

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

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of Latin America and the Caribbean

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



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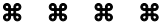
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## A. Introduction

1. This report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) covers the advances made in the implementation of projects within the framework of the Regional Action Plan during its first phase (1998-1999), reviews these advances, and proposes new lines of action for its second phase (2000-2001). It is important to highlight that the work of the ITC agencies in the implementation of programmatic decisions of the Forum of Ministers regarding technical assistance for the design and development of projects and the identification of funding sources contained in the Regional Action Plan, is bearing fruit. After almost two years of partnership, the relationship between the members of the ITC, the use of their capacities, resources and areas of expertise in the mobilisation of funds from additional sources, member agencies, GEF and donors, have been of service to the Forum of Ministers.

2. This inter-agency co-operation has also helped increase the exchange of information between agencies, improve their knowledge of each others programmes and facilitate the dissemination, within member agencies, of the activities of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment.

3. The first four parts of **Annex I** to this document "*Regional Action Plan 1998-1999 and 2000-2001*", deal with the Regional Action Plan and the activities completed, being carried out or proposed for the next two year. **Annex I, Part 1**, "*Revision of the mid-term period of the Regional Action Plan (1998-1999) and proposal of the Action Plan for 2000-2001*" contains **the lines of action** contained in the Regional Action Plan, as well as the new lines of action which are proposed to be added to the Regional Action Plan. The new lines of action being proposed come from one of three sources:

- a) From the lines of action which were proposed by the studies requested by the Forum and its subsidiary bodies (e.g. on tropical forests);
- b) From requests by Ministers and experts during the Inter-Sessional Meetings (e.g. vulnerability assessments); or,
- c) From new proposals by one or more of the agencies of the ITC to address the priorities outlined in the original Plan of Action.

4. The new lines of action contained in **Annex I** will not be turned into specific projects for implementation by the ITC until approval by the Forum of Ministers.

5. **Annex I, Part 2**, "*Regional Action Plan: projects concluded between April 1998 and January 2000*", contains the projects within the original Regional Action Plan **which have already been concluded**. This part of Annex I details activities carried out by the agencies of the ITC which directly address the Regional Action Plan which have now been completed.

6. **Annex I, Part 3**, "*Table on the mobilisation and distribution of resources for the Regional Action Plan, from April 1998 to January 2000*", contains a table showing the distribution of resources, divided into the components of the Regional Action Plan.

7. **Annex I, Part 4**, "*Regional Action Plan: ongoing projects during the period of February 2000 to December 2001*", contains the projects within the original Regional Action Plan which are still under development and implementation. This part of Annex I does not include activities that will address the revised Regional Action Plan for 2000-2001. It only details **activities currently underway** but as yet incomplete which address the original Regional Action Plan.

**8.** Once the Forum of Ministers approves a new Plan of Action, along with new lines of action to be contained within the Plan, these lines of action will be converted into projects for implementation by the ITC.

**9.** Summaries of the technical documents developed by the ITC agencies for the XII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment have been annexed to this document as **Annex II** "*Summaries of projects related to new lines of action for the Regional Action Plan, 2000-2001 Period*". They support the formulation of new strategies and lines of action with regard to instruments for management and specific projects within the scope of the Regional Action Plan. The complete documents can be accessed at the web page of the Twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (<http://www.rolac.unep.mx/Barbados2000/>). They address the following topics: bioregional planning; biosafety; natural disasters (integrating project); forest cover in the tropics (integrating project); protected areas; environmental education (in relation to forests); environmental education (in relation to the Caribbean) and the bases for strategies on information, economic instruments and climate change.

## **B. Mid-term Review (1998-1999) of the Regional Action Plan and the Proposal of new lines of action for the Regional Action Plan during the 2000-2001 Period**

**10.** The Regional Action Plan includes the environmental priorities defined by the Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The original Plan, approved for a period of four years (1998-2002), addresses four thematic areas:

- a) Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management including:
  - (i) Environmental management;
  - (ii) Citizen participation;
  - (iii) Trade and the environment;
  - (iv) Environmental education and training.
- b) Integrated watershed management, addressing (i) environmental management of coastal zones and oceans; and (ii) integrated watershed.
- c) Biological diversity and protected areas
- d) Climate change

**11.** Since March of 1998, when the Regional Action Plan was approved, not only have numerous studies and projects been developed and finalised addressing the issues contained in the Plan, but also many initiated and ongoing with longer formulation and implementation periods, such as the citizen participation and biological diversity projects.

**12.** In addition, unexpected environmental events of great magnitude, given their social, economic and environmental impact, have led to the proposal of other priority areas. Consequently, during the period April 1998 to January 2000, the ITC agencies responded to environmental emergency situations such as Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which affected Central American countries, and, more recently, the torrential rains in Venezuela in 1999.

**13.** During this period, the ITC agencies also mobilised resources and efforts to support the new demands of ministers involved in global negotiations that affect regional and



national environmental policies, such as the negotiations on the Biosafety Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**14.** The results achieved and experiences gained during the implementation of the Regional Action Plan to date show the need for adjustments to be made to some of the proposed lines of action. One of the elements foreseen in the Regional Action Plan was for there to be : "*c) two periods of work – of two years each- for the next four years.*" For this reason a revision of the Regional Action Plan is being proposed to the XII Meeting of Ministers. For this purpose, the annexed box (see **Annex I, Part 1**), indicates priority lines of action, lines which are proposed to be added, and those proposed to be deleted, for the consideration of the Ministers.

**15.** The proposed new lines of action are based on the summaries of a group of documents that have been requested from the ITC since 1998 at the Intersessional Committee Meetings (the First Special Meeting was held in September 1998, and the Fourth Ordinary Meeting in October 1999). These have also been annexed, as indicated in the introduction.

**16.** Of the total number of new action lines proposed, the ones that are based on integrating projects (natural disasters and tropical forest cover) deserve special attention. These lines cross all the priority thematic lines of the Action Plan, integrating their themes, including environmental management, citizen participation, environmental education and training, integrated management of watersheds, biological diversity, protected areas and climate change. These projects constitute the principal and most important innovation of the Plan and its new focus.

**17.** On the other hand, the lines of action proposed to be eliminated are those that are no longer in effect, either because they have been completed (e.g. the ones related to specific meetings already held or studies that have been completed) or which were addressed by other international, bilateral or multilateral actions or projects.

**18. Part 2 and Part 4 of Annex I** show both the projects of the Action Plan which have been completed to date and those that are being developed by the ITC agencies, respectively. **Part 3 of Annex I** reflects the percentage distribution of resources mobilised by the ITC in each of the components during the period between April 1998 and January 2000. Likewise, additional information has been included reflecting the activities of the ITC in relation to natural disasters (see **Annex I, Part 5**).

**19.** Lastly, a proposal has also been included on the new mechanisms of co-ordination and operation for the activities of the Regional Action Plan in their next phase (see **Annex III** to this document).

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**Annex I**

**Regional Action Plan**  
**1998-2000 and 2000-2001**

# Annex I, Part 1

## Mid-period revision of the Regional Action Plan (1998-1999) and proposal of Action Plan for 2000-2001<sup>1</sup>

### I. Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management

#### A. Environmental Management

| Lines of action<br>April 1998-January 2000   | Status of implementation and<br>comments |
|--|--|
| 1. A ministerial conference on crucial issues of environmental management  | Completed                                |
| 2. Presentation of case studies and best practices on: environmental legislation and institutional matters, decentralisation, urban environmental management, instruments for environmental policy and the mobilization of financial resources (1998-1999) | Ongoing                                  |
| 3. Operation and maintenance of databases, organisation of workshops for government officials and civil society, official visits to other countries  | Ongoing                                  |
| <i>For more details see Part 2 and Part 4 of this Annex I.</i>   |  |

| New proposed lines of action<br>February 2000 - December 2001   | Comments  |
|---|---|
| 1. Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and environmental legislation  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b>                  |
| 2. Legal symposiums concerning access to environmental justice  | See <b>Annex III</b> of<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b>       |
| 3. Drafting of environmental evaluations at the regional, subregional and national levels   | See Decision 20/1 of document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b> |
| 4. Development of a vision for harmonised information and of a framework for Latin America that includes standardised methodology to be integrated into the evaluation, systems for exchange of information, indicators and regional, national or thematic environmental evaluations (e.g., cities)   | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.6</b>               |
| 5. Development of economic instruments  | See <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.8</b>                           |
| 6. Environment and territorial ordenanse  | ECLAC   |
| 7. Integrating theme on disasters: Development of environmental information systems for vulnerability assessment and risk analysis in selected cities of Latin America and the Caribbean; encouraging the exchange of experiences in forest fire prevention and evaluations through regional workshops, development of guidelines, and others | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b>               |

<sup>1</sup> The proposed Regional Action Plan for the 2000-2001 period must be submitted to the Forum of Ministers for consideration and approval; it will join the proposed lines of action in this chart, permitting at the same time that those of the 1998-1999 period may continue.

| <b>New proposed lines of action<br/>February 2000 - December 2001</b>  | <b>Comments</b>                                       |
|--|---|
| <p><b>8.</b> Integrating theme on Forest cover for tropical wetlands : Monitoring and evaluating existing tropical forest projects, methodologies currently in use and promoting and exchange of experiences (success stories and failures) throughout the region concerning priority issues (for example, valuation, sustainable exploitation, education, etc.) per designation by the Forum of Ministers</p> | <p>See document<br/> <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD3</b></p> |

**B. Citizen Participation**

| <b>Lines of action<br/>April 1998-January 2000</b>   | <b>Status of implementation and comments</b> |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1.</b> Designation of focal point by government</p>  | <p>Completed</p>                             |
| <p><b>2.</b> Drafting of a document that encompasses subregional and national experiences</p>                                  | <p>Being prepared</p>                        |
| <p><b>3.</b> Exchange of experiences through regional networks via press, radio and electronic means</p>                       | <p>Ongoing</p>                               |
| <p><b>4.</b> Encourage an interactive session to be held with representatives of civil society and each Forum of Ministers</p> | <p>Ongoing</p>                               |
| <p><b>5.</b> Implementation of the Tierramerica Project</p>  | <p>Ongoing</p>                               |
| <p><i>For more details see <b>Part 2</b> and <b>Part 4</b> of this <b>Annex I</b>.</i></p>                                     |  |

| <b>New proposed lines of action<br/>February 2000 - December 2001</b>  | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1.</b> GEO for Youth</p>   | <p>See Decision 20/1 in document<br/> <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b></p> |
| <p><b>2.</b> Element of citizen participation within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of natural disasters</p> | <p>See document<br/> <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b></p>               |
| <p><b>3.</b> Element of citizen participation within the framework of the integrating theme: Forest cover in tropical wetlands</p>                 | <p>See document<br/> <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.3</b></p>               |

**C. Trade and the environment**

| <b>Lines of action<br/>April 1998-January 2000</b>  | <b>Status of implementation and comments</b> |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1.</b> Analyses of most recent and relevant national and international experiences concerning the effects of trade standards on the environment and environmental requirements concerning trade in the region</p> | <p>Completed</p>                             |
| <p><b>2.</b> Assistance to countries in matters of trade and the environment</p>  | <p>Ongoing</p>                               |
| <p><b>3.</b> Analyses of opportunities and binomial synergy in trade and the environment</p>  | <p>Completed</p>                             |
| <p><i>For more details see <b>Part 2</b> and <b>Part 4</b> of this <b>Annex I</b>.</i></p>  |  |

| <b>New proposed lines of action<br/>February 2000 - December 2001</b>                                  | <b>Comments</b>                               |
|--|---|
| 1. Case studies and analysis on decentralisation and competition                                       | ECLAC   |
| 2. Element of trade and the environment in the integrating theme:<br>Forest cover of tropical wetlands | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.3</b> |

#### **D. Environmental education and training**

| <b>Lines of action<br/>April 1998-January 2000</b>   | <b>Status of implementation and<br/>comments</b> |
|--|--|
| 1. Promotion, consultancy and support for new curricular design that will incorporate the dimension of the environment | Ongoing  |
| 2. Strengthening the postgraduate system in the areas of the environment and sustainable development                   | Ongoing  |
| 3. Support of environmental training in the context of the community   | Ongoing  |
| 4. Strengthening an editorial program and producing basic textbooks  | Ongoing  |
| <i>For more details see Part 2 and Part 4 of this Annex I.</i>   |  |

| <b>New proposed lines of action<br/>February 2000 - December 2001</b>   | <b>Comments</b>                               |
|---|---|
| 1. Implementation of projects for community education and training for the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in Mexico; education and training for small insular Caribbean States | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.5</b> |
| 2. Element of education and environmental training within the integrating framework: Early warning and prevention of natural disasters  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b> |
| 3. Element of education and environmental training within the integrating framework: Forest cover in tropical wetlands  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.5</b> |

## **II. Integrated Management of Water Resources**

### **A. Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans**

| <b>Lines of action<br/>April 1998-January 2000</b>  | <b>Status of implementation and<br/>comments</b> |
|---|--|
| 1. Prepare a five-year agenda for the management of coastal regions and oceans  | Ongoing  |
| 2. Examine and evaluate regional and subregional mechanisms, and existing institutional framework for the management of coastal regions and oceans            | Ongoing  |
| 3. Prepare manuals for the application of integrated management tools of coastal regions and planning techniques for land use in critical areas of the region | Cancelled  |
| <i>For more details see Part 2 and Part 4 of this Annex I.</i>  |  |

| New proposed lines of action<br>February 2000 - December 2001  | Comments                                      |
|--|---|
| 1. Element of Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans within the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of natural disasters | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b> |
| 2. Element of Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans within the integrating theme: tropical forest cover                             | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.3</b> |

## B. Integrated watershed management

| Lines of action<br>April 1998-January 2000   | Status of implementation and comments |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Human resources training for the integrated management of hydric resources  | Pending                               |
| 2. Program on legislative framework for shared hydric basins in Latin America  | Ongoing                               |
| 3. Exchange of experiences concerning integrated and participatory environmental management of hydrographical basins | Pending                               |
| <i>For more details see Part 2 and Part 4 of this Annex I.</i>   |                                       |

| New proposed lines of action<br>February 2000 - December 2001   | Comments   |
|---|--|
| 1. Element of integrated management of hydrographical basins within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of natural disasters | See Decision 20/5 on fresh water, in<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b> |
| 2. Element of integrated management of hydrographical basins within the framework of the integrating theme: Forest cover in tropical wetlands                 | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b>                      |

## III. Biological diversity and other protected areas

| Lines of action<br>April 1998-January 2000  | Status of implementation and comments  |
|---|--|
| 1. Institutional strengthening of National Park Services and other protected areas  | Substituted for four subregional projects: Gran Chaco, Andean countries, Insular Caribbean and the Meso-American Biological Corridor |
| 2. Bioregional planning and management of protected areas in critical select ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean selected ecoregion | Completed. See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.7</b>   |
| <i>For more details see Part 2 and Part 4 of this Annex I, and document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.7.</i>   |  |

| New proposed lines of action<br>February 2000 - December 2001  | Comments                                      |
|--|---|
| 1. Final endorsement and implementation of (at least) the following projects: Conservation of biological diversity in the Andean system of protected areas, management of protected marine areas in the Caribbean, the plan of action for the Gran Chaco Americano and the Project for the Meso-American Biological Corridor | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.4</b> |
| 2. Develop a Regional Action Plan (including workshops and the revision of the biosafety document) to analyse the implications of the Biosafety Protocol and the need to adopt and/or adapt national legislation for the implementation of said Protocol   | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.1</b> |
| 3. Element of biological diversity and protected areas within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of natural disasters  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b> |
| 4. Element of biological diversity and protected areas within the framework of the integrating theme: Forest cover in tropical wetlands  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b> |

#### IV. Climate change

| Lines of action<br>April 1998-January 2000   | Status of implementation and comments |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Hold a preparatory meeting for the IV Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change | Completed                             |
| 2. Exchange of experiences among the countries of the region and Cupertino for the drafting of and presentation of national reports    | Completed                             |
| <i>For more details see Part 2 and Part 4 of this Annex I.</i>   |                                       |

| New proposed lines of action<br>February 2000 - December 2001   | Comments   |
|---|--|
| 1. Africa- Latin America consultation on climate change   | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.9</b>                            |
| 2. Support of Cleaner Production mechanisms and the transfer of technology, and support regional workshop on the development of the Clean Development Mechanism | See Decision 6 in document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b>                 |
| 3. Element of climate change within the framework of the integrating theme: Early warning and prevention of natural disasters                                   | See Decision 9 and Decision 11 of document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/3</b> |
| 4. Element of climate change within the framework of the integrating theme: tropical forests  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.2</b>                            |
| 5. Energy and the climate change  | See document<br><b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.9</b>                            |

## Annex I, Part 2

### Regional Action Plan: projects concluded between April 1998 and January 2000

#### I. Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management

##### A. Environmental Management

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period for Implementation                              | Financing Sources (US\$)  | Partners  |
|----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| IDB                  | Document <i>"Report on the Consultation on Environmental Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (Washington, D.C., 17 and 18 September, 1998)"</i>  | Sept. 17 and 18, 1998, Washington, D.C.                | 50,000 IDB<br>30,000 UNDP<br>30,000 UNEP  | UNEP, UNDP , OPS  |
| UNEP, UNDP, IDB, WB  | Assistance to Central American countries affected by Hurricane Mitch   | Nov. 98 - Dec. 99                                      | 1,300,000, approx.<br>UNDP – UNEP - WB – IDB<br>ECLAC                                       | CCAD, Central American countries                                |
| ECLAC                | Study on <i>"Policies and Institutions for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"</i>   | Sept. 1999   | ECLAC in kind   |   |
| WB-IDB               | Workshop "Exchange of experiences in the institutional development of environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean"   | Oct. 18-20, 1999, Santiago, Chile                      | WB<br>IDB   | UNEP, ECLAC, UNDP, CONAMA                                       |
| UNEP                 | Training workshop on integrated environmental reports and evaluations for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  | Nov. 9-12 , 1999<br>Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago | 50,000 UNEP   | UNDP, Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago |
| UNEP                 | Establishment of Environmental Unit for Regional Co-ordination in Central America  | 1998 - Aug. 1999                                       | 80,000 UNEP<br>20,000 CCAD<br>50,000 WB   | Governments of the region, CCAD                                 |
| UNEP                 | Establishment of the Regional Unit for the Co-ordination of the Combat against Desertification, a bulletin for dissemination, development of a Web page, evaluation of successful practices in the combat to desertification | 1998 – Aug. 1999                                       | 55,000 UNEP<br>44,000 CCD<br>35,000 UNDP<br>15,000 Gov of Argentina<br>20,000 Gov of Mexico | CCD, UNDP, Governments of the region                            |
| UNEP                 | Preliminary evaluation of the environmental damage in Venezuela  | 25-28 Dec 1999   | 10,000 UNEP   | No partners   |



| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period for Implementation | Financing Sources (US\$)  | Partners          |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| UNDP-ECLAC (Mexico)  | Summary on "Challenges and proposals for more effective implementation of economic instruments in environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean" | April 99 – Jan. 2000      |                           |                   |
| ECLAC-UNEP-UNDP      | Preliminary evaluation of the environmental socio-economic damages sustained due to flooding in Venezuela in mid-December 1999                                 | 17-27 Jan. 2000           | 100,000 UNEP, UNDP, ECLAC | UNEP, UNDP, ECLAC |

## B. Citizen Participation

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period of implementation     | Financing Sources (US\$)  | Partners   |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| UNEP-UNDP            | Design of "Project for Environmental Citizenship", a large scale project, operation of the Project Management Unit, workshop "First Parliamentary Encounter on Climate Change", publication "Combating Climate Change: the commitment of <i>Parlatino Latinoamericano</i> " product of "First Parliamentary Encounter on Climate Change" and carrying out of activities preparatory for implementation | April 1998 through Dec. 1999 | 213,640 UNDP (in cash) out of 500,000<br>100,000 UNDP (in kind)<br>264,253 UNEP (in cash and in kind) | 7 Ministers of the environment and 6 regional networks |
| UNEP-UNDP            | The edition of the Tierramerica Supplement on forests, ozone and climate change was produced and Tierramerica in Brazil continued operations, publishing 16 issues based on the editions published en Spanish, with a monthly circulation of 300,000 copies  | April 1998 through July 1999 | 220,000 UNDP in cash<br>150,000 UNEP  | IPS  |

## C. Trade and the Environment

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period of implementation   | Financing Source (US\$) | Partners   |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| UNDP                 | Document " <i>Environment and Free Trade in Latin America: the challenges of free trade from the perspective of the Free Trade Area of the Americas</i> "            | March-Sept. 1998           | 55,000 UNDP             | UNEP, ALDA   |
| UNDP                 | Production of a compact disc on Trade and the Environment for limited distribution   | Aug. 1998                  | 20,000 UNDP             | Institute for Commerce and Sustainable Development |
| UNEP                 | Document " <i>Study on the relationship between Free Trade Policies and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity</i> "  | Feb. 1999                  | 10,000 UNEP             | ECLAC, FAO, UNCTAD, CARICOM, MERCOSUR              |
| IDB                  | Report on the environment and Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasising Mercosur   | Aug. 1998 through May 1999 | 80,000 IDB              | Grupo 6 MERCOSUR                                   |
| ECLAC                | Document "Environmental impact due to changes in the exportation structure of nine Latin American and Caribbean countries", Series Environment and Development, # 19 | Jan. – Dec. 99             | ECLAC in kind           |  |
| ECLAC                | Document "The challenges posed by new multilateral trade negotiations for Latin America and the Caribbean", see "Serie Temas de Coyuntura", # 7                      | Jan. – Dec. 99             | ECLAC in kind           |  |

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained  | Period of implementation | Financing Source (US\$) | Partners |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| ECLAC                | Document "Environmental barriers to Latin American Shrimp Exportation", see "Serie Comercio Internacional". # 1 | Jan. – Dec. 99           | ECLAC in kind           |          |

#### D. Education and Environmental Training

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$)  | Partners  |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| UNEP                 | Proposals for collaboration for a Regional Interagency Program for Environmental Education, Training and Formation   | Sept. 98 – Jan. 00       | 7,500 UNEP   | UNDP, ECLAC, WB, IDB, Governments of countries and Universities |
| UNEP                 | Design of " <i>Special project for education and training of small, insular Caribbean states</i> " and " <i>Pilot project for community education and training for the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical forests of Mexico</i> " | Aug. 99 – Dec. 99        | 12,000 UNEP  |   |
| UNEP                 | Activities within the framework of the Network for Environmental Training (courses, publication)   | April 98 - Jan. 00       | 50,000 UNEP and Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network |   |

## II. Integrated management of water resources

### A. Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period of Implementation | Financing Sources (US\$) | Partners |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| UNEP                 | Document "Protection of coastal and marine resources threatened by land-based sources of pollution in the Caribbean" | July-Oct. 1999           | 5,000 UNEP               | GPA      |

### B. Integrated management of hydrographic basins

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period of Implementation | Financing Sources (US\$)                  | Partners                                       |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| UNEP                 | Plan for the Integral Management and Sustainable Development of the Río San Juan Basin                             | Jan. 99 – April 99       | 10,000 UNEP<br>350,000 GEF                | Governments of the basin and OAS               |
| UNEP                 | Design of a Proposal for the Integral Management and Sustainable Development of Priority Basins of Central America | Jan. 99 – April 99       | 25,000 UNEP<br>25,000 UNDP<br>10,000 CCAD | UNDP<br>CCAD<br>Governments of Central America |

### III. Biological Diversity and Protected Areas

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained   | Period of Implementation               | Financing Sources (US\$)                 | Partners                               |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| UNEP / ECLAC         | Document " <i>Study on policy, law and the management of biosafety in Latin America and the Caribbean</i> "  | 1999                                   | 7,500 UNEP<br>6,000 ECLAC                | ECLAC, UNEP                            |
| UNEP / ECLAC         | Workshop for technical experts and scientists to discuss and revise the study on policy, law and management of biosafety in Latin American and Caribbean countries, and final report | Santiago, Chile,<br>29 – 30 Dec., 1999 | 16,500 UNEP<br>10,000 ECLAC              | ECLAC, UNEP                            |
| UNDP-CCAD-UNEP       | Designing and negotiating the Meso-American Biological Corridor Project  | April 98 - Jan. 00                     | 15,000 UNEP<br>20,000 UNDP<br>36,000 GEF | Governments of Meso-American countries |
| UNEP                 | Drafting a Project Proposal on the Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Marine Areas of the Caribbean Insular Region  | June - Dec. 99                         | 25,000 UNEP                              | UICN, Insular Caribbean countries      |
| UNDP                 | Designing a Project for the conservation of biological diversity in the Gran Chaco Americano region  | Nov. 99 - Jan. 00                      | 25,000 UNDP                              | FAO                                    |
| UNEP                 | Designing a Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andean System of Protected Areas   | June - Dec. 99                         | 25,000 UNEP<br>10,000 FAO                | FAO                                    |
| UNEP                 | Designing a Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetland Forests within the Forest Project   | Nov. 99 - Jan. 00                      | 35,000 UNEP                              | <i>Pronaturaleza</i> (Peru)            |

### IV. Climate Change

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained  | Period of Implementation                  | Financing Source (US\$)                  | Partners                   |
|----------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| UNDP-UNEP            | <i>Meeting of ad hoc Group and document "Provisional Annotated Agenda on the Clean Development Mechanism for the Meeting of the Preparatory Working Group to the COP 4"</i> | San Jose, Costa Rica<br>14 -15 April 1998 | 20,000 IDB<br>16,000 UNDP<br>5,000 UNEP  | IDB, UNEP                  |
| UNDP-UNEP            | Meeting of Experts and document " <i>Synthesis of discussions of the working group for the Implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism</i> "                          | Lima, Peru<br>12-13 May 1998              | 15,000 UNEP<br>15,000 UNDP<br>10,000 IDB | UNEP<br>IDB<br>CONAM, Peru |
| UNDP                 | Meeting on the Kyoto Protocol: Opportunities and Challenges for the Oil Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean, final report   | Kingston, Jamaica,<br>Oct. 1998           | 20,000 UNDP                              | ARPELL, PCJ, UNEP          |
| UNDP                 | Document " <i>Promotion of strategies to mitigate the emission of gases with a greenhouse effect in Latin America: the Mexican experience</i> "                             | July – Dec. 1998                          | 10,000 UNDP                              | Gov of Mexico              |

| Co-ordinating Agency | Results Attained  | Period of Implementation               | Financing Source (US\$)               | Partners                                    |
|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| UNDP-UNEP            | Meeting of high level executives on climate change and final report | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil<br>4 Sept. 1999 | 22,000 UNDP<br>1,553 and in kind UNEP | ECLAC, UNEP, WB, CAF, ID<br>Gov. of Brazil  |
| UNDP-UNEP            | Meeting of working group preparatory to the COP 5 and final report  | Quito, Ecuador<br>11-12 Oct., 1999     | 4,500 UNDP<br>4,500 UNEP              | ECLAC, UNEP, WB CAF, IDB<br>Gov. of Ecuador |

## Annex I, Part 3

### Chart for mobilisation and allocation of resources for the Regional Action Plan from April 1998 through January 2000

Projects concluded between April 1998 and January 2000

| Components   | US\$             | Percentage    |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| <b>I. Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management</b> |                  |               |
| a) Environmental management  | 1,889,000        |               |
| b) Citizen participation   | 697,893          |               |
| c) Trade and the environment   | 165,000          |               |
| d) Environmental education   | 69,500           |               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>2,821,393</b> | <b>78%</b>    |
| <b>II. Integrated management of water resources</b>                                      |                  |               |
| a) Environmental management of coastal regions and oceans                                | 5,000            |               |
| b) Comprehensive management of hydrographical basis                                      | 420,000          |               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>425,000</b>   | <b>11.74%</b> |
| <b>III. Biological diversity and protected areas</b>                                     |                  |               |
| a) Biological diversity and protected areas  | 231,000          |               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>231,000</b>   | <b>6.38%</b>  |
| <b>IV. Climate change</b>  |                  |               |
| a) Climate change  | 143,553          |               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>143,553</b>   | <b>3.97%</b>  |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>   | <b>3,620,946</b> | <b>100%</b>   |

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## Annex I, Part 4

### Regional Action Plan: projects underway from February 2000 through December 2001

#### I. Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management

##### A. Environmental Management

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)  | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$)   | Partners                             | Status of activities   |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| ECLAC - WB           | Bioregional report<br>Consultations or workshops for exchange  | Feb. -March 2000         | 150,000 WB<br>110,000 ECLAC   | UNEP, WB, UNDP, IDB, ECLAC           | Technical document has been concluded, See document <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.7</b>  |
| IDB                  | State of the art report on environmental management  | 1998-1999                | 80,000 IDB  | UNEP, ECLAC, WB                      | Consultants have been identified and terms of reference have been prepared   |
| UNDP- WB             | Case studies and best practices "Challenges and proposals for more effective implementation of economic instruments for Environmental Management in Latin America and the Caribbean<br><br>6 case studies: Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela | Aug. 1998-2000           | 100,000 UNDP (SPPD)<br>40,000 ECLAC   |                                      | See " <i>Regional UNDP Project on the Environment and Development</i> ", RLA/97/006<br><br>See document <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/TD.6</b><br><br>First seminar held to analyse the 6 cases studies, February 14-16, 2000 |
| IDB                  | Diagnosis of environmental management in medium and small sized cities   | 1998-2000                | 100,000 IDB   | To be determined                     | Consultation with countries of the region  |
| UNEP, UNDP, IDB, WB  | Joint co-operation strategy for the countries of Central America and operation of an Environmental Unit for Regional Co-ordination in Central America  | 1999-2002                | \$3 million, approx.<br>UNDP - UNEP- WB - IDB- ECLAC  | CCAD, Governments of the region      | Currently being implemented<br><br>See UNDP document "Institutional Support to the General Management of the Environment of the Central American Integration System", 1,100,00 (RLA/99/007)                          |
| IDB                  | Diagnosis on EIA experiences   | Aug. 1999 – Aug. 2000    | 500,000 IDB   | UNEP                                 | Terms of reference have been formulated and consultants contracted   |
| UNEP                 | Operation of a Regional Co-ordination Unit for the Convention to Combat Desertification  | 1999-2000                | 103,000 UNEP<br>280,000 CCD<br>35,000 UNDP<br>11,000 Gov. of Chile<br>20,000 Gov. of Mexico | CCD, UNDP, Governments of the region | Fully operational  |

## B. Citizen Participation

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)  | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$)  | Partners  | Status of Activities  |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| UNEP - UNDP          | Grand-scale project on Environmental Citizenry for Latin America and the Caribbean (GEC) | March 2000- Feb 2003     | FMAM Project approved in the amount of \$2,977,000 dollars<br>\$287,000 UNDP (in cash) out of 500,000<br>\$500,000 UNEP<br>\$90,000 GDF<br>\$736,800 Pilot Countries<br>\$980,000 Networks | UNEP, UNDP , Tierramerica, regional citizen networks, pilot countries | Preparation of the large scale Environmental Citizenship Project was concluded<br><br>At present under revision at the GEFSEC<br><br>Co-financing by the USA pending in the amount of \$358,200 thousand dollars (UNFIP, The Netherlands) |
| UNEP - UNDP          | Second phase of the Tierramerica Environmental Supplement                                | Nov. 1999- Jan. 2002     | \$150,000 UNEP<br><br>\$100 mil (UNDP)   | IPS   | See <b>Annex I, Part 4</b> in <b>UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XII/4</b>  |

## C. Trade and the Environment

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)  | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$) | Partners         | Status of Activities  |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| ECLAC                | Evaluation of the links between macroeconomic and environmental policies (trade, foreign investment and privatisation) | 2000-2001                | ECLAC-GTZ               | UNCTAD<br>ICSTAD | The first environmental impact assessment was concluded on the changes in the region's exportation industry |

## D. Environmental Education and Training

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of action)   | Period of implementation | Source of financing (US\$) | Partners | Status of Activities                       |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|
| UNEP                 | Activities within the framework of the Network of Environmental Formation (Courses, publications) | 1999-2001                | 80,000 UNEP                |          | Ongoing                                    |
| ECLAC                | Course on public policy and development   | Nov. 00                  | ECLAC, in kind             | ILPES    | The course has been designed and scheduled |

## II. Integrated Management of Water Resources

### A. Environmental management of coastal Regions and Oceans

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)   | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$) | Partners                  | Status of Activities                        |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| IDB                  | Strategy for Coastal and Marine Management  | 1999-2000                | Not applicable          | WB, UNEP                  | Currently being implemented through studies |
| IDB                  | Diagnosis of Existing Regional and Subregional Mechanisms   | 1999                     | 80,000 IDB              | UNEP, UNDP                | Consultants have been retained              |
| UNEP                 | Meeting of High Level Experts of Small Insular Caribbean States   | 2000                     | 95,000 UNEP             | ECLAC, CARICOM            | Currently being implemented                 |
| UNEP                 | Evaluation of the Caribbean coastal marine zone as a basis to implement the Global Plan of Action (GPA) | 1999-2000                | 20,000 UNEP             | Governments of the region | Currently being implemented                 |

### B. Integrated Management of Hydrographic Basins

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)   | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$)   | Partners   | Status of Activities   |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| UNEP                 | Plan for Integrated Management and Sustainable Development for the Río San Juan basin                         | 2000-2003                | 1,500,000 GEF   | OAS, GEF, CCAD, Gov. of Costa Rica and Nicaragua | Approval from the technical assistance to the Strategic Plan of Action for the management and sustainable development of hydrographic basins on the Atlantic Costa Rica – Nicaragua watershed<br><br>Negotiation of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage of project implementation  |
| UNEP                 | Proposal for a Plan for Integral Management and Sustainable Development of Priority Basins of Central America | 2000-2003                | 11,000,000 :<br>4,000,000 Gov. of USA<br>Remainder to be determined | CCAD, Donor countries                            | Under negotiation at present<br><br>Government of the United States of America has expressed interest in proffering technical and financial support for the development of activities in the Rio Lempa basin (Honduras-El Salvador) within the framework of this project |
| UNEP                 | Exchange of experiences on integrated and participatory environmental management of hydrological water basins | 2000                     | 15,000 UNEP   | UNDP, OAS  | To be completed in July 2000   |



### III. Biological Diversity and Protected Areas

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)  | Period of Implementation      | Financing Source (US\$)                                | Partners                                 | Status of Activities  |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| UNEP                 | The proposal on " <i>Project for Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Areas of Shared Priority Ecoregions of Latin America and the Caribbean</i> " was redesigned and geared to cover the following subregions: Meso-American Region, Caribbean Insular Region, Gran Chaco Americano Region and the Andean Region | Not applicable. See following | Not applicable. See following                          | Not applicable. See following            | Not applicable, see following   |
| UNEP, UNDP, WB       | Meso-American Biological Corridor Project  | 1998-2004                     | 11 million GEF<br>3 million GTZ<br>0.5 million DANIDA  | CB:, World Bank, GTZ, CCAD, DANIDA       | The UNDP and UNEP, as GEF implementing agencies and the Environmental Management Board of SICA have begun the administrative process to retain an international project   |
| UNEP                 | Project Proposal for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Marine Areas of the Caribbean Insular Region  | 12 months                     | 350,000 GEF<br>100,000 Other sources                   | FMAM / UICN, Insular Caribbean countries | The UNEP, as the GEF implementing agency, submitted to the countries of the Caribbean a project proposal that will ensure the effective management of protected marine areas in the Insular Caribbean Region. The project was considered by focal points before the GEF, and to date letters of endorsement have been received by: Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica,. Dominican Republic, Santa Lucia  |
| UNDP - UNEP          | Project for the conservation of biological diversity in the Gran Chaco Americano region  | 12 months                     | 350,000 GEF<br>25,000 countries<br>7,000 (in kind) FAO |  | The FAO, in co-ordination with the UNDP's GEF unit, and the respective administrations for protected areas of the Gran Chaco Americano region prepared a project proposal with the purpose of analysing the environmental problems of the subregion and defining priority areas for action. The project proposal will be submitted to the consideration of the countries involved in order to have attain the corresponding letters of endorsement, as well as those from the Secretariat of the GEF for eventual approval and financial support. |

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)  | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$) | Partners   | Status of Activities   |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| UNEP                 | Regional Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andean System of Protected Areas | 12 months                | 350,000 GEF             | Andean countries   | The UNEP, in collaboration with the FAO, designed a regional strategy for the conservation of biological diversity in the Andean system of protected areas. A meeting was held with the collaboration of the Gov. of Colombia, February 7-9, 2000, in Bogota, with the participation of national directors of protected areas with the objective of revising and in time approving the project proposal. |
| UNEP                 | Strategy for conservation and sustainable use of tropical wetlands forests                     | 6 months                 | 50,000 UNEP             | Latin American and Caribbean countries<br>Gov. of Mexico | Unde development   |

#### IV. Climate Change

| Co-ordinating Agency | Expected Products (Lines of Action)  | Period of Implementation | Financing Source (US\$)                           | Partners                  | Status of Activities  |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| UNDP-UNDP            | Expedite dialogue on policies among the countries of the region, create capabilities, support the design of national programs and prepare cases on energy and climate change | 1998-2001                | 700,000 UNDP<br>100,00 UNEP (in cash and in kind) | Governments of the region | Document " <i>Regional UNDP Project for Environment and Development</i> " |

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## **Annex I, Part 5**

### **Activities carried out by the ITC on natural disasters in Latin and the Caribbean**

#### **A. Assistance to countries of Central America affected by Hurricane Mitch**

**1.** Based on the decision contained in item 91, (a), (ii) of Annex I of the conclusions of the Third Meeting of the High Level Technical Committee of Ministers and Officials of the Environment (Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 10, 1998) carried out during the Fourth Conference on the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change, as well as Decision 5 of the first formal meeting of 1999 of the ITC (Mexico City, January 15, 1999), the ITC agencies carried out the following activities:

- a) The Regional Environmental Unit for technical co-operation was established to strengthen the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development, at the headquarters of the; the intention is to aid in the harmonisation, planning and joint implementation of environmental activities, and to strengthen regional and subregional co-operation.
- b) In answer to the request of the President of the Commission on the Environment and Development, a preliminary evaluation was carried out on the environmental damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America in November of 1998.
- c) Support was provided to the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA) through the CCAD (Central American Commission for the Environment and Development), for drafting a portfolio of regional projects for the reconstruction and transformation of Central America, in addition to holding various regional consultations on the matter. To this end, the ITC provided the necessary human and financial resources to the CCAD for designing the regional strategy referred to; it was presented during the Meeting of the Consultative Group for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America. (Stockholm, Sweden, May of 1999) Resources were provided for the preparatory work of the environmental vulnerability assessment in Central America in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.
- d) Resources were allocated for preparation work for the evaluation of environmental vulnerability in Central America in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.
- e) A compact disc was made providing examples of the links between the environment, population and natural disasters; a poster was printed on the environmental vulnerability assessment in Central America.

**2.** The efforts of the ITC to develop support for the aforementioned activities, in addition to proposals submitted to the Consultative Group that met in Stockholm, Sweden, May of 1999, generated the mobilisation of approximately USD\$3 million.

## **B. Support to Venezuela**

**3.** Per request of the Minister of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources of Venezuela, a preliminary environmental assessment was carried out on the damage caused by the flooding that the country experienced in mid-December 1999. The mission was carried out December 25-30, 1999.

**4.** UNEP collaborated with ECLAC and UNDP in the socio-economic-environmental assessment of the damage caused by flooding in Venezuela in mid-December of 1999. The mission was carried out January 17-27, 2000.

**5.** UNEP will proffer technical and financial assistance to the Government of Venezuela for the preparation of environmental project proposals, including an early warning system, vulnerability maps, territorial ordinance programs, integrated watershed management, and others.

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## **Annex II**

### **Summaries of projects related to new lines of action for the Regional Action Plan, 2000-2001 Period**



## Summary 1

### Biosafety Policy, Law and Administration in Latin America and the Caribbean

**1. Authors:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

#### 2. Brief summary of the document

- a) *Problem:* In most of the countries in the region there is no policy on biosafety; it is, instead, formulated through the legislation enacted to implement it. Consequently, legislative debate on the topic takes on great importance, even though the most significant regulations in the field are adopted at the administrative level, outside public discussion on the topic, which may result in the distortion of those regulations by all types of interests at stake in the decisions adopted.

There is incipient development dealing with the safety of modern biotechnology, particularly in relation to the problems posed by its implementation. The most widespread trend has consisted of extending the traditional system on biological safety (e.g. the regulation of biological safety in terms of the introduction of exotic species and their impact on agriculture and the environment, and biological safety for the protection of human health) to these new problems through the adoption of regulations and the establishment of institutions, which has resulted in biosafety being dealt with preferentially in terms of plant, animal and human health.

There are practically no bodies of norms that comprehensively and specifically regulate biosafety. For the most part, norms that deal with biotechnological safety are found in laws on matters such as public health and food, plant and animal health, agrochemicals, international trade, etc. Even in cases where there is a specific law on biosafety, the legal framework that regulates the field should be broader, since it is an extremely complicated topic that should be considered from the standpoint of various sectors.

Responsibility for biosafety administration is usually entrusted to the administrative structures that deal with agricultural production and public health, with little participation by environment authorities. The changes that have taken place in recent years have generally been in each sector and have not been accompanied by the measures necessary to provide the new bodies with effective capacity that would enable them to perform the tasks entrusted to them through the allocation of related resources (human, technical and material) or their inclusion in a system that would enable them to fulfill their duties.

In the field of modern technology there is usually a lack of material resources and technical, scientific and financial capacity. There is neither infrastructure nor the knowledge and experience needed to ensure that biotechnological applications are carried out in a way that will not affect human health and the environment.

The negotiations on the Protocol on Biosafety have pointed up the existence of incompatibilities between international trade and environment in the sphere of the multilateral trade system of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

- b) *Action taken to date:* The widespread trend of extending the traditional system on biological safety to the problems that have arisen in relation to modern biotechnology are being overcome in some countries where efforts are being aimed at a global system of biological safety in which a sectoral approach to addressing these problems has been left behind in order to deal with them comprehensively. This comprehensiveness is being achieved through specific bodies of regulations on biosafety and through the creation of coordinating or advisory commissions or committees for the different administrative entities in charge of adopting decisions.

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

The topic of biosafety is consistent with the first priority topic line of the Action Plan, which refers to the "Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management", and specifically to that related with letter A. "Environmental Management".

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

- a) At the national level, there is a need for an initiative to promote policy, law and administration within which all activities related to biosafety should be developed.
- b) At the international level, there is a need for an appropriate international framework to support internal efforts to deal with modern biotechnology, as is the case with the international Protocol in relation to the regulation of transboundary movements of living modified organisms, which will result in better environmental management at the national level.
- c) Apart from the existence of an international Protocol, the countries of the region should develop environmental management that will encourage the development of biotechnology within the countries and be capable of assessing the risks that modern biotechnology entails, which will enable them to share in its benefits in an acceptable manner.
- d) There is an indispensable need to develop a clear, adequate and consistent biosafety policy that establishes what should be done to assess the risks of modern biotechnology and its implementation, and it should be accompanied by a legal framework that establishes who will apply the policy and how they will apply it. It is necessary to develop an administration that is capable of effectively applying the biosafety policy and law and is staffed with specialized personnel.



- e) The legal instruments to formulate and implement the biosafety policy should consist basically of laws and, therefore, should represent the results of broad public debate and the expression of a broad consensus on what should be done to achieve acceptable levels of biosafety.
- f) Both at the national level and in the negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas the relationships between free trade and environment should be taken into account, including the topic of biosafety, in order to clarify some of the many environment-related uncertainties arising from the present legal framework of the WTO.
- g) Regional cooperation should be given consideration as a possibility for strengthening the limited capacities of countries in the region and as an appropriate mechanism for fulfilling the obligation to prevent and control potential adverse risks stemming from exotic organisms -- genetically modified or not -- whose risks can extend beyond the national sphere and, through their transboundary effects, become subregional or regional in scope.
- h) It would be advisable to follow up on the joint UNEP-ECLAC meeting on "Biosafety Policy, Law and Administration in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean", which was held in Santiago, Chile, on 29 and 30 November 1999, especially in the current context in which the international Protocol on Biosafety has been approved. This effort would allow an analysis of the new international instrument's implications for the region and of the need to adopt or adapt respective national legislation if necessary.
- i) Since the document being examined was completed in the month of December 1999 and the international Protocol on Biosafety was approved at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, held in Montreal from 24 to 28 January 2000, it is necessary to review and update this document in the light of the final text of the Protocol adopted at that meeting.

## 5. Implementation of the suggested lines of action

- a. Organization of a regional meeting to examine the implications for the region of the recently approved Protocol on Biosafety and the need to adopt or adapt the respective national legislation if necessary.

*Specific project or line of action* Organization of a regional meeting or of two subregional meetings (one for Latin America and another for the English-speaking Caribbean)

*Financing:* US\$ 30,000.

*Time:* six months

*Leading agency:* UNEP-ECLAC

- b. Review and updating of the document "Biosafety Policy, Law and Administration in Latin America and the Caribbean" in the light of the final text of the international Protocol on Biosafety adopted at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal from 24 to 28 January 2000.

*Specific project or line of action:* Review and updating of the document "Biosafety Policy, Law and Administration in Latin America and the Caribbean".

*Financing:* US\$ 5,000

*Time:* three months

*Leading agency:* UNEP-ECLAC

- c. Project: Methodology for establishing bioregional guidelines for biosafety in specific crops whose centre of origin and diversity are located within the area of study, including factors regarding public policy. Application to the potato crop in the Andean region.

*Financing:* to be determined.

*Time:* two years.

*Leading agency:* ECLAC, UNEP.

*Cooperating agencies:* International Potato Centre (CIP) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.



## Summary 2

### **Panorama of the environmental impact of recent natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**1. Authors:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

#### **2. Summary of the document**

- a) *Problem:* The impact of natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean is very significant in terms of the loss of human lives, infrastructure and less economic development. While the frequency of disasters of geological origin has remained constant, in recent years the region has been afflicted by an increasing number of extreme hydro meteorological events with catastrophic results. This document focuses on the natural disasters that have afflicted the region since 1997, with special emphasis on the role that environmental vulnerability has played in the magnitude of the damage caused. Some background information is presented to explain the problems of natural disasters, taking into account the relationship between man and nature. On the one hand, there is growing conviction that global warming is increasing the intensity and frequency with which phenomena of hydro meteorological origin occur. On the other, the economic development model in the region has been based on the unsustainable exploitation of its natural resources, which, together with population growth, poverty and the spontaneous establishment of human settlements in marginal areas exposed to natural risks, has contributed to geobiophysical imbalances that increase vulnerability to the environmental impacts of extreme natural phenomena.

This panorama necessarily calls for reconsideration of responses to natural disasters, with greater attention to preventive and mitigation factors related to land occupation and the sustainable management of natural resources.

- b) *Action taken to date:* Most of the action taken in response to the impact of natural disasters has to do with immediate humanitarian response, which is the responsibility of UNDP. ECLAC is in charge of the economic valuation of the damage caused by the natural disasters, which serves as reference in the quantification and design of reconstruction and rehabilitation plans and programmes in the areas affected and in talks with the donor countries and institutions.

In recent socio-economic assessments of the disasters that have occurred in the region, ECLAC, in collaboration with UNEP, has incorporated some of the environmental aspects involved, both with regard to valuation of the natural heritage affected and to proposals for priority activities in the environmental sphere to reduce vulnerability. However, there is a need to strengthen activities aimed at environmental impact assessment of the disasters, as well as assessments of the vulnerability of human settlements located in areas at risk.

### 3. Links between the theme and the priorities of the Ministers (Plan of Action)

Recommendation of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Environment Ministers (Lima, Peru, October 1999).

### 4. Suggested lines of action

- a) Assessment of environmental vulnerability at the regional and local levels, which will require, on the one hand, the development of appropriate methodologies for each case (according to the type of disaster and geographical characteristics of the areas affected, for example) and, on the other, the use of geographical information systems (GIS) to prepare integrated maps indicating environmental vulnerability and risks.
- b) Strengthening of strategies for the development of land-use plans and their implementation. These plans should take into account the vulnerability and risk maps indicated in a) as the main input for environmental prevention, reconstruction and emergency plans. An innovative concept that is being implemented in the region in the field of land-use management is bioregional planning, which allows the planning of activities to protect and reconstruct biophysical systems (hydrographic basins, coastal shores and mountain areas, for example) that are shared by more than one country through coordinated activities for integrated management of the environment and natural resources.
- c) Development and strengthening of environmental impact assessment (EIA) methodologies for extreme physical phenomena, in order to estimate the magnitude of damage to and loss of the natural heritage (qualitatively and quantitatively) and propose mitigation measures for any future disasters.
- d) Development, strengthening, dissemination and harmonization of the existing monitoring and early warning models in the region. This should be based on existing subregional systems such as CEPREDENAC in Central America and other stations in the Caribbean, strengthening the capacities developed and taking into account the experience gained in the recent disasters.

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

*a. Project:* Environmental Information System on Vulnerability and Risk in Central America.

*Financing:* US\$17.8 million

*Time:* three years

*Leading agency:* CATIE-CEPREDENAC-UNEP

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, UNDP, ECLAC, WB and other regional agencies.

*b. Project:* International Workshop on Forest Fires and Early Warning Systems and Networks.

*Financing:* US\$ 50,000

*Time:* March 2000 (tentative)

*Leading agency:* UNEP

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, WB, UNDP, ECLAC and other regional agencies (CEPREDENAC, CATIE, etc.).

*c. Project:* Study on the Vulnerability of Latin American Cities.

*Financing:* US\$ 250,000

*Time:* 2000

*Leading agency:* UNEP – Habitat

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, WB, UNDP, ECLAC and other regional agencies (CEPREDENAC, CATIE, etc.).

*d. Project:* Review of the ECLAC methodology for estimating the socio-economic effects of the natural disasters and design of a methodology for economic assessment of the environmental impact on natural and urban areas.

*Financing:* US\$ 450,000

*Time:* 2000

*Leading agency:* ECLAC

*Collaborating agencies:* UNEP, bilateral cooperation from the Netherlands and Italy.



### Summary 3

## Situation, perspectives and strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of moist tropical forests in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

2. **Brief Summary of Document**

- a) *Problem:* Almost half of the Earth's original forest cover is gone, much of it destroyed within the past three decades. Overall Latin America and the Caribbean lost 61 million hectares (6%) of its forest cover during 1980-90 (the largest forest loss in the world during this period). At the same time, some of the largest and most diverse remaining forest areas on Earth are found in the region. These forests are of great importance due to their size (one-fourth of the world's total forests and half of all tropical forests lie in the region) and their role as a planetary life-support mechanism.

The main causes of deforestation include the expansion of the agricultural frontier, logging, mineral exploitation, infrastructure developments, settlements and fire. These activities are principally the result of growing economies and consumption, population growth and the demand for land, poverty and landlessness, short-sighted political decisions, illegal trade, and poor economic policies. The convergence of population growth, rising demand for forest products, and the conversion of forests to agriculture are expected to put increasing pressure on the world's forests in the next few decades. The result will likely be a considerable fragmentation and loss of forests, and a loss of environmental services that forests provide in regulating climate, watersheds, soil quality and biodiversity, as well as being home to forest communities and providing commercial products.

- b) *Actions taken to date:* A number of international initiatives on forest issues have taken place since UNCED including the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). A number of global and regional conventions also relate directly or indirectly to the need for a better use of the world's forest resources. At the national level, there are numerous policies and programmes aimed at protecting forests, including: forest planning and sustainable management; forestry legislation; and forest inventories. In practice, the countries of the region have scarcely begun to apply the policies, action plans, and programs set forth in the conventions. With few exceptions, effective management of natural tropical forest in the region remains to be implemented.

### **3. Links between the theme and the priorities of the Ministers (Plan of Action)**

This project falls within two of the priority topics of the Regional Environmental Action Plan: Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management; and biological diversity and protected areas. The project also addresses the suggestions of the Inter-Sessional Committee (Peru Nov. 99) to focus activities on integrating topics such as tropical forests.

### **4. Suggested Actions**

A review of forest policies in LAC reveals the need of incorporating some or all of the following:

*Protected Areas:* The protection and management of declared protected areas is mostly deficient due to the absence of adequate financial resources, personnel, equipment and inputs required for their adequate protection and management. Protected areas should be limited to those that are the most important and that can actually be policed with available funds.

*Control and minimisation of forest fires:* A program of fire research and training is needed that is capable of testing/improving existing techniques developed to reduce fire risk and damage, measuring the efficacy of government initiatives designed to reduce accidental fires, documenting the costs of fires to landholders and society in general, and identifying building the capacity of communities to control and prevent fire damages.

*Sustainable forest exploitation:* The market values of sustainably extracted non-timber forest products can be far superior to alternative forest land uses such as livestock ranching and timber extraction. There is a need to develop and support sustainable, forest-based economic activities that are competitive and to eliminate the current biases against forest-based activities.

*Plantation forestry:* More diversified plantations could reduce disease, pest and fire risks, improve nutrient recycling, increase habitat diversity for native flora and fauna, increase market security and improve amenity characteristics. However, more information and research is needed on the establishment and management of such mixed-species plantations is limited.

*Promotion of private investment in the forestry sector:* Private enterprise can become agents of sound forest management if provided with incentives to protect jobs and cultivate long-term profits by: developing markets for products from well-managed forests; avoiding investments in projects that destroy forests; and encouraging governments to try policies promoting forest stewardship.

*Forest valuation and market creation:* Forest ecosystem valuation is needed to determine the economic importance of the wide range of forest products and services that are currently not taken into account in conventional cost-benefit analysis. Innovative financial mechanisms (e.g. full-cost-pricing, sale of carbon sequestering services, Clean Development Mechanism) need to be established.

*Land tenure and the development of rural and indigenous communities in forest areas:* Land tenure security, the lack of which has contributed significantly to a short-term approach to resource use and exploitation, needs to be improved. Reforms should include issuing individual property rights for settled agricultural areas in order to stimulate agricultural intensification and diminish pressure on the forest frontier. Formal

property rights to forests by indigenous and traditional communities should also be strengthened.

*Environmental Education:* Such education, particularly in rural and indigenous communities, is a critical and basic element for creating capacities for sustainable forest management.

*Effective participation of all sectors in decision making on forestry matters:* There is a need to recognise indigenous rights; involve all stakeholders in the decision-making process; promote more equitable sharing of the benefits; and increase demand for local control over forest resources.

*Revision of trade policies for forest products:* Trade policies (e.g. export bans, tariffs) that have kept many forestry operations from becoming competitive in international markets should be revised and innovative new policies, such as ecolabeling, encouraged.

*Integration:* It is necessary to have an integrated framework for forest management at the country level, with clear linkages between individual projects in order to achieve sustainable management of forests at the country level. This more integrated systematic approach includes: sustainable management of wildlife, forest production, community development, environmental services, forest fire prevention etc.

## **5. Implementation of the action items**

- a. Project or specific action item:** Based on guidance from the LAC Ministers:  
Define priority areas (themes) of concentration where there is a need for further technical studies and subsequent cooperative projects addressing these priority themes;  
Identify ongoing efforts of the IATC agencies and explore possibilities of funding activities based on the priority themes mentioned in (a) above;  
Monitor and evaluate existing projects and methodologies in use related to tropical forests and promote the exchange of experiences and feedback on successes and failures.

*Funding needed:* will be defined once priority themes in (a) are defined.

*Timeframe:* will be defined once the priority themes in (a) are defined.

*Lead agency:* UNEP

*Cooperating agencies:* UNDP, IDB, WB.

- b. Project or specific action item:** Preparation of the ruling document for the Latin American Programme for the Defence of Tropical Rainforests

*Funding needed:* US\$350,000

*Timeframe:* Eight months

*Lead agency:* UNEP

*Cooperating agencies:* FAO, UNDP and Government of Mexico

- c. Project or specific action item:** Subregional meetings and a Latin American meeting

*Funding needed:* US\$350,000



*Timeframe:* Eight months

*Lead agency:* UNEP

*Cooperating agencies:* FAO, UNDP and Government of Mexico



## Summary 4

### Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Areas of Shared Priority Ecoregions in Latin America and the Caribbean

**1. Authors:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**2. Summary:** Project for the conservation of biological diversity

Pursuant to the decisions adopted by the Forum of Ministers and considering the recommendations of the GEF Secretariat, the idea of a major project was reformulated and aimed at covering the following subregions: the Andean Region, the Caribbean Islands, the Gran Chaco Americano and the Mesoamerican Region.

#### *The Andean Region*

UNEP, in collaboration with FAO, prepared a regional strategy for the conservation of biodiversity in the Andean system of protected areas. through this strategy it identified the main transboundary problems, general priorities and the definition of policies and strategies to reduce possible adverse effects and, in particular, to develop a GEF project proposal to implement the above-mentioned strategy.

In collaboration with the Government of Colombia through the System of Protected Natural Areas, a technical meeting will be held in Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia, from 7 to 9 February 2000, with the participation of the national directors of the countries involved, in order to review and possibly approve the project proposal for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the mountain ecosystem within the Andean system of protected areas.

#### *The Caribbean Island Region*

UNEP, in its capacity as a GEF implementing agency, submitted to the countries of the Caribbean for their consideration a project proposal to ensure effective management of the protected marine areas in the Caribbean Islands. The project was considered by the GEF focal points and, to date, letters of endorsement have been received from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

The project is also under consideration by the GEF Unit of UNEP in Nairobi, in order to make any necessary adjustments, taking into account the recommendations of the countries involved, for subsequent consideration and possible approval by the other GEF implementing

agencies, as well as the Secretariat. A related meeting will be held in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, in February.

*The Gran Chaco Americano*

FAO, in coordination with the GEF Unit of UNDP and the respective administrations of protected areas in the countries of the Gran Chaco Americano, prepared a project proposal to analyse the environmental problems of the subregion and to define priority areas for action. The project proposal will be submitted to the countries involved for consideration, in order to obtain the related letters of endorsement, and to the GEF Secretariat for its possible approval and financial support.

*The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor*

UNDP and UNEP, in their capacity as GEF implementing agencies, and the Environment Directorate of SICA have initiated the administrative process to hire an international coordinator for the project. Through this measure, they will officially initiate the activities of the project that is expected to contribute to the development of an integrated system for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in protected natural areas within the framework of the short- and long-term economic development priorities of the countries that make up the Mesoamerican Region.

**4. Suggested lines of action**

- a) Workshops in the Caribbean and Andean Regions to prepare bases for the projects.
- b) Endorsement of the countries for the Gran Chaco Americano Project.
- c) Implementation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project.

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

- a. Meeting in the Caribbean (Santo Domingo) to discuss the project document and initiate the PDF-Block B procedures.

*Parties* GEF-UNEP

*Responsible:*

*Funds:* US\$ 340,000

*Date:* February 2000 (possible PDF-B)

- b. Workshop in the Andean region (Colombia) to discuss the document prepared, in order subsequently to submit a project proposal to the GEF.

*Parties* UNEP/ROLAC

*Responsible:*

*Funds:* US\$ 350,000

*Date:* February 2000 (possible PDF-B)

- c. Letters of endorsement from the participating countries, in order to submit the Gran Chaco project to the GEF.

*Parties* UNDP-FAO

*Responsible:*

*Funds:* US\$ 44,000

*Date:* March 2000

*d* Startup of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, once a coordinator has been designated, with the support of UNDP and UNDP.

*Parties* UNDP-UNEP- SICA/CCAD

*Responsible:*

*Funds:* US\$ 10 million

*Date:* March 2000

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## Summary 5. Part A

### **Pilot Project on Community Education and Training for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests in Mexico**

**1. Authors:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP)

#### **2. Brief summary of the document**

- a) *Problem:* Deforestation, land fertility reduction, genetic erosion and biodiversity loss have advanced in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. These processes have been accentuated in recent years by the impact of climate change, generating atypical natural phenomena such as El Niño and La Niña, plus their consequences (forest fires, hurricanes and floods), which, owing to their magnitude, have devastated extensive forest areas. The adverse synergies of these processes have increased the vulnerability of ecosystems and local populations, causing ecological and human disasters in several countries in the region. In turn, strategies to appropriate the genetic material of natural ecosystems and native populations in the countries of the region and to plant transgenic crops have given rise to widespread debate and controversy revolving around the problems of biosafety and food security for the local populations, the countries and the region as a whole. These processes point up the need to bring about significant changes in traditional practices and methods of managing forest resources, so as to ensure biodiversity conservation, ecological sustainability and alleviation of the poverty among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Governments and international agencies have recognized that ecological sustainability requires effective participation of the local populations in solving their environmental problems. However, the rural communities (peasant farmers and indigenous peoples) have not acquired the capacities needed to enable them to participate more positively in conserving nature, in transforming their productive practices and in adopting decisions that affect their quality of life.

The Pilot Project is aimed at developing a programme to train leaders, promoters and trainers to train their own indigenous and peasant-farmer populations who live in the areas of greatest importance to conserving biodiversity in the humid tropical forests in six states of Mexico through a cooperation agreement between UNEP and SEMARNAP, in collaboration with other international agencies, foundations, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and producers. Efforts will seek to expand this Pilot Project in order to link it with the Meso-American Biological Corridor Project and to incorporate proposals by other countries.

- b) *Action taken to date:* Working meetings between UNEP and SEMARNAP authorities have been held to agree on terms for the Pilot Project. Three meetings have been held with the participation of personnel responsible for similar SEMARNAP programmes and of associated institutions, and an Executive Council and Operational Coordinating Unit have been established to design and develop the project. Finally a workshop was organized with the participation of the main operators and actors in community organization and training programmes in the areas and locations selected, in order to organize and programme the initial project activities (including a review of training materials, intervention and education methods and the organization of community training workshops). As a result of these meetings, a project document has been prepared, a cooperation agreement between UNEP and SEMARNAP has been established to execute the project, and activities have been programmed for the first six months of the project. An official mission to Brazil has been set up for February 2000 for talks with the Environment Ministry on the design and development of a similar programme there.

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

The project falls under the priority topic line of the Regional Environmental Action Plan, *I. Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management*, Section D. Environmental Education and Training, which seeks to convert the education and training process into a basic tool for environmental management and, within its suggested lines of action, proposes support for environmental training in the community sphere. It also incorporates, through training, other priorities of the Action Plan: biological diversity and protected areas, climate change and early warning.

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

- a) Prepare a regional project on the basis of subprojects agreed to with the Governments of the countries in the region.
- b) Prepare pilot projects in the national sphere on training indigenous and peasant-farmer populations in the conservation and sustainable management of forests.
- c) Enter into agreements with governmental bodies, institutions and actors involved in each of the pilot projects and their activities.
- d) Organize and conduct training courses and workshops.
- e) Prepare and adapt educational and training materials.
- f) Design teaching strategies and methodologies appropriate for the target populations.
- g) Incorporate this regional project into other similar programmes and projects at the national and subregional levels: the Meso-American Biological Corridor, the *Proarco* and *Proteger* Programmes in Brazil, etc.
- h) Develop a financing strategy, bringing together the contributions of UNEP, the Environment Ministries, the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) and other international, regional and national organizations.

## 5. Implementation of the suggested lines of action

*Project:* The project will be developed within the activities of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, in association with similar UNEP/ORPALC programmes and in collaboration with the Governments of the region and agencies.

*Financing:* The foreseen cost of conducting the pilot project in Mexico during the biennium 2000-2001 is US\$ 200,000. Putting the project into operation and carrying out its initial activities are being financed through a contribution of US\$ 50,000 from UNEP, \$US 30,000 from the SEMARNAP/UNDP project "Strengthening Civil Society-PRODERS" and additional contributions from the Programme for the Protection of Forests in the Mexican Humid Tropics and from the SEMARNAP General Directorate of Regional Programmes (in addition to important contributions in kind from different collaborating institutions). The project will incorporate resources already allocated to the Environmental Training Network for community training activities and from the collaborating institutions (FAO, Fund for the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America, the Mexican National Institute of Indigenous Affairs) and from other funds available for similar activities financed by other programmes and projects (Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, Rockefeller Foundation, etc.). The project is being proposed within the Inter-Agency Regional Project on Environmental Education and Training, and, if approved by the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers, will receive financial support from the ITC agencies. The contributions of other countries will be established on the basis of agreements for the development of other national pilot projects.

*Time:* The estimated time for the pilot stage of the project is two years, during the biennium 2000-2001. A subsequent evaluation will be conducted and submitted to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers for consideration regarding extension and expansion of the project.

*Leading agency:* UNEP, through the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Cooperating agencies:* Environment Ministries, World Bank, IDB, UNDP, Rockefeller Foundation, Fund for the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America, Mexican National Institute of Indigenous Affairs.



## Summary 5. Part B

### Special Project on Education and Training for the Small Island States of the Caribbean

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

**2. Brief summary of the document**

- a) *Problem:* The Caribbean countries are facing important environmental problems exacerbated by their vulnerability to global changes. At the General Assembly of the United Nations and UNEP, the Governments have referred to the growing need for support in developing the capacities required to address the problems associated with achieving sustainable development in these countries. UNEP has so far provided less support to these countries than to those in the rest of Latin America: on the one hand, the Small Island States of the Caribbean subregion (with the exception of Cuba) have not joined the Regional Programme of the Environmental Training Network; on the other, the project on environmental awareness, education and training of the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CAR/CRU) was eliminated from the Regional Action Plan for the Caribbean. Thus, the need to develop a special project on environmental education and training for the small island States of the Caribbean.
- b) *Action taken to date:* UNEP has hired two consultants to prepare a project document for a regional project on environmental education and training for the Caribbean countries, with the following objectives and content:
- To prepare a diagnosis and assessment of the education and training needs with reference to the priority environmental problems of the subregion, including pollution, conservation and sustainable management of its natural resources.
  - To take the set of projects formulated by the small island developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean, and particularly those referring to environmental education and training, as a point of reference.
  - To assess the existing institutional capabilities, as well as the needs and strategies for the development of environmental education and training activities, including capacities of the education system, curricular design, education strategies, inter-institutional cooperation, preparation of educational materials and the development pilot projects and activities.
  - To develop a programme with specific proposals for scheduled and budgeted activities to be conducted at different levels and in different spheres of the education system: basic education, technical training, higher education (universities), professional training, non-formal



education and community training for participatory management of natural resources.

So far, only a proposal for the development of activities in the English-speaking countries has been prepared, and it is described in detail in the draft project document.

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

The project falls under the priority topic line of the Regional Environmental Action Plan, *I. Institutional framework, policies and instruments for environmental management*, Section D. Environmental Education and Training, which seeks to convert the education process into a basic tool for environmental management and, within its suggested lines of action, proposes support for environmental training in the community sphere. Furthermore, it responds to the request that priority support be given to the island countries of the Caribbean.

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

- a) To hold a consultative meeting with the island countries of the Caribbean to review and finalize the project, as well as to draw up specific proposals.
- b) To identify needs, institutional capacities and priority activities to be developed in the Spanish-speaking and French-speaking countries.
- c) To prepare a project document to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility.
- d) To establish agreements and commitments with the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) for the coordination of similar projects and activities financed by these agencies, and to take joint steps with the Governments to obtain additional resources from alternative financing sources.
- e) To designate a person in the UNEP national focal point in each country to be responsible for project negotiations and follow-up.
- f) To establish a subregional information and communication mechanism for project coordination.

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

*a. Project:* The project will be carried out within the activities of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with UNEP/CAR/RCU and in collaboration with the Governments of the region and international agencies.

*Financing:* A cost of US\$ 3 million is foreseen for a five-year period (2000-2004). Project startup and its initial activities would be financed by UNEP with supplementary contributions from the countries. However, its development would require other funding sources. The project has been proposed for development within the framework of the Regional Inter-Agency Project on Environmental Education and Training and, if approved, would have the support of the ITC agencies. Other alternative and supplementary financing sources should be explored.

*Time:* The estimated time for the pilot stage of this project is the five-year period 2000-2004. Periodic evaluations will be made and will be presented at the forthcoming meetings of the Inter-Sessional Committee and at the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Meetings of the Forum of Ministers, where decisions would be made regarding the project's continuation, extension and expansion.

*Leading agency:* UNEP, through the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Cooperating agencies:* UNEP/CAR-RCU, Environment Ministries, World Bank, IDB, UNDP, ECLAC, CARICOM, CANARI, CCA, CCUNRM, CARIMAC, CERN and CAST.



## Summary 6

### Bases for an Environmental Perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

#### **2. Summary of the Document**

- a) *Problem:* A regional environmental perspective is needed in order to develop comprehensive environmental policies that will have a true impact on the use of natural resources. Such a perspective would allow effective institutional mechanisms to be put into operation for the implementation of agreements and policies for the conservation and sustainable use of natural and environmental resources. It would also allow capacity building of the region's Forum of Environment Ministers to produce and exchange information to facilitate decision-making.
- b) *Action taken to date:* Isolated measures have been taken at the country and subregional levels to include mechanisms that would generate comprehensive environmental assessments, as a basis for the analysis and development of environmental policies. There are some environmental and sustainable development information systems that allow information and experiences to be exchanged as support for decision-making. However, most of these activities are not standardized at either the national or regional level. UNEP, through the GEO programme, has begun to organize the available information using a standardized structure to conduct environmental assessments at the national, regional and global levels.

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

Decision 24 adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 1996), and Decision 8 of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Environment Ministers (New York, USA, September 1998).

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

- a) A regional environmental perspective;
- b) An environmental information exchange system, standardized at the regional level to allow the coordination of important existing networks, lists and databases in the region;
- c) A methodology that is standardized at the regional level to prepare reports on the state of the environment and current trends and policies (at the national, subregional and regional levels), as a base for preparing environmental policies.

- d) Proposals on environment and sustainable development indicators, including georeferenced indicators, standardized at the region level, and technological tools for their management.

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

*a. Project:* Development of an Environmental Perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Note: agreement by the ministers is needed in order to continue)

*Financing:* US\$ 30,000

*Time:* March-October 2000

*Leading agency:* UNEP

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, WB, UNDP, ECLAC, in addition to Governments of the region.

*b. Project:* Development and Harmonization of Environmental Information Exchange Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Financing:* Cost to be determined (various activities related to this proposal have already begun)

*Time:* 2000-2001

*Leading agency:* UNEP

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, WB, UNDP, in addition to Governments of the region and other international organizations conducting regional activities in this field.

*c. Project:* Methodology for the Preparation of Environmental Reports.

*Financing:* US\$ 150,000 (UNEP has already initiated several activities related to this proposal)

*Time:* March-December 2000

*Leading agency:* UNEP

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, WB, UNDP, ECLAC, with the participation of other organizations within and outside the region.

*d. Project:* Methodology Proposal for Preparing Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators, Including Georeferenced Indicators, at the Regional Level.

*Financing:* US\$ 300,000

*Time:* 2000-2001

*Leading agency:* UNEP-WB-ECLAC

*Collaborating agencies:* IDB, UNDP, in addition to Governments of the region and other international organizations conducting regional activities in this field.



## Summary 7

### Territorial and bio-regional basis for planning

**1. Authors:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and The World Bank (WB)

#### 2. Introduction

The context where Latin American and the Caribbean environmental challenges have to be analyzed, has to acknowledge, first of all, the significant change in global geopolitical frameworks. Instead of the cold war stress, that up to certain extent had overwhelmed the international relationships agenda, by the early 90's there was a relative although increasing goodwill in the relationships among the great powers. In spite of the expectations, the so-called "peace dividend" never brought to fruition, and the development paradigms suffered great transformations. International cooperation, however, is more valid nowadays, with a renewed drive in order to carry out the national and regional integration demands.

The combination of positive and negative signs in the regional and global scenario would seem to strengthen the concept of relative exhaustion of certain organization models of the society and economy, that were very popular during the eighties. This concept would seem to classify the challenges by the end of the decade, where we see that in addition to the traditional intra and inter-nations poverty and inequality challenges, now we have to deal with the ecological and environmental restrictions and requirements to attain a sustained and fair growth for the next century.

The new development paradigm, in the making since the Brundtland Report on ***Our Common Future*** was published at the end of the last century, reveals the disappointment for the still prevailing paradigm --excellent generator of growth and material accrual-- regarding the wealth distribution, decrease of poverty and income inequalities, as well as environment protection. Thus, the data contained in successive Human Development Reports produced by PNUD reveal that during the world economy boom period, since the 60's, the twenty per cent of more wealthy people inhabiting this planet have seen their share grow in the global income, from 70 per cent in 1960 to 82.7 per cent in 1990; and 86.7 per cent in 1998. Meanwhile, the twenty per cent of more poor people, have seen their income decrease from 2.3 per cent to 1.3, and to only 1.1 respectively. Generally speaking, we can say that the distance between rich and poor grew from 30 times in 1960 to 63 times in 1990, and to 79 times in 1999, putting in doubt the theories that set out that the simple growth process can solve the inequality and social injustice problems. This reality has lead PNUD to assert that "*the new globalization rules -and the actors who write them- are intended to integrate global markets, neglecting the needs of people, that markets are not able to meet. This process is holding power and marginalizing poor countries and people*".

Likewise, available information allows us to consolidate that post-war growth models have not been more effective in reducing the growing demand in the natural resources base that allow the productive process to take place, they have not been effective either in decreasing the over-exploited capacity of nature to provide the society with the

essential environmental services for a good quality life in the planet, such as the nutrients cycle, climatic stability, biological diversity, and others. The so-called environment global problems, the greenhouse effect, the ozone layer destruction, the de-certification and loss of sown fields, and the increasing extinction rates of fauna and flora species, among others, make up the other environmental face of current paradigm unsustainability, putting in doubt also the cultural patterns of relationships between human beings and nature.

The challenge that the Governments and the Latin American and Caribbean society have to face is that of guaranteeing the existence of a transparent, informed and participatory process for the debate and the decision making process to attain sustainability. In fact, it is urgent to build a greater social consensus in every country of the region for the conception of a sustainable development. The present crisis experienced by the region is not only an institutional or individual crisis. It is not only the poor distribution and goods consumption, but a value and fate crisis. Regarding this, the NGO's had an outstanding role including the environmental issues in the public agenda. The pending task, however, is to get the development to consolidate as a political strength for other relevant social actors, such as the local authorities, the members of the parliament, the peasants, the Indians, the workers, the industrials, the young people, and women.

The opening of those new spaces, should not be adversely affected by the role corresponding to the State in striving for development. We could even suggest that the Latin American and Caribbean State has been provided a treatment to cure manic-depressive disease. In the manic stage, the social actors bless it and ask it to assume loans at negative real interest rates, to grant fiscal favors, to carry out infrastructure works, etc. In the depressive stage, they degrade it, and minimize it, accusing it of representing the unique interest of the dominant classes, or demanding reductions in public expenditure and in bureaucratic processes. The final result has been, that in the wild succession of both stages, the State has experienced a sort of heart attack: the first, during a function diastole; then, with a resources systole.

In spite of the ideological ups and downs of the last few years, it is increasingly acknowledged that the State still has a very special responsibility regarding regulations and organization, among the different productive, community and social sectors, especially in the areas of education, citizenship security and environment. In fact, the role of the State is *unique*, because the market logic has gone beyond, safeguarding the social justice and equity values and practices, and it includes the defense of the so-called citizenship vague rights; *necessary*, because the logic of capitalist accrual requires the supply of "common goods" that cannot be produced by competitive actors in the market; and *essential*, because it is oriented to future generations and it deals with non-replaceable processes and aspects.

This is still more important when we recognize that the governability, that used to be defined until recently, according to the transition of authoritarian regimes to democratic regimes, or according to the challenges put in front of hyperinflation and economic instability, is based nowadays on the possibilities of overcoming poverty and inequality. Such as the 1994 issue of the PNUD Human Development Report asserts, nobody should be doomed to a brief or miserable life only because he/she was born in the wrong class, or in the wrong country, or with the wrong sex. The new bases of coexistence that provide the political system with governability require therefore a new development paradigm that places the human being in the middle of the development process, that deems economic growth is a means and not an end, that protects current and future generations opportunities of life, and therefore, that respects the integrity of natural systems that will allow life to exist in the planet.

Within this general context, it is urgent that national environmental authorities and social authorities examine those sustainable development initiatives that due to its capacity to include economic processes with environmental services and community needs, set out success models. It is also urgent to provide objective and comparable instruments of measurement to those responsible for the environmental management, as well as to provide indicators that quantify environmental services and their contribution to economic productivity and social stability.

It is increasingly necessary to be able to measure our approach to sustainability goals, therefore it is essential to have a small group of indicators and/or sustainability general rates that will allow the Region's environmental management authorities to periodically analyze the environmental trends (positive and negative), and its impact both for the integrity of the natural heritage, and to attain the improvement of life quality for the population, and development scopes.

In this report, experiences regarding "bioregional planning" as an environmental management instrument, and as a starting point for the sustainable development of America and the Caribbean are analyzed, and opportunities, success, and challenges that this integrated approach brings with itself in order to consolidate and strengthen those practices, are presented. Likewise, the report presents an analysis of some of the indicators that have been used in the Region to determine the economic and social welfare, and it suggests the development of a general set of sustainability indicators that may be periodically presented before the Forum of Latin American and the Caribbean Environment Ministers, in order to identify trends and evaluate the corresponding policies.

### **3. Bioregional Planning**

Bioregional planning is identified as an approach of environmental management that has proved to have special strengths and potentials. In fact, the reality of deep worldwide transformations, its globalization and the need to reorient the current styles of development towards sustainability, make long term public policies development become effective once again, with the resulting reevaluation of strategic planning. The main lesson has been the urgent need of making the new planning patterns become *participatory, agreed by consensus, articulated, and integrated*. The voluntary character of plans and programs designed at the offices in the central part of the country, is not valid anymore, because they are isolated from the social and environmental reality, and they were developed on the bases of technocratically defined sector compartments, and applied to administrative borders, not necessarily relevant to guarantee the flow of resources and environmental services on which feasibility is based in the time of human activities. It adopts far-reaching geographical criteria from the new technologies that make up the georeferential information.

On the other hand, original initiatives have risen in the region, where the different social actors (producers, and local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientists, and technicians, entrepreneurs, church), from a locality, a micro-region, a certain region or a whole country, achieve consensus, that previously could not just even been imagined, having as the central point the respect for the nature processes, elements or dynamics. These dual process, it is to say ecological and social, has original, very important elements, that should be analyzed and understood. The basic assumptions to get close to the new reality of territorial and bioregional planning should be summarized as follows:

- The capacity of a country to protect the environment is not and cannot be restrained by government policies, and increasingly relies on social strengths of different types.
- Successful environmental protection is the result of the interaction of a set of influences, and cannot be explained from an isolated factor, a particular planning strategy, and environmental management; a providential management instrument, a certain actor, or a singular context condition.

After analyzing the environmental agenda evolution of the last decades, the Report checks out the regional specificity of the globalization process and the lessons learned with the failure when trying to achieve a centralized planning. The main conclusion has been the development, the one that meet the needs of present generations, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; it is based on three basic mainstays: *modernity, ethics, and democracy*. In few words, if it were not for current modernity that aggravates individualism, and consumerism, if it were not for the ethical demands for social justice, and even more, if we were not going through times when any development option requires, as a necessary and essential condition, deepening in democracy and widening citizens spaces, as well as social participation, it would not be valid to suggest the need of a new style of development whose main objective would be sustainability.

The **territorial and bioregional scope of planning**, within the framework of this scope, sets out important advantages regarding the traditional planning tools and conceptions, especially to develop, implement, and assess decisions and public policies:

- ***It makes up a strategic process*** that allows the decision maker to focus his/her attention in aspects that are essential for sustainability, for example, to ensure water supply. In order to describe all this better, from the bioregional scope, food safety is considered in the context of nutrients flow and prevention of soil degradation.
- ***It makes it easier to wipe out rural poverty*** establishing ecological and cultural corridors with many objectives, among them, to promote regional and national integration of local communities.
- ***It allows to develop policies making simultaneous use of different geographic and institutional scales.*** For example in order to guarantee the water quality, springs should be taken care of, because many times the political-administrative borders of the community are extrapolated. Otherwise, empowerment of Indian populations or non-governmental organizations may be the best environmental management alternative, as suggested in the Oaxaca example, that will be introduced later on.
- ***It offers concrete alternatives to implement a good part of agreements approved in the Río Conference***, especially decisions regarding climatic change and protection of biologic diversity. In order to identify **in situ** biodiversity protection options; corridors that allow to forecast the movement of species, as a consequence of the climatic change should be suggested, as well as to promote the restoration of degraded waters and soils, and finally, identify investment opportunities that strengthen the usage of those lands.



- ***It increases technical knowledge, improvement of human resources, and agreement alternatives*** between state and non-state actors, private actors, and scientific community. The use of tools such as Geographic Information Systems allows a more effective integration among interests, knowledge, and abilities, for example, of local communities, Indian groups, rural and forest extension services, universities and research and counseling centers, and local and regional governments.

The bioregions potential as sustainable or supportable development politics instruments, is closely linked to the value that the world market gives to environmental products or services. For the same token, its greatest strength relies in its capacity as biodiversity safeguard zones. Likewise, safeguards implemented by the population regarding the use of industrial products (pesticides, preservatives, etc.), in the food chain, provide good business opportunities for territories such as bioregions. On the other hand, the greatest weaknesses presented by bioregions are related to the absence of sound institutional frameworks specifically linked to its development (organizations such as National Environment Commissions are not enough, because their function is more to protect than to promote), and to the lack of social organization they show, either due to the simple reason of an absolute lack of population, or to its dispersion, or due to its native character more given to its own social organization models, than to the type of "modern" western relationship, so to speak.

In order to consolidate the real scope of bioregional planning in Latin America and the Caribbean, several experiences have been searched, from Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano to Plan de Desarrollo de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (from Mesoamerican Biological Corridor to Development Plan of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta). In the bottom line, they represent participatory planning experiences in the territory where interests in conflict of diverse sectors, get to harmonize, to articulate and to integrate according to a common objective. Every studied case accounts for a particular combination of efforts of every, or some social sectors, and most of them represent local, micro-regional, and regional, and even national and sector experience. The lessons that can be learned from the compared analysis of studied cases are many.

- The first fact we have on sight, is that all experiences rose as an answer to the ***acknowledgment of an ecological crisis*** that is perceived as concrete and immediate: deforestation, loss of water, poor management of natural resources, deficient agriculture. This crisis, however, becomes the *change opportunity*, becomes a reality where local actors not only identify an adequate way to overcome their only social situation in overcoming the ecological crisis, but they also go over to the offensive, involving themselves either directly or indirectly in the globalized world reality.
- The process is of course a ***multi-sectorial exercise*** where two ingredients seem to be essential: NGO's that work as the cheerleaders, the catalysts, the organizers, and the connecting elements of the process; and the direct or indirect use of scientific and technological information, it is to say through the participation of researchers and technicians, or the use of information derived from the experience in field, in similar areas. Institutional or material support by governmental agencies, and by international organization are very close too.
- The main lesson is very relevant. Any social sector seems to be potentially subject to become a conscious actor in a planning effort

(explicit or implicit), whose objective is to achieve the **rehabilitation of the balance between the social actors and the natural systems**. The appearance of this "collective consciousness", of a common bioregional character arises in the construction or acknowledgement of a certain relevance to a functionally articulated space that is also common: a community territory, a region, a hydrologic rim, a country, and consequently the planet itself. Out of this, some innovative examples of *spatial solidarity* arise (the inhabitants of a rim or of a certain region), *productive solidarity* (producers, transformers, and consumers of certain good or service), *epistemological solidarity* (such as the church, scientists, and Indians who take part in several initiatives).

- In this phenomenon, both **information resources** coming from academic circles, and the ability of communication or broadcasting agencies (generally represented by NGO's) play a very important role, to make it available to the rest of social sectors, and to give it an operating sense. Without scientific information, such as data to acknowledge a territory or to interpret a regional or technological situation, the designs or formulas to overcome a productive or management problem, these experiences become unfeasible and unrepeatable. Likewise, without a "social engineering", it is to say, without participatory democracy mechanisms, knowledge, and actors dialogue, without effective ways of communication and consensus supply.

The above mentioned has allowed to identified some of the main **challenges** for the territorial and bioregional strategic action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- To establish **institutional and political frameworks** where governments, communities, corporations and other private interests are promoted so that they cooperate in the development process.
- To identify and value **leadership and management initiatives**. Experience has shown that promotion and strengthening of bioregional programs use to start from governmental agencies, community leaders or NGO's.
- There is a need for **social acceptance** of the project, since the projects identified as external to the community or imposed from the high ranking levels to the lower ranking levels, have low possibilities of long term maintenance.
- They should have a **multi-sector** character, involving state, private, and non-state actors who live or work in the area, and therefore, rely on the environmental resources and services that such area provides. Likewise, the challenge of building local, regional, and even international alliances is equally challenging (for the case of trans-border bioregions).
- The two above mentioned aspects lead us to stress especially the need to guarantee the conditions, so that some of the most important components of the bioregional approach come true, the **participatory character** of development planning. In a few words, because they allow the integrated mobilization of natural, human and social capital, latent in the community; to deepen on the inter-sector levels, essential for the bioregional conception of development; in addition to counteract some of the negative effects of globalization, it is to say, to empower the local

community and to revalue the importance of identities deep-rooted in the specific environmental setting.

- Unlimited access to **information** and to the possibilities of improving the **analysis ability** of community actors, without which the unbalance among actors prevents a real participation and a long lasting agreement.
- **To take into consideration the scale differences** of the environment and social-economic, and cultural factors. Obviously, the challenges for the environmental management faced by a Caribbean insular country, or by a Central American country, are different from those that faces a South American continental country. In its turn, there are great differences between the challenges of the tropical countries, and those of the countries located in a temperate zone.
- To identify **command and control instruments**, such as regulations and standards for the use of natural resources and environment (water, air, woods, solid wastes, emissions to the atmosphere or spillage to waters, etc.). Among other aspects, and in spite of the important restrictions of command and control instruments in the current context, they have been used as the ground base for the development of environmental impact studies, for territorial ordering, and for the creation of protected areas.
- To get rid of the failures from the market, that generate environmental deterioration, which include complex framework situations, whose removal would demand high doses of political will. We can mention, just to illustrate, the inequality in income distribution, and land ownership, styles of life and consumption and transportation patterns. But it also includes others that due to its nature can be removed, such as the case of **evil subsidies for the environment**, like the ones corresponding to gasoline, power, and agriculture inputs.
- To implement **instruments such as royalties, rates on environment usage, permits for emissions, and "green" taxes**. When this approach started to be used, it was assumed that the establishment of economic instruments as a replacement of those of command and control, would entail less demands of personnel and resources, however, it has been proved that economic instruments require strong institutions to design and to implement them.
- Nowadays there is a conception of **self-financing of protected areas** through the economic acknowledgement of the services they render. In the case of national parks, hydrologic services are especially important, as well as carbon capture, providing biogenetic resources, and ecotourism. The rate of reward established by Costa Rica for protection is a practical expression of this conception, and it deserves to be thoroughly analyzed in order to determine the possibility of spreading it out to other countries.
- **The payment of global services of wood ecosystems, and particularly, the protection of biodiversity**, as well as the mitigation of climatic changes, have been stated as another source of special meaning for its protection. In the region, several efforts regarding the exploitation of biodiversity economic potentials are being observed. Costa Rica, based on INBIOS project, has been a pioneer country

worldwide. On the other hand, we suggest instruments such as *Clean Development Mechanism* as a global financial window that sets out great potentials to protect developing countries.

#### 4. In search of sustainability indicators

The report is the first try intended to introduce a small group of indicators and/or general sustainability rates, in addition to basic statistics that allow to introduce an analysis of environmental trends (positive and negative) and its impact both for the integrity of natural heritage and to improve the conditions and life quality for the population, as well as for the development scopes.

The analysis that was carried out started from the premise that in order for these indicators to be useful instruments for the trend analysis, and for the orientation of sustainable development policies, they should meet the following criteria:

- they should allow to establish sub-regional categories of environmental trends, and take into consideration the many environmental concerns in the region (the marine resources are much more relevant for Chile, Peru, and the Caribbean countries, than for Mediterranean countries such as Paraguay and Bolivia; while deforestation occupies the highest priority in the environmental agenda of the Amazon Rim countries, as opposed to what happens in countries such as Cuba, Argentina or Uruguay);
- they should have the ability to integrate and complete the main available statistics, thus contributing to widen the spread and access to such statistics;
- they should include as much diversity as possible of economic, social, environmental, and institutional dimensions;
- they should include sector relevant statistic information, in order to allow the Environment Ministries to promote the dialogue and influence the decision making process in economic areas (Treasury, Planning), productive (Industry, Tourism, Agriculture), and social (Education, Health, Housing), of the governments;
- they should be able to influence the decision making process in the government and inter-government sectors to correct the negative trends and to promote the positive ones.

In this analysis we took a look to one of the most important initiatives to measure development sustainability, focusing on the introduction of the so-called **Índice de Bienestar Económico (IBES)** (Economic Welfare Index), developed at the end of the last decade. IBES' starting point is the verification that the relationship between economy and environment sets out many dimensions and complexities; and its effects on social welfare are not obvious, above all when this relationship varies among countries, cultures, regions, poverty levels, and the type of policies used. Therefore, in order to attain sustainability, it is necessary to have an index of the adequate yield of economic and natural systems that provide us with the correct information of the status they are in.

Up to date, the most commonly used indicator to measure the economic progress of a country is the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, through the national account system. A country, however, can exhaust its mineral resources, cut down its woods, degrade its soils, pollute its water sources, and exploit its fishing resources until exhausting them, but its income is not affected when these assets disappear. The GDP growth is related to

higher levels of welfare, but GDP increases both with investments in new schools, and with expenditures carried out to clean toxic spillages, or with resources intended to fight crime. The treatment of natural resources in conventional systems of national accounts strengthens the false dichotomy between economy and environment, and validates the idea that high economic growth can be obtained and sustained destroying the resources base. The result may be ephemeral profits of income, and permanent wealth losses. In developing countries where there is not a strong relationship between poverty and environment, and where economic growth is based on natural resources, omission of these values may give wrong signals of real economic growth in a country, and of its sustainability.

IBES was thought as a better and more appropriate measure of welfare. Part of the private consumption value, PC, includes all final expenses incurred in by the consumer, excluding government expenditure and international trade, and the first step consists of an adjustment for income distribution. Later on, several elements representing social and environmental costs or benefits are added, or subtracted. Services consumed in the economy are added, but without a monetary expression, such as domestic work, and services rendered by the State, for which no rates are regularly paid (such as the use of streets and roads). In addition to this, part of the government expenditure in health and education increases individual welfare. In the case of durable consumption goods, such as refrigerators or cars, that provide service for over one year, the welfare they generate during their useful life is distributed annually.

Among the elements that are subtracted from the private consumption value, are private defensive expenditures, social costs of several activities, and depreciation of environmental assets and natural resources. Defensive expenditures being considered are those made by families, for example, to prevent crimes (alarms, and other security devices), money spent in transportation to go to work, and a percentage of private expenses in health. Social costs include those derived from air and water pollution and others that can be attributed to the growth of population and crowds such as car accidents. The PC is also adjusted taking into consideration degradation and loss of natural capital.

Taking into consideration the restrictions on information availability, in this report we rehearse a summarized version of IBES for some Latin American countries (since the seventies up to 1997): Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. It is important to point out that the information of the countries that is herewith presented, is only the first approach to the welfare and sustainability alternative indicators calculation, and it should not be considered as an approach to the welfare level that overcomes that derived from GDP application. Furthermore, the data do not allow to make comparisons among the countries, since the results rely very much on the availability and quality of the information.

Generally speaking, the situation of the countries being studied is not different from what has been observed in developed countries. For every country, however, the different adjustment had a different weight. For Argentina and Barbados, the public expenditure in education and health has a greater weight within positive adjustments, and petroleum exhaustion, is on the negative side. In the case of Bolivia and Ecuador, the main adjustment that explains the result is the appraisal of women work at home, the other adjustments are irrelevant. Colombia and Venezuela present positive adjustments, similar to those of Bolivia and Ecuador, but the costs for natural capital exhaustion have become important in the last few years, especially long term environmental costs for Colombia, and petroleum exhaustion for Venezuela. For Chile, natural resources exhaustion (copper and woods), account for the result. In Costa Rica,

in spite of the fact that women's work at home has a positive, significant impact, woods exhaustion, and long term environmental costs exceeded it throughout the years of the study. Surprisingly, for Brazil, its woods exhaustion did not have the expected importance, since the most important adjustments were the public expenditure in education and health and long term environmental costs. The same result is observed for Dominican Republic. In the case of Mexico, the loss of agricultural lands is the adjustment with the highest weight on the negative side that accounts for the result; the most important positive adjustment is the public expenditure in education and health. Finally, in Peru, the absence of adjustment due to income distribution and public expenditure in education and health are the main factors that explain the evolution of IBES per capita.

It is important to clear out, that IBES certainly needs to be improved. This index still depends on market prices and on censurable procedures, or on procedures subject to discussion, especially those that refer to the estimation of values in the environment and natural resources part. On the other hand, it is an index initially created for a developed country, which sets out several problems: i) it demands a lot of information, most of which is not generally available in many countries of the region; ii) it emphasizes some problems that may seem less relevant for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and, iii) on the contrary, the way it treats some issues (for example, loss of woods), is not adapted to the reality of the region's countries. Finally, regarding the natural capital, since the index uses market prices, the result underestimates the real cost of reducing natural resources, and degradation of environment, since it does not include environmental services such as biodiversity maintenance, and other aspects that are relevant if we want to take into consideration quality of life and future options.

In spite of the above mentioned considerations, the construction of more real welfare and sustainable development measures, such as IBES accounts for a remarkable progress for decision making, not only in environmental area, but also in public policies in general. Among other aspects, it allows to establish a clearer and more direct relationship between the so-called explicit and implicit environmental policies, both social and economic.

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## Summary 8

### Challenges and proposals for more effective implementation of economic instruments in environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### 1. Authors: ECLAC and UNDP

#### 2. Brief summary of the document:

- a) *Problem:* To date, strong and systematic implementation of economic instruments in environmental management has not been observed in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In view of the potential of these instruments to complement and introduce mechanisms that will provide greater flexibility and efficiency in the regulatory strategy, more extensive use of these instruments could be expected to lower the costs of the productive sectors' achieving the objectives of improved environmental quality that the countries of the region have formulated, in harmony with goals of economic competitiveness.

Implementing economic instruments in environmental management comes up against some challenges, including: budget deficiencies in environmental authorities; the need to make the application of economic instruments for environmental management compatible with sectorial policies in place; the challenges posed by the prevailing juridical-institutional conditions; and the administrative intensity of implementing economic instruments in environmental management.

The document presents taxonomy of economic instruments in the context of environmental management such as: fees (for emissions, use and impact), environmental taxes, tradable permit systems, payment of compensation resulting from liability for environmental damage, subsidies, and intervention in the final demand.

- b) *Action taken to date:* The document evaluates experiences in six selected countries and presents some challenges and proposals for achieving the effective application of such instruments in the context of the economic and sectoral policies.

The document concludes that there is already an important group of economic instruments that the countries can use in environmental management. Some countries are already experimenting with some instruments, however the use of such instruments is sporadic.

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

The project falls under the priority topic line of the Regional Environmental Action Plan *I. Institutional Framework, policies and instruments for environmental management*, sections A. *Environmental management* and C. *Trade and environment* and decision 2 of the Eleventh Forum of Ministers in which the Ministers agreed that one of the priority lines of common interest should be focused on strengthening the "institutional frameworks, policies and instruments for environmental management, which include, among other topics, innovative economic and legal instruments, and the exchange of experience on the decentralization of environmental management in the countries of the region".

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

A possible model for the implementation of an economic instrument to be orchestrated by regulating agencies representing the most advanced countries in the region:

- a) Establish the objective and field of action being sought with the application of the instrument in terms of the environmental problem to be controlled. Define (a) the group of agents to be regulated in terms of their size, number, contribution to the problem, location, and productive or exploitation process, and (b) whether the instrument is aimed at polluting substances themselves, processes, products or natural resources.
- b) Establish the goal of the instrument in terms of a specific amount to be collected (in the case of fees or taxes), or some quantifiable improvement in environmental quality (reduction in pollution, etc.) to be achieved through the instruments.
- d) Establish the specific use of the funds collected. This involves negotiating and building a consensus with the fiscal authorities
- e) Establish a period of gradual transition until full application is reached (investing in the training of the parties involved, building a political consensus and fine-tuning the design through pilot application tests).
- f) Formulate specific regulations for the instrument (approved by a law, decree or resolution of a competent authority) that includes its environmental justification, its sphere of action, pertinent parameters, periods for implementation, checking of goals, etc.
- g) Establish institutional responsibilities and proceed to implement the instrument, seeking to assign significant roles to the governments, to the private sector and to civil organizations.
- h) Try to make innovative use of the regional/local environmental funds to provide municipalities with environmental infrastructure, finance cleaner production projects and strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of the environmental management authorities.



Model for the implementation of an economic instrument to be orchestrated by the regulating agencies of the countries whose environmental institutions have less experience:

- a) Identify the most important pollution sources that can be effectively regulated.
- b) Mobilize political and community support for undertaking activities.
- c) Establish the relationship between pollution reduction measures and the achievement of environmental quality goals. Invest in the gradual development of integrated information systems for environmental management.
- d) Establish (by cost-effectiveness principles) priorities among the different alternatives and options regarding measures to be applied (e.g. introduce fees that can easily be collected, etc.).
- e) Experiment with a combination of cost-effective direct regulation measures, together with the application of modest fees that can easily be managed.
- f) Obtain an optimum combination of policies as progress is made towards achieving environmental goals, greater information is produced, and institutional capacity is developed for implementing instruments that require more administration.
- g) Explore opportunities for completing the previous effort with "informal regulation" initiatives through voluntary programmes focused on the private sector, programmes for the public dissemination of information on environmental performance, etc.

## 5. Implementation of the suggested lines of action

*a. Project:* "Greening Fiscal Policies. Project for pilot application testing of a package of fiscal instruments in six countries in the region in relation to selected environmental problems".

*Financing:* Cost of the project: US\$ 200,000.

*Time:* June 2000-June 2001.

*Lead agency:* ECLAC and UNDP.

*Cooperating agencies:* World Bank, IDB.



**Summary 9**  
**Climate Change**

**Document status:** PENDING

**1. Author:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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## **Annex III**

### **Co-ordination Mechanisms for the Inter-Agency Technical Committee**

Criteria for functions and responsibilities  
of participating agencies



## Introduction

1. Beginning in 1982 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has organised on a regular basis (through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean), meetings in diverse cities of Latin America and the Caribbean. Those responsible for the environmental policies of the countries of the region explain their points of view, exchange opinions, reach agreements, encourage the protection of the environment and foster sustainable development.
2. During the 9th Meeting of Ministers of the Environment held in Havana, Cuba, in 1995, the idea was born to create a mechanism that would lend substance, continuity and coherence to the meetings held thus far. Thus, the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean became institutionalised: it is comprised of the highest environmental authorities of the countries of the region, which convene approximately every two years.
3. The Forum is assisted with its functions by an Inter-Sessional Committee, the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), ad hoc Working Groups and National Focal Points.
4. The purpose of this document is to propose a mechanism for co-ordination of the ITC which would include rules of operation, criteria for incorporation and the responsibilities of each participating agency.
5. A proposal for a mechanism of co-ordination was discussed and revised by the ITC during two of its meetings (April 1999 and January 2000, in Santiago, Chile). The final version of the document has yet to be analysed and approved during the XII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers which will take place in Barbados in March of the year 2000.

### I. Objectives of the ITC

6. The ITC was created with the objective of implementing the programmed decisions of the Forum for the Regional Action Plan.
7. Within this context, the main objectives of the Interagency Technical Committee are:
  - a) To support the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, assisting in carrying out priorities with a vision to the future while keeping in mind the magnitude and the sub-sectoral and long-term impact of the activities jointly developed by the ITC members as part of the framework of the Regional Action Plan.
  - b) To support joint projects in subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those stemming from emergency situations.
  - c) To provide assistance and respond --in an expeditious and flexible manner-- to national environmental demands which will in turn lead to sustainable development of the region and an exchange of experiences.

## **II. Functions of the ITC**

**8.** The functions of the ITC, pursuant to the Final Report of the XI Meeting of the Forum, are:

- a) To submit options to render operational the programmed decisions of the Forum of the Regional Action Plan.
- b) To carry out activities geared to securing technical assistance for the design and development of the projects.
- c) To carry out activities aimed at identifying the possible sources of financing for projects.
- d) Establish ad hoc Working Groups, should this become necessary.

**9.** In addition, the ITC must fulfil the function of co-ordinating the actions of participating agencies in harmony with the priority topics on the Forum's agenda, and according to comparative advantages.

## **III. Members of the ITC and criteria for incorporating new members**

**10.** The present members of the ITC are:

- a) Permanent: UNEP (co-ordinating body); the UNDP and IDB (since the time of the Ninth Meeting of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru in 1998, as well as ECLAC and the World Bank (since the First Meeting of the ITC of 1999, Mexico City, Mexico).
- b) Observers: Present, past and future President of the Forum of Ministers.

**11.** Those new agencies wishing to be incorporated to the ITC must submit a petition addressed to the President of the Forum of Ministers indicating the comparative advantages and value added that they offer to the work of the ITC. Along this same line, the XII Forum must reach a decision concerning the incorporation of the CAF (Andean Promotion Co-operation) and the OAS (Organisation of American States).

## **IV. Funding**

**12.** The needed funds to operate the Secretariat/Co-ordination of the ITC shall be provided by the co-ordinating agency with the support of all members.

**13.** Resources to support the transformation of priorities of the Forum of Ministers and respective operations through concrete activities, programs and projects could be mobilised through the following modalities:

- a) Within the ITC agencies themselves, insofar as they coincide with scheduled activities of the agency.
- b) Other external sources such as the GEF (Global Environment Facility), trust funds from donors, and others such as the United Nations Foundation.

- c) Cash contributions or contributions in kind from countries of the region desirous of financing preparatory or pilot activities in concentration areas as designated by the Forum. In such a case, one of the ITC agencies is able to receive contributions through its programme, through Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed for a said purpose or specific project.
- d) The funds may also be disbursed directly through the corresponding agency for said project or activity, or, better yet, channelled through the budget of one or more projects in common that will be covered by the lines of action as designated by the Forum according to the framework of the Regional Action Plan.

## **V. Role of the ITC agencies**

**14.** The primary focus of the agencies comprised by the ITC is to submit, discuss and incorporate the environmental priorities of the region in their respective fields of work, to the degree that their own priorities and mandates will permit. The ITC must provide response to the Forum through generating ideas, contributing institutional spaces and mobilising technical and financial assistance to submit operating options for the Regional Action Plans.

**15.** Once the projects and activities through which the priority lines of action will operate have been identified, a leading agency for each initiative will be defined; this will be done based on the degree of installed technical capacity and the mobilisation of financial resources, as well as greater comparative advantages offered by each one of the participating agencies. The projects may involve one or more of the co-operating agencies in order to provide qualified and complementary contributions to the project, according to each one's field of competence.

## **VI. Co-ordination among ITC agencies**

**16.** The UNEP is in charge of the Co-ordination of the ITC, whose functions are to:

- a) Convene ITC meetings per request from members.
- b) Prepare necessary documentation, topic, agenda, and working documents for the meetings, in collaboration with the members.
- c) Co-ordinate the development of the meetings with the President for each occasion.
- d) Draft the final report or minutes of the meetings.
- e) Provide follow-up to the agreements reached at the meetings.
- f) Safeguard the documents generated for or by a meeting; and,
- g) Keep the ITC web site updated.

## **VII. ITC Meetings**

**17.** The ITC will meet on a timely basis to discuss the issues proposed by its members, through consensus of the latter.

## **VIII. Communications**

**18.** The members of the ITC will try to maintain expeditious, constant, informal and swift communications, seeking the best employment of electronic means.

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