



**Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Panama City, Panama
26-30 April, 2010**

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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS

26 to 28 April 2010

**Compilation of Proposed
Work Programmes for the following
Working Groups:
Environmental Indicators
Access to Genetic Resources and Fair
and equitable sharing of benefits
derived from their use**

Background

1. The last Forum of Ministers decided to establish six working groups which were open to all the countries of the region, subject to the fulfilment of paragraph 4 of decision 4 (Functioning of the Working Groups): a) Environmental Indicators; b) Risk Management; c) Access to Genetic Resources; d) Climate Change; e) Management of Coastal-Marine Areas and their Resources; and f) Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.
2. Four working groups established, in line with the decision, specific activities to be developed during the biennium. After making the pertinent consultations with the countries, several calls, communications and exchanges with the coordinating countries, the Working Groups that continue to function are: Access to Genetic Resources, Climate Change, Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, and Environmental Indicators.
3. Since the last Forum of Ministers these groups have held meetings to progress in the implementation of their programmes with the coordination of the country coordinators and support of the Secretariat of the Forum. Final reports of the most recent meetings of the Environmental Indicators Working Group (Heredia Costa Rica, 26 to 28 August 2009), and the Working Group on Access to Genetic Resources and Sharing of Benefits derived from their use (Panama City, Panama 15 and 16 January 2010) to the Forum of Ministers, are available as reference documents for this meeting, UNEP/LAC/IGWG.XVII/Ref.5 and UNEP/LAC/IGWG.XVII/Ref.7 respectively.
4. These two groups which are under the coordination of Costa Rica, in the case of Environmental Indicators, and Ecuador, in the case of Access to Genetic Resources and Sharing of Benefits derived from their use, have presented to the Secretariat their plan of work for the biennium 2010-2011, which are described hereafter.

ILAC WGEI Work Plan 2010-2011

1. Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI)

- Continue with the activities of the Forum’s Working Group on Environmental Indicators in order to strengthen and consolidate activities related to environmental indicators
- Continue the work of the Technical Advisory Committee in order to incorporate the Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems in the WGEI activities, and in the elaboration of the ILAC indicators.
- Strengthen and promote complementarities and synergies between the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) Working Group on Environmental Statistics and the ILAC Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) work plans and with that of other regional and sub-regional organizations in order to advance in the development of environmental statistics.
- Consider the possibility of rotating the coordination of the Working Group among the WGEI member countries as a mechanism to drive horizontal cooperation, for consideration of the Forum. This Group will focus its activities for the period 2010-2011 on the following areas:

Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Country, focal point, participating agencies	Cooperation or resource source
1.-Continue the development of methodological sheets for the ILAC indicators identified and approved by this Forum	The WGEI will agree on methodological sheets for 90% of the ILAC indicators	June 2011	WGEI member countries	UNEP ECLAC CATHALAC Governments
2. Promote preparation of national ILAC reports and update those reports already published	At least two national reports are updated, and two countries present their first ILAC report	December 2011	WGEI UNEP	
3. Promote the use of ILAC indicators at the regional level.	One regional publication on the progress of the ILAC indicators	June 2010	WGEI UNEP	
4. Strengthen the Working Group on Environmental Indicators	Two new countries join the WGEI	December 2010	WGEI UNEP	
	The methodological sheets’ goals are reviewed and redefined; the indicators proposed in WGEI Costa Rica 2010 are revised/developed.	December 2010	WGEI UNEP	
	WGEI meetings via virtual tools and Forums	December 2010	WGEI	

Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Country, focal point, participating agencies	Cooperation or resource source
			UNEP	
5. Promote, jointly with the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), capacity building at national level for the development of Statistical and Environmental Indicators through the use of virtual tools, virtual education forums and regional seminars.	A Regional Seminar on Environmental Statistics and Climate Change	June 2010	SCA, ECLAC UNEP	
6.-Establish coordination mechanisms with the working group on SCA environmental statistics and indicators and with the sub-regional environmental commissions (Andean Community (CAN), Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), among others).	Active participation of the representatives of the national statistics offices in the proposed activities in coordination with Ministries and national environmental authorities in at least 5 countries in the region	December 2011	SCA, ECLAC, UNEP, CAN, CCAD, MERCOSUR, and others	
7. Promote training on the use of geospatial tools to develop ILAC indicators	Forums and Virtual Conferences	December 2011	SCA, ECLAC, UNEP, CATHALAC	
8. Promote incorporation and active participation of the Small Island Developing States into the Working Group on Environmental Indicators	Three English speaking Caribbean countries incorporated into the WGEI	December 2010	WGEI UNEP	
9.-Promote systematic and institutionalized monitoring of ILAC indicators at the national and regional level, improving coordination among the environmental authority, the national statistics office, and the technical geospatial information entity	At least three countries receive technical assistance from the ITC agencies to develop and implement a National Environmental Information System	June 2011	WGEI UNEP	
10.-Use horizontal cooperation to support policy development in order to institutionalize environmental data collection as part of the national statistics development programs and implementation of Environmental Accounting	Institutionalize environmental data collection within the national statistical processes	December 2011	WGEI UNEP, ECLAC.	
11. Revise the proposal for the construction of a regional environmental statistical system (SIREA), in order to strengthen the national capacities related to production and use of environmental statistics as a strategy to strengthen decision making for sustainable development	Revision of the proposal for SIREA by UNEP and ECLAC, and redefined strategies for its development and implementation.	December 2011	WGEI	
12. Coordinate with the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the SCA the design of indicators Climate Change that would be incorporated to the ILAC Group of indicators	A basic proposal of indicators for climate change	December 2011	WGEI	

ELEMENTS FOR A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

Objective	Main Lines of Work	Performance Indicators
Consolidate existing and emerging efforts to monitor sustainable development in the region, fostering horizontal cooperation	a) Promote application of ILAC indicators at the regional and national level as well as updating the reports that have already been published	% ILAC Methodological Sheets agreed on
		Publication of ILAC Report at the regional level
		X Countries with ILAC reports
Strengthen the Working Group on Environmental Indicators at the regional level through technical training of its focal points, and promoting horizontal cooperation among member countries	b) Develop tools and activities to strengthen the capacity for the harmonized monitoring of sustainable development	Number of WGEI member countries
		Regional Seminar on Environmental Statistics and Climate Change
		Countries participating in virtual meetings and WGEI activities
		Virtual Seminar on the use of geospatial tools.

WORK PLAN

**ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING
OF BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THEIR USE**

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	Focal Points	Calendar 2010- 2011
Biological Diversity	Genetic resources Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use	Strengthening of capacities for the sustainable use of biodiversity and its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use	Develop and strengthen institutional capacities for the implementation of the international regime (Post Protocol) on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits Exchange of experiences on access to genetic resources at regional level through a subregional workshop and regional one	Ecuador UNEP Brazil, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panamá, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua and Venezuela	Nov. 2010 / October 2011 1. Nov 24-26 /2010 (subregional) 2. August 25- 27/2011 (regional)