used as main axis for the development of the similar home pages in various government and non government institutions. The formatting of this page should reflect the priorities set forth by the Ministers of the Environment; its design must include the development of electronic forms to register information resources
- c) Evaluating the capacities existing in national environmental institutions to obtain, store and distribute information, including those r human and financial resources available to support the implementation of the activities mentioned in this document.



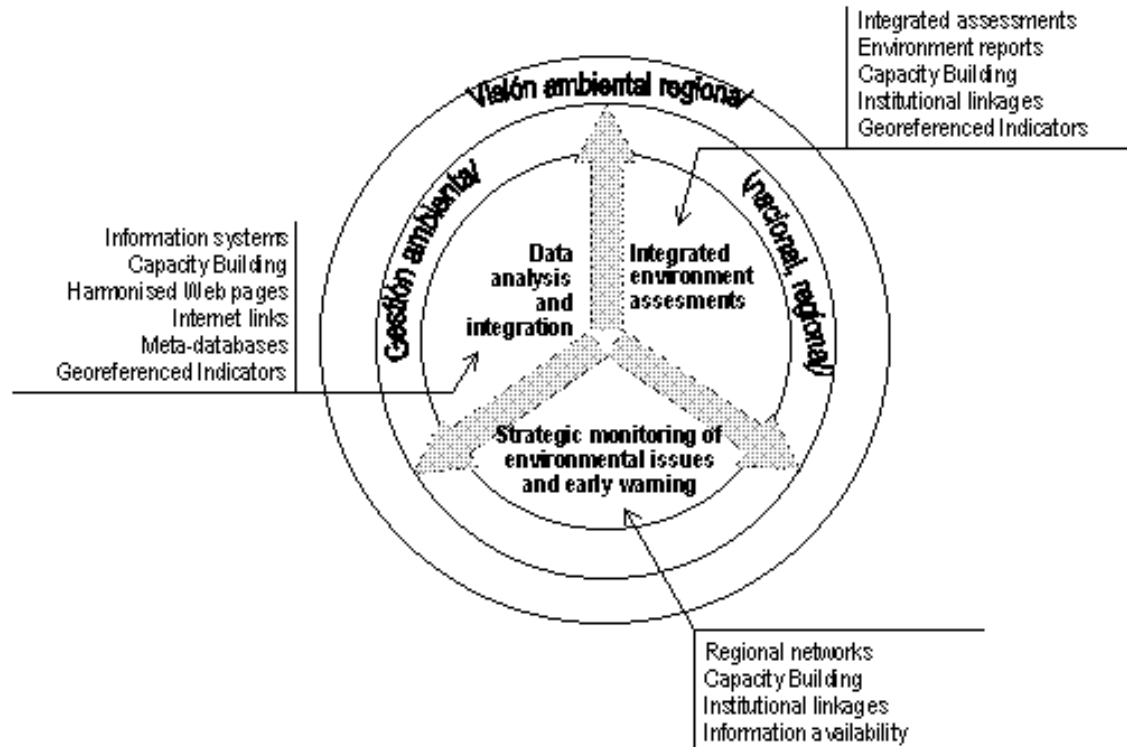
- d) Supporting National Environmental agencies to help them develop their electronic systems, including the installation of catalogues (meta bases) and the development of data bases on environmental management.
- e) Training of Technicians and government experts in the search, access and distribution of data and information related to priority topics of the region, through electronic methods (Internet).
- f) Support for relevant NGOs, to train in the use of Internet for the search, access and distribution of information data related to environmental management, thus guaranteeing their integration into the information system proposed by this project, to support the priority objectives set forth by the Forum of Ministers
- g) Proposal of a Work Plan for the period 2000 – 2001 (the Implementation of activities mentioned) that includes the economic, human, and technology resources needed for the implementation.

## 7. Implementation Modes

- a) The implementation of the activities proposed should be based on existing studies and initiatives so as to increase work effectiveness and realistic implementation modes (see **Annex II** to this document, for some examples).
- b) The co-ordination of the activities to be carried out may fall into different ITC agencies considering their operational capabilities. At the same time, a regional co-ordination is required to guarantee works harmonisation
- c) The implementation of activities could be done by subregions/countries, taking into consideration funding opportunities and existing similar activities and projects

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

## Annex I Strategic Elements



⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

## **Annex II**

### **Activities/projects related to this proposal**

**1. Regional Environmental Information System for MERCOSUR countries.** Co-ordinated by MERCOSUR's Secretariat/Working Sub Group 6 (Environment) and the Environmental Information Systems (EIS) *ad hoc* Commission, with UNEP and the OAS Paraguay Office, technical and financial support Work Plans established and on going, Development of Web Pages and Internet sites in the Ministries of the Environment of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, strengthening the technological capacity and personnel training in the use of Internet.

**2. Support to carry out environmental assessments and the development of Web pages in the National environmental Authorities Offices in the English speaking Caribbean countries,** to be implemented by UNEP (ORPSALC and Grid Arendal centre 9 Region 3 IDB, The objective of this project is to develop harmonised Web pages on the Internet sites of Ministries/ Agencies of the Environment of selected countries in the English speaking Caribbean, with integrated information on environmental assessments and other GEO based reports. The project envisages in addition to the inclusion of a page for the Forum of Ministers. The project financed with funds granted by the Swedish government begins in January 2000.

**3. The first version of the "Web page type"** to be used for the development of similar Pages in the various government and non government institutions was developed by UNEP and implemented in the ROLAC Website (<http://www.pnuma.org/foromin/esp/index.htm>).

**4. Links between UNEP's regional Office and the Environmental Ministries or Agencies of the Countries of the Region** that have Web pages have been implemented (<http://www.pnuma.org./paises/ing/minist-i.htm>). - Roster of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean). A list of links is included in the **Annex III** to this document.

**5. Mesoamerican Information system on Biodiversity, SIMEBIO** Co-ordinated by SICA/CCAD, and supported by UNEP and other regional and national organisations, the system was developed with the purpose of facilitating access to information on biodiversity to help make decisions of the sustainable use of biodiversity. SIMEBIO shall be implemented through a network of national institutions that have information on biodiversity as well as "facilitation national nodes" located in the Ministries of the Environment in the region. UNEP participated in the preparation of a regional diagnosis to be used as the basis for SIMEBIO and supported by CCAD in the implementation of various activities related to developing the capacity, to manage the nodes and providing technical support for the regional co-ordination carried out by SICA/CCAD.

**6. Institutional Strengthening to manage Environmental information in Central America.** This project was completed at the beginning of 1999. Implemented by ASIES, a Guatemalan NGO, in collaboration with UNEP/ROLAC and INFOTERRA focal points, the UNDP SDN focal points, SICA/CCAD and CIESIN, the project created and strengthened the capacity of universities in Central American Countries for the management (search, access and distribution) of environmental information through Internet. Now the universities have been trained and are capable to continue to train other professionals.

**7. CEPNET/IADB PROJECT.** UNEP's Office for the Environmental Program of the Caribbean with the support of the IDB implemented a program to strengthen the capacity of national Environmental authorities of countries in the larger Caribbean to manage information about marine and coastal resources. This project was implemented in Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Trinidad Tobago and Venezuela, and developed Web pages on the Internet sites of government authorities and generating a Network for the exchange of information in the Caribbean. The CEPNET/IDB project was completed at the beginning of 1999.

**8. National Focal points Network of INFOTERRA.** The INFOTERRA Network of UNEP has established focal points in the offices of the National environmental authorities of 28 countries of Latin America (Antigua, Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela). The Network's objective is to facilitate access for the governments to find electronic information and data sources through Internet. The INFOTERRA Network is presently undergoing through process of reformulation and restructuring of responsibilities and activities

**9. National Environmental and Sustainable Development Information Centre of the Dominican Republic.** In response to a request made to the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency, National Planning Office –ONAPLAN and supported by UNDP Capacity 21, UNEP is developing a strategy to manage environmental information for the sustainable development of the Dominican Republic. The strategy includes the establishment of a centre for environment and sustainable development information management. The first version of the proposal has been delivered to the Dominican Republic government. This proposal takes into account those activities that have already been carried out by UNEP's RCU/CPU through the CEPNET-IDB project in the country and UNDP-SDN

**10. National Information and Indicator System of Cuba.** UNEP is supporting the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA) of Cuba, through its Centre for Environmental Information, Management and Education (CIGEA) to develop a national system for environmental information, environmental and sustainability indicators and to prepare the Environmental Report Cuba 2000. UNEP installed a UNEPnet/Mercure node at CITMA/CIGEA in 1998.

**11. National Information System in Costa Rica and Bolivia** UNEP installed nodes of the UNEPNet/ Mercure system (equipment, programs and training) at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines of Costa Rica and at the Ministry for Sustainable Development and the Environment of Bolivia. Receiving stations are part of the Global UNEPNet/ Mercure system, Bolivia's national information system is also supported by PNUD sustainable development Network

**12. Training Program in Environmental Assessment Methodologies.** With the financial support of the Government of Holland and the collaboration of the International Institute for Sustainable Development IISD from Canada, UNEP started a training programme for the representatives of national agencies in charge of producing environmental reports on the methodologies and knowledge to carry out integral environmental assessments, at national, regional or global levels. As a first step of this programme in the region, a training course for English speaking Caribbean countries was held from November 8 to 11, 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago, with the collaboration of UNDP Office in Port of Spain.

**13. Preparation of Environmental Reports.** Following GEO's methodology and general structure, UNEP is supporting the preparation of regional GEOs for Latin America and the Caribbean, Central America; Andean Countries, the Insular Caribbean; and national state of the environment reports of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Panama and Peru. These activities are implemented in co-operation with other international institutions such as ECLAC, UNDP, IDB, the World Bank and bilateral. Likewise UNEP/ROLAC has started to implement the GEO Project for Youth/LAC, with several partners.

**14. Vulnerability Assessment System for Central America.,** In the context of the assistance of the World Bank, UNDP, ECLAC and UNEP are providing to SICA/CCAD in the aftermath of Hurricane "Mitch", CATIE in collaboration with UNEP and the CEPREDENAC developed a proposal for a regional system for the assessment of the vulnerability to natural disasters of Central American countries. This proposal shall be submitted to the donors by SICA/CCAD

**15. Community Education and Training for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests.** UNEP and the Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) of Mexico, are developing a pilot project to generate defence capacity - including forest fires combat and for preservation and sustainable management of forests, amongst local communities (indigenous population and peasants) in strategic areas of the humid-warm tropic of Mexico and the Mesoamerican subregion.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

**Annex III**  
**Web pages of the Ministries and Authorities of**  
**the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**(as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2000)**

Country	Agency	Internet Website
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Environment	<a href="http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/antigua/anu.html">http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/antigua/anu.html</a>
<b>Argentina</b>	Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente Humano de la Nación (SIAN)	<a href="http://sian.sernah.gov.ar/">http://sian.sernah.gov.ar/</a>
<b>Bahamas</b>	Ministry of Health and the Environment  Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST)	<a href="http://www.un.org/esa/earthsummit/baham-cp.htm">http://www.un.org/esa/earthsummit/baham-cp.htm</a>
<b>Barbados</b>	Ministry of Health and the Environment	<a href="http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/barbados/barbados.html">http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/barbados/barbados.html</a>
<b>Belize</b>	Ministry of Tourism and the Environment  Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environment and Industry	<a href="http://www.belize.gov.bz/cabinet/j_briceno/welcome.shtml">http://www.belize.gov.bz/cabinet/j_briceno/welcome.shtml</a>
<b>Bolivia</b>	Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible y Medio Ambiente	<a href="http://coord.rds.org.bo/">http://coord.rds.org.bo/</a>
<b>Brazil</b>	Ministerio do Medio Ambiente  Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renovaveis (IBAMA)  Companhia de Tecnologia de Saneamento Ambiental (CETESB)  Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estadística (IBGE)  FEEMA, State of Rio de Janeiro	<a href="http://www.mma.gov.br">http://www.mma.gov.br</a> <a href="http://www.ibama.gov.br/">http://www.ibama.gov.br/</a>  <a href="http://www.cetesb.br">http://www.cetesb.br</a>  <a href="http://www.ibge.gov.br">http://www.ibge.gov.br</a>  <a href="http://www.proderj.rj.gov.br/clientes/feema">http://www.proderj.rj.gov.br/clientes/feema</a>
<b>Chile</b>	Comision Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)	<a href="http://www.conama.cl">http://www.conama.cl</a>
<b>Colombia</b>	Ministerio del Medio Ambiente  Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales – Colombia	<a href="http://www.minambiente.gov.co/">http://www.minambiente.gov.co/</a> <a href="http://www.ideam.gov.co">http://www.ideam.gov.co</a>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Ministerio de Recursos Naturales, Energía y Minas (MIRENEM)  Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad	<a href="http://www.minae.go.cr">http://www.minae.go.cr</a>  <a href="http://www.inbio.ac.cr/">http://www.inbio.ac.cr/</a>
<b>Cuba</b>	Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente	<a href="http://www.cubaweb.cu/">http://www.cubaweb.cu/</a>

Country	Agency	Internet Website
<b>Dominica</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Sustainable Development Council: Dominica	<a href="http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/dominica/sdc/sdc.html">http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/dominica/sdc/sdc.html</a>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Comisión Nacional de Saneamiento Ecológico	
<b>Ecuador</b>	Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo (CONADE), Programa de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC)	<a href="http://www4.inec.gov.ec/">http://www4.inec.gov.ec/</a>
<b>El salvador</b>	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN)	<a href="http://www.marn.gob.sv/">http://www.marn.gob.sv/</a>
<b>Grenada</b>	Ministry of Health, Environment, Community Development and Cooperatives	
<b>Guatemala</b>	Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)	
<b>Guyana</b>	Office of the Advisor on Science, Technology, and Environment	
<b>Haiti</b>	Minister of Public Works and Environment	
<b>Honduras</b>	Ministerio de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho del Ambiente (SEDA)	
<b>Jamaica</b>	Ministry of Environment and Mining	
<b>Mexico</b>	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAP) Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE) Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) Comisión Nacional del Agua Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad Instituto Nacional de Pesca	<a href="http://www.semarnap.gob.mx">http://www.semarnap.gob.mx</a> <a href="http://www.ine.gob.mx">http://www.ine.gob.mx</a> <a href="http://www.profepa.gob.mx">http://www.profepa.gob.mx</a> <a href="http://www.cna.gob.mx/">http://www.cna.gob.mx/</a> <a href="http://www.conabio.gob.mx/">http://www.conabio.gob.mx/</a> <a href="http://inp.semarnap.gob.mx/">http://inp.semarnap.gob.mx/</a>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARENA) Instituto Nacional de Energía	<a href="http://www.ine.gob.ni/">http://www.ine.gob.ni/</a>

Country	Agency	Internet Website
<b>Panama</b>	Instituto de Recursos Naturales Renovables (INRENARE)	<a href="http://www2.usma.ac.pa/~eco1">http://www2.usma.ac.pa/~eco1</a>
	Comision Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)	<a href="http://www.usma.ac.pa/eco/conama.htm">http://www.usma.ac.pa/eco/conama.htm</a>
<b>Paraguay</b>	Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia, Subsecretaria de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente	<a href="http://www.una.py/sitios/mag/dcea/">http://www.una.py/sitios/mag/dcea/</a>
<b>Peru</b>	Consejo Nacional del Ambiente (CONAM)	<a href="http://www.conam.gob.pe">http://www.conam.gob.pe</a>
<b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Environment	<a href="http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/stkitt/skb.html">http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/stkitt/skb.html</a>
<b>St. Lucia</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	<a href="http://www.slumaffe.org/">http://www.slumaffe.org/</a>
<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	Ministry of Health and the Environment	
<b>Suriname</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy	
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	Ministry of Food Production, Marine Exploration, Forestry and Environment	
	Environmental Management Authority	<a href="http://www.ema.co.tt">http://www.ema.co.tt</a>
	Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)	<a href="http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/ima/ima.html">http://isis.uwimona.edu.jm/cesd/ima/ima.html</a>
<b>Uruguay</b>	Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente	<a href="http://www.mvotma.gub.uy">http://www.mvotma.gub.uy</a>
<b>Venezuela</b>	Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (MARNR)	<a href="http://www.marnr.gov.ve/">http://www.marnr.gov.ve/</a>