



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



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

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

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

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**Activities carried out by the  
Economic Commission for  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
(ECLAC) during the period 1998-1999**



## **Presentation**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) became a member of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean on the occasion of the first special meeting of the Inter-Sessional Committee of the Forum of Ministers, held in New York on 19 September 1998. Pursuant to Decision 10 as contained in the final report of the New York meeting, and to the communication from the Chairman of the Forum of Ministers in March 1999, the incorporation of ECLAC and of the World Bank will be ratified at the twelfth meeting of the Forum of Ministers to be held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in March 2000.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, José Antonio Ocampo, has designated the Environment and Human Settlements Division as the focal point for relations with the Forum of Ministers and the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, and has ratified his commitment, expressed at the New York meeting, to work closely with the Forum of Ministers.

On 7 and 8 April 1999, a coordination meeting of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile; the Chairman of the Forum of Ministers was represented by Mr. Paul Remy. The agencies which are members of the Committee were requested to report regularly and precisely on their activities, taking as a frame of reference the priority areas agreed at the eleventh meeting of the Forum of Ministers held in Lima, Peru, in March 1998. The objective was to strengthen the collective, coordinated efforts of the agencies to give greater effectiveness to the Forum's programming decisions.

In the attached table, ECLAC presents the activities and projects which have been carried out under the programme of work for the 1998-1999 period, and which are directly related to the priority areas agreed by the Forum of Ministers. In addition, the report of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (UNE/LAC-IC.4/3) presents the activities carried out in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

It is hoped that this information will provide a useful basis for strengthening technical cooperation between ECLAC and the Governments of the region and for establishing guidelines for effective cooperation with the other agencies participating in the Inter-Agency Technical Committee.

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**Activities carried out by ECLAC during the period 1998-1999,  
directly related to the priority areas agreed by the Forum of  
Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Projects completed and under way**

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

**A. Environmental management<sup>(1)</sup>**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Status of activities</b>
Study on territorial sustainability indicators, to support Governments in formulating and implementing public policies for sustainable development	August 1998	Publication of the study entitled <i>Aterrizando una cometa: indicadores territoriales de sustentabilidad</i>
Innovative urban management models and systems for the region's intermediate size cities; the goal is to strengthen municipalities' technical problem-solving capacity for urban management within the framework of decentralization. Included the holding of seminars in municipalities	April 1998	Publication of the book <i>Ciudades Intermedias en América Latina y el Caribe: propuesta para la gestión urbana</i> Presented at the International Forum on Urban Poverty (Florence, 1997) organized by HABITAT and UNESCO, and at other meetings
Report and seminar on the productive environment in the municipality of Caranavi, Bolivia; strengthening of economic development at the municipal level	June 1999	Publication of the report, jointly with UNDP
Study on the impact of macroeconomic reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean on environment-related regulatory and institutional frameworks in nine countries; supporting countries in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies	October 1999	Publication of the Study
Report and seminar on environmental awareness among the population in relation to atmospheric pollution in three of the region's major Cities: Mexico City, Santiago, Chile, and São Paulo	November 2000	The identification of consultants is prepared and carried out; basic data are being collected

**(1)** Document UNEP/LAC-IC.4/3/Anx.4, entitled Chart on the mobilization of funds for the Regional Action Plan, reports on progress in the joint activities carried (economic instruments) and the World Bank (report on bio-regional planning).

Outputs	Completion date	Status of activities
Urban management strategies and instruments for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to strengthen municipal authorities through the dissemination of innovative urban management strategies and instruments. Includes training, national and regional workshops, technical assistance and publications	July 2002	Being prepared
Study and seminar on taxation procedures as a policy for redistributing the benefits of urban development in Santiago, Chile	September 2000	Being prepared

### C. Trade and Environment

Outputs	Completion date	Status of activities
Study on environmental obstacles to exports from Latin America and the Caribbean (two case studies); review of experiences on the effects of the environment on trade	July 1999	Publication in the press
Report on the effects of trade liberalization on industrial pollution in Brazil; analysis of the impact of trade liberalization on the environment	April 1999	To be published in the press
Progress report on the implementation of Chapter 2 of Agenda 21; analysis of opportunities and synergies in the area of trade and the environment	September 1998	To be published in the press
Study on the environmental effects of changes in the export structure of nine countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; analysis of the environmental effects of trade liberalization	October 1999	Publication in the Environment Development Series. Presented at the seminar on trade and the environment organized by ICTSD and WTO in Santiago, Chile, in 1998

## II. Integrated watershed management

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

Outputs	Completion date	Status of activities
Study on the United Nations Agreement of Fishing on the High Seas: two years after signature; a regional perspective	September 1998	Publication of the study
Study on fisheries disputes in Latin America	September 1998	Publication of the study
Study on the regional viewpoint on the development of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 ( <i>Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources</i> ) in Latin America and the Caribbean: 1992-1998	June 1999	Publication of the study
Report on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities: an initial regional assessment four years after its adoption	November 1999	Final review of document
Study on the effectiveness of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, in terms of the protection of the fisheries interests of Latin America and the Caribbean: review of the process in the region since 1999	November 1999	Final review of document
Regional meeting on the role of the oceans in sustainable development in the region	November-December 1998	Meeting held in Santiago, Chile, from 30/11 to 3/12/1998
Focal point for the United Nations Secretariat on the law of the sea and ocean affairs		Permanent activity

## B. Integrated management of river basins

Outputs	Completion date	Status of activities
Study on political and institutional arrangements for water management	January 1998	Publication of the study
Report of the second workshop for management of river basin authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean	February 1998	Publication of the report. Meeting held in Santiago, Chile, from 11 to 13 December 1997
Study on pricing, property and markets in water allocation	February 1998	Publication of the study
Report on the second workshop on private participation in water supply and sanitation utilities in the Americas	November 1998	Publication of the Study Meeting held in San José, Costa Rica, from 3 to 6 February 1998
Report on the first Latin American parliamentary meeting on water policy, Buenos Aires, Argentina	January 1999	Publication of the report. Meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 18 to 19 November 1998
Study on utilities and regulation	May 1999	Publication of the Study
Study on the debate on the Chilean water code	July 1999	Publication of the Study
Report of the third workshop for managers of river basin authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean	August 1999	Publication of the report. Meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 16 to 18 November 1998
Study on joint management of river basins, rivers and urban centre	December 1999	Publication of the study
Focal point for the region in relation to water resources with particular reference to the management of multiple use of water supplies at the river basin level and river basin management		Permanent activity

## B. Biological diversity and protected areas<sup>(2)</sup>

Outputs	Completion date	Status of activities
Report of the regional workshop on economic aspects of coastal and marine biodiversity	January 1998	Publication of the report. Presented at various meetings
Report on the regional meeting on economic aspects of coastal and marine biodiversity	March 1999	Publication of the report; translation being prepared. Presented at various meetings
Study on the role of marine parks in international strategies for biodiversity conservation	March 1999	Publication of the report. Presented at various meetings

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<sup>(2)</sup> Document UNEP/LAC-IC.4/3/Anx.4, "Chart on the mobilization of funds for the Regional Action Plan" reports on progress in the joint activities with UNEP relating to the study on existing institutional capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of biosafety