



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



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

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A. Preparatory Meeting of Experts  
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# **Report of the Secretariat to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**



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## I. Introduction

1. One of the main tasks of UNEP, through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, is to serve as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to coordinate and development the projects and activities required by the Forum.

2. The purpose of this document is to present the Twelfth Forum of Ministers of the Environment with a report on the state of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum (Lima , Peru, from 10 to 13 March 1998), as well as the decisions adopted by the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya, from 1 to 5 February 1999). Consequently, the report covers the period from April 1998 to January 2000.

3. The decisions and recommendations mentioned here refer principally to those directly entrusted to UNEP by the Forum of Ministers and the Governing Council. However, the UNEP activities carried out in the context of the Regional Action Plan, both individually and with other agencies our counterparts, are described in detail in the report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**).

4. For UNEP and the role it should play in the region promoting environment and sustainable development, the circumstances in which the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum is being held constitute an important opportunity for management review, reflection and renovation.

5. For UNEP, the end of a biennium (1998-1999) with numerous activities of substantive influence at the regional level. It is also the beginning of a new biennium (2000-2001) in which UNEP is preparing to harmonize global imperatives and regional priorities. In this manner, it is seeking to concentrate efforts in the framework of the Regional Action Plan on the areas of early warning, environmental information and assessment; industry, technology and economics; water management; multilateral environmental agreements; and public awareness and environmental education.

6. In keeping with the challenges of the twenty-first century, UNEP is consolidating the internal restructuring of its headquarters (where results in the efficient operation of the Regionalization Division are already evident) and the expansion of the operational and technical capacity of its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (increasing its human, as well as its financial resources).

7. It is hoped that this report of the Secretariat will be useful for receiving any suggestions and mandates the high-level experts and ministers may consider pertinent to improving environmental management in the region.

## **II. Fulfillment of the Ministerial Decisions and Recommendations of the Eleventh Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **Decision 1** **Institutional bodies**

The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean has been consolidated as the longest-standing, most representative and most important political body for reaching consensus on environmental policies and responses at the regional level.

The Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Environment Ministers, as a mechanism for follow-up on decisions, and the innovative Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), which is also formed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank (WB), it has also continued its work as Secretariat of the Forum and have acted as dynamic and fellow entities for follow-up on the decisions of the Forum.

The current report as well as that of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**) contain the budget and results achieved by these bodies.

### **Decision 2** **Priority lines of action**

The priority lines of the Regional Action Plan approved in the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers for the Environment cover an institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management (which includes environmental management, citizen participation, trade and environment, and environmental education and training); integrated watershed management (which includes environmental management of coastal and ocean zones and the integrated management of hydrographic basins); biological diversity; and climate change.

The ITC has presented the Inter-Sessional Committee meetings with projects to respond to the Regional Action Plan (New York, USA; 19 September 1998) and a report on the state of the projects (Lima, Peru; 2 October 1999). For example, the workshop proposed by IDB was held in Washington, D.C., on 17 and 18 September 1998 with excellent results (see ITC Report, **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**).

### **Decision 3** **Support for implementation of the Regional Action Plan**

The activities conducted in the framework of the priority areas of the Regional Action Plan are described in detail in the ITC report (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**).

In relation to the topic of environmental education and training, the following UNEP/ROLAC activities carried out in the framework of the Environmental Training Network have been outstanding:

- a) The development of seven master's degree or postgraduate courses were reviewed, updated and supported in five countries of the region. Support was also provided for 11 events in the framework of national programmes



on environmental education and training with the participation of approximately 1,000 professionals.

- b) Through a publishing programme designed and implemented during this period various texts and manuals for environmental education and training were prepared and published, including topics such as agroforestry, agroecology and ecological economics and environmental policy.
- c) Two issues of the newsletter "Environmental Training" (December 1998 and June 1999) were distributed to 3,500 subscribers in Spanish and 500 in English. UNEP/ROLAC also made its monthly supplement "Noticias Recientes sobre Formación Ambiental" available to the public at the following site: <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/educamb/esp/noticias>.
- d) Some material is also being edited for publication in 2000, including a series of manuals on agroecological techniques and sustainable use. (See **Annex I** to this document).

#### **Decision 4 Biological diversity**

Biological diversity is one of the priority areas of the Regional Action Plan. Consequently, UNEP, together with other ITC agencies, participated in the development of a set of projects. One of the most important was the project for the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, which has been approved by the GEF Secretariat. It is stipulated that UNEP will directly coordinate the implementation of activities on environmental assessment, harmonization of policies and environmental education, and, together with UNDP, will jointly coordinate the implementation of activities related to sustainable development and institutional strengthening.

UNEP is collaborating with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to conduct biological diversity studies by country and create national strategies on biological diversity and frameworks for national action programmes on biosafety.

UNEP and ECLAC prepared a study on biosafety policy, law and administration in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and organized a workshop that was held in Santiago, Chile, on 29 and 30 November 1999 to discuss and review the study.

UNEP also prepared a document entitled "Study on the relationship between Free Trade Policies and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity".

#### **Decision 5. Strengthening of National Park Systems and Networks and Other Protected Natural Areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

See **Annex II, Summary 4**, of the ITC Report (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII.4**).

#### **Decision 6 Clean Development Mechanism**

In the next biennium, UNEP will develop activities to strengthen consensus on regional positions and the consolidation of national capacities for the development of future proposals to be financed by the clean development mechanism. (see the ITC report (**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII.4**)).

### **Decision 7**

#### **International Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought**

On 3 August 1999, the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Convention to Combat Desertification was inaugurated at the headquarters of UNEP/ROALC.

Among the main results of the Unit's work is the "Report on Tools for Decision-Making in Latin America and the Caribbean: Environmental Indicators and Geographical Information Systems", prepared together with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT); the project "Model of Indicators for Ecosystems in Arid Zones in Latin America", financed by GEF, which is initially focusing on pilot sites in Brazil, Chile and Mexico; and the project "Rural Sustainability Indicators: Perspectives for Central America (WB, CIAT and UNEP).

UNEP collaborated in preparing the first phase of the Regional Programme of Action to Combat Desertification.

It also collaborated in organizing the Third Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (Recife, Brazil, from 15 to 26 November 1999).

Five successful cases in combating desertification were selected and presented at the Third Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought.

Efforts have been made in relation to the set of agreed proposals in the regional annex, especially with regard to reaching a consensus on public policies.

### **Decision 8**

#### **Parallel regional consensus mechanisms**

Since 1998, UNEP/ROLAC has intensified its work with close alliances within the United Nations system, especially in the framework of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (with UNDP, IDB; ECLAC and WB), and also with its natural counterparts; that is, the Governments and, more recently, with other public and private sectors of society. Thus it is strengthening relations with parliamentarians, judges, academic sectors, radiobroadcasters, churches, local authorities, consumers and sports movements, among others, to promote environmental awareness.

UNEP has served as coordinator of the major institutional body of inter-agency cooperation of the Forum of Ministers, the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and it has also continued its work as Secretariat of the Forum.

### **Decision 9**

#### **Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean**

UNEP supported and participated in the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held from 27 to 29 September 1999 in New York (Barbados Programme of Action Plan, 1997). A paper entitled "Panorama of the Environment in the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean" was prepared and launched at the special session on 27 September 1999.

UNEP participated in the high-level segment of the sixth and seventh sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (April 1998 and 1999, respectively), where it presented Decision 10, which had been adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru, March 1998).

Support was given to the Bureau of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean to encourage a consensus on the Barbados Action Plan (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, August 1999).

Two regional project proposals for the Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean are being prepared (environmental education and land-based pollution sources), based on the project presented by these countries to the Donor Meeting (February 1999).

UNEP, UNDP and the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago organized a Training Workshop on Integrated Environmental Reports and Assessments for the Caribbean, which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 9 to 12 November 1999.

**Decision 10**  
**Shared positions in relation to the sixth and seventh sessions**  
**of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

UNEP/ROLAC also actively participated in the Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Development from 19 to 21 January 2000 in Santiago, Chile, which was organized by the General Secretary of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECLAC.

UNEP/ROLAC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Earth Council to support the participation of the National Councils on Sustainable Development of Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Forum of the National Councils on Sustainable Development prior to the Eighth Meeting of the Council on Sustainable Development.

See also Decision 9 in the current document.

**Decision 11**  
**Environmental impacts of the El Niño/ Southern Oscillation**

UNEP/ROLAC and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought will support the meeting being promoted by the National Environment Commission of Chile, to be held in the 2000, for an exchange of experiences to confront the environmental impacts of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation.

**Decision 12**  
**Embargo against Cuba**

At the request of the Department of Political Affairs of the General Secretariat of the United Nations, a report was prepared and transmitted to it on the set of successive decisions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean opposing the embargo against Cuba, which are in line with Resolution 53/4 of 14 October 1998 of the General Assembly of the United Nations (necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba).

### **Decision 13 Citizen Participation**

On 15 May 1999, efforts were initiated for the final updating of the large-scale joint UNEP/UNDP regional project on environmental citizenship, approved in March 1998 in New Delhi. The project document was finally delivered on 10 December 1999 to Mr. Mohamed El Ashry, Executive Director of GEF, in the framework of the Executive Council Meeting in Washington, D.C., for further processing.

In accordance with the new timetable, project initiation is proposed for early May 2000. At this stage, the efforts made to seek joint financing to complete the total cost of the project were of great importance and included the participation of the pilot countries: a total contribution of US\$ 736,800 in kind from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru and US\$ 90,000 in cash from the Government of the Federal District of Mexico, as well as the inclusion of the project in the UNFIP Business Plan 2000/2001 for a total of US\$ 328,180 and in the UNEP/the Netherlands Programme for a total of US\$ 350,000.

Seven countries, six regional networks, 390,000 radiobroadcasters, 924 parliamentarians, 205 municipalities, 34 national consumer organizations, 131 national IUCN organizations, and 2,811,000 members of the Latin American Council of Churches participate in the project. All these project participants have ratified and reiterated their desire to continue supporting the activities aimed at initiating the project, which indicates a high degree of regional interest in the project.

### **Decision 14 Sports and environment**

The Mexican Youth Institute supported UNEP in promoting the Millennium Youth Congress that was to be held in Hawaii, USA, from 24 to 29 October 1999, by printing 4,000 brochures and 1,000 posters.

The Executive Director of UNEP and the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNEP participated in the Third World Conference on Sports and Environment, organized by the International Olympic Committee (from 21 to 24 October 1999, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), whose main purpose was to present the Agenda 21 of the Olympic Movement: a practical and theoretical guide for the members of the Olympic Movement and athletes, which defines the basic concepts and general activities needed to guarantee that the Movement plays an active role in sustainable development. During the Conference, the Executive Director of UNEP gave an opening speech and a presentation regarding the global report on the state of the environment entitled "Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO-2000).

In December 1999, UNEP/ROLAC sent the Pan-American Sports Organization (PASO) a Memorandum of Understanding proposal for working jointly to promote the protection of forests and reforestation in degraded areas in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in other activities to create environmental awareness in the sphere of action of the Olympic Committees in the region. The Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed in mid April.

UNEP has offered its support for the games of nature, which will take place in Paraná, Brazil (date to be determined).

### **III. Implementation of the decisions of the twentieth session of the Governing Council of UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **Decision 20/1 Global Environment Outlook**

The second publication of the Global Environment Outlook – GEO-2000 – was launched on 15 September in London, England, and on 1 October 1999 in Lima, Peru. UNEP/ROLAC has a mirror web site containing the GEO-2000 presentation at the following address: <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/GEO2000/>. The Spanish version is under preparation.

Preparations are being made for the publication of a "Latin American and Caribbean Environment Outlook (GEO-LAC), which will be presented in a near future. A Caribbean regional consultative meeting was held on the Caribbean Environment Outlook (CEO) from 12 to 14 January 1999 in Kingston, Jamaica. The preparation of subregional reports on the state of the environment in Central America and the Andes will be initiated.

On 28 September 1999, at the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), UNEP and the European Union presented three reports on the environmental conditions in SIDS in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean.

On 9 October 1999, the Director of UNEP/ROLAC made an official visit to Suriname, where he made a presentation on "The state of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean" during the Meeting of the General Assembly of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences. He exchanged information with several members of the Academy of Sciences on the environment, the economy and society in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNEP has begun preparing the third report on the state of the environment entitled Global Environment Outlook 3 (GEO-3), which will be published in 2002. A meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 19 November 1999 to determine the main objectives of the global report and the process required to produce it.

The report on the state of the environment of Panama was published with the National Environment Authority. Support is being given to the preparation of reports on Cuba, Chile and Peru. Support for such efforts will also be given to Brazil and Costa Rica in the future.

UNEP, UNDP and the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago organized a Training Workshop on Integrated Environmental Reports and Assessments for the Caribbean, which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 9 to 12 November 1999.

See also Decision 9 in the current document.

#### **Decision 20/3 Programme for the development and periodic examination of environmental law beyond the year 2000**

UNEP held the third meeting to review the new Montevideo programme for the development and periodic examination of environmental law in mid January 2000 in Washington, D.C., USA.

### **Decision 20/4**

#### **Promotion of access to information, public participation in the adoption of decisions and access to justice in environmental matters**

UNEP/ROLAC has contributed important inputs to the activities aimed at formulating a global UNEP strategy on environmental information, promotion of public participation in environmental matters and access to environmental justice.

UNEP participates on the Committee for Assessing Inter-American Strategy Projects for Public Participation in Environment and Sustainable Development Decision-Making, directed by the OAS and sponsored by GEF, UNEP and other agencies.

The Strategic Action Programme for the Management and Sustainable Development of River Basins on the Atlantic Slope of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Border, submitted to GEF by UNEP and the World Bank, includes, as part of the strategy of the Action Plan for the Environmental Management and Sustainable Development of the Rio San Juan Basin, a strong component of public participation, social evaluation and binational information.

UNEP/ROLAC, in cooperation with GRID Arendal, will implement a project to improve access to environmental information in the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean and parts of Central America, which will begin in February 2000. The project is being financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Norwegian Trust Fund.

See Decision 13 and Decision 20/6 of this report.

### **Decision 20/6**

#### **UNEP policy and advisory services in important spheres of institutional strengthening**

UNEP and the Institute for Research on Peruvian Amazonia signed a memorandum of understanding for the participatory preparation of draft Regulations for the Law on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in Peru, with funds from the Government of the Netherlands. In the framework of this memorandum, a preliminary draft has already been discussed and submitted to review by a group of experts from various sectors at a national workshop and the final version is being finished.

A pilot project was carried out in Costa Rica to compile its environmental legislation in hard copy and in an electronic version for the Internet in the framework of the "Joint Environmental Information System" project between UNEP and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). As part of this project's activities, the complete texts of international environmental documents have already been placed on the Internet and, in a second phase, the text of the environmental legal regulations in the world will be added. The address of the homepage is: <http://www.ecolex.org>.

The manuals on environmental policy and legislation in Honduras, Panama, Guatemala and El Salvador have been completed, as well as the compilation of environmental legislation in force in these countries. The manuals were prepared with the Centre on Environmental Law of Honduras (CENDAH), the Legal and Administrative Orientation Association of Panama (ASLAP), the Institute of Environmental Law and Sustainable Development (IDEADS) and the Salvadoran Foundation for Environmental Law (FUNDASALDA), respectively, and funds were provided by the Center for International Environment Law (CIEL).

A judicial symposium on environmental law and sustainable development in Latin America was organized from 26 to 28 January 2000 at the headquarters of UNEP/ROLAC in Mexico City, Mexico (see **Annex III** to this report).

As Operational Secretariat of the Environment Commission of the Latin American Parliament, UNEP participated in its twelfth meeting, held from 22 to 24 May 1999 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and in its thirteenth meeting on 13 and 14 September 1999 in Mexico City, Mexico, where the topics of swapping debt for nature, the state of water resources in the region and environmental citizenship were discussed.

UNEP participated in the workshop organized by the Cuban Government from 2 to 5 November 1999 to prepare a draft law on the conservation and management of biological diversity. UNEP provided information to clarify the implications of the Convention on Biological Diversity for national laws in the country and distributed information documents on environmental laws and regulations in other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The UNEP Division for the Development of Environmental Policies and Law organized the Fourth World Programme for Training in Environmental Law, which was held from 15 November to 3 December 1999 at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and included the participation of UNEP/ROLAC, and participants from 50 developing countries and economies in transition.

The Environment Ministry of Colombia invited UNEP to participate in the event held on 18 November 1999 in Bogotá, Colombia, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the issuing of the National Code on Renewable Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. The Director of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) gave a lecture on behalf of Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of UNEP, on the significance of the Code to environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Decision 20/7**

#### **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

UNEP participates as an implementing and executing agency of GEF projects throughout the region, many of which are mentioned in the current document and in the ITC report (see document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4** and **Table 1** of the current document, which describe the GEF projects that are being developed in the region and those in which UNEP participates as principal implementing agency).

As a pilot initiative, UNEP/ROLAC, together with other GEF implementing agencies (UNDP and WB) assists as an observer and collaborator on the Mexican National Coordinating Committee for GEF Projects, whose purpose is:

- a) To promote the submission of a greater number of projects to the GEF Secretariat in order to obtain more external resources for Mexico.
- b) To guarantee that projects respond to a national strategic view and tap synergy by coordinating the efforts of government and society to achieve objectives where global and local benefits converge.

### **Decision 20/8**

#### **Additional improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies**

A Regional Environmental Unit for technical cooperation was established to promote the strengthening of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development at

the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA), and to assist in jointly setting up, planning and executing activities in the field of environment and in the strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation.

In response to the request of the President of the Environment and Development Commission, a preliminary assessment of the environmental damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America in November 1998 was conducted.

A proposal was prepared to conduct an environmental and vulnerability assessment of the Central American countries for the implementation of a regional natural disaster observation centre in Central America.

UNEP/ROLAC carried out an initial mission to Venezuela from 26 to 30 December 1999 to make a preliminary assessment of the environmental damage caused by the torrential floods that affected the central coast of the country in mid December.

The Executive Director of UNEP, together with the Director of UNEP/ROLAC, carried out a mission to Venezuela on 12 and 13 January 2000 to obtain more detailed information on the magnitude of the damage caused by the rains in December 1999. UNEP committed itself to collaborate with the Government of Venezuela in preparing environmental project proposals, including an early warning system, vulnerability maps, a land-use management programme and integrated watershed management, as well as to participate in another mission to quantify the economic, social and environmental damage caused by the rains.

UNEP collaborated with ECLAC and UNDP in making a social, economic and environmental assessment of the damage caused by the floods in Venezuela in mid December 1999. The mission was conducted from 17 to 27 January 2000.

### **Decision 20/9**

#### **The role of women in environment and development**

UNEP/ROLAC participates in the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Gender Matters in Mexico and designed and maintains a homepage on the Internet ([www.rolac.unep.mx/mujer98/memorias/index.htm](http://www.rolac.unep.mx/mujer98/memorias/index.htm)). In 1998, the Group conducted a campaign to combat violence against women, girls and boys. This year it is preparing a training programme for agencies of the United Nations system in Mexico on incorporating the gender perspective in public policies, and it will be promoting measures for gender fairness, as well as affirmative action in favour of women, in order to achieve equal opportunities for men and women.

UNEP/ROLAC is committed to incorporating the gender perspective in its projects. It has also taken into account the United Nations policy to promote women, increasing their presence among the staff of officers in the region, and has publicized the fact that a large number of women head environment ministries and entities in the region.

### **Decision 20/10**

#### **Land degradation: Support for implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

On 3 August 1999, the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Convention to Combat Desertification was inaugurated at the headquarters of UNEP/ROLAC.

See Decision 7 of this report.



**Decision 20/13**  
**Interinstitutional coordination group in the sphere of environment**  
**and the United Nations system-wide environment strategy**

The Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its meeting in Lima, decided to establish an Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), coordinated by UNEP. It was initially formed by UNEP, UNDP and IDB, and was subsequently joined by ECLAC and the World Bank. The purpose of ITC is and has been to present options for making the programming decisions of the Forum operational and to identify possible sources of funding for the projects.

UNEP participated in the two follow-up meetings of the inter-agency working groups of the Bolivia Summit, headed by the OAS (12 April and 22 July 1999, Washington, D.C., USA), since it coordinates the Group on Cleaner Production and participates in the proposal of the Network of Lawyers and Experts in Environmental Law and in the Project Evaluation Committee of the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation.

UNEP participated in the coordination meeting of United Nations agencies (Santiago, Chile, 6 April 1999), at which it was agreed to assign priority to the fight for equity and attention for the Caribbean as immediate lines for United Nations efforts in the region.

See Decision 8 and Decision 10 of this report.

**Decision 20/17**  
**Options of the Governing Council in relation to the Report**  
**of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements**

UNEP/ROLAC and the Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean are preparing a preliminary proposal for a regional programme of assistance to reduce the vulnerability of human settlements in Central America, an environmental management project for the Federal District of Mexico, a study on vulnerability in Venezuela and a meeting on environmental and urban management of large cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Executive Director of UNEP held a meeting with the Habitat Office in Brazil, where discussions referred to the most important urban environmental problems and the possibility of jointly preparing a GEO-cities report, following the methodology used for the GEO-2000 report.

**Decision 20/18**  
**Environmental conventions**

In an effort to strengthen the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in this region, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and the UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit undertook a study to complete the work already done in the Caribbean to facilitate the implementation of MEAs, as well as a guide with procedures for a more effective implementation. The report and the guide were discussed at a workshop in which participates experts from different sectors, organized by UNEP, which was held on 29 and 30 November 1999 at the ROLAC Offices in Mexico City. See **Annex II** of this report.

A list of Signatory States in Latin America and the Caribbean of Multilateral Environmental Agreements is available in **Table 2** of this report.

Also see Decision 20/31 of this report.

**Decision 20/19**  
**Contribution from UNEP to the seventh period of sessions**  
**of the Commission for Sustainable Development**

See Decisions 10 and 20/13 of this Report.

**Decision 20/23**  
**Management of chemical products**

A provisional management plan that includes a regional framework, budget, work plan and a chronogramme, was drafted by UNEP/ROLAC and other agencies in the framework of the Workshop "Management and Planning for the Regional Evaluation of Persistent Organic Pollutants" (Geneva, Switzerland, 17-20 May, 1999).

**Decision 20/24**  
**International activities to protect human health and the**  
**environment with proceedings to reduce and/or eliminate emissions**  
**and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the**  
**formulation of a legally binding international instrument**

The countries of Latin American and the Caribbean region are presently participating in negotiations related to the adoption of an international instrument aimed at protecting human health and the environment through means to reduce and/or eliminate discharges of persistent organic pollutants. An activity programme has been drawn up for year 2000 by UNEP's Chemicals Office in co-ordination with ROLAC.

**Decision 20/25**  
**Fresh water**

UNEP has concentrated its activities on the preparation of project proposals for mobilisation of resources, mainly from GEF. The proposals related to this focal area add up to over 38 million dollars and will benefit 8 countries. These proposals are in different stages of negotiation and approval and, in some cases, endorsement from participant countries is still pending (see **Annex II** of document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**). The OAS, executing agency of most of these projects, has greatly collaborated with UNEP's activities.

UNEP/ROLAC has also contributed to and supported several events directed towards this subject, including among others: the "Third Inter-American Dialogue for Water Management: Facing up to the Emerging Crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" organised by the National Environmental Authority of Panama; the International Conference "Water Resources in Latin America in the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Key Subjects for their Development", (Santiago, Chile, 25-28 May, 1999). This conference was organised by UNESCO's International Hydrology Programme (IHP) and the Chilean IHP Committee.

On 15 October 1999, the "International Global Assessment of Water Resources" (GIWA) Project was initiated. UNEP/ROLAC continues working with GIWA in the development of an action plan for its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNEP has developed a world water strategy and expects to develop a regional strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Forum of Ministers.

**Decision 20/26**  
**Biotechnology security**

UNEP and ECLAC/Mexico prepared a technical report on Politics, Legislation and Management of Biosecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean (see **Annex II, Summary 1** in document **UNEP/LAC/IGWG.XII/4**) complemented with inputs from experts who participated in the workshop held in Santiago, Chile, 29-30 November 1999.

**Decision 20/29**  
**UNEP's politics and advisory services in important fields of the economy, trade and financial services**

To carry out a study on the impact of economic policies on the state of the environment in Central America the terms of reference are being discussed with ECLAC/Mexico.

UNEP also prepared a document entitled "Study on the relationship between Free Trade Policies and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity".

**Decision 20/30**  
**The satellite communications Mercure system**

Functionaries from the Environmental Information, Management and Education Centre in Cuba, were trained on the use of the Mercure system (15-19 March 1999).

Assistance was provided to the Cuban Government for the operational inspection of station type B of the new system (15-19 March 1999).

UNEP/ROLAC is presently lending its support to Headquarters in the negotiations and approval of a new agreement with the government of Costa Rica.

Support has been provided for the moving of Mercure headquarters from Bolivia.

**Decision 20/31**  
**UNEP's Programme Budget proposal: revised needs for the two-year period 1998-1999 and foreseen needs for period 2000-2001**

The UNEP Governing Council, in its twentieth session, approved a total budget for UNEP of a US\$100 million. Based on this, the amount allocated in the current biennium to ROLAC will be increased. Document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3.Add.1 contains national and regional projects undertaken by UNEP with various governmental and non-governmental organisations. The contributions of countries to the Environmental Training Network Trust Fund are reflected in **Annex I** of the current document.

**Decision 20/39**  
**The performance of regional offices and proposed course of action for reinforcing regionalisation and decentralisation**

As a result of decisions adopted regarding UNEP's regionalisation and following a proposal from the Latin American and Caribbean Ministers, an important process in achieving this purpose has been given impetus. UNEP/ROLAC have benefited from the permanent support received from the Division of Regionalisation at Headquarters, which has permitted more fluidity and speed with regard to communications, decision-making and allocation of resources. The model of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean has been promoted by UNEP in the other regions.

## **IV. Other activities furthered by UNEP related to the increase in the flow of information and communication with governments and other environmental sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **1. Public Information**

#### **1.1. UNEPNEWS**

As of January 1999, UNEP/ROLAC is publishing a bulletin with the activities carried out every month by the Regional Office, including a list of coming events that can be accessed at <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/cronica/esp/news99.htm> in its English version and <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/cronica/esp/nuevas99.htm> in its Spanish version. The publication is sent via fax to all ministers of the environment in the region and via electronic mail to approximately 360 public and private institutions (news reporters, other UN agencies, academic entities, non governmental organisations, permanent representatives to UNEP in Kenya, etc.) and other individuals interested in the environmental thematic.

Several documents and publications have been widely distributed throughout the region, such as the decisions of the last period of sessions of UNEP's Governing Council; UNEP's 1998 annual Report; bulletins and publications of the Environmental Training Network; the Desertification Control bulletin; publications from the Environmental Law Programme, as well as information and forms on the following prizes; *Tyler Prize*, the *World Environment Centre Gold Medal*, the *Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environment Preservation* and the *Global 500*, among others.

#### **1.2 Environment Day**

In 1999, the World Environment Day was celebrated with numerous and diverse activities such as TV spots from ECO-Televisa with contributions from the ministers of the Environment in the region, conferences given by UNEP officers in different countries and distribution of commemorative posters and bulletins. The report on the activities carried out for the celebration of the World Day for the Environment 1999, can be found at the UNEP/ROLAC Web Site at <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/dmma99/ing/wed99.htm> in its English version and <http://www.rolac.unep.mx/dmma99/ing/wed99.htm> for its Spanish version.

#### **1.3. Awards**

The "Protection of Dry Lands" award was presented to six (Brasil, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru) for their contribution in preventing degradation and/or recovery of dry lands, and for meeting the defined criteria and indicators regarding the use of land, social and economic aspects and issues related to politics.

In a ceremony organised by UNEP, the "Wild" award was presented to four firms and their advertising companies at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 26 October 1999. The Wild Foundation and UNEP established the award with the purpose of increasing environmental awareness among corporations, and to encourage their support in the conservation and sustainability of wild life and to promote its responsible use in advertising.

UNEP's Environmental Sasakawa Prize in 1999, was awarded to Professor Mario Molina (Mexico) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to atmospheric chemistry in a ceremony held in New York on 17 November 1999.

#### **1.4. Publications**

During the period April 1998-December 1999, the different areas of the Regional Office contributed with several publications. Among them are six publications of the Environmental Training Network, four of which correspond to the series Basic Text on Environmental Training. The area of Natural Resources edited two studies and the first bulletin on Desertification, in English and Spanish. The Environmental Citizenship programme contributed with the publication of two support texts and the Division for Environmental Information and Evaluation produced 14 publications with different range among which the GEO reports (Global, from the Caribbean, Central America, Panama and Chile) stand out.

#### **1.5. Others**

UNEP has had an important presence in the media, granting radio, television and press interviews, as well as carrying out promotional and dissemination activities with regard to the environment.

### **2. Youth**

On 26 October 1999, a special youth edition of the Global Environment Outlook 2000 (GEO-2000) was officially launched. Entitled "Pachamama: Our Earth, Our future", the book follows the GEO-2000 methodology with a report that comprises a comprehensive evaluation of the state of the global environment based on inputs from 850 international contributors.

A GEO project for young people is being implemented with support from the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Canada that is expected to be completed by the end of 2000. The objective of this project is to formulate a report on the state of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of youth groups throughout the region.

UNEP/ROLAC collaborated in the organisation of the Second Regional Forum for Youth of Latin America and Caribbean on the Environment (Montevideo, Uruguay, 12-18 April 1999).

At present, UNEP/ROLAC is collaborating with representatives from UNEP's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) in the preparation of an introductory page in the Internet with the purpose of informing and communicating YAC activities. The YAC was created as the result of a youth retreat which ran parallel to the twentieth session of UNEP's Governing Council (February 1999) and as a response from UNEP's Executive Director to the recommendation of Chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which appeals for the promotion of a role and active participation of the youth in the protection of the environment and the fostering of social and economic development.

Finally, UNEP/ROLAC continues to collaborate with the youth and children in the Region, spreading the "Global Youth Sustainable Consumption Campaign", which was launched in 24 countries in November 1999 (Decision GS 20/L.4/Rev.1), and the "Children of the Millennium International Conference on the Environment" which will be held on 22 -24 May 2000 in Eastbourne, United Kingdom.

UNEP/ROLAC participated in the Youth, Environment and Development Workshop" held in Havana, Cuba on 16-18 August 1999.

UNEP and the Global Environment and Peace Foundation from Japan, organized the Ninth International Painting Contest, which was open until December 31, 1999 for children

between 6 and 15 years of age. The subject of the contest was "Preservation of our Beautiful Oceans, Skies and Forests for the 21st Century" and it was intended to awaken the interest of children all over the world and stimulate them to express their vision of the future of the environment through paintings.

Over 500 young people from around the world convened on 25-29 October 1999 in Hawaii, USA, to participate in the Millennium International Youth Congress to establish priorities for the new millennium. With the support of the United Nations, the Congress allowed young people, their teachers and leaders, to begin the new millennium with a clearer idea of what their peers in other parts of world consider as priorities. They also had the opportunity to convey to their leaders the priorities on which they must concentrate for the development of policies during the next century. The conclusions resulting from the Congress will be presented as an "Agenda 21 for Youth", following the model of the original Agenda 21 (an action plan for sustainable development) of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. To contribute to the organisation of the International Congress, UNEP/ROLAC formulated press releases, posters and pamphlets, distributing information in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. ROLAC also took the necessary steps to broadcast three radio and two television programmes in Mexico regarding this Congress and actively participated in the selection process of Mexican representatives to the congress and in fund raising activities to cover their travel expenses.

### **3. Ozone and a Cleaner Production**

#### **3.1. Ozone**

The performance of the UNEP/ROLAC ozone unit has been very dynamic in training activities for the protection of the ozone layer. During the period covered by this report, eight meetings of regional networks and four technical workshops were held with the participation of over 50 technicians in the region.

Counselling was provided to ozone officials in Latin American and Caribbean countries who have faced difficulties in complying with their commitments under the Montreal Protocol, particularly regarding the submittal of reports, the freezing of CFCs consumption and the implementation of a license system.

A report was drawn up on the observance status of the Montreal Protocol, especially regarding the submittal of consumption data of ozone layer depleting substances (see information document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/Inf.3**).

#### **3.2. Cleaner production**

Participation in the Fourth Annual Meeting of National Centres for a Cleaner Production of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and UNEP (Prague, Czech Republic, 7-13 March 1999).

Two cleaner production projects are being developed in hospitals in Brazil and on sugar production for Latin America and the Caribbean.

A cleaner production project is being developed in hospitals in Mexico in collaboration with the Cleaner Production Centre in this country.

A new Cleaner Production Centre was established in Guatemala in July 1999.

The first phase of a project is being executed in Nicaragua for the establishment of a Cleaner Production Centre by year 2000.

The Manual "Clean Production: A kit of training resources" was translated into Spanish in 1998. Available.

The Spanish translation of the Manual "Environmental Management in Industrialised Countries" is being edited. 1998.

On October 11, 1999, UNEP/ROLAC participated in the Fifth World Congress on ZERI (Zero Emissions Research Initiatives) in Armenia, Colombia, pronouncing a speech on behalf of the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan. Mr. Sánchez indicated that UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) have a commitment to contribute to the promotion and implementation of ZERI initiatives, as well as in disseminating complementary concepts related to processes of cleaner production and reduction of waste to a minimum.

UNEP participated in the follow up meeting of the Contact Group of the Bolivia Summit (Washington, D.C., USA, December 6, 1999).

#### **4. Coastal and marine environment in the Caribbean**

UNEP's Regional Caribbean Unit has carried out the following activities:

##### **4.1. Within the framework of the Protocol Relative to Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Agreement for the Protection and Development of Marine Environment in the Great Caribbean Region:**

The Caribbean Environmental Programme (CEP) has served as the focal point for the International Initiative of the coral reef in the Great Caribbean region and has reinforced the activities of the Global Monitoring Network of Coral Reefs. CEP collaborated in the preparation and dissemination of information kits for the International Coral Year and participated in the Meeting for the Co-ordination and Planning of the Initiative.

CEP has reinforced activities such as the development of a data base on protected marine areas (with contribution from the United States Fishery and Wildlife Service, the Biscayne National Park and non-governmental organizations in that country), as well as a regional network (CaMPAM), a training programme for instructors on protected marine areas and technical assistance.

CEP has continued negotiations with the government of France for the establishment of a Regional Activities Centre for the SPAW Protocol, stationed in Guadeloupe.

The Network for the Recovery of Marine Turtles in the Great Caribbean is in the process of completing the document "General Guidelines for the Management of Marine Turtles", which will be published as a CEP technical document.

CEP held the Fourth Meeting of the International Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) for the SPAW Protocol (Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999).

The 2000-2001 Work Plan and Budget for the execution of the SPAW Protocol was developed by CEP.

The Co-ordinating Office for the Global Action Plan for the Protection of Marine Environment from the Ground Persisting Activities (GPA), was established and is currently operating in The Hague, Holland.

**4.2 Within the framework of the Protocol Relative to Contamination from Ground Persisting Activities in the Great Caribbean:**

On October 6, 1999, the Contracting Parties to the Agreement for the Protection and Development of Marine Environment in the Great Caribbean Region (Cartagena Agreement) adopted in Oranjestad, Aruba, the Protocol Relative to Contamination from Ground Persisting Activities in the Great Caribbean, after a series of debates and discussions carried out during the Plenipotentiaries Conference that took place on 27 September to 6 October, 1999.

**4.3. Within the framework of the Monitoring and Evaluation of Environmental Pollution Programme:**

CEP sponsored the second course "On-scene Commanders" for those countries which could not attend the first course in Jamaica in 1996, regarding training on the procedures to respond to oil spills (Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, February 22 to 26, 1999).

CEP and UNEP's International Centre of Environmental Technologies organised a workshop on environmental technologies for the treatment of domestic sewage (Montego Bay, Jamaica, November 16 to 20, 1998).

**4.4. Regarding Information Systems for the Management of Coastal and Marine Resources (CEPNET):**

CEPNET's greatest accomplishment since September 1998 was the conclusion of the Project for the Reinforcement of Capacities for Management of Coastal and Marine Resources in the Great Caribbean Region (CEPNET/IDB). Information management systems were set up in Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

See document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/6**, for more information on activities of the CAR/RCU Caribbean Environmental Programme.

**5. UNEP National Committees**

There has been greater promotions of UNEP activities, with a noticeable revival of both Committees that publish bulletins, develop projects, organise events and promote UNEP's publications. Both Committees have reached a desirable level of activity.



**Table 1. UNEP's Portfolio of GEF Funded Activities**

**A. UNEP-GEF PROJECTS AT A GLOBAL LEVEL**

Project Title	Countries	TOTAL GEF Financing	Regional GEF Financing	Description of Project
Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity	<b>Bolivia</b> , Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, <b>Cuba</b> , Egypt, Kenya, Hungary, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia.	2,744,000	243,9110	The project will carry out country-level needs assessments and a global programme on awareness building on issues arising from the UNEP's International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology
National Biodiversity Strategies, Action Plans and First National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity.	<b>Bahamas</b> , <b>Barbados</b> , US, Belarus, Cameroon, China, <b>Colombia</b> , Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Gambia, Hungary, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, <b>Panama</b> , Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, St. Lucia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Vanatu.	Data no available	Data no available	The main objective of the project is to assist the governments of participating countries to prepare their National Biodiversity Strategies and action Plans (NBSAP) within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and prepare a National Report pursuant to Article 26 of the CBD and Decision 11/17 of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The NBSAP will define the current status of biological diversity, the threats leading to its degradation and the strategies and priority actions to ensure its conservation and priority actions to ensure its conservation and sustainable use within the framework of the socio-economic development of the country. The development of the NBSAP's will use a participatory approach to identify the differing perspectives, governmental, commercial, research and non-governmental establishments involved in the management, conservation, breeding and trade in biodiversity to address specific themes or issues. Where countries have already developed their NBSAP, the project will assist countries to prepare their first National Report to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.
Biodiversity Data Management Capacitation in Developing countries and Networking Biodiversity Information (BDM).	<b>Bahamas</b> , <b>Chile</b> , China, <b>Costa Rica</b> , Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Poland and Thailand	4,000,000	960,000	In support of Article 7 of the CBD, UNEP is providing assistance to countries to build their capacities to manage the data generated from these country studies through a GEF funded project, Biodiversity Data Management Capacitation in Developing Countries and Networking Biodiversity Information (BDM) (in the Bahamas, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Poland and Thailand). Assessment of data management capabilities and requirements of countries is envisaged for the near future.
Development of Best Practices and Dissemination of Lessons Learned for Dealing with the Global Problems of Alien Species that Threaten Biological Diversity	<b>Argentina</b> , Australia, <b>Chile</b> , Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, USA (especially the state of Hawaii). Other countries, particularly SIDS in the Asia/Pacific and Caribbean regions are also under consideration.	750,000	80,000	The project lays out the basis for a comprehensive approach to addressing the loss of biodiversity due to invasive exotic species through a scientifically-based global strategy and action plan. GEF funding for this project will be used for specific aspects of the project which relate only to a portion of the <a href="#">global strategy</a> for dealing with invasive species, that is that of defining the best current practices, and disseminating lessons learned from case study countries that are especially impacted by invasive exotic species, or which offer special opportunities for deriving useful lessons from their experiences.
People, Land Management, and	<b>Brazil</b> , China, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Papua New Guinea,	6,276,000	627,600	This project responds to demands by governments and local groups for models of biodiversity conservation within agricultural systems. The project collaborates with

Project Title	Countries	TOTAL GEF Financing	Regional GEF Financing	Description of Project
Environmental Change.	Tanzania and Uganda.			<p>farmers and local communities to identify appropriate conservation approaches that are socially and financially sustainable. By integrating locally developed knowledge of soil, climate, and other physical factors with scientific assessments of their quality in relation to crop production, a set of sustainable agricultural technologies can be devised to maintain crop and management diversity. Some existing management approaches based on cultural and religious practices already promote crop and soil conservation, including recognition of the importance of resource rights and tenure, gender livelihood strategies, and governance.</p> <p>The project's chief goal is to provide strategic advice and recommendations for achieving world food security while protecting global biodiversity by developing sustainable and participatory approaches to biodiversity conservation systems within agricultural systems. To reach this goal, the project engages local villagers and scientists in establishing demonstration sites in diverse types of ecosystems and areas of globally significant biodiversity, such as forest, mountain, semiarid, freshwater and wetland habitats in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas. Specific objectives are to:</p> <p>Establish historical baseline comparative information on agrobiodiversity and biodiversity at the landscape level in representative diverse regions.</p> <p>Develop participatory and sustainable models of biodiversity management based on farmers' technologies and knowledge within agricultural systems at the community and landscape levels.</p> <p>Recommend policies and approaches to sustainable agrobiodiversity management to key government decision-makers, farmers, and field practitioners.</p>
Land-Use Change, Agrobiodiversity and Global Environment Benefits	<b>Brazil</b> , Cote d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Kenya, <b>Mexico</b> and Uganda	248,000	56,685	<p>A major feature of global change in the tropical regions is that of land-use associated with agricultural intensification. Soil is the habitat of a diverse array of soil organisms, the activities of which contribute to the maintenance and productivity of agroecosystems by their influence on soil fertility. As intensification of agriculture occurs, above-ground biodiversity is reduced, one consequence of which is that the biological regulation of soil processes is altered and often substituted by the use of chemical fertilizers and increasingly mechanized tillage. The below-ground biodiversity may also be impacted by the increased use of pesticides and fertilizers. This may cause losses in ecosystem function, reduce the ability of agricultural systems to withstand unexpected periods of stress and bring about undesirable environmental effects. Project preparation activities are being undertaken to develop a project that will develop an inventory of agrobiodiversity, document ways in which farmers manage soil biodiversity for soil fertility and others benefits, assess and model the impacts of land-use intensification on soil biodiversity and the relationship between change in soil biodiversity and changes in the sustainable production of agricultural harvest, make an analysis of the costs and benefits for land practices incorporating higher agrobiodiversity and come up with policies to support such efforts.</p>

**B. UNEP-GEF PROJECTS AT A REGIONAL LEVEL**

Project Title	Region	GEF Financing	Project Description
Global Environmental Citizenship (UNDP/UNEP)	Argentina Chile Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru	3,212,000	This project will generate public awareness, increase levels of understanding of global environmental issues and mobilize support in Latin American countries for the objectives of the GEF operational programmes. The result will facilitate broad-based support for these objectives by relating them to the individual concerns of citizens, in order to foster a greater commitment to voluntary action that will be needed to guarantee the sustainability of GEF-funded measures within those programmes.
Establishment of a programme for the consolidation of the mesoamerican biological Corridor (UNDP/UNEP)	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama	10,940,000	This project is a joint initiative of UNEP within a region of rich biodiversity, crossing a diverse landscape of approximately 768,990 km <sup>2</sup> , and containing 8% of the world's biodiversity. This project build upon al regional and in-country initiatives to collaboratively from conservation and sustainable use programmes and harmonisation of regional policies.
A participatory approach to managing the environment: An input to the Interamerican Strategy for Participation	30 OAS Member States	720,000	The project aims to build capacity within the countries of the Americas for the successful incorporation of public participation, practice sustainable development policy, formulation and decision-making; to design mechanisms to improve communication and promote partnerships among Governments (national and local), NGOs, community and local groups, the private sector and academic organizations in these matters.
Integrated Water Resource Management and Sustainable Development of the San Juan River basin and its Coastal Zone	Costa Rica y Nicaragua	350,000	The project objectives were: stimulate environmentally-sound management of the San Juan River Basin, and serve as an example for the environmentally-sound management of the fresh water resources for supporting sustainable development in other river basins of the region.
Strategic Action programme for the binational Basin of the Bermejo River	Argentina and Bolivia	3,221,000	This project intends to develop a Strategic Action Programme that will promote environmentally sustainable Development within the Bermejo river Basin, taking into consideration the programme of investment being prepared by the binational Commission for the development of the upper Bermejo and Grande de Tarija River Basins.
An Indicators model for Dryland Ecosystems in Latin America	Mexico, Chile, Brazil	25,000 (initial project preparatory phase)	This project will provide the GEF and its partners, policymakers and non governmental organizations, and affected communities with a unique tool to identify vulnerable dryland ecosystems, develop appropriate management plans, and monitor the direction of change following the implementation of these plans. In the face of accelerated land degradation in the drylands, the unique bio-diversity of this biome and the livelihood of dryland residents are increasingly threatened. A baseline application of the <i>Indicator Model for Dryland Ecosystems</i> , which considers the spatial dimension of socio-economic indicators in concert with environmental factors, will allow policy makers to define site-specific national actions plans targeted at the stabilization of critical dryland ecosystems. Periodic updates of key land degradation indicators will allow for the measurement of progress towards stability and restoration. Currently, policy makers and non governmental groups alike in Latin America are without such a unifying framework for targeting and evaluating their actions in the face of arid land degradation. As the proposed model has, to date, been applied solely in a research setting, this project will focus on technology transfer to resource planners and managers.
Critical areas	Panama,	25,000 (for initial	Project preparatory activities are being undertaken to develop a medium-

Project Title	Region	GEF Financing	Project Description
within priority ecoregions in Latin America: Landscape Ecology and Gap Analysis for Conservation Strategies	Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay	project preparation phase)	sized project whose purpose is to build upon previous work of conservation assessments within 5 ecoregions in the six countries in Latin America by carrying out an ecoregional landscape ecology analysis to identify top priority unprotected sites for future conservation action.

**C. UNEP-GEF PROJECTS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL**

Project Title	Countries	GEF Financing	Project Description
Clearinghouse Mechanism	Bahamas	140,000	This project will assist the national government to meet its obligations under the convention on biological diversity
Biodiversity enabling activity	Barbados	144,000	The aim of the project is to assist the country with the ability to formulate and manage sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Integrated Management of Land-Based Activities in the Sao Francisco Basin	Brazil	4,770,000	This project develops a watershed management program for the Rio San Francisco Basin, which discharges into the South West Atlantic Large Marine Ecosystem and Brazil current. The strategic, integrated and sustainable program for the management of this system and its coastal zone to be formulated during this project will address the physical, biological, chemical and institutional root causes of the progressive degradation which is affecting the basin and, particularly, the coastal ecosystems.
Implementation of integrated Watershed Management practice for the Pantanal and Upper Paraguay River Basin	Brazil	6,620,000	This project catalyzes implementation of a detailed watershed management programme for the Pantanal and the upper Paraguay river Basin.
Biodiversity Enabling Activity	Colombia	253,000	The aim of the project is to assist the country with the ability to formulate and manage sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity through a cost effective approach within the context of national sustainable development efforts, and to report to the Convention on progress achieved in implementing agreed commitments.
Biodiversity Enabling Activity	Cuba	206,000	The aim of the project is to assist the country with the ability to formulate and manage sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity through a cost effective approach within the context of national sustainable development efforts, and to report to the Convention on progress achieved in implementing agreed commitments.
Climate Change Enabling Activity	Haiti	325,000	This project will assist the national Government to comply with the provisions of the UNFCCC.
Clearinghouse Mechanism	Panama	14,000	This project will assist the national government to meet its obligations under the convention on biological diversity
Biodiversity Enabling Activity	Panama	215,000	The aim of the project is to assist the country with the ability to formulate and manage sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity through a cost effective approach within the context of national sustainable development efforts, and to report to the Convention on progress achieved in implementing agreed commitments.
Biodiversity Enabling Activity	Saint Lucia	170,000	The aim of the project is to assist the country with the ability to formulate and manage sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Table 2: Signatory States in Latin America and the Caribbean of Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

Countries	CBD	CITES	CMS	Basel	Ozone	UNFCCC	CCD	Ramsar	Heritage	CONVEMAR
Antigua and Barbuda	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
Bahamas, The	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
Barbados	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
Cuba	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
Dominica	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
Dominican Republic	X	X			X	X	X			
Grenada	X				X	X	X			X
Guyana	X	X			X	X	X			X
Haiti	X					X	X			X
Jamaica	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Kitts and Nevis	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
St. Lucia	X	X		X	X	X	X			X
Trinidad and Tobago	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
Belize	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Costa Rica	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
El Salvador	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Guatemala	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Honduras	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mexico	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nicaragua	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Panama	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Argentina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bolivia	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brazil	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chile	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colombia	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ecuador	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Paraguay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peru	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Surinam	X	X			X	X		X	X	X
Uruguay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Venezuela	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	

Source: UNEP/ROLAC, december 1999

## **Annex I**

# **Report of Activities of the Environmental Training Network (1998-1999) and Proposal for its Development on the 2000-2001 biennium**

## **Annex I**

# **Environmental Training Network. Report of Activities (1998 – 1999) and Future Development in the 2000–2001 Biennium**

**1.** The purpose of this document is to present the XII Environment Minister Forum Meeting, the activities performed by the Environmental Training Network Program from the XI Minister Meeting held in Lima, Peru in March 1998. It also presents a proposal for the Network's development for the 2000– 2001biennium.

### **I. Background**

**2.** The IX Minister Forum Meeting, celebrated in Havana, Cuba, in 1995, set up the following priorities for the development of Environmental Training Network activities, which were confirmed by the X Meeting of the Forum of Ministers held in Buenos Aires in December 1996:

- a) To strengthen the postgraduate system in environment and sustainable development (including support for curricular design and environmental training pilot projects).
- b) To introduce environmental issues in higher education.
- c) To support environmental training at a community level and for local decision makers.
- d) To support training of teachers in the formal educational system.
- e) To promote strategies and policies on environment and sustainable development.
- f) To develop an editorial program.
- g) To establish an information system on environmental education and training.

**3.** The XI Minister Forum Meeting, held in Lima, Peru, in March 1998, decided to include education and environment training in the priority subject lines of the Regional Action Plan with the purpose of:

- a) Including the environmental dimension in every educational level and for different social sectors.
- b) To turn the education and training process into a basic tool for environmental management.

**4.** The Eleventh Meeting of the Forum of Ministers proposed the following lines of action for the Environmental Training Network:

- a) To promote, advise and support new curricular designs, to include the environmental dimension at different educational levels.
- b) To strengthen a postgraduate system in environment and sustainable development.
- c) To support training of teachers in the formal educational system.

- d) To support environmental training in communities.
- e) To strengthen an editorial program and the production of basic texts for environmental training in priority subjects for the region.

## **II. Activities Developed and New Initiatives**

**5.** The First Extraordinary Meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers for Latin America and the Caribbean (New York, September 19, 1998) approved the proposal presented by UNEP to develop an Interagency Regional Project on Environmental Education and Training" (IRPEET), to establish an *ad hoc* Interagency Working Group and to appoint a representative from the ITC agencies for the project. Also, upon examining the project, they suggested reorienting UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Programme from its academic scope, into a more ample program which incorporates other society strata and other levels of education - mainly basic education, government officials' training, -in particular at a local level- and which develops useful tools for adult education (in different formats and media, for instance with printed material, television, computer compact disks) and to include environmental education components in the execution of other projects.

**6.** Furthermore, in order to address IRPEET's proposal, the First ITC Meeting (Mexico, January 15, 1999) recommended: "To present at the next Inter Sessional Committee Meeting a proposal of an Interagency Regional Project on Environmental Education and Training, elaborated by UNEP in consultation with the Forum of Ministers and the focal points to be designated by UNEP, UNDP, IDB, ECLAC and WB as soon as possible. This proposal will be presented in the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers in Barbados" (UNEP/LAC/ITC.1/7, Annex I, page 10).

**7.** UNEP, UNDP, IDB and WB designated focal points in order to form the *ad-hoc* interagency group for the IRPEET. UNEP carried out an official mission to the ITC agencies (WB, IDB, UNDP) in order to explore possibilities for complementing, joint coordination and cooperation in the fields of environmental educational and training, as well as identifying opportunities and procedures in order to make interagency cooperation more effective, based on cooperating agencies' mandates, internal mechanisms and institutional procedures.

**8.** Consultations and measures carried out in this mission gave proof that conditions for the joint elaboration and implementation of the IRPEET are not firm, beyond the possibility of organizing a few individual activities in cooperation with the agencies. Project feasibility will depend on the possibility that Ministers more clearly binding agreements and commitments with the agencies in such a way that they make cooperation mechanisms more flexible and that they establish procedures which allow for the creation, coordination and joint execution of programs and activities, in particular with UNDP and ECLAC, and that they incorporate environmental education components into the education projects being developed and new projects to be submitted by the governments of the region to IDB and the WB.

**9.** In order to advance in the proposal on Environmental Educational and Training for the 2000-2001 Biennium and the organization of the Environmental Training Network, UNEP summoned a "Meeting of Designated Experts by the Governments in order to Formulate a Regional Project on Environmental Educational and Training for the 2000-2001 Biennium", held on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999.



**10.** Based on this consultation, UNEP started actions toward the development of two special projects for the Environmental Training Network Program, which could be implemented with the activities of the Interagency Technical Committee:

**A. Environmental Education and Training Project in Small Caribbean Island States**

**11.** A project document has been created for identifying the educational and training needs which relate to priority environmental problems in the sub-region and these include a program of activities scheduled and budgeted in order to be developed at different educational system levels which include professional training, informal education, communication media training and community training for the participation of natural resources in English-speaking countries (see **Summary 5, Part B** of document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**). Furthermore, a handbook on environmental education and training material for the participation of natural resources is being elaborated.

**B. Community Training Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest**

**12.** This project started with an understanding agreement signed between UNEP and Mexico's Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Fishing (SEMARNAP) in order to develop a "*Community Training Pilot Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests in Mexico*". Three meetings with directors and officials from SEMARNAP and associated institutions were carried out, establishing a Board of Directors and an Operational Coordination for the design and development of the project. A Workshop was also organized with the participation of the main operators and actors of selected areas community organization and training programs, for the project activity organization and scheduling (including the evaluation of training materials, pedagogical methods and community training workshop organization). A Project Document has been created and activities for the first year of operation have been scheduled (see **Summary 5, Part A** of document **UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4**).

**13.** In compliance with the mandate established by the XI Minister Meeting, the following activities were developed under the Environmental Training Network Program:

**A. Evaluation, updating and new courses in order to incorporate emerging environmental issues**

- a) Postgraduate Course in Economy, Energy and Environmental Policies (IDEE/Bariloche Foundation), Argentina.
- b) Masters' Degree in Agroforestry for Ecodevelopment, Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo, Mexico.
- c) International Diploma in Remote Perception and Geographical Information Systems, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico.
- d) Masters Degree in Sustainable Tourism, Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit, Mexico.

**B. Support to activities for the development of National ET Networks and National environmental education programs:**

- a) VI Ibero-American Environmental Education Symposium, Chile, Nov/98.
- b) IV Ibero-American Advisory Meeting on Postgraduate Studies, Cuba, Nov/98.
- c) IV National Congress on Environmental Sciences, Mexico, May/99.
- d) National Encounter on Environmental Education, Argentina, May/99.
- e) IV National Environmental Training Network Meeting, Colombia, Jun/99.
- f) International Forum on Environmental Training, FORAM 99, Cuba, Jun/99.
- g) II Congress on Environmental Education, Cuba, Jun/99.
- h) National Forum on Universities and Environment, Peru, Oct/99.
- i) National Forum on Environmental Education, Mexico, Oct/99.
- j) II Seminar on Universities and Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, Colombia, Nov/99.

**C.** During the two-year period 1998-1999, 52 activities (meetings, courses, seminars, workshops) were supported in 9 countries, where 4000 professionals of the region participated and received training, 73 of which received support from the Program Fellowship Fund (see **Appendix 1** to this **Annex I**).

**D. Editorial Program**

**14.** During the two-year period 1998-1999, eleven texts and handbooks on environmental education and training were published (Annex 2). Four issues of the **Environmental Training** Newsletter (22-25) were published and they were distributed to 3,500 Spanish-speaking subscribers and to 500 English-speaking subscribers.

**Program Activities Funding**

**15.** During the two-year period 1998-1999, UNEP covered operational and personnel costs for the Network Coordination for the amount of 411,526.00 dollars.

**16. Table 1** presents the current status of regional government contributions to the ETN Trust Fund (the years of the deposits are not indicated because these are credited in order to cover contributions due in past years). **Table 2** presents the flow of payments deposited in 1996-1999. **Table 3** presents the 1996-1999 Network operational budget. From these tables, we gather the following information:

- a) From a \$ 185,000 yearly contribution level established for the Environmental Training Network Trust Fund, countries have covered average annual contributions of approximately \$ 115,000 US dollars.
- b) Government contributions increased in 1997 and 1998 at the time the Network acting fields widened, according to the IX, X and XI Minister Forum Meeting's decisions.
- c) Country contributions decreased again in 1999.

- d) The Network operational budget increased to \$180,000 US dollars in 1998 and to \$ 143,500 US dollars in 1999 due to the increase in the government contribution flow in 1997 and 1998. This allowed for the development of the Network editorial program and to cover the Network secretarial support, from 1998 on.
- e) Personnel cost represented 34% of the budget for 1998 and 36%, for 1999. In 1999, program support personnel was reduced to a secretary and an assistant editor.
- f) The highest budget has been assigned to the program fellowship fund (55% en 1996, 50% in 1997, 25% in 1998 and 24% in 1999).
- g) Between 1998 and 1999, 17% of the budget was devoted to the Network editorial program (consultants and basic text and handbook publishing costs). This high cost/benefit ratio to the Network editorial program was possible due to co-edition agreements with universities, publishing houses and international agencies.
- h) The **Environmental Training** newsletter edition, translation and distribution went up to 15,000 dollars in 1998 (8% of the budget); in 1999, the same amount was maintained in spite of having reduced its extension and periodicity (two issues per year) because of printing cost increase and distribution to an increasing number of subscribers.
- i) Official travel has maintained reduced costs (8% of the budget), as over 50% of the official mission travel costs for advisory services and participation in meetings, were covered by partner institutions
- j) The current levels of contribution to the Fund are not sufficient to comply with the Network mandate.

#### **Development of the Environmental Fund Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean for the two-year period of 2000-2001**

**17.** Based on priorities expressed by the Ministers in the Minister Meetings held in Lima, Peru, in March, 1998, in New York, on September 19, 1998 and in Lima, Peru, in October 1999; on ITC consultations; on the Expert Meeting recommendations in April 1999 and on Environmental Training Network developments, including new projects ("Forests" and "Caribbean"), the XII Minister Forum Meeting will be able to consider the following proposal for the development of the Environmental Training Network for the 2000-2001 biennium.

#### **A. Priorities, Organization and Funding**

**19.** Ministers must establish criteria and priorities as well as make decisions on the Trust Fund and on coordination mechanisms for the development of Network activities. The following points are presented to Ministers' consideration for their decisions:

- a) To extend the Network Trust Fund work until the XIII Minister Forum Meeting is held.
- b) To update due payments to the Network Trust Fund, which constitute the basic operation fund for the Program. The Network should give special attention to countries that have fulfilled their contributions to the Fund.

- c) To continue developing the Environmental Training Network Program with a comprehensive concept of the educational process, which incorporates citizen consciousness, basic education, technical and professional training, articulating the formal and non-formal educational process, and servicing different society sectors, focusing activities in priority environmental issues established by the Regional Action Plan.
- d) To establish priorities in order to allocate Network resources to its different activity lines (system of postgraduate courses: course selection and priority topics; training of mid-level and local officials; teachers' training for the formal education system; community training; support to national environmental education programs (forums, seminars, workshops).
- e) To strengthen the ETN publishing program for the production and dissemination of basic materials (books and manuals) in priority topics in order to systematize, synthesize and give the training process agents basic knowledge, methods and techniques for environmental management.
- f) To continue publishing the newsletter **Environmental Training**, reducing its periodicity and contents and widening the dissemination of Environmental Training Recent News via Internet.
- g) To establish coordination agreements between UNEP and the National Focal Points in order to promote, assess and make Network activities official:
  - i) To establish National Focal Points and to designate people responsible for the development of environmental education national programs and for their link with the regional Network.
  - ii) To create an annual program with activities to be developed with UNEP's coordination and support.
  - iii) To disseminate Network courses and activities in their country.
  - iv) To evaluate candidates to be supported by the Network for the exchange of experts, officials and trainees.

**B. Interagency Regional Project on Environmental Education and Training (IRPEET).**

**20.** Ministers should agree upon the continuation of the proposal presented by UNEP for the development of the Interagency Regional Program on Environmental Educational and Training that could include the following:

- a) Agreements on mechanisms and procedures, which allow for the coordination, complementing and co-funding of programs and projects and the development of joint activities.
- b) Agreements between Ministers of Education and Ministers of Environment to establish and strengthen national environmental education programs, where projects and activities related to the Minister Forum priorities can be developed.
- c) Steps to be taken by the Ministers of Environment with the Ministers of Education in order to include environmental education components into

educational projects which are presented in loan national proposals - and in the revision of projects in progress - to WB and IDB.

- d) Agreements on integration, coordination and cooperation mechanisms between UNDP and UNEP in order to develop joint environmental education and training, and capacity building activities, particularly between UNDP's Program Capacity 21 and UNEP's Environmental Training Network, and under UNDP/UNEP's Environmental Citizenship Program.
- e) To open spaces and to make mechanisms inside Global Environmental Facility (GEF) more flexible, in order to develop an education and training project in bio-diversity, climatic change and international water areas, including courses and workshops which cover the professional training gap relative to these topics, as well as community training in emergent problems: forest conservation and sustainable management, environmental risks, etc.
- f) To link the **IRPEET** to the development of activities which correspond to Chapters 36 and 37 of Agenda 21.
- g) To include the new special Network projects ("Forests" and "Caribbean") into the **IRPEET** and to ask for technical cooperation and financial support from ITC.

### C. Program of Activities

**21.** The program of activities for the 2000-2001 biennium can be integrated with the following activities:

- a) Support to the system of postgraduate courses in environment and sustainable development, particularly courses whose subject matter is included in the Minister Forum priority topics. These could include the following:
  - Latin American Postgraduate Course in Economics, Energy and Environmental Policy (IDEE/Bariloche Foundation), Argentina.
  - Masters' Degrees in Urban Environmental Administration (Consortio de Universidades de Argentina: Cordoba, Comahue, Mar de Plata, Resistencia).
  - Specialization Course and Masters' Degree in Agroforestry for Ecodevelopment (Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo), Mexico.
  - Specialization courses in agroecology and tropical forests sustainable management (CATIE, OET), Costa Rica.
  - Masters' Degree in Environmental Administration (Centro de Estudios Regionales Andinos "Bartolomé de las Casas", FLACSO-Ecuador), Cusco, Peru.
  - International Diploma in Remote Perception and Geographical Information Systems (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana), Mexico.
  - Masters Degree in Sustainable Tourism (Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit), Mexico.

- Postgraduate Course in Desertification Control and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Colegio de Postgraduados), Montecillo, Mexico.
- Diploma courses in environmental education, bio-diversity and sustainable agriculture.
- b) Training workshops for basic education teachers (at countries' request)
- c) Support to community training (through "Forests" and "Caribbean" projects).
- d) Strengthening of the Network's publishing program.
- e) Development of non-resident courses (via internet) on environmental education and training.

**22.** Planned publications include the following:

- a) *Ecological Economy and Environmental Policy*, by Juan Martínez Alier, co-edited by Fondo de Cultura Económica/UNEP.
- b) *New Environmental, Cultural and Ecological Rights*, co-edited by CIICH-/UNAM/UNEP.
- c) *Training Manual and Kit for the Participatory Management of Natural Resources*, elaborated by CANARI and co-edited by UNEP.
- d) *Basic Environmental Education*, by Naná Minnini and Enrique Leff, UNEP, Basic Texts for Environmental Training.
- e) *Environmental Health Basic Text*, prepared by INHEM, Cuba, co-edited by INHEM/OPS/UNEP.
- f) *Planning and Environment: Concepts, Methodologies and Instruments for a Sustainable and Socially Fair Development*, by Héctor Sejenovich and Guillermo Gallo Mendoza, UNEP, Basic Text for Environmental Training.
- g) Book on *Environment and Sustainable Development*, by Arturo Escobar and Enrique Leff.
- h) Book *The Social Appropriation of Nature*, by Enrique Leff.
- i) *Basic Text on Global Change: Impacts and Perspectives for Latin America and the Caribbean* (unidentified author).

**23.** This list could be enlarged upon identifying the need for new materials, which support education and training priorities defined by the Network and based on availability of fund for the editorial program. Government, university, agency and NGO agreements will be established for the joint edition of books, basic texts, manuals and seminar's proceedings, organized by the Network program. The following publications have been planned:

- a) Proceedings of the II Seminar on University and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/Colombia's Ministry of Environment/Universidad de Occidente).
- b) Proceedings of the First South American Conference on Environmental Economics (UNEP/Facultad de Agronomía-UBA/SERNAH), Argentina.
- c) Proceedings of the Workshop on "Interdisciplinarity" (Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Environment, Brazil/UNEP).

**Table 1. Contribution status to the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean Trust Fund (1990-1999)**

**Contribution in US dollars**

Countries	Annual fee since 1990	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Due balance 1990-2000
ARGENTINA	20.000	0	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	0	0	60.000
BRAZIL	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	19.981	0	0	0	0	80.019
COLOMBIA	20.000	12.000	5.985	9.985	3.872	12.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	0	0	96.158
MEXICO	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	14.674	0	25.326
CHILE	12.000	6.000	0	10.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	0	0	38.000
VENEZUELA	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	0	0	24.000
BARBADOS	5.000	0	4.322	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.000	0	40.678
BOLIVIA	5.000	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.000
CUBA	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.000	5.000	5.000	0	0	55.000
COSTA RICA	5.000	2.416	0	0	0	1.121	0	0	0	0	0	0	51.463
ECUADOR	5.000	10.000	5.000	5.480	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44.520
EL SALVADOR	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55.000
GUATEMALA	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	4.800	0	0	0	15.200
HONDURAS	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55.000
NICARAGUA	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55.000
PANAMA	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	0	0	10.000
PARAGUAY	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	2.800	0	0	0	0	0	27.200
PERU	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.614	0	0	57.272
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	5.000	5.000	5.000	2.500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42.500
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	5.000	0	5.000	0	0	0	0	5.000	4.762	0	0	0	35.238
URUGUAY	5.000	2.500	2.500	5.000	5.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>179.000</b>	<b>109,216</b>	<b>114,807</b>	<b>119,965</b>	<b>112,872</b>	<b>112,121</b>	<b>116.800</b>	<b>123.981</b>	<b>103.562</b>	<b>96.614</b>	<b>29.788</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>957.574</b>
OTHERS (*)										343	4.634		

**Notes:** a) Contributions include those registered in the Nairobi Network Fiduciary Fund Account by December 31<sup>st</sup> 1999.;

b) Country deposits are credited in order to cover past years due contributions, so they do not show the year of the deposit.

(\*) Additional contributions from international organizations, universities and NGOs.

**Table 2. Flow of Contributions Made to the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean Fund**

Contributions in US dollars

Countries	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Argentina	0	120.000	20.000	0	140.000
Barbados	0	0	0	5.000	5.000
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	17.647	0	0	0	17.647
Chile	0	63.000	10.000	0	73.000
Colombia	35.000	0	57.000	0	92.000
Costa rica	0	0	0	0	0
Cuba	5.000	0	10.000	0	15.000
Dominican republic	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0
Guatemala	10.000	4.800	0	0	14.800
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	19.297	20.162	29.033	14.674	83.166
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	10.000	5.000	5.000	0	20.000
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	2.500	0	12.614
Trinidad and tobago	5.000	4.762	0	0	9.762
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	0	12.746	49.227	0	61.973
FAO	0	0	0	4.500	4.500
Others *	0	0	343	134	477
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101.944</b>	<b>230.470</b>	<b>183.103</b>	<b>34.422</b>	<b>549.939</b>

**Note:** contributions correspond to those reported by our Headquarters in Nairobi by December 31<sup>st</sup> 1999.

(\*) Additional contributions from Universities and NGOs.



**Table 3. Allocation of Environmental Training Network  
Trust Fund Budget**

Contributions in US\$

<b>Description</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Consultants</b>	9.450	6.890	8.500	10.000
<b>Assistants</b>		10.100	39.736	18.000
<b>Administrative Support</b>	5.190	4.120	4.975	
<b>Secretary</b>			29.200	36.500
<b>Official Missions</b>	8.300	7.970	15.470	16.000
<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	37.050	51.200	44.525	35.000
<b>Fourth Ajusco Forum</b>		5.700		
<b>Equipment</b>		500	3.500	
<b>Newsletter</b>	6.260	10.000	15.000	15.000
<b>Basic Texts/Manuals</b>		2.770	15.000	16.500
<b>Communications</b>		6.570	4.400	2.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.250</b>	<b>105.820</b>	<b>180.306</b>	<b>149.000</b>

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**Appendix 1. Activities and Fellowships offered by  
the Environmental Training Network**

**January - December 1998**

Activity / Dates	Organizing institutions	Fellowships	Country of origin	Number of participants
<b>MEXICO</b> Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development 21 Jan/98	REGIONAL CENTRE FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (CRIM)	Technical assistance of ROLAC		30
<b>CHILE</b> Magister on Natural Resources and Environmental Economics 5 Mar/98 - 25 Jan 1999	UNIVERSIDAD DE CONCEPCION	Ana Cecilia Nava	Mexico	30
<b>CHILE</b> Summit of the Educational Council for the Environmental Protection (CEPA) Workgroup Meeting with authorities for the organisation of the Chilean Environmental Training Network 14 - 17 Apr/98	CONSORCIO EDUCATIVO PARA LA PROTECCION AMBIENTAL (CEPA) CONAMA	Technical assistance of ROLAC		40
<b>GUATEMALA</b> II Course on Environmental Economics 18 - 20 May/98	COMISION NACIONAL DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE	Ernst Giovanni Schram	Costa Rica	40
<b>PERU</b> II International Seminar – Workshop on Biological Control 18 - 22 May/98	RED DE ACCION EN PLAGUICIDAS Y SUS ALTERNATIVAS PARA AMERICA LATINA (RAAA)	Marcos Pacett Elizabeth Maturana Lucía Vásquez Soledad Martínez	Bolivia Chile Colombia Paraguay	45
<b>ARGENTINA</b> International Seminar on Sustainability, Biodiversity, Economics and Education 22 - 24 May/98	CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE LA EDUCACION DE LA REP. ARGENTINA (CTERA)	Technical assistance of ROLAC		200
<b>BRAZIL</b> III Meeting of the Sociedad Brasileña de Sistemas de Producción (SBSP) 26 - 28 May/98	SOCIEDAD BRASILEÑA DE SISTEMAS DE PRODUCCION (SBSP)	Technical assistance of ROLAC		150
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Seminar-Workshop for the Magister on Environmental Management 1 - 12 June/98	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE CORDOBA	Carlos Mercado Limones Rodolfo Santamaría	Mexico Mexico	30
<b>MEXICO</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> National Meeting on Regional Development "Nature, Culture and Regional Development" 3 - 5 June/98	ASOC. MEXICANA DE CIENCIAS PARA EL DESARROLLO REGIONAL, INST. INVESTIGACIONES ECONOMICAS/UNAM	Technical assistance of ROLAC		150
<b>COSTA RICA</b> Course on Agroecology 98-7 16 June - 27 July/98	ORGANIZACION DE ESTUDIOS TROPICALES	Yolanda Nava Ortiz Enrique J. Dalmau	Mexico Cuba	35

Activity / Dates	Organizing institutions	Fellowships	Country of origin	Number of participants
<b>MEXICO</b> Annual Congress "Universidad y Cambio de Epoca" 17 - 19 June/98	UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA, PLANTEL GOLFO CENTRO DE PUEBLA	Technical assistance of ROLAC		60
<b>MEXICO</b> Forum "Great Mankind Challenges at the Beginning of the Third Millennium" 27 June/98	UNIVERSIDAD PEDAGOGICA NACIONAL	Technical assistance of ROLAC		80
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Seminar "Regional and Urban History" Magister on Environmental Management of the Development 29 June - 28 July/98	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE MAR DEL PLATA	Enrique Fernández Figueroa	Cuba	60
<b>MEXICO</b> I Latin American Meeting on Environmental Psychology 30 June - 3 July/98	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTONOMA DE MEXICO	Henry Granada Echeverry	Colombia	80
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Magister on Water Limnology 20 July - 7 Aug/98	INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE LIMNOLOGIA (INALI-CONICET)	Lian López Hernández-Pombo Ma. Josefa Sánchez	Cuba Cuba	
<b>GUATEMALA</b> First Regional Congress on Environment and Sustainable Development 17 - 21 Aug/98	FLACSO-GUATEMALA	Technical assistance of ROLAC		180
<b>COLOMBIA</b> International Seminar on Environmental Management 24 - 26 Aug/98	INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS AMBIENTALES / UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA	Domingo Gómez Orea	Spain	70
<b>ARGENTINA</b> XXXVIII Latin American Postgraduate Course on Economics, Energy and Environmental Policy 24 Aug - 12 Dec/98	INSTITUTO DE ECONOMIA ENERGETICA (IDEE) / FUNDACION BARILOCHE	Fanny Solano Abarca Reinaldo Rojas Elvir Omar Aizpurúa Pino	Costa Rica Honduras Panama	30
<b>MEXICO</b> VII Course on Agroforestry for the Development 6 - 26 Sep/98	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA CHAPINGO	Carmelo Ventura Ganci Ma. Teresa Balderrama Diana Alvira Reyes Gloria Isabel Gómez Julio Roqueme Marrugo Mildred Soca Pérez Carlos G. Rosales Hugo Domínguez	Argentina Bolivia Colombia Colombia Colombia Cuba Honduras Paraguay	60
<b>PERU</b>	ESCUELA ANDINA DE	Technical assistance		30

Activity / Dates	Organizing institutions	Fellowships	Country of origin	Number of participants
Course on Environmental Management and Development, Magister on Environmental Management and Development 14 - 16 Sep/98	POSTGRADO DEL CENTRO BARTOLOME DE LAS CASAS	of ROLAC		
<b>COLOMBIA</b> II International Seminar on Agroforestry 28 September - 2 Oct/98	CORPORACION UNIVERSITARIA DE CIENCIAS APLICADAS Y AMBIENTALES (UDCA)	Carlos Alberto Rossi Alberto Hofer Meyer Ma. Dolores Espino	Argentina Chile U.S.A.	50
<b>ARGENTINA</b> International Meeting "Agenda 21 and the Perspectives of the Sustainable Development" 27 - 30 Oct/98	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE CORDOBA	Technical assistance of ROLAC		60
<b>CHILE</b> V Latin American Workshop and Seminar on Anaerobic Treatment of Waste Water 27 - 30 Oct/98	UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE VALPARAISO	Oscar Armando Monroy Adalberto Noyola Robles	Mexico Mexico	50
<b>CHILE</b> IV International Congress on Natural Resources Management and VI Ibero-American Symposium on Environmental Education 23 - 27 Nov/98	CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS AGRARIOS Y AMBIENTALES, IUCN, UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DE TEMUCO, CONAMA	Ma. Alejandra Navarrete Cecilia Ayón Cárdenas	Mexico Mexico	150
<b>CUBA</b> IV Consulting Meeting on the Postgraduate on Environmental Education in Ibero-America 24 - 27 Nov/98	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, (CENTRO DE INFORMACION, GESTION Y EDUCACION AMBIENTAL (CIGEA)), ASOC. UNIVERSITARIA IBEROAMERICANA DE POSGRADO (AUIP), UNION DE UNIVERSIDADES DE AMERICA LATINA (UDUAL)	Pablo Freire Vieira Oscar Parra Julio Carrizosa Orlando Sáenz Zapata Víctor Bedoy Blanca Masulli	Brazil Chile Colombia Colombia Mexico Paraguay	140
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Technical Assistance Programme to the Dirección Nacional Fortalecimiento Institucional of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Argentina 14 - 18 Dec/98	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Nana Minnini	Brazil	

January - December 1999

Activity / Dates	Organizing institutions	Fellowships	Country of origin	Number of participants
<b>MEXICO</b> Magister on Agroforestry for Sustainable Development 11 Jan-Dec 1999	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA CHAPINGO	Ma. Teresa Balderrama Julio Roqueme Marrugo Daniel Callo Concha	Bolivia Colombia Peru	20
<b>COSTA RICA</b> Course on Tropical Environment and Conservation 99-2 19 Jan-8 Mar 1999	ORGANIZACION DE ESTUDIOS TROPICALES	Dayami Hernández	Cuba	50
<b>MEXICO</b> Seminar "Aprender a Aprender: La Complejidad Ambiental" 15 - 17 Feb 1999	CIICH/UNAM AND UNEP	Rubén Pesci Daniel Luzzi Isabel Moura Carvalho Jorge Osorio Vargas	Argentina Argentina Brazil Chile	15
<b>CHILE</b> Magister on Natural Resources and Environmental Economics 2 Mar 1999-Jun/2000	UNIVERSIDAD DE CONCEPCION	Venancio Cuevas Reyes	Mexico	25
<b>PERU</b> Magister on Environmental Management and Development 18 - 26 Mar 1999	ESCUELA ANDINA DE POSTGRADO DEL CENTRO BARTOLOME DE LAS CASAS	Orlando Sáenz Zapata	Colombia	40
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Seminar-Workshop for the Postgraduate Course on Environmental Economics and Policy 22 - 27 Mar 1999	INSTITUTO DE ECONOMIA ENERGETICA (IDEE) / FUNDACION BARILOCHE	Arturo Villavicencio	Ecuador	15
<b>MEXICO</b> Meeting of Experts on Environmental Education 26 - 27 Apr 1999	COMITE INTERSESIONAL DEL FORO DE MINISTROS AND UNEP/ORPALC	Martha Roque José Pereira V.	Cuba Ecuador	15
<b>COSTA RICA</b> Field Course "Ecological Principles for Sustainable Development in Latin America 99-8 17 - 30 Apr 1999	ORGANIZACION DE ESTUDIOS TROPICALES	Víctor Antonio Osuna	Mexico	30
<b>MEXICO</b> IV National Congress on Environmental Sciences 23 - 25 May 1999	ACADEMIA NACIONAL CIENCIAS AMBIENTALES/ANUIES, UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DEL ESTADO DE MEXICO	Eloísa Tréllez	Peru	100
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL	None		30

<b>Activity / Dates</b>	<b>Organizing institutions</b>	<b>Fellowships</b>	<b>Country of origin</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>
Postgraduate on Territorial Legislation and Environment in Latin America 17 - 20 May 1999	DE TUCUMAN	Technical assistance by ROLAC		
<b>ARGENTINA</b> National Meeting on Environmental Education, Programme for Institutional Environmental Education (PRODIA) 20 - 21 May 1999	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		150
<b>COLOMBIA</b> IV National Meeting and Academic Seminar on Environmental Education 3 - 5 Jun 1999	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE COLOMBIAN ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK	Marco Aurelio Márquez René González Rego	Chile Cuba	120
<b>CUBA</b> I International Workshop on Environmental Training "FORAMB '99" 10 - 12 Jun 1999	CEMARNA/UNIVERSIDAD DE PINAR DEL RIO, CITMA, UNEP	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		30
<b>CUBA</b> II Congress on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development 14-19 Jun 1999	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		300
<b>COSTA RICA</b> Course on Agroecology 99-7 7 Jul-24 Aug 1999	ORGANIZACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS TROPICALES (OET)	Angélica Ruiz Font	Mexico	50
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Postgraduate Course on Environment and Sustainable 27 - 28 Aug 1999	CONFEDERACION DE TRABAJADORES DE LA EDUCACION DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA (CTERA)	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		160
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Postgraduate Course on Environment and Development, Magister on Urban Environmental Management 30 Aug-2 Sep 1999	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE CORDOBA	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		40
<b>ARGENTINA</b> Postgraduate Course on Environment and Development, Magister on Urban Environmental Management 3 - 4 Sep 1999	UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE MAR DEL PLATA	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		40
<b>MEXICO</b> VIII Course on Agroforestry for Ecological Development 5 - 25 Sep 1999	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA CHAPINGO	Celia Beatriz Linares Paula Helena Somlay Edilberto Romero Ramón Ramos Callapino Idoris Monzón	Argentina Argentina Belize Bolivia Cuba Honduras	60

Activity / Dates	Organizing institutions	Fellowships	Country of origin	Number of participants
		Medina Aroldo Dubón Dubón Jorge Antonio Dávalos Pablo Enciso Jiménez Salvador Flores Paitán	Paraguay Paraguay Peru	
<b>PERU</b> National Forum on Universities and Environment 4 - 5 Oct 1999	CONSEJO NACIONAL DEL AMBIENTE (CONAM)	Julio Carrizosa	Colombia	100
<b>CHILE</b> International Seminar on "Participation, Poverty and Sustainable Development" 6 - 8 Oct 1999	FONDO DE LAS AMERICAS-CHILE, CHILEAN ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING NETWORK	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		250
<b>MEXICO</b> National Forum on Environmental Education 18 - 22 Oct 1999	GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO DE AGUASCALIENTES, ANUIES, CECADESU/SEMARNAP	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		300
<b>COLOMBIA</b> II Seminar on University and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean 24 - 26 Nov 1999	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE OCCIDENTE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	Héctor Sejenovich Dimas Floriani Arturo Escobar	Argentina Brazil USA	400
<b>ARGENTINA</b> I Conference-Workshop on Environmental Economics and Policy for Argentina and the South Cone 29 - 30 Nov99	UNIVERSIDAD DE BUENOS AIRES AND GTZ	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		150
<b>BRAZIL</b> Workshop on Interdisciplinarity 2 - 3 Dec 1999	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, INPE	None Technical assistance by ROLAC		40
<b>COLOMBIA</b> Postgraduate on Sustainable Tropical Production in Agriculture 5 - 11 Dec 1999	UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS LLANOS	Miguel Altieri Clara Inés Nicholls	USA	35

**Appendix 2. Environmental Training Network Publications (1998-1999)**

- a) *Economics of Bio-diversity*, by Alejandro Toledo, Series: Basic Texts for Environmental Training, No. 2, UNEP, 1998.
- b) *Environmental Knowledge: Sustainability, Rationality, Complexity, Power*, by Enrique Leff, co-edited by Siglo XXI Editors/UNAM/UNEP, 1998.
- c) *Manual for the Environmental Promoter and Educator for Sustainable Development*, by Joaquín Esteva and Javier Reyes, SEMARNAP/UNEP, 1999.
- d) *Basic Agro-Forestry*, by L. Krishnamurthy and Marcelino Ávila, Series: Basic Texts for Environmental Training, No. 3, UNEP/FAO, 1999.
- e) *Manual on Community Environmental Knowledge*, by Maritza Gómez, Series: Environmental Training Manuals, No. 1, UNEP, 1999.
- f) *Manual on Community Environmental Training*, by Gonzalo Abella and Ramón Fogel, Series; Environmental Training Manuals, No. 2, UNEP, 1999.
- g) *Environmental Complexity*, by several authors, Collection "Aprender a Aprender", Siglo XXI/UNAM/UNEP, 2000.
- h) *Basic AgroEcology: Theory and practice for sustainable development*, by Miguel Altieri and Clara Nicholls. Series: Basic Texts for Environmental Training, No. 4, UNEP, 2000.
- i) *Training Manual for the Sustainable Management of Bio-Diversity Resources for Indigenous Populations in Latin America and the Caribbean*, by Eckart Boege. Series: Environmental Training Manuals, No. 3, UNEP/Fondo para los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina/ Instituto Nacional Indigenista de México, 2000.
- j) *Manual on Agro-Ecological Techniques*, by Miguel Ángel Núñez, Series: Environmental Training Manuals, No. 4, UNEP, 2000 (in print).
- k) *Ecological Economics and Environmental Policies*, by Juan Martínez Alier, Fondo de Cultura Económica/UNEP, 2000 (now editing).

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**Annex II**

**Implementation of Multilateral  
Environmental Agreements (MEA)**

## **Annex II Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)**

This document is the basis for the discussions mentioned in item 5 of the provisional agenda, with comments, by the experts' segment of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, which includes a summary of the document entitled Implementation of Environmental Multilateral Agreements (MEA) in the Caribbean and the guidelines for its effective implementation; it was revised and enhanced by a distinguished group of experts at a meeting called by UNEP and held on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999 in Mexico City, Mexico. This document includes concrete proposals on activities or projects to promote the more effective implementation of MEA's in the Caribbean and other sub-regions.



## **Annex II**

### **Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) in the Caribbean: Report and Guidelines**

**1. Author:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**2. Brief summary of document**

- a) *Problem:* MEAs in the Caribbean face problems that inhibit their effective implementation such as: inadequate funding, insufficient human resources; inadequate training; technical considerations relating, for example, to the absence of an integrated approach to issues at the national level; weak government infrastructure and non-compliance with the law, even when laws are in existence. Generally speaking, Caribbean MEA implementation remains imperfect and the long-term sustainability of current mechanisms is uncertain.

However certain features, that are generally regarded as important components for the successful implementation of MEAs, may be identified and replicated. These features derive from the particular legal, historical, social, economic and environmental characteristics of CARICOM countries.

- b) *Action taken to date:* UNEP is highlighting the importance and working towards the implementation of MEAs globally. In this regard, the latest issue of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) publication devoted an entire chapter to analysing the impact of MEAs and other policies on the environment. UNEP has also recently created a division for coordination of MEAs. Two important workshops were organised by UNEP last year: A "Workshop on enforcement of and compliance with MEAs" (Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 July 1999) and a "Working Group of Experts on Enforcement and Implementation of Environmental Conventions: preparatory session" (Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 December 1999). Within this context, UNEP/ROLAC organised a workshop on the implementation of MEAs in the Caribbean, held in Mexico City, Mexico, 29-30 November 1999. This workshop included the elaboration of a Report and Guidelines on the Implementation of MEAs.

**3. Consistency between the topic and the priorities of the Ministers (Action Plan)**

Activities for the implementation of MEAs in the Caribbean address the first priority topic of the Regional Environmental Action Plan (Annex I, Appendix I, of the Final Report of the XI Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean) with regard to "institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management," particularly, "environmental management."

#### 4. Suggested lines of action

##### 4.1. Implementation of MEAs in the Caribbean

According to the guidelines on the implementation of MEAs in the Caribbean, suggested lines of action are:

- a) *Environmental treaty making*: Provide, as appropriate, for the involvement by the technical focal point in the negotiation, conclusion and acceptance of MEAs.
- b) *The technical focal point - the national implementing agency*: Ensure that the technical focal point is the national lead environmental agency.
- c) *Resource and project based activity*: Acquire and retain specialist skill and expertise in project proposal preparation. Ensure the development of local expertise and competence in the execution of projects. Cooperate in MEA implementation by working through existing regional organisations such as CARICOM, CEP/UNEP, OECS, ACS.

##### 4.2 Implementation of MEAs in other subregions of Latin America

The workshop on MEAs implementation in the Caribbean (Mexico City, Mexico, 29-30 November 1999) along with the Report and the Guidelines proved to be very useful for countries of the English speaking Caribbean. It is suggested that similar workshops and guidelines be developed for other subregions in Latin America.

#### 5. Implementation of the suggested lines of action

##### 5.1. Dissemination of the guidelines on the implementation of MEAs in the Caribbean

- a) *Project*: Dissemination of the guidelines on MEAs implementation in the Caribbean
- b) *Financing*: US \$ 5,000, Governments of the region
- c) *Timeline*: 3 months
- d) *Cooperating agencies*: CARICOM, University of West Indies, Governments of the region, UNDP, OECS

##### 5.2. Workshops on the implementation of MEAs in other subregions in Latin America

- a) *Project*: Workshops on MEAs implementation in the Andean and Amazonian countries and the southern cone (including a report and guidelines)
- b) *Financing*: Aprox. US \$ 15,000 for each workshop
- c) *Timeline*: 4-5 months for the organisation and celebration of each workshop
- d) *Cooperating agencies*: Parlatino, UNDP, Secretariats of the Conventions, Governments of the region

## **Annex III**

# **Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean**

## Annex III

### Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean

This document completes the Secretariat's report on "Decision 20/6, politics, and counseling services of UNEP in important circles of institutional strengthening", of the Twentieth Governing Council of UNEP.

The first part includes a summary of the document entitled "Access to environmental justice in Latin America: Environmental Law and Sustainable Development". UNEP. UNEP. December 1999, and concrete proposals on activities and projects intended to promote access to environmental justice in the region.

The second part of includes the Statement of the Judicial Symposium on access to environmental justice held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2000 in Mexico City, Mexico, organized by UNEP and by the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente de México (PROFEPA) (Federal Bureau of Environmental Protection in Mexico).

**Part A:** A summary of the document entitled "Access to environmental justice in Latin America: Environmental Law and Sustainable Development". UNEP. UNEP. December, 1999.

**Part B:** The Statement of the Judicial Symposium on access to environmental justice held from January 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in Mexico City, Mexico, and organized by UNEP and Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente de México (PROFEPA) (Federal Bureau of Environmental Protection in Mexico).



## **Annex III. Part A**

# **Access to environmental justice in Latin America: Environmental law and sustainable development**

**1. Author:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**2. Brief summary of the document**

a) *Problem:* The lack of access to environmental justice – with very few, but valuable exceptions – is an issue that has recently begun to be raised in Latin America and the Caribbean. The role of the judicial branch and, consequently, the production and value of jurisprudence in settling environmental conflicts, as well as compensation or redress for environmental damage, are marginal. Existing preparation and capacity in the countries to deal with these cases is limited.

Some of the most outstanding problems concerning access to environmental justice are: the cost and time of litigation and the power of the litigants with their differences in economic and technical capacity to demand justice, as well as their capacity to organize; the extraordinary scientific-technical complexity of environmental cases; and the nature of the interests at stake, which are usually “collective or group” interests; that is, interests that apply to a large number of persons, many of whom are not and cannot be specifically determined. Enforcing these rights in courts of justice demands special organizational capacity on the part of those affected, which should be accompanied by the economic and technical capacity required by lawsuits that are usually expensive and complex. In addition to all these factors, it should be noted that these cases demand special preparation of lawyers and judges, which is not generally provided by the education that legal professionals receive. This last factor has already given rise to the question of whether it would be advisable to create courts specialized in environment or schemes of private law to settle conflicts by specialists in the field.

The expeditious and full settlement of these types of conflicts requires a legal framework that is consistent with the nature of the interests that it should judicially protect, which, in general terms and with very few exceptions, does not yet exist, at least in the form desired. The absence of this framework has resulted in a situation where environmental justice is inaccessible and has significantly contributed to the ineffectiveness of environmental law, thereby jeopardizing environmental protection and the viability of sustainable development.

b) *Action taken to date:* At the global level, UNEP has been greatly concerned about the situation regarding access to environmental justice in the world. To date, UNEP has organized three judicial symposiums on environmental law and sustainable development, which were held in Africa (Mombasa, Kenya, October-November 1996), South Asia (Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 1997) and South-east Asia (Manila, the Philippines, March 1999). These symposiums have been very successful, owing to the growing international interest in the role of the judicial branch in enforcing environmental law.



Consequently, UNDP considered it important to hold similar symposiums in the rest of the regions.

Thus, UNEP/ROLAC, in collaboration with the Mexican Federal Attorney General's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), organized a Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development: Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America, which was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 26 to 28 January 2000.

### **3. Consistency between the topic and the priorities of the ministers (Action Plan)**

The topic falls under the first priority topic line in the Action Plan, which is "Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environment management", particularly in relation to "environmental management".

### **4. Suggested lines of action**

In the Mexico Declaration formulated by the judges who attended the Symposium, it is suggested that UNEP follow up on the results of the event by, among other activities: (i) publishing and internationally distributing the material gathered at the Symposium; (ii) creating and operating an electronic forum for discussion and information exchange among the judges who participated in the Symposium and other judges in the region; and (iii) periodically organizing similar events.

### **5. Implementation of the suggested lines of action:**

The following project to implement the suggested lines of action is submitted to the Forum for consideration:

- a) *Specific project or line of action:* Promote access to environmental justice in Latin America and the Caribbean
- b) *Financing:* 1) Publication and international distribution of materials from the Symposium (US\$ 15,000), 2) Creation and operation of an electronic forum (US\$ 15,000 a year) and 3) Organization of one symposium for the English-speaking Caribbean and another for the countries of Mercosur (US\$ 30,000 for each symposium).
- c) *Time:* 12 months
- d) *Cooperating agencies:* supreme courts of justice, associations of judges in the region, Governments of the region

**Annex III. Part B**  
**Declaration of the Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development: Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America, held in Mexico City, Mexico, 28<sup>th</sup> to 28th of January 2000, and organised by UNEP and the Federal Attorney General's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA)**



Federal Attorney General's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA)

United Nations Environment Programme

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**Judicial Symposium on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development:  
Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America**

Mexico City, Mexico, from 26 to 28 January 2000

**W**e, the judges from nine countries of Latin America who have been convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Federal Attorney General's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) to participate, in a personal capacity, in the Symposium on "Environmental Law and Sustainable Development: Access to Environmental Justice in Latin America", held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 January 2000, have decided, upon conclusion of our work, to formulate the following:

## **DECLARATION**

- 1.** Convinced of the importance of enforcing the juridical instruments adopted, within their jurisdiction, by our countries to combat environmental deterioration, we have attended this Symposium to establish dialogue among people who, owing to the functions we perform, are involved in the enforcement of environmental legislation.
- 2.** This dialogue has allowed us to share personal experience and, on that basis, to formulate some considerations that are useful in our daily professional activities and, to some extent, can also be useful in both improving and enforcing environmental legislation in our countries.
- 3.** Our work in the Symposium has been aimed at concerns regarding access to environmental justice, understood as the possibility of legal conflicts of an environmental nature receiving from the jurisdictional bodies expeditious and full settlement, which, to the degree that it can be achieved by the courts of justice, will contribute to environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development.
- 4.** On the basis of the examination we have made of a document prepared for that purpose by the Latin American Association of Environmental Law, we have reviewed the way in which environmental justice has been administered in our countries in constitutional, civil, criminal and administrative matters. We have also considered the

international framework in which internal law in the countries of the region has been developed.

**5.** In this review, we have witnessed how, in a relatively short time, our countries have provided themselves with a legal-environmental system to implement public policies on the basis of which the Governments of the region are seeking to reverse environmental degradation and establish bases for sustainable development. These advances respond to certain common guidelines, although they are not exactly the same in all the countries.

**6.** The broad acceptance that the basic principles of environmental protection received in the last decades of the twentieth century in the Constitutions of the countries in the region drew our attention. It places the countries of Latin America at the vanguard in modern constitutionalism in the field of environment, and provides a firm base for the development of secondary legislation, as well as for the work of the judges, who should guarantee full compliance with constitutional norms, including those that refer to environment.

**7.** The important role that judicial practice has played in establishing constitutional law for an appropriate environment and the rights to procedural due process granted in the constitutions themselves to make this right effective also drew our attention. The dialogue that arose in this Symposium has enabled us to compare different experiences and to note the important contribution it has made to effective enforcement of environmental legislation.

**8.** We also noted the contribution to the development of environmental law and its enforcement in our region made by the rules the international community has been adopting in recent years for global, regional, subregional and bilateral environmental protection.

**9.** We believe, nevertheless, that much remains to be done in the field of developing environmental legislation and establishing appropriate legal mechanisms for the implementation of public policies to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. Judicial practice in our countries indicates that many of the legal conflicts that reach the courts of justice cannot be satisfactorily settled for the parties and for environmental protection itself. They are unprecedented problems that require unprecedented solutions.

**10.** In this context, our examination of numerous legal cases at this Symposium has enabled us to reach the conclusion that Latin American judges have been able to find some innovative solutions, to the extent allowed by the discretionary powers granted to them in the legislation in force. Not infrequently, these solutions have ended up being incorporated into the legislation itself. Jurisprudential environmental law has thereby been transformed into an important source of substantive environmental law.

**11.** We believe, however, that the profound changes that have taken place within society in the twentieth century and the emergence of new and dramatic problems demand juridical solutions that differ from traditional treatment, as is the case with problems that affect the environment. In recent years, environmental law has vigorously joined the characteristic changes being made by modern societies in this century. What remains to be done is, nonetheless, far more than what has been done so far.

**12.** In that regard, we have dealt with and are concerned about a number of issues aimed at promoting a system that will allow the expeditious and full settlement of such conflicts. Among other issues, these include:

- Legal procedures should be available free of charge as a condition for effective access to environmental justice. The lack of economic resources by the parties to the conflict and technical support for the courts

themselves are, at the present time, a serious obstacle, in view of the time allowed to submit evidence, particularly in the case of testimony by expert witnesses.

- Redress for environmental damage continues to be dealt with in accordance with rules drawn up for the redress of individual damage and with methods for the settlement of conflicts that do not conform to the judicial protection that should be administered in cases of collective or group interests.
- The consequent need, in these procedures, is to rethink the application of traditional principles of procedural justice, such as conformity and *res judicata*, the indispensable expansion of the legitimate sphere of action, and strengthening of the powers of the jurisdictional body during the proceedings, including application of the precautionary principle.
- Improvement of the performance of administrative bodies in the prevention and sanction of environmental violations, without prejudice to the role that should be played by criminal law.
- The importance of increasing citizen awareness and education as a means of ensuring their effective participation in controlling environmental damage.

**13.** We are certain that the legislative changes made will not eliminate the occurrence of environment-related juridical conflicts and the need for judges to seek settlement through solutions which sometimes may not be specifically included in the regulations established by public authorities. The diversity and complexity of the cases in actual life always surpass the provisions of the most experienced lawmaker. Thus, it is even more likely that this will continue occurring in the field of environmental law, where its principles and techniques will have to pass through a long period to gain maturity, in view of the diversity and complexity of environmental problems, many of which have not even been sufficiently identified.

**14.** Consequently, we believe that the task of the judges in this field will continue to be eminently creative and will require extraordinary efforts on their part to find the most appropriate solutions on a case-by-case basis. This will require ongoing training of the judges to enable them to meet the demands in this field, as well as the possible creation of specialized courts when possible and necessary.

**15.** We return to our countries convinced that we have participated in an event that has been extraordinarily enriching to us as judges and as individuals. We assume the commitment to disseminate the results among our colleagues in the courts of justice of which we form part and in our professional associations. We believe it would be of great benefit for UNEP to follow up on this Symposium, particularly by publishing and internationally distributing the materials gathered for this brief but intensive event; by facilitating the creation and operation of an electronic forum for discussion and the exchange of information among the judges who participated in this Symposium and other judges in the region who are interested in environmental law; and by periodically organizing similar events. And we think international and regional organizations, as well as national entities with responsibilities in this field, could contribute to this effort, as UNEP and PROFEPA have done on this occasion.

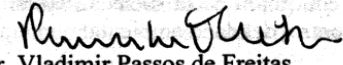
**16.** We express our most sincere gratitude to the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and to PROFEPA for having made this event possible and for having invited us to participate in it. We extend this gratitude to the Federal Judicial Branch of Mexico and to the Chief Justice of the Nation's Supreme Court of Justice and his

collaborators for the support received, as well as to the people and Government of Mexico for their hospitality.


Mexico City, 28 January 2000.



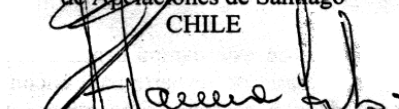
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Presidente de la Cámara Federal  
de Apelaciones  
ARGENTINA



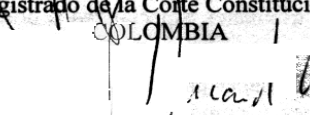
Sr. Vladimir Passos de Freitas  
Juez del Tribunal Regional Federal de la 4ª  
Región  
BRASIL



Sr. Domingo Kokisch Mourges  
Ministro de la Primera Corte  
de Apelaciones de Santiago  
CHILE



Sr. Antonio Barrera Carbonell  
Magistrado de la Corte Constitucional  
COLOMBIA



Sr. Ricardo Zeledón Zeledón  
Magistrado de la  
Corte Suprema de Justicia  
COSTA RICA


Mr. Sergio Dugo  
Head of the Federal Court of Appeals  
ARGENTINA

Mr. Vladimir Passos de Freitas  
Judge of the Federal Regional Court  
of the Fourth Region  
BRAZIL

Mr. Domingo Kokisch Mourges  
Judge of the First Court of Appeals of Santiago  
CHILE

Mr. Antonio Barrera Carbonell  
Member of the Constitutional Court COLOMBIA

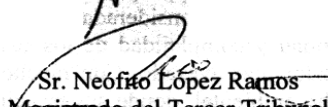
Mr. Ricardo Zeledón Zeledón  
Member of the Supreme Court of Justice  
COSTA RICA



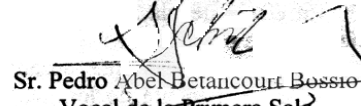
Sr. Narciso Cobo Roura  
Juez Profesional del  
Tribunal Supremo Popular  
CUBA



Sr. Raúl Moscoso Alvarez  
Defensor del Pueblo Adjunto Primero  
ECUADOR



Sr. Neófito López Ramos  
Magistrado del Tercer Tribunal  
Colegiado en Materia Civil  
Suprema Corte de Justicia  
MÉXICO



Sr. Pedro Abel Betancourt Bossio  
Vocal de la Primera Sala  
Penal Corporativa  
PERÚ

Mr. Narciso Cobo Roura  
Professional Judge of the People's Supreme Court  
CUBA

Mr. Raúl Moscoso Alvarez  
First Deputy Public Defender  
ECUADOR

Mr. Neófito López Ramos  
Judge of the Third Collegiate  
Court in Civil Matters - Supreme Court of Justice  
MEXICO

Mr. Pedro Abel Betancourt Bossio  
Member of the First Corporate Penal Division  
PERU