



**Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe**

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

**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

**Final Report of the Meeting of the
Contact Group created at the
Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of
Ministers of Environment of Latin
America and the Caribbean
3 and 4 February, Brasilia, Brazil**

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BACKGROUND

1. In follow up of decision 1 (Evaluation of the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)), paragraph 5 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Forum held on 20 and 21 October in Panama City, decided to establish a Contact Group to revise the structure and content of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2010-2011. The Contact Group is composed of two countries in each subregion (Mesoamerica: Mexico and Costa Rica; Caribbean: St. Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican Republic; Andean subregion: Ecuador and Peru; and the Southern Cone: Argentina and Brazil), and members of the Interagency Technical Committee (UNDP, ECLAC, IDB, WB and UNEP).
2. After the intersessional meeting, the Contact Group held 4 virtual meetings, to advance on a proposed structure of the RAP. In order to complete the proposed structure and content of the RAP, the Brazilian government offered to jointly sponsor with UNEP a face to face meeting of the Contact Group in the city of Brasilia on 3 and 4 February 2010.

OBJECTIVE

3. The objective of this meeting was to finalize the definition of the RAP 2010-2011 format, based on document UNEP/LAC-IGWG (IS).XVII/4 and the revisions made later by the Contact Group through electronic exchanges and virtual meetings. The meeting was also aimed at making progress in the contents of the RAP 2010-2011, which will be presented for consideration of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (26 to 30 April 2010, Panama City, Panama).
4. For this meeting working, reference and information documents were circulated and they are all available at the following link: <http://www.pnuma.org/rap2010-2011/contactgroupbrasil.php>.

PARTICIPANTS

5. The country members of the Contact Group participated in the meeting, with the exception of St. Kitts and Nevis who cancelled his participation on the grounds of the electoral process taking place at the time in the country. From the ITC agencies, the American Development Bank (IDB), and World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) sent their apologies on grounds of prior commitments. Thus, the following representatives of countries and agencies participated in the meeting:

Argentina:	Maria Carrizo (Southern Cone)
Brazil:	Rafael Rodrigues (Southern Cone)
Costa Rica:	Enid Chaverri (Mesoamerica)
Dominican	Rosa Otero (Caribbean)

Republic

Ecuador: Frida Pin representing Guido Mosquera (Andean Region)

Mexico Alejandra Guzmán representing Santiago Lorenzo (Mesoamerica)

Peru: Verónica Mendoza representing Cesar Villacorta (Andean Region)

Panama: Aziza Ladrón de Guevara (representing the host country for the next Forum of Ministers)

Inter Agency Humberto Soto (CEPAL)

Technical Committee: Mara Murillo/Isabel Martínez /Shaherah Cumberbatch (UNEP / Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean)

Cristina Montenegro/ Marina Bortoletti (UNEP Brazil Office)

Attached is the list of participants (**Annex I**).

DEVELOPMENT

I. Opening

6. The meeting began on 3 February at 9:30 am. The opening was in charge of Dominican Republic in their capacity as Chair of the current Forum of Ministers. The representative of this country noted that the process prior to the meeting had been productive and that this meeting with the Contact Group will complete the mandate given to the group during the Intersessional Meeting. The representative of Brazil gave words of welcome as the host country and called for achieving a productive working session. He stressed that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the most important forum for the discussion of environmental policies in the region. He aimed at obtaining a RAP focused on clear priorities that reflect the lessons learned. The Officer in charge of the UNEP Regional Office, in addition to welcoming the participants, she highlighted the need to define concrete activities in the RAP 2010-2011 for consideration of the Ministers. She recalled that the RAP is the tool that allows countries in the region to operationalize and implement the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Presidents of the region as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation 2002.

II. Brief overview of the process since the Intersessional Meeting

7. The Secretariat gave a brief presentation on the process followed by the Contact Group to develop the RAP 2010-2011 proposal. The Secretariat explained that the Contact Group, with support from the Secretariat, had exchanges through emails and virtual meetings (13 November, 24 November, 9 December 2009 and

13 January, 2010). The minutes of these meetings are available at <http://www.pnuma.org/rap2010-2011/>.

3. Discussion on the matrix of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2010-2011: RAP matrix that appears in the Working Document - Options for integration of the Regional Action Plan and its Content

8. The working document for discussion was the Working Document for the Integration of the RAP, for purposes of this meeting listed as UNEP/LAC-IGWG(CG).XVII/3, which is the product of the discussions of the discussions held so far by the Contact Group. The meeting continued with the definition of the category headings, and the explanation of the information that should go in each one of them. The following summarizes the discussion on this point:

- a) The discussion focused on defining the columns of the matrix of the RAP and the inclusion of the ILAC priority themes, specific indicators and guiding goals agreed at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.
- b) Regarding the column heading "regional priorities" some countries felt that the title header should not be limited to the priorities agreed in Decision 1, paragraph 3 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. However, given that the Contact Group could not change the mandate established by the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, at the suggestion of a country, it was agreed to make a reference on the matrix to paragraph 5 of Decision 1 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers which reads: "To conduct a review of challenges and lessons learned arising from the implementation of the RAP, and to prepare during the intersessional period, a conceptual review of its structure and implementation modalities, in order to assess the establishment of joint programs with the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, without prejudice to the activities carried out by agencies individually."
- c) The debate continued with the following column of the matrix in definition of its heading. Several proposals were discussed, namely, "goals", "results", or "products". The countries expressed different points of view. The majority were inclined for "products". In this context, the original ILAC document which includes "indicative purposes" was used as reference.
- d) One country said that the matrix was being almost completely changed to add more columns according to the ILAC and all the progress that had been made in virtual meetings was being set back. Meanwhile, another country added that all of the activities that were going to be carried out do not necessarily coincide with the indicative purposes of the ILAC, and that perhaps the indicative purposes should be revised according to current environmental issues. Other countries mentioned that the ILAC columns should be included in the matrix because the mandate of the Contact Group, or that of the Intersessional Meeting, only refers to reviewing the structure of the RAP, and the columns could serve as a guide not only for the group but for the Ministers to clearly understand what each column comprises.

9. The Contact Group considered it useful to leave in a shaded column headed "ILAC Indicative Purposes" during the meeting, that refers to those identified in the document entitled "Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development" (UNEP/LAC-SMIG.1/2, Friday, 30 August 2002 http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/ILAC_EnglishVer.pdf). It was agreed to eliminate it for the final version of the format.

10. The meeting continued with the review of the columns of "budget" and "responsible", to clarify the concept of each one. The discussion focused on defining whether the budget would be established at the level of activities or products, and if the contribution of each country and agency should be specified. The Secretariat clarified that the budgetary mechanisms of the agencies as well as for the countries have different planning cycles and that in some cases, work programmes are already defined with activities and resources allocated. Based on this, the Chair suggested to start filling the contents of the table with concrete activities, and after this part of the matrix is complete, determine whether the information to be included in this column would involve an estimated cost of the suggested activities or, the budget that each country and, each agency would define to support the implementation of the RAP, according to its mandate and work programme.

11. In preparation for the meeting, the representatives of the Contact Group had technical consultations within their ministries to bring concrete proposals of activities.

12. The recommendations resulting from meetings held by the working groups during the period, and that appear in the reference document "Summary of Recommendations of the Working Groups" UNEP/LAC-IGWG(CG).XVII/Ref.3 were also taken into account.

13. After discussing the relevance of including only the recommendations of the working groups in effect for the 2010-11 period, it was agreed to make a general statement to support their implementation, and to incorporate it in the activities column.

14. With regard to the period during which the RAP will be in force, the Secretariat stated that the RAP would have been applied to the 2010-2011 biennium, but given the delay in the celebration of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, the RAP should be implemented from April 2010 once adopted at said meeting.

15. The second day of the meeting continued with a presentation by the representative of ECLAC on the activities listed in their Work Plan for 2010-2011, for information of the Forum of Ministers. UNEP's Deputy Regional Director and Officer in charge commented on UNEP's main areas of work for 2010-2013, which appear in UNEP's Medium Term Strategy, and Programme of Work 2010-2011, adopted by the 25th Session of the UNEP Governing Council. Given the usefulness of the information, the countries proposed that it would be important for agencies to identify projects that could contribute to the implementation of the RAP 2010-2011, within their work programmes and mandates.

16. Regarding the "responsible" column and, in particular, the need of including a leader for each area, after analyzing various options, it was said that since it is a

Regional Action Plan, the implementation of the RAP is responsibility of the 33 countries, with support from the ITC agencies. Finally, the Contact Group decided that each country should identify "Focal Points" for monitoring the progress of work and that these should be units/administrative sections designated by the Ministers.

17. To facilitate the monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the RAP, it was proposed for the Secretariat to develop a report format, for countries and ITC agencies to report the actions taken to support the implementation of the RAP every 6 months. The Secretariat will send reminders to complete the reports and the format will be available on the website of the Forum Secretariat.

18. With respect to the "calendar" column, it was suggested to list the due dates for the reports, and also the dates of main sub regional, regional and global events organized by countries and/or agencies of the ITC, that contribute to the implementation of the RAP. This calendar will be included in the website of the Forum of Ministers.

19. Regarding the "budget" column, the Contact Group considered that there are no sufficient elements to determine the cost of the proposed activities, and potential sources of funding, including that of the countries. Thus, the Contact Group agreed that, in presenting the RAP 2010-2011 for consideration of the Forum of Ministers it will also be recommended for this Forum to provide guidance on how to address this point, considering that the budget formulation cycle of countries and agencies do not match with that of the RAP. It was also agreed to propose that the RAP 2010-2011 have an easy format for countries and agencies to report semi-annually on progress in its implementation, in the abovementioned format, in which countries and agencies will fill out a section indicating the actual cost of activities. This amount may serve as a reference for estimating the costs in the future.

Agreement / monitoring:

20. The Contact Group agreed:

- a) On the draft RAP 2010-2011 proposal, including definitions and explanations for each column, as shown in **Annex II**.
- b) For the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for a semi-annual report format to be considered at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Discussion on the work schedule of the Contact Group until the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

21. The Secretariat presented a proposed calendar for work until the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. The following calendar, which includes consultations with all countries in the region on the proposed RAP 2010-2011, was agreed by the Contact Group:

Activity	Responsible	Date
1. Distribute the proposed RAP 2010-2011 draft proposal with the report of the Face to Face meeting and cover note for approval of CG	Secretariat to CG	9 February
2. Send comments to the Secretariat on the report and the cover note	CG to Secretariat	11 February
3. Circulate the RAP 2010-2011 draft proposal	Secretariat to all the country members of the Forum	12 February
4. Send comments on the proposal of the RAP 2010-2011	Countries to the Secretariat	23 February
5. Systematize the inputs received from the countries and send to CG	Secretariat to CG	25 February
6. Analyze inputs and observations on RAP 2010-2011 through virtual meeting	CG and Secretariat	9 March
7. Circulate the final version of the RAP 2010-2011 and possible note on observations made by countries (point 5)	Secretariat (as part of the documentation for the Forum of Ministers)	12 March

5. Other matters:

22. The Deputy Regional Director and Officer in charge of UNEP briefly explained the issues that are programmed to be addressed in the upcoming Forum of Ministers, namely, biological diversity in commemoration of the International Year of Biological Diversity; Climate Change looking towards the next Conference of the Parties that will be held in Mexico at the ending of 2010; and Green Economy.

23. Brazil expressed to the Secretariat, its interest to include a debate on the preparations for the celebration of Rio +20 at the upcoming meeting of the Forum of Ministers. The Secretariat commented on the topics that are programmed to be addressed during the ministerial segment of the Seventeenth Meeting of the forum of Ministers, and said that Brazil's proposal will be included in the draft agenda for consideration of the countries.

6. Training on Elluminate (virtual meeting tool)

24. The Secretariat made a brief presentation on the use of Elluminate, virtual platform used to hold virtual meetings. The countries requested support from the Secretariat to carry out technical trials prior to the next meeting to guarantee a connection without delays, and also to start the meeting later in the day, to accommodate the time differences in the countries.

7. Closing of the meeting

25. The Chair of the meeting expressed gratitude to the Government of Brazil for their hospitality and effort in co funding the meeting and mentioned that the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers will be an opportunity to give a new dynamism to the Forum taking into account that the RAP 2010-2011 is more focused on the central themes that will be discussed during the meeting. The Chair also thanked Panama for accepting to be the host of the upcoming forum, congratulated the Secretariat for providing efficient support to the work of the Contact Group, and thanked ECLAC for permanently accompanying the Group in the activities of the Forum of Ministers of Environment.

26. The meeting was closed on 4 February at 4:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The background information of the Contact Group (i.e. the minutes of the virtual meetings) are available in English and Spanish in the following link:

<http://www.pnuma.org/rap2010-2011/contactgroupbrasilvia.php>.

ANNEXES

- I. List of participants.
- II. Proposal of the Regional Action Plan 2010-2011.

List of Participants
3-4 February 2010
Governments
Argentina

Sra. María Carrizo, Asesora
Unidad de Asuntos Ambientales Internacionales
Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación
Reconquista 555, entrepiso
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel.: (+ 54-11) 4348-8308 (directo)
Fax: (+ 54-11) 4348-8355
C.E.: mcarrizo@ambiente.gov.ar
Sitio: www.ambiente.gov.ar

Brazil

Sr. Rafael Jacques Rodrigues, Analista Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco "B", Sala 532 Zona Cívico –
Administrativa, Brasilia, D.F., Brasil

Tel.: (+ 55-61) 3317-1168
Fax: (+ 55-61) 3317-1983
C.E.: rafael.rodrigues@mma.gov.br
Sitio: www.mma.gov.br

Costa Rica

Sra. Enid Chaverri, Oficial
Departamento de Cooperación Internacional
Ministerio del Ambiente, Energía y Telecomunicaciones
Calle 25, Avenida 8 y 10, Barrio Francisco Peralta
Apartado Postal 10104-1000
San José, Costa Rica

Tel.: (+ 506) 2258-0069/2233-4533 ext- 169
Fax: (+ 506) 2257-0697
C.E.: enid.chaverri@gmail.com
Sitio: www.minae.go.cr

Ecuador

Sra. Frida Pin Hoppe
Coordinación
Acuerdos Multilaterales sobre Medio Ambiente y
Representaciones Oficiales
Dirección de Inversión, Proyectos y Coop. Internacional Subsecretaría
de Planificación
Ministerio del Ambiente
Quito, Ecuador

Tel.: (+593- 2) 256-3422
Fax: (+ 593-2) 256-3422
C.E.: fpin@ambiente.gov.ec
Sitio: www.ambiente.gov.ec

Mexico

Sra. Alejandra Guzmán, Subdirectora de la Agenda Verde de los
Acuerdos Ambientales Multilaterales
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)
Lateral del Anillo Periférico Sur No. 4209
Fraccionamiento Jardines en la Montaña
14210 – México D.F., México

Tel.: (+52 55) 5628-3901
Fax: (+52 55) 5628-0694
C.E.: alejandra.guzman@semarnat.gob.mx
Sitio: www.semarnat.gob.mx

Panama

Sra. Aziza Ladrón de Guevara
Asesoría Legal
Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente(ANAM)

Tel: (+507)5000813
C.E.: aziza.deguevara@anam.gob.pa
Sitio: www.anam.gob.pa

Peru

Sra. Verónica Mendoza,
Dirección General de Investigación e Información Ambiental
Vice ministerio de Gestión Ambiental
Ministerio de Ambiente
Av. Guardia Civil No. 205, San Borja
41 Lima, Perú

Tel.:Tel: (51-1) 611 6000 anexo 1331
Fax: (+ 51-1) 225-5369
C.E.: vmendoza@minam.gob.pe
Sitio: www.minam.gob.pe

Dominican Republic

Sra. Rosa Otero, Directora de Comercio y Ambiente
Subsecretaría de Cooperación Ambiental
Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente
y Recursos Naturales
Calle Presidente González esq. Av. Tirantes
Edificio La Cumbre, Ensanche Naco
Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

Tel.: (+ 1-809) 567-4300 ext 238
Fax: (+ 1-809) 368-2667
C.E.: rosa.otero@medioambiente.gob.do
Sitio: www.medioambiente.gob.do

United Nations System

Programmes and Commissions

Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC)

Sr. Humberto Soto de la Rosa, Oficial de Asuntos Ambientales
División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe
Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3477, N-24, Vitacura
Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile
Santiago, Chile

Tel.: (+ 56-2) 210-2368
Fax: (+ 56-2) 208-0252, 208-0484
C.E.: humberto.soto@cepal.org
Sitio: www.eclac.org

Secretariat (UNEP)

Sra. Mara Murillo, Directora Regional Adjunta, y Oficial a Cargo
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber
Clayton, Panamá

Tel.: (+507) 305-3130
Fax: (+507) 305-3105
C.E.: mara.murillo@unep.org
Sitio: www.pnuma.org

Sra. Isabel Martínez, Oficial de Programa
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber
Clayton, Panamá

Tel.: (+507) 305-3173
Fax: (+507) 305-3105
C.E.: isabel.martinez@unep.org
Sitio: www.pnuma.org

Sra. Cristina Montenegro, Coordinadora
Oficina de PNUMA em Brasil
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
EQSW 103/104 lote 1 bloco C, 1 andar
Setor Sudoeste, 70670-350
Brasilia, D.F., Brasil

Tel.: (+55-61) 3038-9233
Fax: (+55-61) 3038-9239
C.E.: cristina.montenegro@unep.org

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Sra. Marina Bortoletti
Asistente de Programa
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
EQSW 103/104 lote 1 bloco C, 1 andar
Setor Sudoeste, 70670-350
Brasilia, D.F., Brasil

Tel.: (+55-61) 3038-9233
Fax: (+55-61) 3038-9239
C.E.: marina.bortoletti@unep.org

Sra. Shaherah Cumberbatch
Asistente de Reportes
Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber
Clayton, Panamá

Tel.: (+507) 305-3144
Fax: (+507) 305-3105
C.E.: shaherah.cumberbatch@unep.org

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PROPOSAL FOR THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) 2010-2011 OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT (v. 4 FEB 2010)

The Contact Group established at the Intersessional Meeting celebrated on 20 and 21 October 2009, in Panama City, Panama, in compliance with its mandate presents the Proposal for the Regional Action Plan 2010-2011 for consideration of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives/programmes	Focal Points	[Estimated cost and possible funding sources]	Calendar 2010-2011
CLIMATE CHANGE	The linkage between climate change and all ILAC areas (including renewable energy and energy efficiency) is recognized	Development or strengthening of capacities for adaptation to effects and mitigation of the causes of climate change	Climate Change <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the implementation of actions for adaptation and mitigation of climate change (i.e. through workshops, virtual meetings, networks, among others) 2. Dissemination of results and Exchange of knowledge and experiences (for example, through publications, internet use, virtual libraries, blogs, etc) 3. Promote inter sector research programmes on climate change, with focus on compiling systematizing and disseminating data 4. [Development of a regional strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation] 5. Carry out workshops to strengthen capacities of the climate change negotiators of the region. 				

- Revision of the proposal made by Argentina to incorporate additional comments such as, for example, lessons

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives/program mes	Focal Points	[Estimated cost and possible funding sources]	Calendar 2010-2011
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	<p>1) Increase of forest area</p> <p>2) Genetic resources-Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use</p>	<p>Strengthening of capacities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p>	<p>1) Forest Cover</p> <p>1.1. Identify areas of regional cooperation</p> <p>1.2. Develop and strengthen reforestation campaigns</p> <p>1.3. Support awareness campaigns for the conservation of primary forests and biological diversity, and [the reduction of deforestation rates]</p> <p>1.4. Increase the amount of certified forest covers through sustainable forest management</p> <p>1.5. Share experiences related to the use of information technologies for decision making</p> <p>2) Genetic Resources</p> <p>2.1. Develop and strengthen institutional capacities for the implementation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits</p> <p>3) Forest cover and genetic resources</p> <p>3.1. Develop studies on biodiversity and ecosystem economy</p>				

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives/programmes	Focal Points	[Estimated cost and possible funding sources]	Calendar 2010-2011
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	<p>1)Watershed management</p> <p>2)Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources</p>	<p>Strengthening of capacities in the area of integrated water resources and marine coastal zones management</p>	<p>1)Watershed management</p> <p>1.1. Develop participative processes for integrated management of water resources</p> <p>2)Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources</p> <p>2.1. Strategies and plans to incorporate international standards for the sustainable management of coastal marine ecosystems</p> <p>2.2. Exchange knowledge and experiences regarding the implementation of actions related to the management of marine coastal areas and its resources (i.e. through workshops, virtual meetings, networks, among others)</p>				

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives/programmes	Focal Points	[Estimated cost and possible funding sources]	Calendar 2010-2011
VULNERABILITY, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES	1) Vulnerability and risk management 2) Waste management	1) Strengthening of regional institutional capacities for risk management 2) Strengthening of capacities for the prevention, minimization and environmentally sound management of solid waste	1) Vulnerability and risk management 1.1. Implementation of land planning instruments 1.2. Support the improvement and operationalization of early warning, monitoring and immediate response systems 2) Solid Waste 2.1. Promote the use of cleaner production technologies for the reduction of solid waste 2.2. Exchange of knowledge and experiences and use of technologies in the integrated management of solid waste (i.e. through workshops, networks, forums for local authorities regarding regulations, and management systems, among others)				

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives/program mes	Focal Points	[Estimated cost and possible funding sources]	Calendar 2010-2011
SOCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING HEALTH, INEQUITY AND POVERTY	Health and environment (pollution and chemicals)	Positioning of the intersectoral approach to environmental and health management, and promotion of cooperation on chemical substances	<p>Pollution</p> <p>Chemical Substances</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote discussion forums and information exchange between environment and health sectors Strengthen south-south cooperation for the exchange of experiences on rational management of chemical substances in the relevant multilateral environmental agreements 				
ECONOMIC ISSUES, INCLUDING COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS (ENERGY)	Sustainable Production and Consumption	Incorporation of sustainable consumption and production in development policies	<p>Sustainable Production and consumption</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of green purchasing systems Incorporate Cleaner Production and Sustainable Public Procurement policies in the Action Plans of Public institutions Identify and evaluate instruments including economic and financial to promote the adoption of changes in production and consumption patterns Support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Fifth meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption for LAC 				

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Products	Activities	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives/programmes	Focal Points	[Estimated cost and possible funding sources]	Calendar 2010-2011
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	1)Assessment and indicators 2)Environmental education	1) Strengthening capacities for generating, processing and disseminating of the ILAC indicators 2) Strengthening capacities to integrate environmental education into all levels of formal and non formal education	1)Assessment and indicators 1.1. Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Indicators 1.2. Develop a virtual capacity building module for the generation, processing and dissemination of the ILAC indicators 1.3. Continue the integration of the GEO Data Portal with national information systems 1.4. Integrate the recollection of environmental data within national statistical processes 2) Environmental education 2.1. Review and analyze environmental education programmes and plans (for example, networks including the Environmental Training Network of LAC, PLACEA, PANACEA, among others) and make recommendations 2.2. Support the dissemination of all activities contained in the RAP 2010-2011 2.3. Implement PLACEA in the region 2.4. Support the processes of subregional integration and establish a mechanism of institutional support for diverse sub regional emerging initiatives				

DEFINITION OF COLUMN HEADINGS OF THE RAP 2010-2011 MATRIX

ILAC PRIORITY AREAS (Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development)

The ILAC priority areas are those that are identified in the document entitled "Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development" (UNEP/LAC-SMIG.I/2 Friday, 30 August 2002 http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/ILAC_EnglishVer.pdf)

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional priorities are those that were agreed in Decision 1, paragraph 3 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment and those revised in accordance with paragraph 5 of the same decision, http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/rde09tri_FinalReportSixteenthMeeting_08Feb2008.pdf).

PRODUCTS/EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- The products are the expected results of the activities.
- The products must show a contribution towards the attainment of the regional priorities.
- They require the effort of two or more countries or two or more agencies and other partners.

ACTIVITIES

Activities are the agreed set of tasks to achieve the products. These tasks should be undertaken by countries, agencies and other partners (see 'Focal Points ').

ITC AGENCIES WITH RELEVANT PROGRAMMES/INITIATIVES

It refers to programmes or initiatives of the work programmes of the agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee (CTI) of the Forum of Ministers of Environment (United Nations Development Programme-UNDP,- World Bank-WB- Inter American Development Bank-IDB, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC-, United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP) approved by their governing organisms and which are associated with the activities of the RAP 2010-2011. This column should be completed by agencies of the ITC before 25 March with a simple indication of yes or checkmark (✓). Additionally, the agencies will provide work programmes for the biennium 2010-2011 and a brief summary about them to be distributed as reference documents.

FOCAL POINTS

Focal points are the administrative body within each Ministry of the Environment designated by the Minister as person responsible for monitoring and reporting on progress made on the product or regional priority. Active Working Groups will report to that focal point.

[ESTIMATED COST AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES]

During the discussions on the matrix, the Contact Group considered that there are not sufficient elements to determine the estimated costs and possible funding sources. Thus, the Contact Group agreed that, in presenting the RAP 2010-2011 for consideration by the Forum of Ministers, it will also be recommended for the Forum to provide guidance for the definition of costs and financing for the following RAP. It was also agreed that the RAP 2010-2011 will have a simple format for countries and agencies to provide progress reports every six months and the format will include a section to indicate the actual cost of activities. This amount may serve as a reference for estimating the costs of the following RAP.

2010-2011 CALENDAR

This column heading refers to the estimated date of completion of events related to the activities of the RAP 2010-2011 by countries and ITC agencies, as well as for the submission of biannual reports.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean offers an excellent opportunity to review and approve a conceptual revision of the structure and modalities of implementation of the RAP looking to evaluate the establishment of a joint programme with the Inter-Agency Technical Committee agencies (ITC), without prejudice to the activities undertaken by them.

