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Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean**

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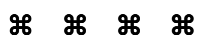
**Decision 11 of the Fifteenth Meeting of
the Forum of Ministers of the Environment
of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Panama City, Panama
4th and 5th July 2007**

Table of Contents

Summary	1
Wednesday, 4 July 2007	1
Work objectives and dynamics.....	2
Session I: Environmental Indicators-ILAC and MDGs	3
A. Assessing the fifth year of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative (ILAC) advances.	3
B. Present situation of the ILAC follow-up indicators	3
C. Present situation of the regional indicators of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 7), Rayén Quiroga, ECLAC	3
D. Cases where the ILAC indicators and other environmental statistical initiatives are applied:.....	4
D.1. Mexico. Mr. Arturo Flores, Directorate General of Environmental Statistics and Information, Sub-secretariat of Environmental Planning and Policy, SEMARNAT	4
D.2. Brazil-Mrs. Marly Santos da Silva, Ministry of the Environment, and Mr. Guido Gelli, IBGE	4
D.3. Dominican Republic. Mr. Patricio Devers, Sectorial Planning and Programming Office, Secretariat of State for the Environment and Natural Resources	4
E. Revision of the methodological sheets for ILAC indicators	5
Thursday, 5 July 2007	6
F. Cases of future application in countries of ILAC indicators	6
Session II: Environmental statistics and tools to disseminate them	6
A. Present situation of the GEO Data Portal for LAC, Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez	6
B. Cases of statistical initiatives, Argentina	6
Session III: Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems (TAC)	7
A. TAC draft work plan	7
B. Presentation on GEOSS	7
C. Presentation of the SERVIR portal.....	7
Session IV: Strengthening capacity	7
A. Participation of LAC in the global discussion on environmental accounts.	7
B. Strengthening the Working Group's national focal points networks.....	7
C. Presentation on relevant decisions and initiatives	7
D. Suggestions by the WGEI	7

E. Discussion on implementing RAP 2006-2007 and its pending tasks, the Working Group's mechanism and possible tasks for RAP 2008-2009	8
Recommendations and Conclusions	9
Annex I. Table of Decisions on the Methodological Sheets for the Indicators.....	10
Annex II. Agenda	19
Annex III. List of Participants	22



Summary

Wednesday, 4 July 2007

1. Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani, UNEP/ROLAC welcomed the participants and highlighted the presence of 11 of the 12 Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) member countries.

2. Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez, Representative of Costa Rica, coordinating country of the WGEI of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, also welcomed the participants and spoke of advances made in seeking follow-up instruments to allow the ILAC goals to be reached. He also thanked UNEP for convening the meeting.

3. Mr. Emilio Sempris, Representative of Panama, of the coordinating country of the Geospatial Information and Earth Observation System Technical Committee (TAC) and WGEI, gave a brief explanation of the theme of earth observation and the importance to the WGEI of the work of this Committee.

4. Presentation of the state of implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2006-2007 on Environmental Indicators. Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez gave an account of the history of ILAC and emphasized that the Forum of Ministers had asked that a data base be prepared, by using the GEO methodology and GEO reports, to measure sustainable development advances in countries and to make integrated environmental assessments. His presentation placed special emphasis on the following:

- a) decision 11 of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, made during the meeting held in Venezuela, suggested that already existing indicators be adopted, new indicators developed and a regional statistical information system created;
- b) the plan adopted proposed that 15 ILAC reports be prepared; to date, only three have been produced, in Costa Rica, Argentina and Mexico, and others are being prepared in Brazil, Cuba and Peru;
- c) the decision 11 also called for methodological sheets to be developed; however, the GEO Data Portal, that included the discussion forum, was temporarily suspended and, therefore, the desired advance was not achieved;
- d) the commitment to use ILAC indicators in LAC, and in other international forums, as a complement to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- e) the call for a single environmental statistics initiative to respond to the countries' requests and to use ILAC indicators to measure the MDGs, especially MDG 7;
- f) decision 11 is meant to finalize a plan for the Regional System of Environmental Statistics of LAC (SIREA). A document has been prepared that should be updated in the light of the countries' present needs;

- g) producing GEO reports, with various applications of the methodology in different fields (geographic and thematic), has been the most successful undertaking;
- h) preparing a training manual to apply the GEO methodology (a regional training workshop was held in Panama in June 2007);

5. The discussion that followed focussed on:

- a) countries and intergovernmental agencies, because of different cultures and legal mandates, and on how much information is available, use different methodologies to measure advances; they are urged to unify and simplify initiatives on indicators;
- b) recognise that in this group a spirit of collaboration prevails in the search for indicators that will allow comparisons to be made between countries, even if it takes a little more time to harmonize methodologies and finalize methodological sheets. There is no doubt that this makes for a more useful process;
- c) need to measure the impacts of GEO processes and, to help to develop capacities in statistical institutes, repeat successful cases by stimulating the production of data concerning goals;
- d) it is important that the data used in official assessments like GEO remain with the official environmental authorities for the necessary follow-up;
- e) implementing the ILAC has been the key to starting a dialogue on the need for coordination between national entities responsible for statistical and environmental indicators (Ministry and National Statistics Office).

Work objectives and dynamics

6. Mrs. Nagatani's presentation highlighted the following objectives of the four sessions:

- a) **Session I:** to inform participants how ILAC and MDG 7 follow-up indicators are being implemented and how they are applied nationally and sub-regionally. To learn of experiences in the different countries in applying ILAC indicators and to review the state of development of the methodological sheets for the ILAC indicators so that the proposal may be prepared for the next Forum of Ministers meeting;
- b) **Session II:** to inform participants about the present situation of the GEO Data Portal and its national and sub-regional application;
- c) **Session III:** to inform participants about the work plan of the Geospatial Technical Committee; to receive contributions to finalize the TAC work plan;
- d) **Session IV:** to inform those attending about additional relevant RAP themes such as the global discussion about environmental accounts; discuss the possibilities of strengthening the national focal points network to implement ILAC and other initiatives; revise the 2006-2007 RAP plan; share ideas about RAP 2008-2009.

Session I: Environmental Indicators-ILAC and MDGs

A. Assessing the fifth year of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative (ILAC) advances.

7. Mr. Enrique Provencio mentioned that an assessment is being made of ILAC over the past five years; it is focussed on reviewing this Working Group's direction and strategy and Group 4 has been requested to provide concise details of its strategy concerning future implementation.

B. Present situation of the ILAC follow-up indicators

8. Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez presented the ILAC indicators matrix and reviewed the state of development of the methodological sheets. The following suggestions were made during the discussion:

- a) that a column be added to the matrix to show whether countries have a statistical base to calculate the indicators;
- b) it is important to provide information about methodological adjustments that had to be made in order to apply the ILAC indicators in the countries (transparency of the process);
- c) UNEP explained that the 2008-2009 RAP might look different from the present RAP. As the Forum of Ministers Secretariat, UNEP will need four indications the Working Group will have on environmental indicators, and on consolidating and prioritizing its plan.

C. Present situation of the regional indicators of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 7), Rayén Quiroga, ECLAC

9. The discussion focussed on:

- a) ECLAC is producing its social overview every two years and now, together with ILAC, it is seeking to include environmental statistics in the document;
- b) when the indicator does not reflect a country's situation or is not applicable, proxy or alternative indicators are used. However, it is important to have a common group of indicators for the region;
- c) it is important to be clear about each country's strengths and weaknesses and, with this information, define which indicators should be common and which should be complementary;
- d) the possibility was raised of focussing on developing methodological sheets for a core group of indicators to respond to the mandate of the Forum of Ministers and to leave the remaining indicators for future work. However, it was pointed out that, although different levels of development are recognized between the countries, all the ILAC indicators respond to that mandate and, therefore, become its nucleus;
- e) importance of using qualitative indicators to measure the impacts of public policies when quantitative indicators are not available;

- f) the indicators are tools to show trends and thus support public policies, as well as to measure their impacts;
- g) the Working Group promotes capacity strengthening through South-South cooperation.

D. Cases where the ILAC indicators and other environmental statistical initiatives are applied:

D.1. Mexico. Mr. Arturo Flores, Directorate General of Environmental Statistics and Information, Sub-secretariat of Environmental Planning and Policy, SEMARNAT

10. Mexico, with its National Environmental and Natural Resources Information System (SNIARN) has more than 400 variables in its statistical and monitoring base with 132 environment or sustainable development indicators with various objectives. Considering that there is always a need to calculate similar indicators by using different methodologies, it is essential to invest resources in developing a well organized data base. When automatized data bases are available and linked, it is less of a problem to meet the need to calculate and monitor the different indicators.

D.2. Brazil-Mrs. Marly Santos da Silva, Ministry of the Environment, and Mr. Guido Gelli, IBGE

11. In 2005 Brazil made a commitment to ILAC and in 2006 established a technical group where different ministries and institutes were represented. The ILAC report is now being reviewed and a workshop will be held so that the technical group may revise and improve it.

D.3. Dominican Republic. Mr. Patricio Devers, Sectorial Planning and Programming Office, Secretariat of State for the Environment and Natural Resources

12. The importance of having political support and a leader for each sector. Also very important was participation of the statistical institutions that will use the data. Underlined the importance of cooperating with ECLAC.

13. The discussion that followed stressed:

- a) the need to investigate how regional and ILAC indicators are compatible with indicators, such as CCAD, promoted at sub-regional level;
- b) Lessons learned about national application were:
 - i) for the ILAC indicators to be useful in decision making and for the required attention be paid to them, ILAC and its goals must be on ministerial agendas in the different countries (high-level political support);
 - ii) the process should be kept open and participatory. Different technical agencies must participate;
 - iii) Inter-Agency support opportunity;

- c) to promote exchange of information, technical experts who participate in ILAC should provide support to other countries;
- d) it was suggested that the methodological sheet include the indicator's main limitations, and that information be made public about particular conditions in the countries that make it impossible for us to use completely equal indicators to measure some ILAC goals. Perhaps a comparative and detailed revision should be made of how ILAC indicators are applied in Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil;
- e) as to the reports, ILAC said that very few people in Mexico are aware of them. However, some ILAC goals, such as energy, helped to attract political and technical attention about the need for more detailed research on energy sustainability. In Argentina, academic centres are the main users, but new opportunities for discussing sustainable development are being promoted. In Brazil, brainstorming sessions were organized to eliminate what is unclear and maintain what is essential to build an information base. In Costa Rica, the application of ILAC served as a starting/reference point to construct the National Development Plan and a Presidential Programme known as Peace for Nature;
- f) looking for a cause-effect relation between information and political impact is more difficult with some types of information than with others. For example, it is easier to identify the trend of the air pollution indicator used to change an air quality norm, while it is more difficult to measure the impact of applying the environmental accounts on the National Development Plan. To measure the impact of ILAC, an appropriate temporal and spatial scale should be considered. UNEP provides an example with its GEO-3;
- g) Mexico is making official the mechanism for national authorities to cooperate in handling environmental information, SEMARNAT and INEGI for example, and is preparing a new legal framework;
- h) given that national monitoring responsibility varies depending on the indicators (e.g. in Brazil, CDS with the Ministry of Investigation, ILAC with Ministry of the Environment), there is duplication of international initiatives on indicators.

E. Revision of the methodological sheets for ILAC indicators

14. Decisions and observations for each of the indicators are summarized in the Table in **Annex I**.

Thursday, 5 July 2007

15. The work continued with a revision of the previous day's indicators.

F. Cases of future application in countries of ILAC indicators

- a) Andean countries-Mr. Alejandro Vílchez, National Statistics and Informatics Institute, Peru
- b) Peru-Mrs. Verónica Mendoza Díaz, National Environment Council, Peru
- c) Other cases

Session II: Environmental statistics and tools to disseminate them

A. Present situation of the GEO Data Portal for LAC, Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez

16. The discussion that followed stressed:

- a) CATHALAC is helping to have the portal in the UNEP and CATHALAC servers
- b) The portal is harmonized with other GEO portals
- c) Countries may also have a national portal
- d) Rather than duplicate one another, existing portals (ECLAC and UNEP) are complementary
- e) The DEVINFO portal also provides information to monitor the MDGs
- f) Resources must be used efficiently and be coordinated
- g) ECLAC STAT is also available
- h) The ministers mandated the establishment of the GEO portal

B. Cases of statistical initiatives, Argentina

17. Mrs. Elena Palacios, Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Area of Sustainable Development and Environmental Statistics Indicators, Argentina.

18. In her presentation Mrs. Palacios stressed that in Argentina they had been able to bring together various institutions to define and obtain the indicators. A committed group has been established and has visited other provinces to provide training on the indicators

Session III: Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems (TAC)

A. TAC draft work plan

19. Emilio Sempris presented the draft work plan. He underlined the usefulness of the TAC for the Working Group

B. Presentation on GEOSS

20. Mrs. Silvia Giada presented GEO and GEOSS and gave a brief account of its history, placing special emphasis on the participation of LAC countries. She also explained that GEO member countries are represented at technical and ministerial level

C. Presentation of the SERVIR portal

21. Mr. Emilio Sempris demonstrated how this tool functions.

Session IV: Strengthening capacity

A. Participation of LAC in the global discussion on environmental accounts.

22. Mr. Raúl Figueroa Díaz, INEGI. In his presentation Mr. Figueroa underlined the advances made, during international discussions at the United Nations and with the London Environment Group, on developing calculation methodologies both for the new SEEA 2003 structure and for standardizing SEEA Water. He also presented a report on the state of environmental accounts in Latin America and on the ecological GDP summary, highlighting the lack of resources and implementation plans.

B. Strengthening the Working Group's national focal points networks

23. Presented by Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez.

C. Presentation on relevant decisions and initiatives

24. Presented by Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani.

D. Suggestions by the WGEI

- a) need for a human network;
- b) distinguish between political and technical aspects;
- c) create discussion mechanisms;
- d) better focal points coordination;
- e) more financial resources;
- f) lack of communication between ministries of statistics and ministries of the environment;

- g) need for continuity;
- h) fair distribution of work;
- i) create synergies;
- j) need for better organization (plan ahead);
- k) methodological sheets should be placed in the hands of thematic experts before group discussions take place;
- l) better follow-up by the coordinators/moderator (communications, backstopping);
- m) seek South-South cooperation mechanisms;
- n) in the discussion forum, use well defined agendas and mechanisms such as teleconferencing or electronic groups with a moderator to take minutes of the discussions;
- o) prioritize activities so that the forum of ministers may allocate human and financial resources for this group's activities such as contracting a full-time coordinator;
- p) prepare contact indexes of the group's participants;
- q) use of MSN Messenger and Skype;
- r) prepare a work time-table that identifies responsibilities;
- s) the coordinator/moderator should prepare an up-to-date news bulletin;
- t) information must be available in digital format;
- u) national level information sharing policies and systems must be established;
- v) there is a need for a communications strategy that considers the different information users, including those in different sectors. Tools must be available to reach those we want to make use of the information;
- w) the group needs institutional financial support and, therefore, a recommendation should be made to the Forum of Ministers about where the resources are needed

E. Discussion on implementing RAP 2006-2007 and its pending tasks, the Working Group's mechanism and possible tasks for RAP 2008-2009

25. Presented by Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani and Mr. Damaso Luna, UNEP/ROLAC

- a) it is suggested to concentrate on the eight themes identified by the Forum of Ministers and on the Forum's present priorities;
- b) it is also suggested that the WGEI present a document to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers with concrete proposals including information on the Working Group's successful results, the difficulties it faces, and proposals for new indicators. This document can be organized in four columns: 1. Priorities; 2. Main ingredients (successes, difficulties

and new tasks); 3. An indicator to measure compliance with the priority; and 4. A list of precise activities giving an exact description. This document can be delivered at the meeting of experts to be held at the end of August.

26. Outstanding among the advances made by WGEI are:

- a) an awareness of weaknesses on which action may be taken;
- b) collaboration between institutions and a clear picture about the demand for environmental information;
- c) new ILAC reports are being prepared for St. Lucia and Panama;
- d) the Dominican Republic produced a report on indicators for water resource environmental sustainability

Recommendations and Conclusions

- a) Costa Rica, as coordinating country and with UNEP support, will assemble the proposed document's format and distribute it to the WGEI countries.
- b) The countries made a commitment to deliver the tasks/commitments to Costa Rica on 15 August so that those that should be delivered to the Forum of Ministers may be selected.

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Annex I Table of Decisions on the Methodological Sheets for the Indicators

ECLAC, represented by Rayen Quiroga, offered to check that the methodological sheets are consistent. It was suggested that, in general, the goal should appear at the beginning of the methodological sheet. The countries promised to deliver the tasks/commitments to Costa Rica on 15 August 2007 to select which ones will be given to the Forum of Ministers.

Matrix of the ILAC Working Group commitments

Thematic Area 1. Biological Diversity ⁽¹⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
<p>Goal ILAC 1.1 Increase the forest area</p> <p>Ensure sustainable management of forest resources in the region, significantly reducing annual deforestation rates.</p>	Land covered by forests		Colombia and Argentina will make the changes and lead the work process with support from the TAC (CIAT Colombia)
<p>Goal ILAC 1.2 Territory included in protected areas</p> <p>Increase significantly the territory in the region under protected area regimes and, when defining them, include buffer zones and biological corridors.</p>	Protected areas		Colombia and Argentina will make the changes and lead the work process with support from the TAC (CIAT Colombia)
<p>Goal ILAC 1.3 Genetic resources-Equal sharing of benefits</p> <p>Adopt regulatory frameworks for access to genetic resources, as well as for fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their use, compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	National laws on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits		Mexico will coordinate with SEMARNAT and revise the proposal
<p>Goal ILAC 1.4 Marine diversity</p> <p>Ensure the conservation and proper use of marine resources in the countries of the Wider Caribbean with particular emphasis on marine and coastal ecosystems.</p>	Protected coastal and marine areas	It is suggested it be standardized with the MDGs and the ILAC definition of national waters also be taken, using all the categories of UICN 1-6.	Costa Rica, taking these suggestions into account, will make the final revision.

⁽¹⁾ At the TAC meeting on 6 July 2007, work in this area was assigned to CONABIO and Mexico's CentroGeo with possible INPE support.

Thematic Area 2. Water Resources Management ⁽²⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
Goal ILAC 2.1 Freshwater supply 1. Improve technology for more efficiency in water use in industry and agriculture and for domestic consumption.	Index of surface water shortage	There is a contradiction, which did not exist originally, between the name of the indicator and the measurement. It is suggested the name be changed to clarify this. Data on water production are not always available but, with the support of Mexico and Peru, it was decided to accept this suggestion	Costa Rica will continue to lead, supported by Mexico and Peru. The methodological sheet had been proposed by Colombia and will be passed to Mexico for coordination
	Water consumption per inhabitant	There are problems in considering the GDP when calculating the indicator because it may not reflect the goal	Costa Rica revises inconsistencies between the name of the indicator and the its unit of measurement
	2. Introduce modern desalination technologies.	Desalinated water	
3. Integrate the management of coastal aquifers to avoid saline intrusion.	Regulatory frameworks, aquifer management quotas		UNEP will follow up
Goal ILAC 2.2 Watershed management Improve and strengthen institutional arrangements for the integrated management of watersheds and aquifers by, among other measures, establishing water basin committees with the participation of all sub-national levels of government, civil society, the private sector and all stakeholders.	Water basin committees	Previously, the name of the indicator had been changed but the measurement is the percentage. This does not apply to Brazil or Argentina. Colombia proposes a number of basins with land use or management plans (number of basins or hectares). Some small basins have management plans but they only apply to part of the basin. It was said that the indicator does not represent the goal	The sheet will continue to be revised ECLAC has offered to make the names of the indicators consistent and take the measurement from the name for all the indicators.
Goal ILAC 2.3 Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources 1. Implement national and regional action plans for the integrated management of coastal resources and coastal ecosystems, with particular attention to the Small Island Developing States.	Marine fish catch		PANAMA will send the methodological sheet back to the Group to continue the discussion. Panama Mexico, Peru and Argentina lead

⁽²⁾At the TAC meeting on 6 July 2007, work in this area was assigned to CATHALAC with possible CIAT and CONAE support.

Thematic Area 2. Water Resources Management ⁽²⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
2. Adopt a holistic and integrated approach to the management of the Caribbean Sea through the development of a comprehensive strategy for its protection and use.	Projects or financial resources to improve Caribbean Sea or coastal management		St. Lucia will coordinate and propose the first sheet
Goal ILAC 2.4 Better quality of inland waters Improve the quality of effluents and reduce the discharge of pollutants into surface water bodies, groundwater and coastal areas.	Population with access to sanitation	Review information on this indicator with PAHO Add an indicator as “% of treated waste collected”	Costa Rica leads

Thematic Area 3. Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities ⁽³⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
Goal ILAC 3.1 Land use planning			
1. Implement land-use planning policies and plans from a sustainable development approach	Sub-national land use plans	Promote discussion in the virtual forum. It is agreed to include in the discussion forum the political administrative division of each country.	Revise each country's information and include it in the Forum
2. Incorporate risk management instruments in land-use planning	Land use	Argentina utilized the change in agricultural/use. Ambiguous interpretation. No data or no reliable data. TAC support is proposed for data on this indicator. The name of the indicator has little to do with the proposed variable. In CR environmental variability indexes were developed and these could be used to measure management. The goal refers to risk management instruments that are hard to define. CR agrees with the proposal. It is also suggested that some goals be included with other information.	This indicator does not reflect the goal and needs revision.
Goal ILAC 3.2 Areas affected by degradation processes		Sheet finalized	

³ During the TAC meeting on 6 July, work in this area was assigned to CATHALAC with support from CIAT and possibly from OCHA.

Thematic Area			
3. Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities ⁽³⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
Reduce significantly the areas of the region subject to erosion, salination and other soil degradation processes.	Degraded areas		
Goal ILAC 3.3 Air pollution	Motor vehicle fleet	The indicator's time period was changed to biannual in even years. Earlier it had been decided to keep it as an annex to the methodological sheets	Costa Rica leads the follow-up, Brazil will make a methodological sheet proposal
Reduce the concentration of polluting emissions in the air.	Carbon dioxide emissions	Sheet finalized	
Goal ILAC 3.4 Water pollution	Population with access to drinking water	Sheet finalized	
Increased coverage of drinking water services and wastewater treatment.	Population with access to sanitation	There was not enough time to consult with PAHO. Argentina uses a Proxy. Brazil replied to Goal 2.4; is replying to 3.4 and will send its comments	As it is one of the MDGs, use an already developed methodological sheet
Goal ILAC 3.5 Solid waste			
1. Reduce significantly solid waste generation (domestic and industrial) and, among other measures, promote recycling and reuse	Solid waste collection		Costa Rica leads the follow-up of the discussion with support from Mexico, Panama (has promised to provide data on the city) and Colombia
	Solid waste production in the principal capital cities		Costa Rica leads the follow-up of the discussion with support from Mexico, Panama (has promised to provide data on the city) and Colombia
2. Implement integrated management of solid waste, (domestic and industrial), including appropriate treatment and final disposal..	Solid waste collected and properly disposed of.		Costa Rica leads the follow-up of the discussion with support from Mexico, Panama (which has promised to provide data on the city) and Colombia
Goal ILAC 3.6⁽⁴⁾ Vulnerability to anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena	National emergency commissions or rapid response groups	Sheet finalized	Costa Rica leads the follow-up
Implement and strengthen regional risk management			

⁽⁴⁾ At the TAC meeting on 6 July, CONAE offered to support the work on indicators under this Goal.

Thematic Area			
3. Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities ⁽³⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
cooperation mechanisms to lessen the impact of anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena, including setting up a regional early-warning system and forming rapid response groups			
Goal ILAC 3.7 Vulnerability and risk management			
1. Refine and apply vulnerability indicators.	Population living in areas of high risk		Cuba was responsible and now UNEP will follow up
	Victims of natural disasters	Peru is continuing work on this. ECLAC has a lot of data (in the yearbook) on this and offers this data base to Peru. Colombia has offered support	Peru continues to lead with support from Colombia
2. Incorporate indicators into national development plans.	National development plans that include or consider the theme of vulnerability to risks and also include indicators to monitor such risks	The name had already been changed	Costa Rica leads the follow-up

Thematic Area			
4. Social themes, including health, inequality and poverty ⁽⁵⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
Goal ILAC 4.1 Health and environment			
1. Implement policies and plans to reduce environmental risks that cause damage to health, in particular those transmitted by water, vectors, air pollution and exposure to chemical substances.	Morbidity from acute respiratory diseases	Prepare the corresponding methodological sheet	Costa Rica leads the follow-up with support from Argentina and Brazil
	Morbidity from water-borne diseases	There is a discrepancy between the concept of attributable; associate should be used in the name of the indicator.	Costa Rica coordinates the revision of the sheet, Argentina and Brazil has offered to help to conceptualize the indicator

⁵At the TAC meeting on 6 July, work in this area was assigned to INEGI with support from CentroGeo on Goals 4.1.3 y 4.3.1

Thematic Area			
4. Social themes, including health, inequality and poverty ⁽⁵⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
2. Implement comprehensive measures to control and reverse the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic including development of coordinated approaches to research, education and treatment, and access to retroviral drugs.	Morbidity from HIV/AIDS	Sheet finalized	
3. Increase the proportion of green and healthy areas per capita.	Urban green areas	Review the indicator with HABITAT to unify the urban and rural concepts (Maru). Discussions should continue on improving the methodological sheet. It is suggested that TAC help to look for information	Costa Rica leads the follow-up
Goal ILAC 4.2 Environment and job creation	Sustainable development projects and programmes and the total number of personnel working on the project	Goal 4.2 indicator of (Job creation in sustainable development programmes or activities). The definition of preservation must be improved. It is suggested a test be made in Argentina. Collect the information from all institutions that promote programmes of this type, otherwise, the information will be incomplete. A decision must be made about which projects and programmes we are including. Include the rural approach. Find out what statistics are available. A revision of Agro Plan 2005 is recommended.	Argentina suggests further development of the proposal and that proxy indicators be sought. These discussions should be held in the Forum.
Promote the formulation and implementation of sustainable development projects and programmes that will help to create jobs and avoid migration and displacement.	Creating jobs in sustainable development programmes and activities	Indicator of Goal 4.2 (Job creation in sustainable development programmes or activities). The definition of preservation must be improved. It is suggested a test be made in Argentina. Collect the information from all institutions that promote programmes of this type, otherwise, the information will be incomplete. A decision must be made about which projects and programmes we are including. Include the rural approach. Find out what statistics are available.	Argentina suggests further developing the proposal and that proxy indicators be sought. These discussions should be held in the Forum

Thematic Area			
4. Social themes, including health, inequality and poverty ⁽⁵⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
		A revision of Agro Plan 2005 is recommended.	
Goal ILAC 4.3 Poverty and inequity			
1. Drastically reduce poverty rates in the region's countries.	Population with income of less than US\$1 per day	Sheet finalized	
	Households with property title rights (secure land tenure)	Adapt the methodological sheet to the proposal by Peru and prepare the new methodological sheet	Mexico, Brazil and Colombia lead Proposal to use MDG 7 INCIDENCE OF POVERTY OR INDIGENCE (The World Bank has this indicator) Argentina will help with this work.
2. Create sustainable livelihoods by developing micro-enterprises.	Growth of small enterprises		Costa Rica continues to revise the information and suggests it be harmonized
3. Formulate and implement strategies for women, youth, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, migrants, disabled and other minority groups of the region in accordance with human rights and fundamental freedoms.	Social cost	Adapt the methodological sheet to the proposal made at the meeting and prepare the new methodological sheet. Each country would have to add an addendum to improve the methodological sheet. It was shown that the indicator does not respond to the Goal	Mexico leads

Thematic Area			
5. Economic aspects, including commerce and production and consumption patterns ⁽⁶⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
Goal ILAC 5.1 Energy Increase renewable energy use in the region to at least 10% of its total energy consumption by the year 2010	Use of energy	Sheet finalized	
	Population using solid fuels		
	Energy supplied from renewable sources	It is suggested it be adapted to the MDG 7 complementary indicator, changing consumption to supply. It was commented that this indicator should be in Goal 4.1	Costa Rica continues with the work considering MDG and ECLAC methodological sheets with suggestions by Mexico and ECLAC

⁶ At the TAC meeting on 6 July, work in this area was assigned to CONAE.

Thematic Area 5. Economic aspects, including commerce and production and consumption patterns ⁽⁶⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
		with which it is more closely associated.	
Goal ILAC 5.2 Cleaner production			
1. Install clean production centres in all the countries of the region.	Chlorofluorocarbons that deplete the ozone zone	Sheet finalized	
2. Incorporate the concept of cleaner production in a significant number of the main industries, with emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises.	Companies with ISO 14001 certification		Colombia will take the lead in defining the new methodological sheet
Goal ILAC 5.3 Economic instruments Establish a system of economic incentives for productive and industrial processing projects that will save natural resources and energy and eventually reduce the amount of effluents discharges into water, land and the air.	Economic instruments applied in the country	Prepare the corresponding methodological sheet	Decision: Mexico leads

Thematic Area 6. Institutional Aspects ⁽⁷⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
Goal ILAC 6.1 Environmental education Improve and strengthen the incorporation of the environmental dimension into formal and non-formal education, the economy and society.	No indicator has yet been defined	There is no indicator. A new proposal to be considered.	SEMARNAT will propose a methodological sheet with support from Peru, Colombia and Brazil
Goal ILAC 6.2 Training and capacity building of human sources			
1. Eradicate illiteracy and ensure universal enrolment in primary and secondary education.	Primary education enrolment		Review, in each country, the feasibility of reporting the indicator
2. Build capacities to address vulnerabilities in the region	National Emergency or Prevention of Disasters Commissions, by		Costa Rica will circulate the final sheet for comments

⁽⁷⁾ At the TAC meeting on 6 July, work in this area was not assigned to any of the participating institutions because it is not an area that can be measured by using geospatial information and earth observation systems.

Thematic Area 6. Institutional Aspects ⁽⁷⁾			
Goal	Indicator	Comments	Decision
	province, canton, district		
3. Establish, for the public and private sectors and for the community in general, programmes for capacity building in sustainable development management.	Formal environmental education programmes	Revise the indicator	Costa Rica will propose the new methodological sheet.
<p>Goal ILAC 6.3 Evaluation and indicators</p> <p>Develop and implement an assessment process to follow up the progress made towards attaining sustainable development objectives, including the results of the Johannesburg Plan of Action, adopting national and regional sustainability indicators that respond to the nation's unique social, economic and political features.</p> <p>Goal ILAC 6.4 Participation of society</p> <p>Create and strengthen participation mechanisms to deal with sustainable development issues, with representatives from government, non-governmental organizations and major groups in all countries of the region..</p>	Reports on the state of the environment	Sheet finalized	Costa Rica leads the follow-up of the indicator
	Environment Statistics System	Sheet finalized	Costa Rica leads the follow-up of the indicator
	National sustainable development councils	Sheet finalized	Costa Rica leads the follow-up of the indicator

Annex II Agenda

Wednesday, 4 July	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:30	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani, UNEP/ROLAC ▶ Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez, Representative of Costa Rica, coordinating country of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean ▶ Mr. Emilio Sempris, Representative of Panama, coordinating country of the Technical Committee on Geospatial Information of the WGEI
9:30-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Presentation of the state of implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2006-2007 on Environmental Indicators. Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez. <p>Objectives: Inform participants about the context of the RAP 2006-2007, its scope and implementation.</p> <p>Materials: Final Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, RAP 2006-2007</p>
10:00-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Work objectives and dynamics. Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani. <p>Objectives: Familiarize participants with the objectives and the results expected of the meeting, to facilitate focussed and participatory discussions and produce concrete results.</p>
10:15-10:35	Coffee break
Session I: Environmental Indicators-ILAC and MDGs	
10:35-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Evaluation of the fifth year of advance of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), Mr. Enrique Provencio. ▶ Present situation of the follow-up indicators of ILAC. Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez. ▶ Present situation of the regional indicators of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 7), Rayen Quiroga, ECLAC. <p>Objectives: Inform participants about implementation of the follow-up indicators of ILAC and MDG 7 and their national and sub-regional application.</p> <p>Materials: Methodological Sheets of the ILAC indicators and MDG 7.</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Review and revise the commitments of the WGEI member countries on developing methodological sheets for the ILAC indicators. ▶ Cases of applying the ILAC indicators and other environmental statistical initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexico-Mr. Arturo Flores, Directorate General of Environmental Statistics and Information, Under Secretariat of Environmental Planning and Policy SEMARNAT. • Brazil-To be confirmed • Dominican Republic-Mr. Patricio Devers, Sectorial Planning and

	<p>Programming Office, Secretariat of State for the Environment and Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other cases <p>Objectives: To learn about the different countries' experiences in applying the ILAC indicators and review the state of development of the methodological sheets for them in order to prepare the proposal for the next Forum of Ministers meeting.</p> <p>Materials: Methodological sheets for the ILAC indicators and relevant materials from the countries.</p>
15:45-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	(continuation)

Thursday, 5 July

9:00-9:20	▶ Recapitulation of the previous day, Mrs. K. Nagatani.
9:20-9:50	<p>▶ Cases on the future application of the ILAC indicators in the countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andean countries-Mr. Alejandro Vílchez, National Statistical and Informatics Institute, Peru • Peru-Mrs. Verónica Mendoza Díaz, National Environment Council, Peru • Other cases <p>Objectives: To learn about existing plans in applying the ILAC indicators and other initiatives on indicators.</p>

Session II: Environmental statistics and tools to disseminate them

9:50-10:45	<p>▶ Present situation of the GEO Data Portal for LAC. Mr. Edgar E. Gutiérrez</p> <p>▶ Cases of statistical initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina-Mrs. Elena Palacios, Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development Area of Indicators on Sustainable Development and Environmental Statistics, Argentina. • Other cases <p>Objectives: Inform participants about the present situation of the GEO Data Portal and its national and sub-regional application</p> <p>Materials: Guide on how to use the portal</p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee break

Session III: Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information (TAC)

11:00-12:00	<p>▶ Work plan for the Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information (TAC). Mr. Emilio Sempris</p> <p>▶ Presentation of DETER, To be confirmed</p> <p>▶ Presentation of the SERVIR portal, Mr. Emilio Sempris</p> <p>Objective: Inform participants of the Geospatial Technical Committee work plan. Discussion of and contributions to the TAC work plan</p> <p>Materials: Draft TAC work plan</p>
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Session IV: Strengthening capacity	
12:00-12:30	<p>► LAC participation in the global discussion on environmental accounts. Mr. Raúl Figueroa, INEGI, Mexico.</p> <p>Objective: Inform those attending about LAC participation in the global discussion on environmental accounts.</p> <p>Materials: To be confirmed</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13.30-15.30	<p>► Strengthening the Working Group's national focal points networks. Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez</p> <p>Objective: Discuss the possibilities of strengthening national focal points networks to implement ILAC and other initiatives.</p> <p>Materials: List of existing focal points</p>
15.30-15.45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	<p>► Discussion about RAP 2006-2007 implementation and pending tasks, the Working Group mechanism and possible tasks for RAP 2008-2009, Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani and Mr. Damaso Luna, UNEP/ROLAC</p> <p>Objectives: Review the RAP 2006-2007 plan; share ideas about RAP 2008-2009.</p> <p>Materials: RAP 2006-2007</p>
16:45-17:00	<p>► Recommendations and conclusions, Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani</p> <p>► Closing session. Mr. Ricardo Sánchez, Director Regional UNEP/ROLAC</p>

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