



**United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL AMBIENTE
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

**Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin
America and the Caribbean**

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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS
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Elements for the Proposal of the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009

Item 3 of the Agenda: Recommendations from the Meeting of
High Level Government Experts
(Panama, Panama; August 30 and 31 of 2007)

3.2. Regional Action Plan

Introduction

1. The Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, Panama; November 20 through 25 of 2003) adopted, by means of its decision 1, the Regional Action Plan (RAP) as instrument for the application of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), approving – on such occasion – the RAP 2004-2005. The aforementioned Plan was developed around the eight priority action areas set forth by the Forum of Minister, namely:

- a) Access to the genetic resources and fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from their use;
- b) Water resources;
- c) Human settlements, vulnerability and land use;
- d) Renewable energy sources;
- e) Trade and environment;
- f) Economic instruments and fiscal policy;
- g) Climatic change;
- h) Environmental indicators.

2. As a complement to decision 1, by means of its decision 2, the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum defined the implementation modalities of its agreements, assigning the responsibility of coordinating such task to eight countries, and establishing Working Groups to deal with punctual issues.

3. The Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; October 31 through November 4 of 2005) received a report concerning the implementation of the RAP 2004-2005, and departing from this first experience in ILAC's scope of application, approved the RAP 2006-2007.

4. Based on the experienced obtained in the compliance with the RAP in these first two biennial exercises, there are elements to acknowledge that the Plan has been an instrument of great use to create a registry of the activities performed by the countries and the ITC Agencies in the application of the eight priority areas set forth in the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

5. However, the aforementioned registry of actions turned out to be limited, for it was not duly aligned with ILAC's goals (initially, there were no indicators to evaluate the progresses, and the committed actions were not granted sufficient priority). Under such conditions, the progress reports of the first two RAPs included the information on a series of initiatives, policies, programs and activities that the countries of the region and other agencies carried out in agreement with their own mandates, which does not necessarily generated an added value to the joint work or the strategic direction to accelerate the region's advance towards the compliance with the indicative goals of ILAC. This last consideration was formulated by independent evaluations that approached the accountability of the issues related to ILAC's implementation.

6. Based on these considerations, in the Meeting of High Level Government Experts (Panama, Panama; August 30 and 31 of 2007), a comprehensive exchange of opinions was carried out in relation to:

- a) The revision of the lessons learned and the challenges to overcome so that the RAP can be consolidated as the main tool for the implementation of ILAC;
- b) The modalities for the RAP to duly encompass the initiatives, policies, programs and activities that the countries of the Region have been undertaking in relation to the priority areas set forth for the RAP;
- c) The elements to develop a draft of the RAP, which should include the guidelines that direct the countries and the ITC agencies to go forward in the compliance with the goals of ILAC during the period 2008-2009, and at the medium term (2008-2012).

7. Based on an evaluation concerning the lessons learned and the challenges posed by the application of the RAP in the two first periods (2004-2005 and 2006-2007), the High Level Government Experts who participated in the aforementioned meeting reaffirmed that the RAP should still be the main instrument to render ILAC's implementations operative.

8. In addition, the Experts agreed to recommend the adoption of a new Matrix for the Regional Action Plan. As a follow up to this recommendation, the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers has prepared a proposal based on the following elements:

- a) Identification, first of all of the Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes of ILAC in which the following proposals are framed, highlighting the activities that contribute to the mainstreaming of the environmental dimension and articulation of the liaisons among environment and poverty, the institutionality of the environmental management, and the horizontal cooperation (South-South);
- b) Definition of the objectives to be reached under a given action;
- c) Identification of the main lines of work designed to materialize the action; proposed
- d) Definition of indicators that allow for an accurate evaluation of the results obtained in agreement with the compliance indicators of ILAC; and
- e) Addition of a section to include specific activities, undertaken or reported, always based on its consistency of actions, objectives and defined lines of work.

9. In addition to recommending the adoption of a new structure for the RAP, the High Level Government Experts recommend continuing developing the main strategic guidelines, as well as the compliance indicators and the result indicators of the restructured Action plan. With that in mind, a suggestion was made for work programs to be structured under the coordination of an ITC agency, including the working groups or the countries, as befits.

10. At the time of presenting the proposal shown hereunder, the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers wishes to clarify that this is a first approach. Hence, the Secretariat invites all participants to the High Level Meeting of Experts to evaluate

it with openness, and it stresses the need to review and establish the performance indicators that appear in the column next to last of the matrix.

11. The content of the "Report on the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development, five years upon its adoption" (see document **UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/3**) can provide elements to review and determine the performance indicators so that the proposals that appear in **Annex I** can be enriched by additional elements.

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Annex I Base Proposal for the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009

1. Access to the genetic resources and fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from their use; and environmental indicators

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
To promote the capacity building strengthening and development of the countries of the region in order to participate in the negotiation and implementation of the international regime with respect to the access to and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits.	To support the institutional and legal development in the countries of the region with regards to the access and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits.	<p>National legislations or regulations concerning the access to and the fair and equitable distribution of benefits promoted and adopted, to apply the international regime approved within the framework of the CBD, and systematize in 2008 the inventory of the legislation or regulation concerning the electronic consultations systems in order to facilitate its comparison and use by all the countries.</p> <p>Active participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the international negotiation of a regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</p> <p>Progress has been made in each country as to the compliance with a plan of measures to regress the loss of biodiversity in compliance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>	

2. Water Resources

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
<p>To increase the coverage of drinking water services and the waste water treatment services, and to improve and strengthen the institutional capacity for the integrated management of watersheds and aquifers.</p>	<p>To promote and support projects to increase the coverage of the drinking water services and the waste water treatment services in the countries of the region.</p>	<p>75% of the Millennium Goal with regards to the coverage of drinking water services and waste water treatments to be reached in the year 2009.</p> <p>All the countries of the region have finished and are implementing the strategy of the integrated management of water resources.</p> <p>All the countries of the region have concluded their national plan on terrestrial contamination sources; the same has been adopted and is being applied.</p> <p>The treatment of urban waste waters has been increased in, at least, a 10 % in each one of the countries.</p>	

3. Human settlements, vulnerability and land use

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
To reduce the concentration of polluting emissions into the air.	To support the national policies and programs oriented towards reducing the polluting emissions into the air, including means such as the participation of the region in initiatives that foster the improvement of the air quality.	<p>Improved capacities to reduce the sulfur content in fuels, by means of strategies to improve the quality of fuels, being able to implement the strategy aimed at reducing the sulfur content in diesel fuels below the 500 ppm.</p> <p>The Network of Governmental Authorities for the Quality of Air has been created, and a work program for the region was established.</p> <p>Strategies for the prevention of disasters, completed in each one of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.</p> <p>Joint program with UNEP /OCHA to produce evaluations that contribute to the prevention of disasters.</p>	

4. Renewable energy sources

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
To increase the percentage of the energy supply that comes from renewable sources.	To support the efforts of the countries that aim at developing and using the renewable energy sources.	Each country has a program aimed at increasing the inclusion of renewable energy sources in the energy matrix at no less than a 3%.	

5. Trade and environment

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
To develop the trade of sustainable goods and services.	To promote the capacities of the countries of the region to increase their participation in new niches of international trade.	Capacities of the Latin American and Caribbean countries strengthened by means of training programs on the production and consumption of sustainable goods and services. At least 3 projects of biotrade implemented in the countries of the region. 50% of the countries have established green purchase programs.	

6. Economic Instruments and fiscal policy

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
To use market mechanisms to promote the change of the patterns of production and consumption.	To develop the capacities of the national authorities so that they include economic instruments to attain the environmental objectives.	Improved capacities in the region by means of the performance of at least two subregional projects and 4 pilot projects. The countries have taken the necessary measures to establish a system of national accounts that include the natural capital. Measures are taken in each country to improve the environmental services supplied by the ecosystems.	

7. Climatic change

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
<p>To contribute to the change in the patterns of production and consumption.</p> <p>To support the efforts of the countries of the region to comply with the commitments arising from the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.</p>	<p>To support the initiatives of the countries of the region to improve the energy efficiency.</p> <p>To consolidate the achievements obtained in the region for the phase out of CFCs, Methylbromide, and other substances that deplete the ozone layer.</p> <p>To support the countries of the region in the analysis stage of the national measures to be adopted for the phase out of HCFCs.</p>	<p>Program to reach between a 5 and 10% improvement of the energy efficiency indicators in each one of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>The Latin American and Caribbean countries have a national strategy of climatic action, they report emissions to the UNFCCC, and have emissions' inventories.</p> <p>A regression of the deforestation trends is produced in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.</p> <p>All Latin American and Caribbean countries are in compliance with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol.</p> <p>Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with proposals of national programs for the phase out of HCFCs, in accordance with the new program adopted in the Protocol.</p>	

8. Environmental indicators

Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
<p>To consolidate the existing and emerging efforts to monitor sustainable development, including the institutionalization of the preliminary initiatives and the horizontal cooperation.</p>	<p>a) To promote the systematization and institutionalization of the monitoring of ILAC's indicators in the national and regional scope, by means of the improvement of the coordination among the environmental authority, the national statistics office, and the technical entity of geospatial information.</p> <p>b) To develop tools and activities for the strengthening of the capacity for the harmonized monitoring of sustainable development.</p> <p>c) To develop a mechanism for the mobilization of the resources needed to continue the regional dialogue and cooperation concerning environmental indicators.</p>	<p>50 ILAC indicators have their finished methodological sheet November 2009</p> <p>X countries have ILAC reports.</p> <p>X countries have an active and institutionalized mechanism for the coordination, generation and use of the environmental information.</p> <p>X countries participate in the activities and meetings of the Working Group.</p> <p>The information necessary to undertake an evaluation of ILAC's implementation for the year 200 with x harmonized indicators, comparable among the countries, is available.</p>	

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