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Progress in the implementation of Decisions of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

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19TH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in San José Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico in March 2014, with the goal of strengthening the Forum’s regional work and consolidating its position as a leading mechanism for cooperation in the region.



Main outcomes:

- The ministers of environment of the region adopted the Declaration of Los Cabos, which confirmed that the Forum is one of the most relevant spaces for political dialogue on environmental cooperation and for the establishment of regional priorities. Through the Declaration, the ministers:
 - Committed to undertake efforts to face climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical waste contamination.
 - Agreed to undertake the update of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development, taking into account the outcomes of negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Requested the members of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (UNEP, ECLAC, WB, IDB, and UNDP) as well as other multilateral financing and cooperation institutions to allocate resources to the region.
 - Requested the presentation of the Declaration to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) at its next meeting.
- In addition, the ministers adopted nine decisions to promote sustainable development in the region, dealing specifically with: Governance of the Forum; Environmental Education; Access to Information and Environmental Justice; Integrated Management of Chemicals and Waste; Small Island Developing States; Environmental Indicators; Sustainable Consumption and Production; Atmospheric Pollution; and Climate Change.



DECISION 1. GOVERNANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF THE FORUM

Decisions

1. To disseminate broadly the decisions adopted by the Forum of Ministers, in the relevant instances and processes, in particular the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA).
2. To continue promoting political dialogue and sharing of experiences on environmental topics of regional interest, to identify common regional visions and understandings to increase South-South cooperation and to enhance the endogenous capacities of the region.
3. To undertake the update of the ILAC based on the discussions of the Meeting of High Level Experts of this forum and identify priority issues in the intersessional meeting of this forum, with the support of the Secretary, and report on its achievements to the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.
4. To request the Secretariat to create a Clearinghouse Mechanism (CHM) of the Forum, covering the agendas and programmes of other subregional and regional mechanisms, to identify and promote that identified programmes increase coherence of existing work, avoid duplication and contribute to knowledge management, and report on its achievements to the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

Progress and actions

During the first session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly of UNEP, the government of Mexico, in their capacity as Chair of the Forum, shared the results of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. They also promoted the incorporation of priority elements for the region in the resolutions adopted by UNEA.

Mexico also established a mechanism for information exchange, for countries to get to know experiences and lessons learned on environmental issues, and promote South-South cooperation.

126th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP

- At the 126th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 24 to 28 March 2014, progress was made in the preparations for the UNEA sessions in 2014 and 2016; the discussion of the role of the UNEA in the United Nations system; and the preparation of the draft decisions for adoption by the UNEA.
- The meeting provided an opportunity for the CPR to review emerging issues of importance to all of the world's regions, including a regional vision of environmental policy, the science-policy interface, biodiversity, the relationship between water and the environment, access to information and environmental justice, and citizen participation.
- Mexico, which holds the Chair of the regional Forum of Ministers, presented the outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Forum, held in San José Los Cabos, Mexico, in March 2014.
- It was stressed that in the Declaration of Los Cabos, the Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean called for innovative perspectives,



coordinated efforts and solid cooperation initiatives to face the challenges of sustainable development.

- The regional Forum of Ministers was confirmed as the most important space for political dialogue and environmental policy discussions to establish regional priorities, highlighting the high level of participation by ministers, experts and representatives of international agencies, as well as the main components of the Declaration of Los Cabos and the nine thematic decisions adopted by the ministers.
- It was agreed that the outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers would be included in the programme of work for the first period of sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014.

First United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- The first period of sessions of the UNEA, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 23-27 March 2014, featured a high-level plenary session on “the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production” and a ministerial dialogue on illegal trade in wildlife, as well as a review of environment-related reports and the budget and two-year programmes of work for the periods 2014–2015 and 2016–2017.



- More than 40 side events, special fora and high-level dialogues also took place, addressing a wide range of issues, such as climate change, gender and the environment, green jobs, air quality, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the sound management of chemicals, among others.
- During the high-level ministerial segment on “A Life of Dignity for All”, Mexico, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), presented the outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the perspectives of the countries of the region into the shaping of the global environmental agenda.
- The LAC region confirmed its commitment to the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) and concrete actions for regional cooperation on sustainable consumption and production. Also highlighted was the decision to implement a Regional Action Plan for Intergovernmental Cooperation on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean, an issue on which the UNEA adopted a resolution.

Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean Collaboration Website

- In compliance with the commitment of the Mexican Chair of the Forum of Ministers to create a mechanism for the exchange of information to enable the implementation of the ambitious set of decisions for promoting sustainable and inclusive development, the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean Collaboration website was launched online in the first half of 2014.



- This virtual platform facilitates coordination for more rapid, effective and sustainable creation of partnerships in the region, as well as the definition of concrete measures and practical solutions for shared environmental challenges, such as climate change, air pollution, biodiversity, and sustainable management of mercury and solid wastes, among others.
- The website, which contains working documents, papers, presentations, links to other environmental agreements, a schedule of meetings, discussion forums, news from the Chair, and other materials, has proven useful for exchanging ideas and proposals, strengthening regional dialogue, identifying common positions, and agreeing on concrete cooperation initiatives on emerging environmental issues.
- While there are good relations among the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the website has contributed to even further strengthening these relations, while allowing for greater international impact.

Progress on environmental cooperation during the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

- During the Third CELAC Summit, held on 28-29 January 2015 in Belén, Costa Rica, the participants established as a main objective the design of a strategy to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.
- At the same time, they called for the consolidation of efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty with the adoption of the CELAC 2015 Action Plan (for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development).
- The Action Plan was also deemed to be essential to face the problems of the availability of resources to finance sustainable development.
- In the framework of the CELAC 2015 Action Plan it was agreed to hold the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Environment during the first half of 2015 (in a country to be determined) to

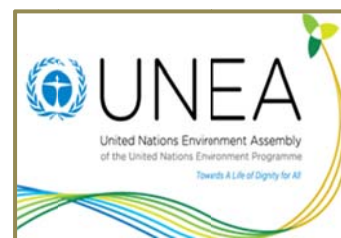


follow up on the First Meeting of the Working Group on the Environment held in Quito, Ecuador in April 2013.



Regional consultation meeting of the major groups and stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean 2015

In preparation for the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) to be held in 2016, and within the framework of discussions for the twentieth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the 2nd meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized the Regional Consultation for major groups and stakeholders on 6-7 May in Panama City, Panama.



- The meeting aimed to:
 - Prepare the contribution of representatives of major groups and stakeholders in the region to global processes, such as the discussion of the post-2015 agenda and climate change.
 - Identify opportunities to improve the participation of major groups and actors relevant in the policy-making processes at various levels.
 - Encourage dialogue between major groups and stakeholders in the region.
- Stakeholders and groups include: business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous people and their communities, local authorities, NGOs, scientific and technological community, women, workers and unions.
- The results of the meeting were the contributions to international environmental negotiation processes at different levels, with emphasis on: 1) the cycle of political decisions UNEP (UNEA, CPR, Regional Forum of Ministers, etc.); 2) the post-2015 agenda; 3) climate change; 4) sustainable production and consumption.

First Interamerican Congress on Rule Law

- The First Interamerican Congress on Rule of Law was held on 30 March to 1 April 2015 in Montego Bay, Jamaica and was organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organisation of



Fuente: Sitio oficial de la OEA

American States (OAS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) jointly with the Government of Jamaica.

- The objectives of the Congress were:
 - To foster rule of law in the Americas, and
 - Contribute to good environmental governance, providing a knowledge base necessary to support the development and strengthening of legislation, policies and environmental institutional strengthening as a basis for sustainable development in the region.
- The results of the Congress, developed with the support of the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL, for its acronym in English) and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), focused on issues related to the legal framework for the management of water resources, business investment and environment, management and conflict prevention, compliance and access to sources of information and participation and access to justice in the Americas.
- Participants also called for the inclusion of the rule of law in the agenda of the OAS and made a call to continue the exchange of experiences between the different branches of the government.

Other actions

- The Colombian delegation that participated in the first United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, June 2014) broadly disseminated the decisions adopted by the Forum of Ministers, particularly the agreements regarding hazardous wastes and chemicals contained in Decision 4. Uruguay is also playing a fundamental role in fulfilling the mandates of Decision 1 regarding dissemination of the agreements adopted by the Region's Forums of Ministers of the Interior, as well as through its promotion of policy dialogue, sharing of experiences on issues related to the regional environmental agenda, and its promotion of information exchanges between the Forum and other mechanisms. All of this has been a result of the recent inauguration of a subregional office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Montevideo, which covers the Southern Cone region. The office represents an important recognition by the United Nations of Uruguay's work to protect and promote the environment and formulate a vision of the future. In this context, the country is also hosting the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law, which consists of a mid-term review of the Montevideo IV program. The meeting took place from 7 to 11 September 2015.
- The national delegations representing the Colombian government in the various multilateral environmental meetings have encouraged policy dialogue and sharing of experiences on environmental agenda issues of regional interest, pursuant to Section 2 of Decision 1. Notable efforts were undertaken by Colombia, along with the other six countries in the region that constitute the Independent Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC) – Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru – to identify regional approaches and an understanding of climate change, with a view to the agreement that the parties hope to reach in Paris in 2015.
- In Ecuador, actions are being coordinated with: the MERCOSUR Subregional Agenda, the Agenda 2020 proposal presented by the Pro Tempore Chair of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (Ecuador PPT), particularly with respect to the environment and climate change pillar; the Belén Action Plan and Declaration; and the Results of the CELAC-EU Summit.
- Uruguay has also worked to promote policy dialogue and sharing of experiences on issues relating to the regional environmental agenda, and has participated actively in South-South cooperation

arrangements with countries in the Region, as both provider and recipient. In South-South cooperation, Uruguay has in place cooperation agreements with all of the countries in Latin America. In the environmental field, since March of 2014 three initiatives have been carried out (with Brazil, Colombia, and Costa Rica): Strengthening and Perfecting the Meteorological Observation System, with Brazil serving as the cooperating country and Uruguay primarily as the recipient; Strategic Actions for Planning and Integral Management of the Systems of Protected Areas in Uruguay and Colombia, with Colombia serving as the cooperating country, and Colombia and Uruguay acting as both providers and recipients of cooperation; and Land Use Planning and Use of Water Resources for Urban and Rural Development, in which the cooperating country is Costa Rica, with Uruguay acting as the primary provider of cooperation.

- With regard to updating the Latin American Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), a meeting was held on 5 and 6 October, in which representatives of the region's countries discussed ILAC, the post-2030 agenda, and subregional priorities.
- In terms of the clearing house mechanism (CHM) for information sharing, upon re-activation of the password, Ecuador will coordinate the uploading of information on: principal achievements regarding the COP-11 platform of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), signed by three countries in Quito in November 2014; Ministerial participation in the Climate Summit, and in Conferences of the Parties (COP) on Biodiversity and Climate Change (CC), in Lima; Sembratón; and other initiatives.

DECISION 2. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


1. To request that UNEP, through the Environmental Education Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (ETN-LAC) and its focal points at the environmental authorities, coordinates the development of the ETN-LAC Work Plan with the participation of its focal points, for the period 2014-2016, including the identification of responsible people, actions, timeline, indicators, necessary financial resources, as well as synergies with other programmes and regional and subregional initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean on environmental education. This Plan should be finalized at the latest within six months and it will include the following guidelines and actions:
 - a. promote environmental education through online and face-to-face and other innovative methods and technologies in different languages (e.g. Spanish, English, French, Portuguese and other languages) and, in particular, the organization of an online or partly face-to-face and online course on environmental education for sustainability during the first half of 2015, targeting government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, community leaders, workers organizations, indigenous people and special groups, youth and women, amongst others, in partnership with other organizations, universities and other stakeholders.
 - b. continue participating in and assisting technically and financially the regional Environmental Education Congresses organized by Latin American and Caribbean countries, including the 7th Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education organized by the Ministry of Environment of Peru to be held in September 2014, as well as congresses, seminars or similar events in the English Caribbean countries, Suriname and Haiti.
 - c. continue promoting the participation of universities of the region in UNEP's Global University Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES), strengthening the relationship with ARIUSA, seeking new partners, from the perspective of the priorities and needs of the region, focusing on the three pillars of GUPES, namely, education, training and networking, and promoting initiatives such as Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in the Caribbean Universities (MESCA). And, in particular, to develop an assessment on mainstreaming environment in universities (on four areas that include curriculum, institutional management, extension and research), based both on common indicators, as well as country-differentiated indicators.
 - d. promote the development of training programmes and tools for judges and prosecutors in matters of environmental law and sustainable development principles.
2. Promote and strengthen youth and children's organizations dedicated to the environment in each of the countries in the region and work for the consolidation of a youth and children Network for Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the Environmental Training Network.
3. Facilitate the exchange of experiences and South-South cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of education, environmental communication and public participation, including intercultural exchanges and dialogue among fields of knowledge. In this regard, UNEP is requested to identify and implement, together with ETN focal points, two or three South-South cooperation actions over the next two years.
4. Ratify the importance of the payment of the annual voluntary contribution to the ETN trust fund, by all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. Entrust ETN focal points, with the support of UNEP as the Forum Secretariat, with the development of a strategy proposal for the identification and mobilization of resources and potential partnerships, as well as a review of the current scale of contributions of the ETN for consideration at the 20th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Progress and actions

After the forum of ministers, the Focal Points of ETN-LAC agreed on their work plan for the 2014-2016 period. Some actions implemented in this framework are as follows:

Meeting in Lima of representatives of UNEP ETN-LAC focal points

- Convened by the coordinating committee of the UNEP Environmental Education Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (ETN-LAC), the directors of environmental education units in the ministries of environment of the region met in Lima, Peru on 9 September 2014. The meeting was attended by participants from numerous countries that make up the network: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.
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- The meeting, which was held on the occasion of the 7th Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Education of Peru on 10-12 September, fulfilled the following objectives established in the proposed programme:
 - To carry out the final revision of the draft ETN-LAC Work Plan for the period 2014-2016 and launch its implementation.
 - To review the status of contributions to the ETN-LAC trust fund.
 - To undertake an exchange with the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA) on paragraph 1 (c) of Decision 2 on Environmental Education, and in particular, the development of an assessment of environment mainstreaming in the region's universities on a country-by-country basis.
 - To discuss the contributions of the Environmental Training Network to the 7th Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education and post-Congress follow-up.
 - One of the most noteworthy outcomes of the meeting was the formulation of the ETN-LAC Work Plan for the period 2014-2016, based on the results of numerous online consultations and a face-to-face meeting held in Lima, Peru on 9 September 2014. The work plan includes a detailed account of actions, timelines, indicators, the necessary financial resources and the identification of persons responsible for different tasks, as well as synergies with other regional and sub-regional programmes and initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean on environmental education. The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) distributed the Work Plan to the region's ministries of environment on 11 November 2014. It is available online at http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/RFA_LIMA_2014/Plan_de_Trabajo_RFA%202014-2016_FINAL.pdf



- The meeting was coordinated by UNEP/ROLAC and supported by the UNEP Environmental Training and Education Unit from its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

Actions in the framework of the ETN-LAC Work Plan for 2014-2016, resulting from the meeting of UNEP ETN-LAC focal point representatives

- The main actions and activities included in the 2014-2016 Work Plan are:
 1. To promote environmental education through online and face-to-face and other innovative methods and technologies in different languages, in particular, courses on environmental education for sustainability during the first half of 2015, targeting government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, community leaders, workers organizations, indigenous people and special groups, youth and women, amongst others, in partnership with other organizations, universities and other stakeholders.
 - The ETN-LAC assisted the Ministry of Environment of Chile in the dissemination of the call for the Second International Course on Education for Sustainable Development (organized with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA), through the UNEP/ROLAC website, mass emailing, and coverage in the UNEP/ROLAC Newsletter, among others. A presentation was also made via Skype on the stated of environmental education in the region.
 2. To continue participating in and assisting technically and financially the regional Environmental Education Congresses.
 - UNEP and the ETN-LAC provided support for the organization of the 7th Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education, held in Lima, Peru in December 2014, by disseminating the call for the Congress, sharing the costs with the organizers, and delivering comments at the opening session and a presentation in Panel 2 on Community-Level Environmental Education Actors, on the Global University Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES) and its importance for the communities of the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) and the presentation in Panel 4 on environmental community education in the current context (carried out by the focal point of Cuba) and the preparation of presentations in other sessions that addressed topics such as environmental community education, ranging from artistic expressions (carried out by the focal point of Panama) environmental community education in professional training, training for educators and environmental promoters (carried out by the focal point of Colombia), national and regional Governments and environmental community education (carried out by the focal point of Ecuador and Uruguay), experiences of environmental community education and land and basin management (carried out by the focal point of Cuba and Uruguay), environmental community education and access to information (carried out by UNEP).
 - They also assisted in the moderation of at least 12 sessions and participated in the groups responsible for drafting the final declaration of the Congress (please see below information on this declaration).
 3. To continue promoting the participation of universities of the region in GUPES, strengthening the relationship with the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), seeking new partners, and promoting initiatives such as Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in the Caribbean Universities (MESCA). And, in particular, “to develop an assessment on mainstreaming environment in universities (on four

areas that include curriculum, institutional management, extension and research), based both on common indicators, as well as country-differentiated indicators.”

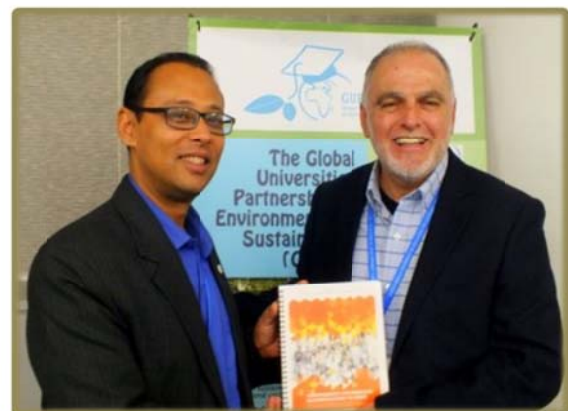
First Central American Forum of Universities and the Environment



- The Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), the National Environmental Training and Research Network of Guatemala (REDFIA) and the Costa Rican Network of Sustainable Educational Institutions (REDIES), organized the First Central American Forum of Universities and the Environment. The theme of the forum, held on 21-22 August 2014 in Panama City, was “Building Networks”.
- Within the activities of this Forum, the universities adopted a Statement of Commitments and agreed on a proposal to establish the Panamanian Network of Universities for the Environment and Sustainability.

Presentation of the RISU project (2013-2014): “Development of indicators to assess the implementation of sustainability policies in Latin American universities” at UNEP’s GUPES Partnerships Forum

- In the framework of UNEP’s *Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability* (GUPES) Forum held on 8 November 2014 in Nagoya, Japan, UNEP, through the ETN-LAC and the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU), presented the project for the development of indicators to assess the implementation of sustainability policies in Latin American universities, led by the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA).



- The main objective of the project is to strengthen efforts for the creation of networks and collaborative actions undertaken by universities in the region concerned about the problems of sustainability and social responsibility. An additional objective is the development of an analytical framework to assess the implementation of policies and strategies for sustainability and social responsibility in Latin American universities.

- Through the monitoring of experiences, an assessment tool was developed with a set of 114 indicators grouped in 11 thematic areas, to assess the implementation of sustainability in universities. A total of 65 universities in 10 Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela) have voluntarily participated in the project.
- The results were published with the financial support of UNEP/EETU. The project report is available online in English and Spanish at: http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/documentos/GUPES/Proyecto_risu_Final_2014.pdf
- In addition, UNEP, through the ETN-LAC, contributed substantially to the publication presented by ARIUSA, Universities and Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean: Reports on the GUPES Latin America agenda 2013. The publication was presented by ARIUSA at the GUPES Partnerships Forum and is available online at: http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/documentos/GUPES/Informe_sobre_FOROS_UNIV_2013.pdf
- Meanwhile, in compliance with the agreements on environmental education adopted at the 19th Forum of Ministers, Mexico proposed the establishment and strengthening of a partnership between two Mexican institutions, the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES) and the Centre for Education and Training for Sustainable Development (CECADESU), in order to facilitate and expand on the achievement of the following objectives:
 - Developing an assessment on mainstreaming environment in universities (on areas that include curriculum, institutional management, extension and research), on a country-by-country basis, based both on common indicators, as well as country-differentiated indicators.
 - Promoting the active participation of universities of the region in UNEP's Global University Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES), strengthening the relationship with the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), and seeking new partners, in accordance with the priorities and needs of the region, focusing on the three pillars of GUPES: education, training and networking.

Creation of partnerships among Mexican institutions for the inclusion of environmental considerations in the universities of the country.

- In compliance with the agreements on Environmental Education at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Regional Forum of Ministers, Mexico proposed to establish and strengthen an alliance between Mexican institutions: the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education (ANUIES for its initials in Spanish) and the Centre for Education and Training for Sustainable Development (CECADESU), to facilitate and expand the achievement of the following objectives:
 - Develop a diagnosis by country on the inclusion of environmental considerations in universities (in areas covered by the curriculum, institutional management, and research), based on common and differentiated indicators.
 - Promote among the universities of the region active participation in the Global Universities Partnerships on Environment and Sustainability of UNEP (GUPES), strengthening the relationship with the Alliance of Ibero-American Universities Network for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), seeking new partners, according to the priorities and

needs of the region and focused on the 3 pillars of GUPES-education, training and networking.

- In regard to this alliance, CECADESU planned so far, meetings with ANUIES and AC FESE (Higher Education-Industry Foundation) in order to expand the possibilities of joint work between these Mexican organizations.
- Stemming from the exchange of CECADESU with ANUIES, the participation of the first was sought in the "5th Day of the Entrepreneur of Higher-Education Company (FESE) Foundation" held in Mexico City, on March 26, 2015.
- The event was designed in three components: the contest of entrepreneurs in higher education, where more than 700 proposals were registered; Expo-entrepreneurs of higher education that has more than 120 stands where higher education institutions exhibit their products and services in a direct approach with entrepreneurs of Higher Education Institutions (IES), and finally the academic programme, composed of lectures, panels, presentations and workshops given by renowned experts of entrepreneurship in the country. It was in this last component that CECADESU made a presentation in which the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into the projects of young graduates of higher education institutions was stressed.



Fuente: Sitio oficial de la Fundación Educación Superior-Empresa

4. To promote and strengthen youth organizations and children dedicated to the environment in each of the countries in the region and work for the consolidation of a network of young people and children for Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of Environmental Training Network.

- The ETN-LAC with UNEP's support and TUNZA, provided substantive and financial support to the International Youth Meeting on Environment and Sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was held from 10 to 13 October 2014 in Manizales, Colombia. The meeting brought together 30 young leaders from the region and 120 from Colombia.

5. To facilitate the exchange of experiences and South-South cooperation between Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of education, environmental communication and public participation, including cultural exchanges and dialogue among fields of knowledge. In this regard, UNEP was asked to identify and implement, together with the focal points of the ETN-LAC, two or three actions of South-South cooperation in the next two years.

- Two virtual meetings with the focal points of the ETN-LAC (25 April and 4 June, 2014) were carried out thanks to the online meeting platform of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Colombia. A meeting of focal points in 2015 to discuss " Water Management" has been planned.

Adoption of the Lima Declaration during the 7th Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education

- The 7th Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education was held on 10-12 September 2014 in Lima, Peru, with the aim of promoting the exchange of experiences in environmental education. The participants in the Congress adopted the Lima Declaration, which includes the following sections: • a summary of regional highlights in environmental education, • a summary of the key messages of previous congresses, • political declarations, and • declarations of actions to be undertaken in community environmental education, as well as the implementation of environmental education at the global level (summary of highlights of the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development).
- The Declaration contains a paragraph that expresses the intent to "strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Education Network, coordinated by UNEP and made up by the Ministries of the Environment" and to create an Ibero-American Environmental Educators Network for Education on Sustainable Development. (The declaration is available at http://www.minam.gob.pe/cidea7/documentos/declaracion_lima_cidea7.pdf).



International forum "Environmental Education, Water and Biodiversity" in Asuncion, Paraguay

- UNEP through the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean and supported by the Ministry of Environment of Paraguay and Itaipu Binacional organized the International Forum "Environmental Education, Water and Biodiversity" on 24 and 25 April in Asuncion, Paraguay. The forum was opened by the Secretary-Minister of Environment of the Ministry of Environment of Paraguay, Director of Coordination, Itaipu and Isabel Martinez, Coordinator of the Environmental Training Network Latin America and the Caribbean by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- An introductory panel on environmental education led the way to remember the history of environmental education in the region and deepen their development status and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean, to project the World Programme of Action for Education for Sustainable Development adopted in November 2014 in Nagoya, Japan and led by UNESCO, to publicize the Alliance of Ibero-American Network of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA) and to report on the objectives and areas of action of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean coordinated by UNEP. This session was followed by three panels on water, biodiversity and community environmental education which were led by the directors of the units of environmental education in the region. The host country, Uruguay and Brazil made presentations on water; in the panel on biodiversity experiences of Paraguay, Colombia (in virtual



form) and Chile were presented and; the panel on community environmental education included speeches from Peru, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Panama and Honduras.

- Thanks to the international speakers, in environmental education and Professor Orlando Saenz, Coordinator ARIUSA, the audience knew first-hand the state of the art environmental education processes in the region and efforts to mainstream environmental considerations in universities through networking.
- The representatives of environmental ministries from (Brazil, Chile, Colombia -shaped virtually, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay) the most relevant national experiences on environmental education promoted by these ministries were shared.
- The outcome of the Forum was presented by the representative of Cuba.
- About 150 people from ministries, universities, NGOs and private sector participated in the Forum.

More information in:

<http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/reuniones.php>

<http://www.itaipu.gov.py/es/sala-de-prensa/noticia/especialistas-de-medio-ambiente-en-foro-sobre-educacion-agua-y-biodiversidad>

Meeting of Focal Points of the UNEP Environmental Training Network in Hernandarias, Paraguay

- On the occasion of the International Forum "Environmental Education, Water and Biodiversity", on 26 March a meeting of focal points of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Hernandarias, Paraguay.
- Thanks to the good offices of the Secretary of Environment of Paraguay and the generous hospitality of Itaipu Binacional, the meeting was held at the premises of Itaipu on the Paraguayan side.
- The focal points of the Network (principals of environmental education ministries of environment in the region, UNESCO, the coordinator of ARIUSA) participated -in the meeting.
- And on March 27 focal points had the opportunity to conduct a technical visit to the Itaipu dam.

The focal points focused their discussions on:

- Exchange and identification of impact indicators of environmental education as a tool to justify and strengthen the implementation of policies and strategies for environmental education and the allocation of appropriate human and financial resources and time. In this sense a presentation of ARIUSA on work done through the Network of Sustainability Indicators in Universities (RISU for its initials in Spanish) project on the development of indicators to assess the implementation of sustainability policies in Latin American universities which covered 6% of universities in Latin America.

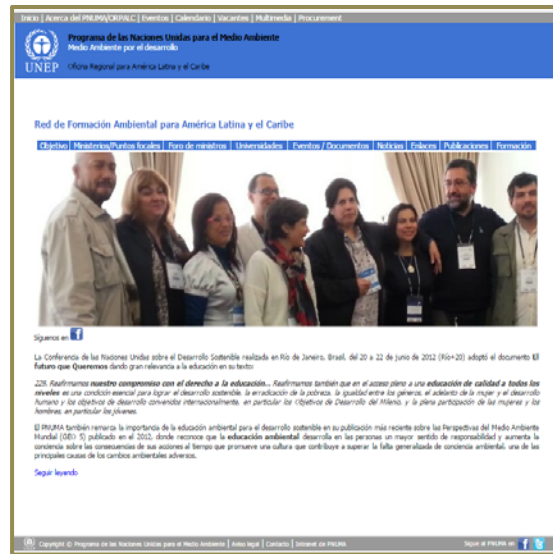


Fuente: Sitio oficial de Itaipú Binacional

- Review progress in implementing the plan of work of the ETN-LACC for the period 2014 – 2016. Progress in most aspects in line with the work plan was welcomed, and the incorporation of new aspects :
 - a survey on the development of indicators in each of the ministries,
 - prepare a comparative analysis and general recommendations for all countries
 - promote, through the focal points, Environmental Film Festivals in each country (following the experience of Mexico)
 - the development of a new logo for the Network
- The status of contributions to the ETN-LAC trust fund was reviewed and it was agreed for UNEP to send a report to the ministers of environment on the results of the activities of the Network in the past year and the substantive contributions of each ministry in pursuit of environmental education at the national level and at the regional level.
- Additionally, UNESCO invited the ETN-LAC to join the "Red Innovemos" (Innovate network) platform to disseminate educational innovations in various areas, including sustainable development, to share good educational practices (<http://www.redinnovemos.org/>). Similarly, UNESCO encouraged the ETN-LAC to join the commitments of the World Programme of Action for Education for Sustainable Development <http://www.unesco.org/new/es/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014/esd-after-2014/global-action-programme/launching/>; <https://unesco4esd.crowdmap.com/>).

Redesign of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean website

- With the aim of facilitating greater coordination, promotion and support of activities in the area of environmental education and training in the region, the website of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (ETN-LAC) has been redesigned for more rapid and streamlined sharing of information.
- Also, an exchange regarding a new logo for the Environmental Training Network has been initiated. The focal points of Honduras and Mexico presented the following ideas:





Many focal points provided feedback on the logos. An agreement will be reached on the new logo during upcoming months.

6. To ratify the importance of the payment of the annual voluntary contribution to the ETN trust fund, by all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - In the last week of March, a reminder was sent to the Ministers of Environment on their voluntary contribution to the annual ETN-LAC Trust Fund for 2015.
 - In 2014, contributions in USD were received from Colombia (20,000); Chile (10,566); Panama (10,000); Peru (10,000); Mexico (20,000); Costa Rica (2,572.88). In 2015, Contributions were received from Colombia (USD 20,000), Ecuador (USD 20,100) and Chile (USD 8,777). The amount available in the Trust Fund as of September 2015 is USD 85,710.

Others

Meeting of Expert on Education for Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

- The meeting on education on climate change and sustainable development was held from 12 to 14 May in Costa Rica and was attended by over 100 experts from 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. While UNEP could not participate in the various meetings, the ETN-LAC focal points of Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay participated, contributed to the discussions of the meeting.
- The meeting aimed at sharing experiences, analyse the main challenges posed by climate change to education in Latin America and the Caribbean and identify the role that education plays in adaptation to climate change.
- The event was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Earth Charter International, and was made possible by the financial contribution from the Japan Fund and the government of Denmark. Participants included researchers and communicators who work in this area, as well as government authorities, representatives of youth organizations, indigenous and other organizations of civil society in the region, including the representative of the Secretariat of the Framework UN Convention on Climate Change and the director of the Multi-country UNESCO Office for Central America and Mexico.
- During the meeting the following topics were discussed:
 - Policies, Strategies and Alliances in Latin America and the Caribbean;

- Training and awareness on climate change;
 - Holistic Institutional strategies in education for climate change, and
 - Community resilience through education for disaster reduction.
- As a result of the meeting some recommendations for an action plan to promote education on climate change and sustainability in the context of the region were identified.



Source: Official site of Earth Charter International

Summary of the activities carry out in the ETN/LAC

The state of implementation of the Programme of Work of the Environmental Training Network to 30 September 2015 is available in the following link:

[http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/documentos/Plan Trabajo RFA 2014-2016 Implem 30 09 2015.pdf](http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/documentos/Plan_Trabajo_RFA_2014-2016_Implem_30_09_2015.pdf).

Other actions

- Many countries are using virtual platforms for training on various environmental topics. For example, Argentina used the virtual educational platform to install Moodle 2.5, a graphic personalization and configuration of functionalities. In-person and remote telework is also being used in Argentina. The Environmental Education Coordination Unit (UCOEA) has been working with the training regime organized by the telework coordination office of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security. The first four months of the 2014 period saw the implementation of the module on the environmental advantages resulting from the work. In the form of remote telework, the Environment and Work Module has continued to be provided as part of the national public administration's telework course.
- Chile, for its part, is implementing an Environmental Training Academy that will provide virtual and in-person training. The Academy has a web platform containing information on its courses, as well as informational and educational materials, DVDs, and documents and books available from the ministry. These e-learning courses are open to students from the countries in the UNEP Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (RFA-ALC). With regard to in-person activities, the ministry conducts training workshops throughout the country's regions on environmental issues defined as priorities by the Ministry of the Environment (MMA). Responding to demand from beneficiaries, these emphasize issues involving waste, biodiversity, and climate change. The MMA also has two web platforms that function in tandem with its programmes: the

National System of Environmental Certification for educational entities and the other is the Environmental Framers Club.

- In the case of Colombia, during first half of 2015 the country's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), through its Climate Change Office, developed a virtual course on climate change adaptation, to be disseminated throughout the country. It presents the conceptual fundamentals of climate change adaptation. The course has been effective in encouraging the Colombian population to consider its responsibilities in relation to decision-making on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Progress has been made toward formulating adaptation projects whose design takes into account local conditions. This course is currently being given, with an initial run of 700 participants from around the country. In the second half of 2015, a second version of the course will be available, responding to demand by at least 1,500 Colombians, who have already signed up on the institutional platform.
- In Ecuador, between 22 December 2014 and 11 January 2015, a virtual course on "Environmental Promoters with a Community Focus" was given. The course generated citizens' interest in conducting this type of training using innovative methods and technologies. Also in Ecuador, the Single Environmental Information System (SUIA) project, through the Environmental Research Unit, has developed a Repository of Environmental Knowledge (RCA), which offers five technological tools for environmental promotion and education in Ecuador. Panama has also promoted education through virtual media, and has urged Panama's Network of Environmental Educators to commemorate environmental celebrations.
- **Regarding the region's universities engagement in promotional activities through active participation in GUPES),** Chile is supporting the Sustainable Campus Network, which is a member of GUPES and includes 21 of the country's higher education institutions. These institutions have collaborated by providing reports on the state of the art in education for sustainable development in Chilean universities, and by participating in meetings held by the UNEP network. In Uruguay, initial contacts are taking place with the University of the Republic's Thematic Network on the Environment (RETEMA), to encourage its participation in the initiative.
- **In efforts to train judges and prosecutors on environmental law and sustainable development principles,** in current negotiations toward a "*Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*", (process that has ECLAC as Secretariat of the process and UNEP as technical support), the parties are considering a commitment to develop "programs to build awareness and create environmental law capacities among the general public, judicial personnel, administrators, and national human rights institutions responsible for enforcing human rights laws, as well as judges and others". An alternative would be to carry out this training of judges and prosecutors focusing on their linkages with the negotiation process mentioned in the agreement. A proposal of contents and modality (virtual or face to face) will be prepared.
- Notable at the national level is Uruguay's National Environmental Education for Sustainable Human Development Network (RENEA), which includes the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC), the Central Steering Committee (CODICEN) of the National Administration of Public Education (ANEP), the Ministry of Housing, Land Use, and the Environment (MVOTMA), the University of the Republic (UDELAR), civil society organizations, and labour unions. It brings together stakeholders involved in environmental education (social organizations, government agencies, public institutions related to education), promoting links between formal and informal education. July 2014 witnessed the fifth national meeting of RENEA, demonstrating a sustained pace of incorporating environmental

education in various types of organizations and at different levels of the citizenry. The “Workshop for the Implementation of the National Plan for Environmental Education (PLANEA) defined Strategies” was held on 8 July 2015.

- **To promote and strengthen the organization of youth and children for the environment and consolidate networks of youth and children for sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean,** the region’s countries are conducting numerous activities targeting this segment of the population. In Argentina, for example, material was produced in the form of three children’s postcards with child characters representing the protection and better management of water, energy, and waste. In addition, three high-quality audiovisual products with these characters have been made, and will be available as tools for environmental promotion
- In Chile, a programme known as the National System of Environmental Certification for educational entities involves a network of nearly one thousand educational establishments throughout the country that conduct environmental education in a manner that features a strong territorial focus and ties with social organizations in the vicinity. In addition, working with its National Youth Institute (INJUV), Chile is training young people on environmental topics. The trainees then offer support to students of certified establishments to develop intervention projects in the educational area.
- In 2009, Costa Rica created the Costa Rican Network of Sustainable Educational Institutions (REDIES), which is part of the Alliance of Ibero-American University Networks for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA). On 10 July 2015, a meeting was held with personnel from the Ministry of Public Education and from the National Commission on Emergencies, in order to assess the government’s participation in the Schools with a Sustainable Future Rally 2016. This is an inclusive participatory international competition in which boys and girls, including teenagers, are challenged to: understand and adopt new ways of dealing with their environment; address their most important problems through an approach that includes science and technology; and use their networks and available resources to strengthen relations with their communities.
- During this period, Cuba continued strengthening its Environmental Youth Network, which includes young people, students, and workers who undertake a variety of environmental actions, primarily at the local level. The network is represented in each of the country’s provinces, and has helped youth in playing a more prominent role in protecting the environment.
- Ecuador designed Programmes for Environmental Awareness and Education to serve children and youth in local parishes in the country, and Panama’s agenda includes a meeting/workshop with university students to design a Youth Network for Sustainability.
- St. Lucia is preparing a four-year project entitled “Going Green Schools Pilot Project”. It targets primary and secondary school children, seeking to motivate and strengthen their involvement in environmental issues (waste reduction and disposal, water and energy conservation, sustainable food production, and beautification of school surroundings).
- Chile’s Ministry of the Environment (MMA) offers a course each year for Latin America and the Caribbean, entitled “Education for Sustainable Development: territory as an educational space”. This course is a pioneering undertaking, the only educational or training effort of its nature and scope in Latin America. It is a joint effort of the Japanese Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Chile’s Ministry of the Environment, with additional collaboration from ECLAC and UNESCO. The new version of the course, scheduled for January 2016, will focus on environmental education, climate change

(adaptation), and natural phenomena. Participants will include 15 students from 14 of the region's countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The second round of the course, in January 2015, included UNEP as a presenter, and it is expected that UNEP will become a partner in the initiative. Moreover, in the context of the regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and access to justice on environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, the parties, and Chile in particular, have conducted "environmental awareness and education activities in the public sector and among the general public, in order to promote effective enforcement of the right to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters, and to provide people with the knowledge, capacities, and understanding to facilitate their participation in environmental decision-making".¹

- Based on memoranda of understanding between Ecuador's Ministry of the Environment and its counterparts in the region, the international management unit, in coordination with the environmental education division of the Office of Monitoring and Evaluation (DISE), is preparing biennial work plans to strengthen education. Work is in progress to broaden agreements already in place between Ecuador's Ministry of the Environment and its counterparts in the region, to ensure that they include cooperation on environmental education. Efforts are also underway on a new framework agreement between Ecuador's Ministry of Environment (MAE) and Brazil's Ministry of Technology, Science, and Innovation (MTCI). In addition, follow-up is being conducted on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bolivia's Ministry of Environment and Water, and the parties are establishing closer ties through video conferences.

- With regard to a resources mobilisation strategy, the MADS Sub-Directorate of Environmental Education, as the focal point of the ETN-LAC in Colombia, developed the National Programme of Environmental Education and Participation, which defined priority lines for international cooperation, in harmony with the ETN priority lines. In this connection, the cooperation strategy of the MADS Office of International Affairs included the strategic lines of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ In this connection, see: <http://www.cepal.org/es/fortalecimiento-de-capacidades-y-cooperacion-principio-10>.

DECISION 3. PRINCIPLE 10 OF THE RIO DECLARATION

1. To reaffirm the commitment to work towards achieving full implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.²
2. To recognize the progress achieved in the process of the Declaration on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and encourage its consolidation as inclusive and participatory regional setting to build a common vision and to strengthen national capacities.
3. To continue efforts to strengthen regional dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building in support of the construction and implementation of its own regional agenda on the rights of access, considering the advances, tools, experiences and practices in place since the adoption of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Progress and actions

Resolution on Principle 10 during the first universal session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- The first session of the UNEA held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 23-27 June 2014, adopted a resolution "Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development".
- The Resolution takes into consideration in particular paragraph 99 of "The Future We Want" (UNGA Resolution 66/288, of 27 July 2012), in which the Heads of State and Government encouraged to take measures at regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate, and recognizes that democracy, good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development. It also stresses that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative procedures, contribute to promoting sustainable development, and recalls that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme approved in February 2010, Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (Bali Guidelines), which are voluntary.
- The resolution notes the achievements at national and regional level to strengthen the rights of access to environmental information, justice and participation in decision-making, as well as the outstanding issues for its implementation and the specific circumstances of each country. In particular, it notes the Declaration on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by some countries in the region in the framework of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which triggered an effort aimed at strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the countries of the region to study the feasibility process of adopting a regional instrument on the rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice and notes progress in the process, coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as technical secretariat.

² Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration states: "Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. (...)"

- The resolution encourages countries to continue their efforts to strengthen dialogue and international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account the progress made since its adoption, tools, experiences and existing practices, and work towards strengthening the rule of environmental law at international, regional and national levels.

Process Regional Declaration on Principle 10

- The countries of the region agreed to move forward in achieving the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. In that sense, a process began towards a regional instrument available to all countries in the region, with the support of ECLAC as secretariat. Currently the process has 20 countries that have begun the negotiation of the instrument. Following is a summary of the main actions since the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers:

Fourth Meeting of Focal Points Appointed by Signatory Countries of the Principle 10 Declaration in Latin America and the Caribbean

- With the goal of promoting progress towards the creation of a regional instrument to ensure public access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Fourth Meeting of Focal Points Appointed by the Governments of Signatory Countries of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean took place from 4 to 6 November 2014, at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) headquarters in Santiago, Chile.



- The main outcomes of the meeting included:
 - The adoption of the “Santiago Decision” in which the participants agreed upon the “San José Content” (a document drafted at the seventh meeting of the Working Groups on Access Rights and the Regional Instrument and on Capacity Building and Cooperation, established in the Plan of Action to 2014 adopted in Guadalajara, Mexico), comprising an annotated list of issues to be considered in the negotiation of a regional instrument.
 - The decision to launch negotiations for a regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters (which will conclude by no later than December 2016).
 - The creation of an Executive Board co-chaired by Chile and Costa Rica and comprised by Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, which will coordinate the negotiations.
- In addition, the meeting participants requested that ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat and in coordination with other international bodies, support the needs of the countries of the region

from the perspective of their priorities in order to strengthen the effective application of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Parallel event on Principle 10 during the Open Government Partnership Regional Meeting for the Americas

- During the Open Government Partnership Regional Meeting for the Americas, held on 18-19 November 2014 in San José, Costa Rica, a parallel event was held on “Strengthening environmental democracy through international processes”, coordinated by ECLAC, the governments of Costa Rica and Chile, and The Access Initiative (TAI).

- The event brought together governments and members of civil society participating in the negotiation of a regional instrument for Latin America and the Caribbean on the rights to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, for the exchange of experiences and proposal of synergies between this regional process and the Open Government Initiative, in view of the fact that society plays a key role in both, and they share common values and objectives on good governance.



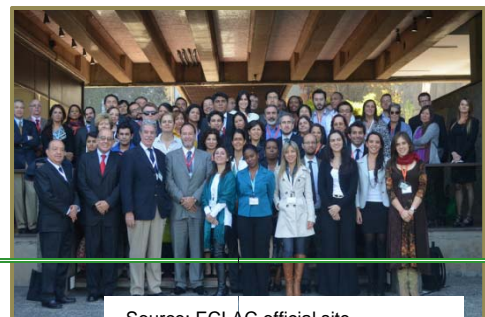
- Meanwhile, in the framework of the Regional Meeting on the Status of Access Rights in the Caribbean, held on 20 and 21 November 2014 in Kingston, Jamaica, a panel was organized on “Creating a framework for access rights in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

Public participation in the negotiation process for a regional instrument

- In the context of the negotiation process of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, the results on the representation of the public to maintain a dialogue with the Executive Board created for this negotiation process were announced.
- In that election two representatives of Chilean and Jamaican origin and their respective alternates from different organizations were chosen: Environment and Natural Resources Foundation (Argentina), Access Initiative Mexico, Saint Lucia National Trust (Saint Lucia) and Environment and Society (Colombia).
- The elected persons shall fulfil the role of liaison between the public and the Board in meetings of the negotiation process of the regional instrument. Also, their term of office shall be equivalent to their term in the Board.

First meeting of the Negotiation Committee of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

- From 5 to 7 May at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



Source: ECLAC official site

(ECLAC) in Santiago de Chile, the first meeting of the Negotiating Committee of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean took place. ECLAC gave delegates a draft document of the instrument, which is expected to be welcomed as a basis for future agreement.

- The meeting was opened by the Directorate General of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Manuel Rojas, the Embassy of Costa Rica in Chile, representatives of the public, and the Department of the Division for Sustainable Development and Human Settlements of ECLAC.
- In order to conclude the negotiations in 2016, the negotiating committee (led and coordinated by the Board composed of Chile and Costa Rica as co-chairs, and Argentina, Mexico, Peru, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, as vice presidents) as mentioned above convened face to face and virtual meetings in May, July, September and October 2015 to continue the process of drafting the agreement, seeking to incorporate more countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Content in San Jose were included in the draft document, as well as the regional assessment prepared by ECLAC, legislations and practices of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean signatories of the declaration, and inputs sent by the public, putting into consideration challenges and needs of the region. It is expected that all countries take action on the document, and that it be approved as the zero draft of the negotiation to begin negotiating the text of the future regional agreement.
- With the addition of Antigua and Barbuda as a signatory of the Declaration on Principle 10 in the region increased to 20 the number of signatory nations of the process, which is open to all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Source: FUNDEPS Official site

Upcoming meetings of the regional negotiating committee

- The next meeting of the Negotiating Committee will be held in Panama City, Panama on 27-29 October 2015, after the Workshop for interested public and civil society organisations on participation in international negotiations on environmental matters to be held on 26 October.
- In accordance with the work plan of the



Fuente: Sitio oficial de la CEPAL

negotiating committee as of January 2015, if negotiations have not been completed during 2015, meeting dates for 2016 will be set at the second face-to-face meeting in 2015. A third meeting of the Regional Committee in Uruguay is expected.

- As chair of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico will continue participating in the negotiation of the regional instrument on Principle 10 and will involve other federal government stakeholder bodies and civil society organizations in this work during 2015, through the organization of work meetings and the possible organization of an information workshop in the second half of the year.

Strengthening of capacities

- In order to achieve an effective exchange of knowledge and practices in support of the implementation of Principle 10 in the region, UNEP, ECLAC, together with the Access Initiative and WRI have undertaken the organization of subregional and regional workshops with governmental and non-governmental organisations, promoting networking among people and organisations working on access rights in environmental matters.
- The Caribbean Workshop on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in environmental matters, was held in Rodney Bay Village, St. Lucia 24 to 25 August 2015.
- Likewise, ECLAC, UNEP and the Government of Panama are organizing a regional workshop on 26 October to disseminate the process towards a regional agreement on access rights on environmental issues, and promote the meaningful participation of the public in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Negotiating Committee. The workshop will provide an opportunity to interested public and civil society actors from Panama and other countries in the region, to learn about the ongoing negotiating process and strengthen their capacity to have an active participation.

Montevideo meeting of government experts in environmental law

- The process of negotiating a regional instrument on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, was presented during a side event in the context of the global meeting of government experts on environmental law that was held from 7 to 11 September 2015 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
- The high-level meeting, which was attended by government experts from more than 100 countries, was convened by UNEP in the framework of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, which is adopted every ten years and sets the agenda of priority issues and directs technical cooperation and assistance for the development in the implementation of environmental legislation.
- The side event on Principle 10 was organized by the Government of Uruguay, UNEP and ECLAC, with a panel with representatives of Chile, Antigua and Barbuda, Panama, and the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) panel. The panel stressed the importance of this initiative to strengthen environmental governance and the rule of law in environmental matters and noted that "a regional instrument provides a common platform that will expand opportunities for cooperation focused on the needs and priority areas for countries, drawing on the existing skills, knowledge and experiences in the region. "

Launch of informative videos

- In the process of the Declaration of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, the organisation called Access



**¿QUÉ ES EL PRINCIPIO 10
DE LA DECLARACIÓN DE RÍO?**

Initiative Mexico shared 6 videos (3 in Spanish and 3 in English) prepared by “Environment Communication and Education S.C.” with the support of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung – South Cone Office, and a dozen partners that supported this initiative.

- The objective of the videos is to inform in dynamic manner, about the goals of Principle 10, promoting regional cooperation and commitment for the preparation of a regional instrument that will guarantee the implementation of Rights to Access.

8th Regional Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policies for Latin American countries

- To address the recognized need for ongoing training in environmental law and policies in developing countries, the 8th Regional Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policies was held in Panama City on 18-28 November 2014. Aimed at Latin American lawyers involved in the development and implementation of environmental law, the training programme was coordinated by UNEP with the support of the General Secretariat of the National Environmental Authority of Panama.



- The goal of the 8th Training Programme was to promote the sharing of experiences and challenges in environmental law and the search for conceptual tools to address these challenges. It also served as a forum to observe the advances made in different countries, present concrete cases, and highlight the difficulties in environmental management from an administrative and legal standpoint, by learning from the experiences of other countries, emphasizing existing international agreements, and above all, fostering exchange among the participants.
- The programme also aimed to strengthen the region’s capacity in the process towards a regional instrument on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Other actions

- In 2013, Colombia signed the declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and since then has worked with Jamaica to coordinate one of the working groups that were established to create a regional instrument to guarantee full implementation of rights of access in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Through its Climate Change Office, Costa Rica has reaffirmed the commitment to work toward achieving implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration by facilitating access to information via its website (www.cambioclimaticocr.com), updating its Facebook page with daily news on the climate change agenda (<https://es-la.facebook.com/dccCostaRica>), producing monthly bulletins to circulate to the list of contacts in the database, and producing short videos for awareness and exchange that will be available on the office’s YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/dcc2021>).

In recognising the advance in implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and encouraging its consolidation as an inclusive and participatory regional opportunity for constructing a common approach and strengthening national capacities:

- At the regional level Costa Rica has worked with Uruguay to put into operation the Red LatinClima network (www.latinclima.org). At the national level, MADs, in Colombia, has conducted a range of activities to make Principle 10 part of the social context and to disseminate information about the ongoing regional effort to design a regional instrument that will ensure full implementation of rights of access in the LAC region. These activities include a number of forums and workshops on Principle 10.

To continue efforts to strengthen dialogue and regional cooperation, technical assistance, and capacity building, in order to support the construction and implementation of an agenda specific to the region regarding rights of access, taking into consideration the advances, instruments, experiences, and practices in this field since the enshrinement of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development:

- In November 2014, St. Lucia participated in a regional conference on Principle 10 in Jamaica. To demonstrate St. Lucia's commitment to Principle 10, the country's National Trust held a consultation on the right to information in March 2015, in order to build awareness among stakeholders concerning the importance of this right, and regarding the Principle 10 process in LAC. In addition, the workshop was designed to secure agreement among interested groups on whether St. Lucia should join the Declaration. Twenty-four civil society organizations participated, and a consensus was reached on adopting Principle 10 in the region.
- Uruguay has a variety of normative tools that refers to or establishes mechanisms for the application of the principles contained in Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. The main standard on access is the Law on Access to Public Information (Law 18.381 of 17 October 2008), which allows requests for public information without stating a reason for the request. All that is required is to specify the information sought and, at the requester's option, the medium in which it is to be found. Uruguay has been participating in the negotiations, and has engaged in national efforts in this regard. On 29 June 2014, Montevideo was the site of a seminar entitled "Principle 10 and the Regional Process". The seminar was divided into two sessions or panels. The first focused on the regional initiative for the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, approaching it from the perspective of the different stakeholders and institutions involved, who expressed their perceptions of the process and the challenges facing it. The second session dealt with the national situation in the context of the regional process in which Uruguay is participating, discussing mechanisms for realizing the right to access in the environmental area, as well as progress to date and projections for the future.

DECISION 4. COOPERATION ON CHEMICALS AND WASTE

1. To call upon UNEP to support governments within the region in the development of work programmes to foster the sound management of chemicals and waste, ensuring synergies with existing processes and initiatives.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

1. To recommend to the Fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management that its focus at this time should be on a comprehensive assessment of the achievements by governments and other stakeholders of the 2020 target with a view to identifying and addressing any remaining challenges.

Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions

1. To strengthen, in collaboration with the international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, the financial and technical capacity of the Basel and Stockholm Regional Centres Network in Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate the effective delivery of capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer to support implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions, and where appropriate the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
2. To urge countries of the region to increase their efforts and collaborate in the prevention and control of illegal traffic of hazardous waste and chemicals.

Minamata Convention on Mercury

1. To invite countries in the region to take necessary steps to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to become a Party, thus contributing to its early entry into force.
2. To cooperate with other governments and stakeholders in, inter alia:
 - a. the preparation of inventories and preliminary assessments to identify those sectors for which actions will be needed in accordance with the Convention;
 - b. the institutional development for the implementation of the Convention;
 - c. the development of regional and national strategies and action plans to reduce and, where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining;
 - d. the exchange of information on best available techniques and practices to reduce mercury emissions and releases, and the sound storage and management of mercury wastes;
 - e. the measurement of mercury pollution in the water, soil and air, and the impact on the environment;
 - f. the strengthening of countries' capacities within the region to address contaminated sites.
3. To call upon UNEP to support governments of the region in the development of a regional clearinghouse to support enabling activities related to the Convention on Mercury and report on steps taken at the next Meeting of the LAC Forum of the Ministers of the Environment.

Implementation activities

1. To request the Chair of the 19th Meeting of the LAC Forum of Ministers of Environment to formally communicate to the GEF Assembly and the UNEA the region's concern that the 6th replenishment of the GEF fully takes into account the need to allocate sufficient financial resources dedicated to the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions and SAICM.

Progress and actions

a) Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management SAICM Latin American and Caribbean Participation in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a voluntary initiative promoted by the United Nations. Its overall objective is that, by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
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- The SAICM covers all of the stages in the commercial lifecycle of chemical substances, from production to distribution, use and final disposal at the end of its useful life, including chemical substances in consumer products. It also addresses environmental, economic, social, health and labour aspects and impacts of chemical production.
 - All of the countries that have adopted the SAICM – among them, numerous countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; – can develop National Action Plans for voluntary compliance with the commitments established in the initiative.
 - In this context, the second meeting of the SAICM Open-ended Working Group was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 15 to 17 December 2014.
 - In the opening statements at this international meeting, the countries of Latin America – specifically Honduras, Mexico, Peru and Panama – called for coordinated global efforts to achieve the gradual phasing out of highly hazardous pesticides, with an agreement eventually reached on the subject.
 - During the last months, the SAICM regional coordinator (Peru) has been facilitating informal consultations in preparation for the next international Conference on Chemical Management that will be held on 28 September to 2 October in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - During the ICCM4, the GRULAC expressed the importance of SAICM for the countries of the region as well as the achievements attained. The region welcomed the approval of the Overall Orientation and Guidelines (OOG) for achieving the 2020 goal, as well as the establishment of the inter sessional process to debate on SAICM highlighting the importance of the regional contributions and the need to mobilize adequate and predictable financial resources. GRULAC also supported proposals promoted by countries of the region, such as the inclusion of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new normative issue (presented by Peru and Uruguay).
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Source: IISD

Other actions

- In Colombia, pursuant to the provisions of the Overall Policy Strategy of the SAICM and the decisions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), the second report for the 2011-2013 period was presented (March-April 2014), covering the progress made on application of the SAICM. In addition, on 22-24 June 2015 in Bogotá, Colombia hosted a technical workshop for the LAC region on Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials, with representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay (including a person representing the Coordination Centre for the Basel Convention and the Regional Centre of the Stockholm Convention in Uruguay), and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- In the area of international cooperation, a variety of projects and initiatives are in progress. For instance, Costa Rica is currently preparing to sign a chemical safety policy that incorporates the SAICM principles. The policy was developed in coordination with various ministries and entities with relevant authorities; this represents a major step forward in coordination in this area. Approval is expected by the end of 2015.
- In the framework of an agreement signed by Chile with the International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP) to implement the SAICM-funded project, “Training on risk assessment of chemicals at the national level in a global context”, a project was carried out entitled, “Gathering information on sediments to conduct a process of assessing ecological risk in the bay of Quintero in Chile’s Valparaíso Region”.
- UNDP has collaborated closely with the countries and with UNEP in the SAICM process. In the LAC region, UNDP has been supporting the countries in developing and implementing their quick start programmes (QSPs). It supports the initial activities that pave the way for capacity building and execution in the chemicals area. Since 2014, UNDP has completed (or is completing) the QSP projects that it is responsible for implementing, and is working with the countries to obtain funds for a quick start programme in the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RAEE, or e-waste) sector. UNDP is also assisting the SAICM Secretariat in evaluating the impact of these programmes.

b) Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions

In the most recent months, many countries of the region had the opportunity to increase their technical and institutional capacities to facilitate the implementation of chemical and waste related conventions, through a group of activities of technical assistances that were held through the network of the Regional Basel and Stockholm Convention Centres of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Some of the main activities are as follows:

Second Central America, Dominican Republic and Mexico Training Workshop and Exchange of Experiences on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Chemical Substances, Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes

- The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), as the competent authority for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, is guided by the following objectives:
 - Reduction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.
 - Prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes, in terms of quantity and hazard potential, taking into account technical, social and economic aspects.
 - Promotion of the transfer of technology for the sound management of hazardous wastes and self-sufficiency.
- In line with these objectives, in coordination with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico (BCRC-CAM) and with the support of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the second workshop in the framework of a project on Assessment of Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Spent Lead-Acid Batteries (SLABs), was held on 1-3 December 2014 in Mexico City.
- The participants of the workshop included government representatives from nine countries (Argentina, Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama) as well as representatives of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Mexican governmental, academic, business and civil society sectors.
- During the workshop, principles were adopted for the development of the project profile for the next five years. The participants also agreed to hold national and regional workshops to consolidate regional policy, strategies and implementation of ESM of WEEE and SLABs, for the benefit of human health and conservation of the environment in the partner countries.
- The challenge of ESM of WEEE and SLABs arises from the rapid global growth and accelerated obsolescence of products that contain toxic substances like lead, mercury, chrome, cadmium and other materials that require sustainable management.
- The BCRC-CAM project's target for the year 2019 is the establishment of ESM of WEEE and SLABs in the countries of the region through institutional management, citizen participation, education, awareness raising, and the development of markets, technologies and infrastructure to enhance protection of the environment and the quality of life of the region and its inhabitants.



Second Workshop on Technical Assistance and Capacity Strengthening for Implementation and Enforcement of the Stockholm Convention

- The National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) of Mexico, in its capacity as the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized the Second Workshop on Technical Assistance and Capacity Strengthening for Implementation and Enforcement of the Stockholm Convention, held on 4 and 5 December 2014 in Mexico City. The workshop was attended by government representatives of 10 countries in the region – Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and the host country, Mexico – as well as representatives of the academic community, civil society organizations, and the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT).
- The Regional Centre based in Mexico has a commitment to generate information and propose alternatives for compliance with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), as well as with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. During the second workshop, work continued on the tasks proposed by the first workshop, held in 2013, for the creation of a Network for Monitoring and Assessment of POPs and Mercury Transport and Exposure in the Region of Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the network is to gather data on the distribution and concentrations of POPs and mercury in order to contribute to the development of actions in priority areas of the region.
- Other matters of shared interest among the countries of the region are focused on the implementation of concrete actions for decreasing or eliminating POPs. In this regard, there are already actions being undertaken for the destruction of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), but in the case of dioxins and furans, there is still a need for greater knowledge on emission factors and the creation and updating of inventories. All of these actions are aimed at greater compliance with national implementation plans and commitments for risk reduction in accordance with the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Fourth International Programme on Capacity Building on Chemicals and Waste

- The Regional Stockholm Convention Centre (hosted by CETESB) organised the Fourth International Programme on Capacity Building on Chemicals and Waste Management with focus on POPs and mercury, in January-February 2015. Approximately 30 professionals of 10 countries in LAC were trained on chemical and waste management including sampling and analysis of mercury and POPs.

Subregional workshops on Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions in the Caribbean

- The Regional Centre for the Basel Convention in the Caribbean jointly with the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, organized a Sub-regional Workshop on the updating of National Implementation Plans (NAPs) and waste in POPs in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 8 to 10 December 2014. The objective of the workshop, which was attended by representatives from 13 Caribbean countries, aimed at raising awareness of the countries on their obligations to update and revise their NAPs under Article 7 of the Convention taking into account the new POPs included in 2009 and 2011.
- The Basel Centre also organized the introductory Workshop on Industrial Chemical Products for the Caribbean, covered in the Rotterdam Convention. It was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 8-10 October 2014.

Regional workshop on the revision of the national plans for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention

- The Basel Convention Coordination Centre for LAC together with the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, organized the regional workshop on the review and updating of national implementation plans and reporting under the Stockholm Convention. The workshop was held in Montevideo in July 2014 and was attended by 10 countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regional workshop on illegal traffic of hazardous wastes

- The Subregional Workshop on illegal traffic of hazardous wastes, including PCBs and other wastes took place in Barranquilla Colombia, on 8-10 December 2014. This workshop, organized by the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, with support from the Regional Basel Centre for South America (Argentina), and the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development of Colombia, had the participation of 8 countries of the region.

Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, held in Geneva, Switzerland

- Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions were held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, in accordance with the decisions taken at the meetings held in 2013.
- During the days of the conference, regarding the Basel Convention, the issues related to the implementation of the Convention, including the monitoring of the initiative of Indonesia and Switzerland on the implementation of the Amendment to the Convention and the Cartagena

Declaration on prevention, minimization and recovery of hazardous and other wastes were discussed.

- Highlights of the decisions adopted on the final day were:
 - A series of technical guidelines for the management of waste under the Basel Convention (mercury waste, persistent organic pollutants and electronic waste).
 - 4 new enlisted chemicals (three under the Stockholm Convention and one under the Rotterdam Convention) and strengthening synergies and agreements



Source: Official site Rotterdam Convention

Other actions

- In relation to the Stockholm Convention in Costa Rica and Chile, the updating of the National Implementation Plan (NIP) of each of these countries has been completed, with funding from the GEF. As a result of the first NIP, the issue of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was determined to be of special importance for Costa Rica, given the findings of the inventory conducted. Currently unfolding is Costa Rica's "comprehensive PCB management" project, the main objective of which is to successfully destroy the country's inventory of PCB-contaminated equipment and oils that are in the hands of the country's main electrical distribution companies. Various countries in the region have produced manuals or guides for managing PCBs, as well as methodological guides and inventories covering sites with dioxins and furans.
- With regard to the working groups provided for by the Basel Convention, Chile's participation has been active and constant, with its Ministry of the Environment playing a particularly important role. In this connection, a notable milestone is the group of experts that convened to produce a technical guide for cross-border transport of electrical and electronic waste. The guide was approved at COP-12 in 2015.
- Ecuador is developing environmental regulations to establish mechanisms for a registry of chemical products, from implementation to end use. This will support chemicals control in the national territory, as well as imports and exports. The Ministry of the Environment is working to automate the system for the management of hazardous and special wastes. This is expected to help in obtaining information on the generation and management of this type of waste, while providing real-time information for controlling the transit of hazardous and special wastes in Ecuador.
- Based on participation in the online seminars organized by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and Argentina's BCRC on "Illegal traffic of electrical and electronic wastes and chemical products in

the framework of the Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm (BRS) Conventions” (17, 21 and 24 November 2014), and participation in the “Subregional Workshop on Illegal Trafficking of Hazardous Wastes, Including PCBs and Other Wastes” (10-12 December 2014), analysis is currently underway regarding the feasibility of creating an inter-institutional committee for action on cases of illicit trafficking of hazardous wastes and hazardous chemical substances.

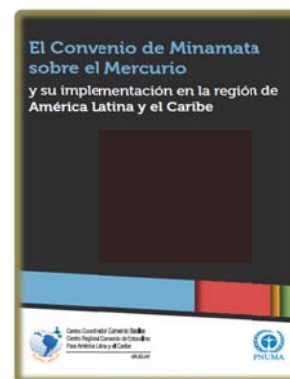
- Panama has a legislative bill that provides a regulatory framework for environmental health surveillance of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, and for potentially hazardous substances. An inventory of dioxins and furans was conducted, and a proposed National Implementation Plan is currently being developed. Nearing approval is the inventory of persistent organic pollutants. With regard to the Basel Convention, there was a cross-border shipping of the POPs DDT and Aldrin (400 tons and 100 tons, respectively, in 200 containers, with 100 units of waste), plus 4 containers of PCBs. Batteries were also shipped cross-border.
- Uruguay is the headquarters for the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre (BCCC) for Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been operating since 1998 at the facilities of the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU), under an agreement with the MVOTMA. The BCCC was endorsed by the fourth COP of the Stockholm Convention as the Convention’s regional centre for capacity building and technology transfer in the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC). The BCCC and the Regional Centres of CETESB-Brazil, CENICA-Mexico, and CIIMET-Panama hope to create a network for information sharing, cooperation, and mutual coordination. Since March 2014, the BCCC has executed numerous projects, including the workshop to review and update national implementation plans.
- UNDP has supported the region primarily through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to mobilize funds for action in the field, and working with the Regional Centres of the BRS conventions to increase technical and triangular cooperation, with a view to the obligations of the Stockholm Convention. In this regard, since 2014 UNDP has supported the LAC countries in numerous activities: (i) updating support activities for the Stockholm Convention; (ii) eliminating PCBs and POPs in pesticides; (iii) establishing environmentally sound management of electronic and health industry wastes; (iv) developing a strategic framework and strengthening policies to address chemicals and wastes; (v) encouraging use of the best available techniques and environmental best practices (BAT/BEP) and developing local directives on chemical products and wastes; and (vi) pursuing testing and piloting of new low-cost technologies for the handling and elimination of chemical products and wastes.

c) Minamata Convention on Mercury

Launch of regional manual on the Minamata Convention

- After the adoption of the final text of the Minamata Convention, the world’s countries – including those in Latin America and the Caribbean – have turned to the important task of ratifying and contributing to the early implementation of the Convention. The Final Act accompanying the formal adoption of the Convention contains an ambitious but necessary set of activities to be completed by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) before the Convention comes into force. These activities include the preparation of crucial guidance documents related to the Convention control measures and financial arrangements.

- At the same time, governments are evaluating their national situations and preparing for the ratification and implementation of the Convention by gathering data, assessing legal authorities and institutional capacities, and identifying the measures they need to take to comply with the Convention and address mercury uses and releases within their borders.
- In this context, UNEP with the support of the Basel Coordination Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Uruguay concluded in 2014 the Report on the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean. The report, available in English and Spanish, describes the main dispositions of the Convention in the framework of the situation of mercury in the region, and highlights some actions that have already taken place in the countries. A summary pamphlet was also prepared for decision makers and public in general.
- Also, in the framework of the Mercury Zero Working Group, international coalition of NGOs that works actively on mercury related topics, the “Minamata Convention on Mercury Ratification and Implementation Manual” was launched in 2014 (updated January 2015), which is meant to serve as a companion resource that will contribute to a better understanding of the Convention’s obligations and challenges. Another coalition, IPEN, launched a report on the introduction of mercury and the Minamata Convention, also available in Spanish and English.



Development of UNEP-Global Environment Facility regional projects

- UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have carried out a number of regional mercury-related projects, including a regional information component and the preparation of a concept note for the development of a centre for information exchange, as well as fundraising activities. In the framework of GEF, the countries of the region with the support of implementing agencies and regional centres, are working in the development of project proposals to address the main challenges of the region, such as the use of mercury in artisanal gold mining.

Sub-regional workshop on the Minamata Convention on Mercury for South American countries

- To guide and support participating actors in the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, UNEP joined with the Government of Brazil to offer a three-day sub-regional workshop for the countries of South America, held in Brasilia on 2-4 September.
- The opening remarks were delivered by the highest representatives of the Ministry of Environment of Brazil, the chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury, the UNEP representative in Brazil, and the coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention.



- The workshop was aimed at enhancing the participants' knowledge on the processes for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention, and the resources available for these processes. As a result the country participants prepared a draft on a national road map for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention.
- Delegates from the participating countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) and representatives of intergovernmental bodies and UN agencies (Amazon Treaty Cooperation Organization, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, World Health Organization, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP Office in Brazil), non-governmental organizations and the industrial sector had the opportunity to exchange information and discuss efforts in this area.

Subregional workshop for the countries of Central America in support of the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

- On 26-28 November 2014, UNEP, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), held a sub-regional workshop in the Historical Centre of Mexico City for the countries of Central America, in order to offer guidance and support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.



- The workshop provided orientation and technical knowledge in areas related to the Convention. It also provided an opportunity for participating countries to share experiences, advances and strategies with regard to ratification and early implementation. The current national situation in the different countries was assessed, and each participating country prepared a draft national roadmap for ratification and/or early implementation of the Convention.
- The workshop was attended by government representatives from 10 countries – Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela – as well as representatives of civil society organizations in the region, including the Federico Gómez Children's Hospital in Mexico, Asociación Mexicana de Ingeniería, Ciencia y Gestión Ambiental, A.C., Mexican Social Security Institute Children's Hospital, Zero Pollution Alliance, RAPAM-IPEN Hub for Latin America, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry, World Chlorine Council, Biodiversity Research Institute, World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry (LA), Action Network on Pesticides and their Alternatives for Latin America (RAPAL) Uruguay, Zero Mercury Working Group, and the Centre for Research and Information on Toxic substances and Medication (Centro de Investigación e Información de Medicamentos y Tóxicos).
- There were also representatives of numerous intergovernmental agencies: UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico, (BCRC-CAM), and Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

- Among the main outcomes of the workshop were the identification of different sources and processes of resource mobilization for the implementation of the Convention.
- The subject of health was incorporated as a crucial area in discussions on the effects of the use of mercury in different practices and activities, and participating countries were also urged to take into account the social impacts and sustainable development of mining communities involved in handling mercury.

Subregional workshop for the Caribbean and Honduras to support the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

- On 19-21 January 2015, UNEP offered a workshop with the support of the Regional Basel Centre for the Caribbean, held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, to support the countries of the Caribbean and Honduras in the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

- During the workshop, information on the Minamata Convention and the processes for ratification as well as support mechanisms for early implementation were provided. The workshop was attended by fifty participants approximately including government, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs, of nine Caribbean countries and Honduras.



- Also during the meeting, there was an exchange of experiences and information as well as information on actions implemented at regional level. Participating countries prepared a draft national road map for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention.
- In the framework of the workshop, some pilot projects were presented, such as the experience of Honduras regarding the pilot project on the reduction of mercury release in two hospitals in Tegucigalpa (USEPA CCAD) to the countries of the Caribbean.

Regional workshop to support the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and preparatory meeting for chemical conventions COPS

- A regional workshop to support the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and regional meetings on the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are scheduled to take place from 14 to 17 April 2015 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Approximately 150 participants including government representatives of 25 countries took part in this event, as well as intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisation.

- The objective of the workshop was to support countries in the region in their effort towards ratification and effective implementation of the Convention based on lessons learned in the previous subregional workshops.



- The workshop was an opportunity to discuss progress to date and the possible areas of cooperation within the region as well as the preparations for the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and COP1.
- This workshop was held in conjunction with the preparatory meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (see below), where countries had the opportunity to examine the documents of the meetings, discuss substantive issues, identify regional priorities and challenges, and prepare positions in the region.

Other actions

- Argentina is participating in two projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Also under study in connection with the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) process is a Preparatory National Project of the Argentine Association of Physicians for the Environment, to facilitate implementation of a legally binding instrument on mercury in Argentina, and the Regional Project for the Development of Mercury Risk Management in Latin America.
- As a 2010 signatory of the Minamata Convention, Costa Rica began acting to obtain approval of the convention by its Legislative Assembly. In the initial discussion, support was unanimous. The convention is expected to be approved before the end of 2015. Costa Rica is also implementing a Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIA) project in support of the Convention approval process; this provides an initial assessment of the country's mercury use and emissions. It will enable the country to formulate public policies needed to establish regulations that reflect the data on the nation's situation and address the convention's commitments.
- Chile signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury in October 2013, approving the contents of that binding instrument, but it has not yet ratified the convention. Notwithstanding Chile began the actions necessary for approval by its Congress, which was unanimous in the preliminary initial discussion, and approval is expected to be finalized in 2015.
- Chile participates actively in the working groups associated with the convention's Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices, contributing an expert to the group that deals with "functions". According to research on this subject, Chile has an "inventory of mercury use, consumption and products" created in 2007, in addition to a National Risk Management Plan on Mercury developed in 2008 and approved by the Council of Ministers. The Ministry of the Environment, in Article 6 of Exempt Resolution 857, authorizes the Office of International Affairs to "coordinate actions to ensure compliance with the international conventions on environmental issues to which Chile is a party". The country is also implementing its Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) in support of the Convention approval process, which provides an initial assessment of the country's mercury use and emissions. This will enable it to create the public policies needed to develop regulations that reflect the data on the nation's situation and address the convention's commitments.
- Cuba is in the process of evaluating the Minamata Convention on Mercury through its established constitutional channels, with a view to becoming a party. In addition, major national efforts are being made to gradually solve the problems associated with mercury pollution. As part of the work being carried out in a Pollution Prevention and Control group formed and headed by CITMA, an assessment and action plan to deal with mercury wastes are being developed. The plan will specify the material and financial resources needed to deal with this problem at the national level.

- Ecuador signed the Minamata Convention at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 2013. As part of the ratification process, Ruling 005-15-DTI-CC of Ecuador's Constitutional Court (10 June 2015) determined that the provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury are in harmony with articles 417 and 424 of the Constitution of the Republic. Accordingly, the Court ruled that this international instrument is compatible with the constitutional provisions of Ecuador's legislation. Since 2012, Ecuador (through the Ministry of the Environment) has been executing Mercury Plan Zero in order to gradually reduce the use of mercury and mercury compounds in productive activities and consumer products, with elimination being the ultimate goal. In 2015, Ecuador will conduct the regional GEF-funded project, "Development of mercury risk management approaches in Latin America", in which Argentina, Nicaragua, Peru, and Uruguay will also participate.
- Ecuador (Ministry of the Environment) is also participating with the countries of the LAC region in efforts to define mechanisms for information sharing, as part of the ongoing regional workshops to support ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention. GEF-6 currently has US\$554 million that provide competitive funds for projects on chemicals and chemical wastes (POPs, mercury, SAICM, and ozone depleting substances, or ODSs). A proposal is to be submitted for the National Programme for Environmentally Sound Management on the Lifecycle of Chemical Substances, , along with a regional project for the Elimination of Lead in Paint, a project associated with SAICM in which Ecuador is participating, and that will be submitted to the GEF.
- Panama has undertaken ratification of the Minamata Convention and has conducted an inventory of mercury in health facilities. And St. Lucia held a meeting with its major stakeholders in October of 2014 to promote awareness on the most important operational provisions of the Minamata Convention, discuss the implications of ratifying it, and decide whether it should be ratified. In May 2015, St. Lucia formally indicated its interest in participating in the regional project funded by the GEF for Minamata Convention Initial Assessments of Mercury (MIA) in the Caribbean. The MIA is to be conducted by the Regional Centre of the Basel Convention, in collaboration with UNEP.
- Early ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention was achieved in Uruguay in September 2014. In connection with this convention, Uruguay chaired the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC), which began work in 2010 and has met once since March 2014 (INC-6, Thailand, and November 2014). INC-7 will take place in March 2016 in Jordan. Uruguay is also a member of the INC Bureau, representing the LAC region, along with Jamaica. Since March 2014, the Bureau has met three times: in May 2014 (in Jordan), October 2014 (in the United States), and April 2015 (via teleconference).
- UNDP is an advocate of the legally binding instrument of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and is working with the countries of LAC on the first steps needed for ratifying and implementing the convention. Accordingly, UNDP is working in the region to assist the countries in developing the activities needed to support implementation of the convention and conduct artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) interventions. UNDP is also working with the countries on implementing investments to reduce and eliminate the use of mercury in the ASGM sector, as well as to gradually eliminate the use of equipment containing mercury (such as materials used in the health sector, dental amalgams, and compact fluorescent lamps). As part of a larger strategy, UNDP is also helping the countries develop environmentally sound management (ESM) frameworks and policies on products containing mercury, taking into account their full lifecycles, along with measures to address the disposal of mercury-containing wastes

d) Waste Management**Initial arrangements for the preparation of the regional outlook report on waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean**

- The Los Cabos Declaration (point 13), requests the Secretariat to develop a regional outlook on the main challenges, trends and policies related to integrated waste avoidance, minimization and management, so that it can be used as guidance for the design and implementation of national policies, plans, programmes and projects. In this context, UNEP developed a project concept, and began fundraising and other initial arrangements to initiate the study during 2015. Countries were also invited to designate focal points for this initiative.

DECISION 5. SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Decisions

1. To request the Chair of the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and all Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean to raise the special vulnerabilities and circumstances of SIDS, including Caribbean SIDS, with respect to their environmental sustainability in regional and international environmental fora, as appropriate.
2. To further request that the Chair of 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean formally communicate to the UNEA in June 2014, Decision 9 of the 19th Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean relating to the establishment of a SIDS-specific sub-programme in the existing UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and future MTS, including the identification of targeted financial resources to assist in the implementation of the Programme.
3. To call upon the Inter-agency Technical Committee (ITC) to assist Caribbean SIDS in the implementation of activities related to the priorities identified in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and report on such activities in this regard at the 20th meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. To reiterate the call for the establishment of SIDS-specific platform in the 10-year Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).
5. To urge the UN System, particularly UNEP and the Members of the ITC to undertake activities as well as to support the Caribbean SIDS in their activities to commemorate the 2014 International Year of SIDS.
6. At the same time, to urge Member States of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to prioritize undertaking South-South cooperation activities with the Caribbean SIDS.
7. To further call upon the UN System to support national and regional programmes, projects and activities being undertaken in support of Caribbean SIDS in priority areas such as climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and water resources management that are critical to the long term development of SIDS.
8. To also call upon all the Member States of Latin America and the Caribbean to support SIDS in the Global Preparatory process and the Third International Conference on SIDS as well as to prepare an Implementation Plan for the translation of the outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS into concrete actions in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.

Progress and actions

Actions during the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- During the first session of the UNEA, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 23-27 June 2014, a Global Symposium on the Environmental Rule of Law was held, at which UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, promoted the participation of Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)



- The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) took place from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The aim of the conference was to explore sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships. For this purpose, multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues were held on the following priority areas:
 - Sustainable economic development
 - Climate change and disaster risk management
 - Social development in SIDS, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women
 - Sustainable energy
 - Oceans, seas and biodiversity
 - Water and sanitation, food security and waste management.
- The conference served as a space to build on existing partnerships and to launch new, innovative and concrete partnerships and initiatives. The Partnerships Platform, on which 300 partnerships were registered for the SIDS Conference, included major groups and was open to other stakeholder groups, represented during the conference by close to 700 registered participants from every region of the world.
- Major groups took part in a number of preparatory meetings in the days prior to the Conference, and participated in the general discussions and partnership dialogues, as well as in more than 100 different parallel events. In addition, the Government of Samoa arranged for an expo pavilion at which the participating regions were able to display trade, craft and culture exhibits.
- As a result of the SIDS Conference the final outcome document was adopted at the Conference, entitled the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which is currently being used as the basis for the formulation of recommendations and an action plan towards sustainable development in the Caribbean and will allow the development of South-South cooperation actions in Latin American countries towards the Caribbean SIDS.

Consultation with Member States following the Third SIDS Conference

- As follow-up to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held in September 2014 in Samoa, a consultation process was initiated with Member States through a questionnaire distributed by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

- The survey questionnaire, on the partnership framework for monitoring and ensuring the full implementation of commitments through partnerships with SIDS, includes questions on monitoring and guaranteeing implementation; new opportunities and intergovernmental links; the Steering Group; and a SIDS Action Platform, which can be accessed at: <http://www.sids2014.org/>. The website was developed to support the follow-up to the Third SIDS Conference, through a partnerships platform, a partnerships framework, and a UN Implementation Matrix for implementing the mandates from the SAMOA Pathway.
- As of the first two months of 2015, numerous countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Mexico, had submitted their responses to the questionnaire. In the meantime, it is hoped that the online platform will facilitate exchange on matters such as sustainable economic development; climate change and natural disaster management; social development in SIDS; sustainable energy; oceans, seas and biodiversity; and water and sanitation, food security and waste management.



Caribbean Meeting on Implementation of Decision 5 “Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”

- The Caribbean Meeting on Implementation of Decision 5 of the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (held in March 2014 in Los Cabos, Mexico), took place on 27-29 January 2015 in Bridgetown, Barbados. UNEP, as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized the meeting to follow up on elements of Decision 5, including the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held on 1-4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The outcome document of the Conference, known as the SAMOA Pathway, is to be used as the basis for the formulation of recommendations and an action plan towards sustainable development in the Caribbean.
- The meeting had two main motivations: the first focused on implementation of Decision 5 of the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, including the SAMOA Pathway document, while the second focused on implementation of the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) for SIDS Initiative within the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP Patterns (10YFP).



- The main outcomes of the meeting included:
 - An overview of the regional Forum of Ministers and its decision-making processes (including a review of Decision 9 of the 18th Forum and Decision 5 of the 19th Forum, related to SIDS).
 - Knowledge on UNEP sub-programmes and their work and projects related to the Caribbean SIDS.
 - Concrete recommendations on possible projects to be developed with Caribbean SIDS in follow up to Decision 5, in particular regarding indicators.
 - The presentation of a proposal for the SCP for SIDS Initiative within the 10YFP and the definition of its next steps.
 - The exploration of funding and resource mobilization opportunities.

Discussions on Small Island Developing States during the Third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

- At the Third CELAC Summit, which took place on 28 and 29 January 2015 in Belén, Costa Rica, the member states established the goal of developing a strategy for the eradication of poverty, and referred specifically to the situation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)?
- In this context, CELAC confirmed its commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS, and called on all countries to meet their commitments to these countries and states with low-lying coastal areas, through the provision of predictable and reliable financial resources, according to their capacities, and to support the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway.
- The Summit also called for recognition of the importance and particularities of South-South cooperation, and for the fulfilment of all Official Development Assistance commitments to developing countries, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15% to 0.20% of Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance to least-developed countries.



Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law

- From 30 March to 1 April 2015, Jamaica hosted the Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law, organized by UNEP, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration.
- To support developing States in strengthening their institutional and legal frameworks for sustainable development and the protection of the environment, efforts are being made to ensure

that sustainable development in the region is based on the rule of law and the principles established in international legislation. Under the auspices of the Caribbean Court of Justice, the issues to be addressed during the Congress include the legal framework for water resource management; trade, investment and the environment; and conflict prevention and shared natural resource management.

Strengthening capacities in environmental law

- UNEP supports the implementation of courses and workshops on environmental law and facilitates knowledge sharing and networking between legal experts from the Caribbean countries, by organizing regional activities (Workshop held in climate legislation, St. George's, Grenada 2 to 4 March 2015, and the Inter-American Conference on the rule of law on environmental matters, in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 30 March to 1 April 2015) and promoting greater participation of legal officials and drafters of Caribbean countries in global courses and activities (UNEP Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policies in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 16 October 2015, and soon in the Programme on Multilateral Environmental Agreements of UNEP and the University of Eastern Finland, to be held in China in November 2015).

Other actions

- Chile has continued to express and practice constant support for the SIDS, both within the United Nations system and through a variety of initiatives, projects, and cooperation programmes.
- Cuba is to offer and fund three training courses on “Disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean region” beginning in the second half of 2015. Trinational collaboration on the Caribbean Biological Corridor, between Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, continued, and is being implemented with support from UNEP and the European Union. Various activities have been conducted in the framework of the Corridor to support environmental restoration in Haiti and to address climate change through efforts to slow down the reduction of forest cover. In this connection, there are seven socioeconomic studies that identified the use of firewood and charcoal as one of the greatest threats to forest cover, leading to pilot activities to reduce deforestation and increase the presence of stable agricultural activities, through measures such as micro-nurseries in the mountains. Technical assistance was provided to St. Kitts and Nevis and Haiti to prepare their first communications to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Collaboration was also provided for conducting the greenhouse gas inventories of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- From February to June 2014, in New York, St. Lucia took part in negotiations on the document of the Third International Conference of Small Island Developing States. It also participated in the conference in Apia, Samoa, in September of 2014, where the document “Samoa Pathway” was adopted. In 2015, this SIDS also took part in meetings organized by ECLAC and UN DESA to advance implementation of the Samoa Pathway.
- In regional and international forums on environmental issues, Uruguay has supported the region's efforts to bring attention to the special vulnerabilities and circumstances of the SIDS with respect to environmental sustainability. Another notable example is the CELAC declaration in connection with the UNFCCC COP-20 (Lima, December 2014), which was supported by Uruguay and referenced in the context of Uruguay's intervention to build national capacity. This declaration speaks of the diversity that is a feature of the Latin American and Caribbean region, “which includes some of the countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change”. Also, 2014 is recognized as the international year of the SIDS, and it has been proposed that the specific vulnerabilities of these

countries should be properly addressed in the binding agreement to be signed in Paris in December of 2015, in the framework of the convention.

- Consistent with the call to strengthen exchange activities with the Caribbean SIDS, MVOTMA officials participated in November 2014 in a session of Balcón Latinoamericano, held in Havana. Organized by the Cuba Programme of the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO-Cuba), its subject was “Dilemmas and challenges of sustainable development with social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean”. In connection with that event, a visit to Cuba’s Environmental Agency (AMA) was conducted to learn about its experience in coordinating and executing disaster risk studies and impact assessments. Subsequently, in February 2015, the head of AMA met with MVOTMA officials during her visit to Uruguay.
- UNDP emphasizes the support provided in regional and international environmental forums for aspects of decision-making related to fostering awareness of the special vulnerabilities and circumstances of small island states, including the Caribbean’s SIDS, with regard to their environmental sustainability, as well as the support given to the small island states in the process of preparing for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the establishment of an implementation plan to translate the results of the conference into concrete action. UNDP has supported addressing the vulnerabilities of the SIDS in international forums through: holding parallel events and preparatory meetings for, and during, the third SIDS conference; and providing technical and policy support for representatives of the Caribbean SIDS on various strategic occasions to contribute to their work on environmental issues and their efforts to address existing vulnerabilities
- In addition, UNDP coordinated a programme of rigorous and extensive training for climate change negotiators in 2014. Lastly, UNDP participated in the Tenth Conference on Environment and Development (Cuba, July 2015), playing an important role in different panels discussing the special circumstances facing the SIDS. Prior to this, UNDP had been providing support to 15 countries – from Suriname and Guyana, in South America, and the eastern Caribbean Islands, to Jamaica and Belize – on access to and application of a range of environmental facilities to address areas critical to biodiversity and protected areas, as well as on addressing ozone depleting substances, enhancing resilience to climate-related risks, reducing disaster risks, fostering integrated management of water resources, management of large marine ecosystems, and building capacities in these areas.

DECISION 6. ILAC INDICATORS

Decisions

1. To adopt the recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) presented in document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/4.Rev.2.
2. To approve the WGEI Work Plan for 2014-2015 proposed in document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/4.Rev.1, Annex 1.
3. To express satisfaction with the work carried out by WGEI during the past biennium in support of ILAC and to recognize the impetus of Mexico, as Chair of the Group, to the Group's work, its development of an online portal for display of the ILAC indicators, and its commitment to the Group's objectives.
4. To support the development of indicators that provide information on the links between different priority areas of ILAC; for example, indicators of sustainable consumption and production, through cooperation between WGEI and the Regional Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
5. To request WGEI to assist in the future revision of the ILAC priority issues, harmonizing environmental indicators of the Initiative with the results of the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. To encourage the development of environmental information systems on platforms accessible to the public.
7. To promote the involvement of Ministries of Environment and Statistical Offices in the process of establishing Sustainable Development Goals to ensure these goals are in line with regional priorities and capacities for generating, processing and systematizing data and indicators.
8. To promote the government programmes of South-South Cooperation that already exist and urge Governments to attach priority to cooperation in support of national environmental information systems, the transfer of good practices and the development of national capacities for statistics and geospatial information, with the aim of integrating environmental considerations in economic and social policies.
9. To invite governments that do not participate in WGEI to designate focal points for the Working Group, through their Ministries of Environment and National Statistical Offices.
10. To recognize the efforts of countries that have produced national reports on the ILAC indicators, calling on other countries to take forward similar efforts and, in particular, to use the indicators to keep the state of environment under review and to support policy making.
11. To utilize resources effectively and avoid duplication of efforts through inter-institutional communication and the creation of synergies between environmental information initiatives, both at the national and international levels.
12. To invite the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and other international organizations concerned with the management of environmental information, in accordance with their respective mandates, to cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers.

Progress and actions

General actions in the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) in relation to indicators

- UNEP acts as the Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which was created in 2002 by the Forum of Ministers of Environment in response to the need to bring practical meaning to the processes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- To monitor and assess the progress of the Initiative, a set of indicators was established, grouped into six thematic areas: biological diversity; water resource management; vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities; social issues, including health, inequity and poverty; economic aspects, including trade, production and consumption patterns; and institutional issues.
- The Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI), made up by representatives of the Ministries of Environment and National Statistical Offices of the countries of the region, periodically collaborate on the development of the methodology for these indicators.
- In addition to documenting and monitoring the indicators through national environmental information systems, numerous countries have published reports (Costa Rica 2005, Mexico 2005, Argentina 2006, Brazil 2007, Colombia 2007, Peru 2008, Cuba 2009, Panama 2010, Nicaragua 2011, Mexico 2012, Colombia 2013) on the ILAC indicators (corresponding to the 2004 indicators and later to the regional review of the indicators in 2011). These reports are available at: <http://www.pnuma.org/deat1/publicaciones.html>.

Promotion of the use of national reports

- UNEP, as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, has encouraged the use of national reports on ILAC indicators for the preparation of national environmental summaries as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes.

Progress in the development of ILAC indicators

Following the March 2014 meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in Los Cabos, Mexico, work has been undertaken in the following areas:

- Online meetings were reactivated with the main objective of continuing with the revision, discussions and agreements with the methodological sheets of the indicators, as well as the discussion on the possible inclusion of new indicators related to sustainable consumption and production in the region
- During the months of September and October 2014, national indicators were updated on the web portal of the National System of Environmental and Natural Resources Information (SNIARN), which can be accessed at: <http://ow.ly/l6F2x>



- Between September and November 2014 the information on the indicators for Mexico was updated. This information will be available for consultations on the website of the Environment and Natural Resources Information National System.
http://app1.semarnat.gob.mx/dgeia/Indicadores_ilac14/ilac14/00_ilac/introduccion.html?De=SNIA
- In order to promote the systematization and publication of ILAC indicators in the Cloud, the Secretariat of WGEI organized an online training on the spatial dimension of environmental indicators (May 5 - June 13, 2014). This course, part of the GeoSur and Eye on Earth initiatives, had the participation of 61 representatives of National Geographic Institutes, Ministries of Environment and Statistics Offices of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- A summary of the progress made in the implementation of the WGEI workplan 2014-2015 is available in document UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2015/7.

Other actions

- In Argentina, various activities have been conducted in regard to environmental indicators and statistics, under the Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development's Office of Environmental and Social Impact. This includes: participation in teleconferences held by the Environmental Indicators Working Group (EIWG); calculation of the indicators agreed by the EIWG during the period; updating and online publication of the ILAC indicators (<http://www.ambiente.gov.ar/?idarticulo=11499>); articulation with the clean production office of the Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development, in order to incorporate an indicator reflecting sustainable public contracts within the executive branch of the national government as an indicator of sustainable production and consumption (SPC); implementation of an integrated database for statistics and indicators (currently in the design phase); training on ArcGis geographical information systems; and development of a georeferenced database using a geographical information system, in order to have a spatial representation of environmental statistics that will be available through the environmental infrastructure for spatial data (<http://intranet.ambiente.gov.ar/?idArticulo=10047>).
- To develop methodological sheets for the ILAC indicators, Colombia participated in the thematic discussion groups on indicators related to the issue of wastes, along with Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico. Colombia also participated in the thematic tables for the discussion on indicators related to recycling together with Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay. This included discussion on the possibility to measure the proportion of waste sorted for recycling from collected urban solid waste, or measuring the quantity of material recycled per sector. The participating countries agreed on the methodological sheet for the indicator on "proportion of urban solid wastes recycled in the formal sector".
- With regard to promoting the development and institutionalization of national monitoring of the ILAC indicators, Colombia (2014) published its second report on monitoring of the indicators. The ILAC indicators are updated annually and are published on the website of Colombia's Environmental Information System (SIAC for its initials in Spanish), based on the findings of the National Agenda on Indicators of International Initiatives, which draws on the work of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) and the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM). With the goal of using ILAC

indicators at the regional level, support was provided for Colombia's data collection, in order to produce a regional report that will serve as input for a regional ILAC publication, provided that resources are available to do so. Colombia also participated with the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Venezuela in the regional project, "Development and strengthening of official statistics through the creation of a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean", supported by ECLAC and aimed at strengthening the EIWG.

- In 2015, St. Lucia prepared its second State of the Environment Report (SOER), which covers factors driving environmental change, environmental indicators, recovery capacity, risks, and projections. The National Environmental Plan and National Environmental Management Strategy (NEP/NEMS) were revised and updated in 2014, noting St. Lucia's plans to address environmental issues, including climate change, and to provide information on the indicators used in the decision-making process.
- Work is proceeding in Uruguay on establishing indicators to support the countries in monitoring their progress toward the ILAC sustainable development goals, based on periodic virtual meetings (webinars) and group discussions via email. Consensus has been reached on the use of a methodological sheet as a central tool for work in constructing the indicators. This makes it possible to ensure the objectivity of the content, meaning, scope, limitations, methodologies, and availability of the indicators. The methodological sheets are currently being constructed in digital format, to provide access to the indicators developed in Uruguay's National Environmental Observatory (OAN). On 4 September 2014, OAN released Uruguay's 2014 ILAC Environmental Indicators Report. Representatives participated in training for technical personnel provided by the Division of Environmental Information (DINAMA), along with 67 other specialists from different institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean. With support from UNEP, the Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency, the CAF, and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the online course "Environmental indicators and their environmental dimension" was made available, in the context of implementing the GeoSUR programme, and in association with Spain's Geographic Institute and National Centre for Geographical Information (CNIG).

Adoption of the recommendations WGEI

- Costa Rica, in reference to the ILAC EIWG, reports that it has participated in virtual sessions to analyse and develop the methodological sheets for the previously agreed indicators, and is in the process of including the ILAC indicators in its National Environmental Information System (SINIA).
- Costa Rica has also been developing greenhouse gas emissions indicators as part of the Country Programme for Carbon Neutrality and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), along with coordinating the indicators generated by the National Inventories of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, produced by the National Meteorological Institute and the REDD project, led by Costa Rica's fund for forestry financing, (FONAFIFO for its initials in Spanish). In addition, the country is supporting a project to calculate factors of national emissions for the agricultural, transportation and energy (boilers and furnaces) sectors, under the leadership of three educational institutions – (State Distance Education University (UNED), National University (UNA), and Technological Institute of Costa Rica (ITCR) – with funds from CONARE (National Council of Rectors).

- In Cuba, joint work is in progress to review the National Environmental Strategy 2016-2020 proposal, in order to pave the way for creating indicators to evaluate implementation of the strategy and provide a framework to organize the environmental information system. The most important effect of this will be on decision making at the local level. At the national level, various features of environmental information have been defined and are set forth in a standardized technical file.
- In Costa Rica, the National Registry of Carbon Neutral Emissions shows the registry of businesses as well as the Compensation Units (UCC) used, towards achieving carbon neutrality under the Country Programme for Carbon Neutrality, recognised by the Costa Rican government. The registry is currently in the form of an Excel file, and resources are being sought to place it online in a systematized form.
- Cuba continued working to improve its Environmental Information System, one of the subsystems of the Government Information System, which is currently being updated based on elements of the country's economic and social policy. In this framework, work was conducted on improving the Information Directive for 2014 and the proposed statistics and indicators for the 2015 directive.
- In Ecuador, the National Environmental Accounting System (SCAN) has a framework for statistical information regarding the availability of natural resources and the pressures that the national economy exerts on the environment. It incorporates information on natural resources from various government ministries, including economic information from the central bank. This information makes it possible to establish economic-environmental indicators. To date, the Ministry of the Environment has published initial work on the environmental accounts, in the form of eight downloadable documents available on the SUIA (Single Environmental Information System) platform. Between 2011 and 2014, Mexico's National Institute of Statistics (INEGI) worked with the Ministry of the Environment, through a technical cooperation agreement, to develop Ecuador's environmental accounts. The main result was the publication of the first set of SCAN data.
- Pursuant to the mandate of the council, Costa Rica is in the process of incorporating the ILAC indicators in the National Environmental Information System (SINIA).

Inter-institutional communication to prevent duplication of efforts and creation of synergies

- Costa Rica established inter-institutional communication in the framework of the Interministerial Committee on Climate Change (CTICC), which was formed pursuant to Decree 36823-MINAET.

ITC Cooperation

- UNDP has been developing a publicly accessible platform for monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will be based on available national and subnational data, including environmental indicators produced by the national systems. UNDP has made commitments to the environmental ministries and statistics agencies of Belize, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and St. Maarten in connection with incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to ensure that these goals are in line with regional priorities and capacities to generate, process, and systematize data and indicators. UNDP participates actively on the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and other international forums that deal with managing environmental information. Through field work conducted in all of the LAC countries, UNDP also oversees progress on

multilateral environmental agreements, such as those on climate change, biodiversity, environmental degradation, and the Montreal Protocol. As executing organization for the GEF, UNDP also reports annually on progress toward the global environmental benefits generated by its interventions in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, sustainable forest management, chemicals and wastes, and international waters.

DECISION 7. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP)**Decisions**

1. To reiterate the commitment of the Latin American and the Caribbean region to support the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) and to maintain a leading role in its implementation.
2. To commit to support and facilitate the role of the 10YFP National Focal Points on SCP that have been nominated by their respective governments, to act as the contact person for the 10YFP Secretariat and Board as stated in the 10YFP document A/CONF.216/5, and to act as coordinators sharing information, identifying and enhancing cooperation at the inter-ministerial level and with different stakeholders at the national level.
3. To confirm the regional support and interest to participate in the first initial and non-exhaustive list of five 10YFP Programmes being: consumer information, sustainable lifestyles and educations, sustainable public procurement, sustainable buildings and construction, and sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism.
4. To request the consideration of an additional programme for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) taking into account that SMEs is one of the four regional priorities for LAC adopted by the Forum of Ministers of Environment in decisions 5 and 6 in 2010 and 2012 respectively, and considering that they are an important source for economic growth and employment, and the base of productive supply chains.
5. To promote, within the Ten Year Framework (10YFP), sustainable production, food supply and distribution systems in order to guarantee food security.
6. To foster additional programmes for the Ten Year Framework (10YFP) on integrated sustainable waste management.
7. To invite international cooperation and countries that are in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support to the governments in the region in their efforts to mainstream SCP objectives into the design and implementation of policies, including inter alia, national development plans, national strategies on sustainable development, sub-regional programmes and plans, and/or the development of national SCP programmes.
8. To promote the inclusion of SCP as an essential element of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, with the support of UNEP.
9. To request the inclusion of the different approaches, visions, models and instruments to achieve sustainable development and living well/good living, respecting indigenous traditional wisdom and knowledge, in harmony with nature.
10. To facilitate the allocation of national counterpart resources and external financial resources to support SCP implementation, technology transfer, capacity building, innovation and other mechanisms to accelerate the shift towards SCP.

11. To welcome the launching of the Global SCP Clearinghouse, and invite all governments and stakeholders in the region to share their national policies, initiatives, partnerships, tools and best practices in this information and knowledge platform.
12. To invite governments to carry out a national inventory of SCP initiatives, policies and projects implemented by the diverse stakeholders, in order establish national benchmarking.
13. To facilitate and strengthen the active participation of the private sector and civil society in advancing SCP practices and in creating new market opportunities and awareness raising; and to support the organisation of regional and sub-regional forums with the private sector, focusing on small and medium size enterprises and the integration of opportunities for the SCP approach into their systems.
14. To prioritize the development and harmonization of SCP indicators, responding to Decision 2 of the Regional Forum of Ministers of Environment (Quito, 2012), and to articulate this task with existing initiatives in the region, and find synergies, in particular, in the work within the framework that follows up the Rio+20 Agenda.
15. To approve the proposed new Terms of Reference of the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP and the ratification of the Executive Committee members for the 2013–2015 period, as indicated below:

Caribbean sub-region: Jamaica and St. Lucia

Mesoamerica sub-region: Honduras and Mexico

Andean sub-region: Colombia and Peru

Southern Cone sub-region: Chile and Brazil (first year) and Argentina (second year).

Progress and actions

- Document UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2015/8 is a more detailed summary of the progress made in the implementation of Decision 7 on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts

- On 13 y 14 October 2014 the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts was held. Participants discussed the progress on 10YFP in the region, as well as the draft regional SCP strategy. 20 representatives of the region took part in this meeting.

Caribbean Meeting on Implementation of Decision 5 “Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

- During this meeting held on 27-29 January 2015 in Bridgetown, Barbados, a summary of the work in UNEP for the SIDS in the Caribbean was presented, and recommendations were developed to follow up on this decision, as well as for the Samoa Pathway document. The “SCP for SIDS in the framework of 10YFP” initiative was presented, as one of the relevant topics. There were 40 participants of the public sector, multilateral organizations and experts, present at the meeting.

The 8th Meeting of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)



- The 8th Meeting of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) of multiple stakeholders was held on 4 and 5 May 2015, in Panama City and was organized by UNEP, with financial support from the European Union.
- The meeting brought together 70 participants from 23 countries, including the assistance of National Focal Points, 7 regional representatives of the major groups of stakeholders and other experts from the private sector and civil society.
- The main objectives of the meeting were:
 - a) share progress in the region on initiatives and projects on SCP;
 - b) to launch the implementation of the SCP regional strategy and its Action Plan 2015;
 - c) regionalize the work of the 10YFP Global Programmes;
 - d) contribute to the work on SCP indicators to measure progress;
 - e) develop recommendations of action for consideration by the Board of the 10YFP and international workshop held on 13 and 14 May 2015 in New York, and
 - f) prepare a progress report to the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean scheduled for November 2015.
- In order to create synergies, this meeting was organized in conjunction with: the "Regional Training Workshop on Food Waste" (May 6); a working session of Experts on Sustainable Development Indicators and CPS (as part of the meeting GEO6 LAC) (7 May), as well as the relevant "Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders UNEP in Latin America and Caribbean"
- The main results of the meeting were:
 - The recommendations of the region to the Board and the International Workshop of the 10 Year Framework of SCP (available in English and Spanish), and
 - The launch of the Regional SCP Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2016



Source: official Think, Eat, Save website

Regional Workshop on Food Waste: Led by the International organization Waste and Resources Action Plan WRAP

- This workshop was held in Panama City on 6 May 2015. The issue of food waste was presented as well as the “Think. Eat. Save” guide. The participants worked in working groups with the objective of developing drafts national plans of action. 53 representatives of the public sector, private sector, non-government organizations and experts took part in this meeting.

Joint meeting on SCP indicators

- On 7 May of 2015, a meeting on SCP indicators was held in the framework of the GEO-6 meeting organized by UNEP. The meeting gathered 12 government experts on SCP to discuss the selection and use of SCP indicators with the government experts of the Working Group on ILAC Environmental

indicators. The objective of this session was to contribute with the elaboration and harmonization of SCP indicators in accordance to Decision 6 of the Forum of Ministers of Environment (Quito, 2012 and Mexico 2014) and articulate this task with existing initiatives in the region and search for synergies, especially within the 2030 agenda and SDGs.

Other actions

Support in the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (10YFP)

- Colombia actively supports the implementation of the 10YFP, specifically in meetings of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production and at the meeting of the Steering Committee, where it is contributing its experience to creating some of the programmes that make up the regional SCP strategy for LAC. Its participation has also helped in the timely allocation of resources for developing projects on sustainable public procurement, such as the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project currently being undertaken, the development of guidelines for green growth, led by MADS, and the development of eco-innovation initiatives headed by the National Centre for Cleaner Production and Environmental Technologies.
- Uruguay has a National Action Plan for Environmentally Sustainable Production and Consumption 2010-2015, the general objective of which is to identify, coordinate, integrate, and maximize the effects of a set of actions, programmes, and projects to prevent and minimize the environmental impacts of production and consumption. The plan is designed as a tool to support the coordination and planning of actions to effectively incorporate the environmental dimension in the national development process. It was formulated as the result of a technical cooperation agreement between MVOMTA and UNEP that included establishing a participatory process with stakeholders (public and private, national and departmental, academic actors, promotion agencies, business chambers, NGOs, etc.). Work was conducted in thematic subgroups to define short and medium-term actions.
- In MERCOSUR, the ECONORMAS project (administered by an entity located in Uruguay, in execution until December 2015) has a line of action for sustainable consumption and production (SCP) that focuses on progressively incorporating systems of environmental management and cleaner production in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and on promoting sustainable consumption guidelines for consumers, as a way of improving quality of life in the region. ECONORMAS works with SMEs in four productive sectors identified by the beneficiary countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) to promote the adoption and incorporation of qualitative and quantitative measures in production systems, aimed at preventing and minimizing the generation of wastes, preventing pollution, and encouraging sound environmental practices. Work in Uruguay included 11 SMEs (sawmills and firms producing wood products for construction. A campaign was also conducted for the general public, to disseminate best practices through a mass communication, high-impact event, which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2014. Senior environmental authorities of the MERCOSUR member States and partners participated, joined by members of the European Union, the business sector, and civil society.
- As part of the activities to promote SCP, UNDP supports the countries of LAC in implementing policies and projects to meet the objectives of the Montreal Protocol on eliminating the consumption and production of HCFCs.

- Through its Green Commodities Programme, UNDP has pioneered collective action with national governments, the private sector, and civil society to change unsustainable patterns of agricultural production, by developing and implementing national commodities platforms in the LAC region. These platforms, created by UNDP and directed by national governments, provide a neutral space for generating national-level commitments by multiple stakeholders for the long-range sustainability of specific commodities. The national commodities platforms specifically target agricultural products that are of major economic and political importance for the country and that are part of the global supply chain. The platforms create partnerships, promote best practices, and coordinate action through public-private partnerships that foster the sustainability of a specific agricultural product and support sustainable long-term change.

Facilitating the role of the national CPS coordinators, and sharing information, identifying and promoting cooperation between ministries and among different stakeholder groups at the national level.

- Colombia has shared information at the different events of the Council of Experts. Work is also ongoing with the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, Agriculture and Rural Development, Mines and Energy, and Defence. Moreover, efforts are being made to incorporate the environmental dimension in the country's sectoral development in matters such as SPC. Also notable is the signing of, and subsequent action on, the green protocol with the Banking Association of Colombia and more than 15 financial institutions. The purpose of the protocol is to incorporate instruments to verify environmental compliance in financial investment projects, as well as to incorporate specific programmes for sustainable production and consumption.
- Costa Rica established the Inter-institutional and Intersectoral Commission on Sustainable Production and Consumption (CIIPCoS) at the national level. This involves five ministries (MAG, MEIC, Health, MTSS, and MINAE). Representatives of two private firms appointed by the UCCAEP also participate. In addition, the commission includes representatives of NGOs that have been working on this issue (the National Cleaner Production Centre and CEGESTI). Efforts are being made to encourage participation by the organization that represents consumers at the national level. Thirteen meetings of the CIIPCoS have been held since it was formed, examining a variety of issues related to sustainable production and consumption, and a draft decree was produced to establish a National Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy. The draft has already been approved by four of the five CIIPCoS ministries, and communication from the fifth (MAG) is pending. Meanwhile, the policy has gained private sector approval (from UCCAEP). The hope is to obtain final approval by the end of this year.

Consumer information; sustainable lifestyles and education; sustainable public procurement; sustainable building and construction; and sustainable tourism, including ecotourism.

- To keep consumers informed, the Colombian Environmental Seal (SAC for its initials in Spanish) was created, as an instrument to provide consumers with verifiable, precise and not misleading information regarding the environmental aspects of products. In addition, MADS, along with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, issued Decree 1369 of 2014, which sets forth conditions for the use of environmental attributes or arguments devised or used by vendors to promote goods and services in the national market. With regard to *sustainable lifestyles and education*, the University Union was created, to develop and implement strategies for training, research, management and social dissemination of information on sustainable production and consumption.

- In the area of *sustainable public procurement*, work has been in progress since 2010 implementing the Sustainable Goods and Services Procurement Strategy, with emphasis on public entities. This work has been supported by UNEP. On this particular issue, the country is in line with the recommendations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As to *sustainable building and construction*, a document has been available since 2012 with environmental guidelines for housing construction and 21 Colombian Technical Standards are currently being voluntarily implemented by different sectors, including standards for various products related to sustainable construction. Finally, with regard to *sustainable tourism, including ecotourism*, nature tourism (ecotourism) is classified as a “green business” in the National Green Business Plan, and 97 hotels are certified to promote it under Colombia’s “Technical Standard 5133 (first updating), environmental labels type 1, Colombian Environmental Seal, Environmental criteria for the hospitality industry”.
- Costa Rica’s MINAE has expressed interest in the five programmes. Coordination has been conducted with the various sectors involved in the 10YFP programmes. Work has also been carried out in the framework of the National Quality System to develop a National Environmental Labelling Programme. A national standard for environmental labelling already exists, and work is soon to begin on developing product-specific standards. Coordination is in place with the Ministry of Education to develop educational programs on sustainable consumption for schools. Work has also been conducted on sustainable building and construction, through the Costa Rican Chamber of Construction, which has a group of experts in this area, and which is making efforts to promote sustainable construction nationally-.
- Linkages are being developed with the NAMA for Urban Land Use and Transportation, an activity conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlement, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, and the Secretariat of the GAM (Greater Metropolitan Area) Plan. On the issue of sustainable public procurement, joint work has been conducted with the Ministry of Finance to develop a national programme in this area. A decree has already been drafted to regulate public purchases. It encourages purchases that meet the criteria by assigning them extra points in the State’s bidding process. Specifications have also been put in place for the purchase of 10 products that meet high standards for sustainability and that are priority items in the State’s purchasing.
- Chile has a Sustainable Consumption and Production Committee that reports to the Environmental Information and Economy Division of the Ministry of the Environment. This division’s primary objective is to develop a National Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme, aimed at changing current patterns of consumption and production, while decoupling the country’s growth and development from the degradation of the environment. Various reports, dialogues and guides have also been produced on a variety of issues that are relevant in this context. In terms of sustainable lifestyles, a national action plan and a national policy on education for sustainable development have been prepared. There is a national system of environmental certification for educational establishments, designed to encourage local action in the educational area. For sustainable public procurement, Chile has the Chile Compra system, which is developing a sustainable public purchasing policy, which has been submitted, for approval by various stakeholders, to the Consultative Council on Sustainable Procurement. This Council includes public sector, private, academic and NGO representatives. Chile also has a sustainable public procurement manual that emphasizes cost-benefit factors. For more information, see: https://portal.mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/manual_compras_publicas_sustentables_mma_bmub_espanol.pdf.

- Various sustainable building initiatives are in progress in Chile. One such, driven by the Ministry of the Environment, includes actions for sustainable heating and sustainable neighbourhoods. This initiative seeks to implement a model of environmental management based on developing and practicing sustainable behaviours at the neighbourhood level. It calls for municipalities to manage the technical aspects of the effort through neighbourhood organizations and other territory-based community groups. With respect to sustainable tourism, the National Tourism Strategy 2012-2020 positions sustainability as one of five pillars of a roadmap for addressing the challenges that are to be met by 2020. In addition, Chile has a Programme on Innovation for Healthier Foods and a National Programme for Sustainability and the Environment, among others. It also has a Council on Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development. This is a public-private entity whose members represent governmental institutions, civil society organizations, and the academic and business sectors.

SMEs as an additional programme within 10YFP

- In Colombia, SMEs, as suppliers of goods and services, have been included in the strategies of the National Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy, which provides for strengthening them through mechanisms that address the demand for products that promote sustainability. Sustainability criteria were developed for 26 different goods and services, with a view to the supply capacity of the market. In addition, the new National Development Plan 2015-2018 includes a chapter on “Green Growth” that deals horizontally with all productive sectors, defining different actions to be incorporated in the country’s development.
- On 23 February 2015, in Costa Rica, companies that are leaders in environmental management, with international cooperation and support from government entities, joined together to promote the Partnership for Carbon Neutrality. This public-private initiative attempts to increase the number of **carbon neutral SMEs** in Costa Rica. The initiative emerged in the context of the Country Programme for Carbon Neutrality, which encourages the business sector to work on reducing its carbon footprint. In this regard, ALIARSE serves as the initiative’s technical secretariat, with support from the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (DCC-MINAE); the General Directorate of Small and Medium-sized Enterprise at the Ministry of Economy, Industry, and Commerce (DIGEPYME-MEIC); the Institute of Technical Standards of Costa Rica (INTECO); Auto Mercado, S.A.; BAC/Credomatic, Bridgestone of Costa Rica; and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Ecuador (MAE) has developed a formal mechanism to provide recognition for SMEs that meet “Green Initiative” standards. These firms are registered with the MAE, apply good environmental practices, and promote projects for cleaner production, as part of encouraging the transition to sustainable production and consumption. The intention is to pave the way for new incentives through policies and programs for sustainable development.

Sustainable systems of food production, supply, and distribution to safeguard food security.

- With regard to the promotion of sustainable systems for food production, supply, and distribution cited in Section 5, Colombia has a National Food and Nutritional Security Policy that defines food and nutritional security as “sufficient and stable availability of foods, uninterrupted, and timely access to and consumption of food in appropriate quantity and quality, including safety, by all persons, under conditions that permit adequate biological utilization for healthy and active living”. In this context, MADS uses strategies to ensure the quality of the natural resources used in agriculture, so that foods are safe. In addition, Colombia

has adopted a National Food Health and Safety Policy for the System of Health and Plant Health Measures.

- In Costa Rica, coordination is already taking place with a network organized to prevent food waste. It includes over 20 institutions and firms and is headed by the Technological Institute of Costa Rica. The Office of Environmental Quality Management is already a member of the network and is coordinating actions with it.

Sustainable integrated waste management as part of the 10YFP.

- Under this point, Colombia has been supporting the region in its initiative to create a regional programme for comprehensive waste management. At the most recent meetings of the Council of Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption, Colombia has described its progress in this area in the following terms: In the hierarchy of national policy on comprehensive waste management, preventing and reducing the generation of waste is to be prioritized and encouraged above any other strategy. They have provided training and technical assistance for municipalities, through workshops that teach personnel how to properly formulate a PGIRS, and include practicable reuse projects, and progress is being made on implementing post-consumption programmes for seven priority waste flows: automotive batteries, other batteries, lightbulbs, computers and peripherals, pesticide containers, expired medicines, and tires. These measures help producers internalize environmental costs as part of waste management costs, and encourage the use and valuing of regulated wastes under post-consumption programmes.
- Costa Rica's National Climate Change Strategy identified the agricultural sector as a national priority for achieving carbon neutrality. The Climate Change Office at the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE) has received support from the Spanish cooperation agency as part of the project, "Support for the national climate change programme in Costa Rica; improvement of Costa Rica's mitigation and adaptation capacity". In coordination with the strategically important government entities, a series of workshops is being held, focusing on subcomponents of the proposed NAMA on biomass energy, in order to identify current opportunities for and impediments to implementing key approaches to mitigation.
- Ecuador supports the process through the participation of a delegation from the Ministry of the Environment, and has activities with slogans such as, "Be part of the sustainable public procurement project" and "Enjoy an incentive for eco-efficient construction". Work has been done on structuring the text of the legislation to increase the role of sustainable production and consumption.

SCP in the SDGs and the Post-2015 Agenda

- Costa Rica produced a draft decree to establish a National Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy. The draft has already been approved by four of the five ministries that are members of CIIPCoS, and communication from the fifth (MAG) is pending. Meanwhile, the policy has gained private sector approval (from UCCAEP). The hope is to obtain final approval of the decree by the end of 2015.
- Ecuador's action features strong SCP components to promote the SDGs at the global level. At the national level, this translates to the country's National Plan for Good Living and to the Ministry of the Environment's SCP programmes.

Inclusion of different approaches, for achieving sustainable development and Good Living, while respecting traditional and indigenous bodies of knowledge and seeking harmony with nature.

- In Costa Rica, the REDD project, headed by FONAFIFO, envisages inclusion of an indigenous focus. Traditional knowledge is also being taken into account in the network to prevent food waste. Considerable knowledge on food preparation and use, including approaches known only in the culinary traditions of the autochthonous peoples, is involved here.
- In Ecuador, the issue of including different approaches and models in a mandate is reflected in legislative text known as the “Unified Text of Secondary Environmental Legislation” (Texto Unificado de Legislación Ambiental Secundario).

Facilitate the allocation of resources from national counterparts and external financial resources to support SCP implementation, technology transfer, capacity building, innovation, and other mechanisms to accelerate change toward SCP.

- To date, no resources or counterparts have materialized in this connection. However, there is already an inter-institutional coordination mechanism (the CIIPCoS) for properly allocating resources in observance of agreements made on such allocation, in the event that resources are provided. Various international cooperation projects headed by, for example, the Climate Change Office include nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) for technology transfer, capacity building, innovation, and other mechanisms to accelerate change toward SCP.
- In Cuba, as part of implementation of the National Environmental Education Strategy and the National CPS Programme, resources of various types have been earmarked for education on sustainable lifestyles (both formal and informal programmes), dissemination of informational materials, and examples of good practices, as well as messages for the general public benefit delivered through the mass media.
- In Ecuador, the MAE, as a national counterpart, maintains resources and personnel, within the Under Secretariat of Environmental Quality, assigned to work toward the CPS objectives in the form of good environmental practices, cleaner production, etc.

SCP Clearinghouse

- With regard to the SCP Clearinghouse cited in Section 11, Colombia notes that it is pleased with the implementation and is consolidating a series of documents on sustainable production and consumption for placement on this portal, pursuant to UNEP guidelines.
- Costa Rica is working on developing a national SCP website that includes all of the sustainable production and consumption initiatives. It will be linked to the SCP Clearinghouse to facilitate the sharing of initiatives, best practices, and national policies with countries interested in accessing this information.
- In Ecuador, information on the Clearinghouse has been disseminated through the SPC process and the sustainable public procurement project.

National inventories on SCP initiatives, policies, and projects executed by different stakeholders, in order to establish a national baseline.

- Regarding the national baseline (Section 12), there is a report by the Office of the Comptroller General of Colombia, based on information collected nationally and regionally regarding implementation of the National Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy, which is directed by MADS. In addition, efforts are underway to map SPC initiatives led by UNEP. This will help to progress more rapidly in building synergies and implementing regional policies and strategies.
- Costa Rica has undertaken efforts to obtain a national inventory of organizations that are working on SPC. An initial meeting was held at DIGECA with 10 NGOs working in this area, and an information network was established.
- Ecuador is organizing a National Dialogue on Sustainable Production and Consumption to take place in the coming months. It is hoped that this process will provide a mapping of SPC in Ecuador.

Participation of the public and private sectors

- With regard to public and private sector participation, in Colombia there are joint initiatives such as the Green Protocol. This protocol is an agreement between the Colombian government and the country's financial sector, designed to unite efforts for the country's sustainable development, and to work for environmental preservation and sustainable natural resource use by focusing on particularly important measures such as sustainable public procurement, creation of normative instruments, development of voluntary Colombian Technical Standards, etc.
- Costa Rica's Intersectoral and Inter-institutional Sustainable Production and Consumption Commission (CIIPCoS) has invited the country's firms to participate in this initiative, through representation by the Union of Chambers of Private Enterprise (UCCAEP), as well as drawing on the participation of the country's consumer associations. Both of these groups have permanent representation on the Commission and participate actively in developing and implementing strategies and action plans for SPC. An additional measure is the relaunching of the "Clean up Your Footprint" (*Limpia tu Huella*) campaign, which is designed to promote the general population's awareness of actions favourable to the environment. A number of the messages that will be communicated relate to good sustainable production and consumption practices.
- In Cuba, for the growing non-State sector, which includes own account workers as well as cooperatives, "Guides to good environmental practices" have been created for 35 different activities. They explain the principles of SCP and are distributed to the labour force of this emerging sector. In the case of Cuba, the private sector is not yet a partner that contributes financial resources to SCP.
- Ecuador, in conjunction with UNEP, is planning a National Dialogue on Sustainable Production and Consumption for the coming months.

SCP Indicators

- Costa Rica's National Centre of Geo-Environmental Information (CENIGA) is developing a series of environmental indicators that will be useful for monitoring SCP actions.
- Cuba has defined a set of SCP indicators to monitor the results of implementing the National SCP Programme, which concludes its first cycle in 2015. For the cycle beginning in 2016, efforts are

underway to revise the indicators, to bring them in line with the proposals of the Latin American Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- In Ecuador, the MAE maintains mechanisms that support SCP, and SCP is the basis for the structuring of indicators to evaluate the optimization of resources and reduction of waste.

DECISION 8. REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Decisions

1. To adopt the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution as an option of voluntary guide for the development of national action plans appropriate to the particularities of each country with emphasis on technical exchange, capacity building and design alternatives to reduce air pollution.
2. To update this regional plan of action every four years and, due to the relevance of the issue of air quality for the healthy development of our peoples and the conservation of the environment, and encourage governments to identify the economic resources needed for the sustainability of the air quality monitoring networks as an essential and priority element for decision-making.
3. To request UNEP's support for the establishment of the general criteria to prioritize actions and the organisation of the modalities of mutual assistance based on the intergovernmental diagnosis set forth in this Regional Plan of Action.
4. To strengthen public-private dialogue and the role of all sectors and levels of government involved in the promotion of commitments and actions to implement this Regional Action Plan in all priority areas defined, in the context of regional, subregional and national planning.
5. To ensure coordination among initiatives promoted in the framework of the Intergovernmental Regional Network with activities developed in the context of other agreements made by countries of the region on issues related to air pollution.
6. To call upon the ITC, in particular the WHO/PAHO, to support governments in the development of epidemiological studies in relation to health damages associated to air pollution in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Progress and actions

Resolution on Air Quality during the first universal session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- At the first universal session of the UNEA, held in Nairobi, Kenya on 23-27 June 2014, a resolution was adopted on “Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality”.
- For its part, Mexico, in its capacity as the current chair of the LAC regional Forum of Ministers of Environment, referred to the outcomes of the 19th meeting of the Forum held in Los Cabos, Mexico, emphasizing the decision to implement a Regional Plan of Action for Intergovernmental Cooperation on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution

- Following Decision 8 adopted (annex I) by the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, by which a Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution was adopted, as an option of voluntary guide for the development of national action plans appropriate to the particularities of each country with emphasis on technical exchange, capacity building and design alternatives to reduce air pollution; the Intergovernmental Regional Network on Atmospheric Pollution of Latin America and the Caribbean met in Mexico City from 11 to 13 February 2015.



- The Network focussed on the following areas for the implementation of the Plan of Action: 1) to progress on the guidelines for the development of national plans on atmospheric pollution; 2) to define the main elements of a regional cooperation programme; 3) to establish the Regional Action Plan Steering Committee; and, 4) to define the specific elements of a work plan of the Network
- During the meeting, participants shared information on the programmes under implementation and its challenges, success stories, gaps and future plans to face the problem of atmospheric pollution. They also adopted their work plan 2015-2016 to implement the Plan of action with clear objectives and tasks, specifically to work in the following areas:
 - the development of guidelines for the drafting of national action plans;
 - the promotion of regional South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - the creation of an online platform for the exchange of information
 - Coordination of the network.

Celebration of the Interamerican Air Quality Day DIAIRE 2015

- Every other Friday of August the Interamerican Air Quality Day is celebrated; this was established on 28 August 2002 in Mexico on the occasion of the XXXVIII Interamerican Congress of the Interamerican Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering.
- During this event the Declaration of Air Quality Interamerican Day (DIAIRE) was signed with the participation of the Organisation of American States, The Panamerican Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the purpose of sensitising key stakeholders in decision making processes, to take actions towards reducing atmospheric pollution.
- The objective of the celebration is to create awareness of the importance of good air quality in order to prevent and reduce damages caused by environmental pollution due to a number of factors such as chemical industries, global warming, and vehicle contamination, among others.

- A press release of the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution was published on 14 August 2015. Also, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru organized events.

Online workshops on Air Quality

- As part of the agreements reached during the 1st air pollution intergovernmental meeting held in Mexico in February 2015 and to promote greater regional cooperation for the exchange of experiences and knowledge, a series of webinars have been held. Recognising the progress in different topics related to air quality management, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico were requested to lead these webinars.
- The webinars held so far and to be held soon are:
 - Air Quality Monitoring (delivered by Mexico – 1 May)
 - Inventories (delivered by Brazil) - Wednesday 17 June.
 - Vehicle Inspection (delivered by Chile) 8 October in Spanish, it will be held in English on 16 October.
 - Pollutant release and transfer registries (co-organized by Chile and Mexico), will be held on 21 October.
 - Atmospheric Modelling (delivered by Colombia), date to be confirmed.



Source: International Affairs Coordination Unit

High Level Meeting on Political Outlook for the Regional Evaluation on Short Lived Climate Pollutants

- On 21-22 September of the present year, a Political Consultation meeting on Regional Assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean on Short Lived Climate Pollutants, organised by the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change, United Nations Environment Programme, through the Regional Office and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC), with the objective of discussing the progress in the Regional Evaluation and request the points of view of the high level experts on the relevance of options on public policies to be reflected in the mentioned Assessment.
- Present at the meeting were 13 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela), as well as lead authors of the different chapters of the Regional Assessment, its co-chairs, from the University of Sao Paulo and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.
- The regional evaluation was designed to provide the following results:

- A means to promote cooperation with regional focus of high-level experts in public policy design, implementers, scientists and other key groups to scale up the mitigation of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP);
 - Specific and relevant regional information and proposals to deal with the uncertainties, gaps in knowledge and capacity development, as a basis for a scientifically robust and effective action regarding SLCP in Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - A scientific assessment and policies generated in the region to support national action and help ensure that the priorities and needs of the region are properly considered in international, and a means to improve public understanding of the issue;
- Finally, it was recommended that the Regional Evaluation be presented in the following meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment that will be held in the first quarter of 2016 in Colombia. The Government of Mexico as current chair of the Forum will promote said presentation.

Other actions

- Argentina, through its Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development, made a commitment to adopt the Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution, as a source of voluntary guidance in developing a national action plan in accordance with local realities, emphasizing technical exchanges, capacity building, and the design of alternatives to reduce air pollution at the regional level. This led to the creation of a National Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution that was approved on 10 December 2014 via resolution SAyDS N 1327/14. The resolution's aim is to create a National Air Quality Monitoring Network composed of air quality monitoring stations that function continually throughout the country at the national, provincial, and municipal levels, through agreements for collaboration at those levels.
- The Climate Change Office (DCC) of Costa Rica, addressing the components of the Regional Action Plan, has been executing various actions to ensure that organizations that have been declared carbon neutral incorporate the efficient use of raw materials, water, and energy; eliminate toxic and hazardous substances; and reduce emissions and wastes at their source. Major aspects of the voluntary Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution in the area of national governance include developing and maintaining national greenhouse gas emissions inventories, and evaluating the impact of different emissions policies and measures.
- The DCC recognizes that the transportation sector is one of the largest and most rapidly growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. In order to address the problems that this involves – such as the economic impact of traffic jams, inefficient fuel use, decreased quality of life, and other issues such as road security – an integrated urban strategy, named NAMA for Urban Land Use and Transportation, is in place. It is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlement, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, and the Secretariat of the GAM (Greater Metropolitan Area) Plan.
- Colombia has been working on institutional strengthening of its environmental authorities and territorial entities, with a view to implementing the Policy for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, which emphasizes control of offensive odours, noise, mobile sources, stationary sources, and air quality.

- In April 2015, Chile released the document “Decontamination Plans, Strategy 2014-2018”, which was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment. This Ministry is also responsible for Chile’s National Air Quality Information System, whose purpose is to make air quality information from the entire country available, so as to gradually improve knowledge, surveillance, and management of air quality.
- Ecuador employed a participatory process in developing its National Air Quality Plan, which sets forth policies in this area and establishes levels of coordination between the different institutions involved in air quality management.
- Uruguay is a member of the Global Fuel Energy Initiative (GFEI), through an agreement with UNEP and with the technical counterpart of Chile’s Centro Mario Molina. In addition, a working group was formed in the framework of the Metropolitan Agenda. It reports to the President of the Republic, and is working on implementation of an Air Quality Management Plan covering metropolitan Montevideo. The plan has five strategic lines: a regulatory framework, vehicular control, residential and commercial biomass burning control of small-scale industry, and monitoring. Progress is being made on all of these fronts, though on different timetables.
- In June 2015, Paraguay approved the new organizational structure of the General Directorate on Air Quality, strengthening its institutional capacity. Additionally its regulatory framework was updated through the publication of new air quality standards.

Monitoring and resources

- In Costa Rica, the evaluation of findings from the monitoring conducted at different sampling stations is carried out by the National University, applying methodologies for modelling the possible impacts of the country’s policies. Costa Rica conducts air quality evaluations. The monitoring is carried out in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM), and there are plans, for as early as 2015, to remove and renovate the equipment used to measure PM 2.5 particulates left over from the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE). In addition to the metropolitan area, equipment is being distributed in different regions of the country where conditions call for assessing air quality.
- With regard to resources and funding, MINAE has a small budget, which comes from the national budget. Thus, progress on updating equipment is limited. However, other institutions have equipment for monitoring pollutants at the national level, such as the automatic equipment of the Ministry of Health and the National University’s PM 10 equipment, which are also part of the National Air Quality Network. It is important to note that these efforts have led to specific actions for inter-institutional coordination. In addition, the air quality regulations that are about to be issued dictate regulated surveillance, operation, evaluation, and monitoring, with participation by key stakeholders such as municipalities, the National Meteorological Institute, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, among others.

Public-private dialogue

- The current government of Costa Rica, as part of the Dialogue on Transportation and Fuels, introduced the discussion with data from the last official version of the Air Quality Report. Thus, the focus of the discussion was on environmental effects of the possible strategies for the transportation and fuels sectors.

- Costa Rica has been working on updating its emissions and air quality regulations, and is incorporating the parameters and limits established by WHO. The draft regulations should lead to a process of review by the institutions whose responsibilities relate to the issue (Ministry of Health and Ministry of the Environment). Following the process of final review and approval, the regulations should be in preparation for publication by the end of 2015. Inter-institutional coordination (between ministries, academia, and local governments) is a fundamental issue addressed by the regulations, with the aim of giving continuity to the monitoring programme, as well as to reports and inventories on atmospheric pollution.
- The Action Plan of the National Climate Change Strategy also includes a series of actions to be carried out in the transportation sector. The transportation sector is the country's largest source of emissions, accounting for 34% of total emissions. An analysis relating to climate change mitigation, focused on the National Development Plan and its intersection with the National Transportation Plan, was conducted, and possible means of implementation were identified.
- Work is taking place in Ecuador, in coordination with technical personnel at the Decentralized Autonomous Governments, to create awareness of the role that municipal governments play in air quality management, and of the importance of having a monitoring network at the national level, as well as a national inventory of emissions. These agreements and commitments are described at the country level in the National Air Quality Plan.

DECISION 9. COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Decisions

1. To promote a regional cooperation programme on climate change as a framework for South-South and triangular cooperation on areas of interest for the region.
2. To resolve that the cooperation programme mentioned in paragraph 1, will be designed and coordinated jointly by Mexico as Chair of this Forum and by Peru as UNFCCC COP 20 incoming Chair, in consultation with the countries in the region and supported by UNEP and other relevant regional and global institutions.
3. To encourage the integration of scientific and economic information to contribute to climate change policy making.
4. To consider in the cooperation programme, means of supporting Caribbean Small Island Developing States in responding to the adverse impacts of climate change.
5. To take into account during the process of updating the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), the needs of the region for the full implementation of the decisions from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Progress and actions

Regional Cooperation Programme on climate change

Further to the decision taken by Ministers at the XIX Meeting of the Regional Forum, Mexico and Peru, with the support of the Forum Secretariat, prepared a first draft of the program of regional cooperation on climate change, which was presented for consideration of the 33 countries in the region. Once circulated and with integrated comments, the final version of the Regional Cooperation Programme will be sent to all the countries and agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee, to promote its implementation.

Experts on climate change adaptation meet to boost cooperation



Fuente: Sitio oficial del PNUMA

- An approximate of one hundred experts on adaptation to climate and policy makers from around the world met on 6 March in Panama City to exchange knowledge and promote cooperation in the field of adaptation to climate change.

- This two-day forum, organized by the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) allowed the exchange of ideas and latest best practices—as well as encouraged debate and discussion—on networks and adaptation to climate change.
- The forum was called by the GAN and facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with the support of the Governments of Japan, Norway and Spain, and the European Commission.
- The objectives of the forum are: to mobilize members of the GAN network to share knowledge on adaptation, to bring together experts in order to establish closer links between different organizations, and empower organizations and networks to help countries and communities obtain concrete solutions to adaptation.

Climate change in the second Business Summit of the Americas

- The II Business Summit of the Americas took place from 8 to 10 April 2015 in Panama and was organized jointly by the Government of the Republic of Panama and the Inter-American Development Bank. The summit brought together the heads of state and business leaders on the continent in order to explore opportunities for trade, investment and priorities for social and economic development of the region.
- During the working days at the Summit, the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), Ban Ki-moon presented the speech entitled " Working Together: Public-Private Partnership For Sustainable Development" through which he invited more than 700 entrepreneurs from the continent and 12 American heads of state to join the struggle for the construction of sustainable development and climate change.
- During the Forum he stressed the importance of companies that have greater social responsibility and sustainable responsibility, and stressed that their participation is essential to achieve agreements to combat climate change agreements.



Fuente: Sitio oficial de la VII Cumbre de las Américas

Regional Cooperation Programme on Climate Change

- In response to the request made to the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, for the preparation of a Regional Cooperation Programme on Climate Change, the Ministries of Environment of Mexico and Peru prepared a draft Cooperation Programme which was circulated to the countries of the region by the Secretariat. The comments were integrated to the document and the latest version is available to the Intersessional meeting document UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2015/5.

Climate Change Legislation

- UNEP and PARLATINO (Latinamerican Parliament), through the EUROCLIMA programme, financed by the European UNION, are implementing a programme of activities for capacity building and exchange on progress and challenges in the region regarding climate change legislation. Parliamentarians of the Latin American and Caribbean countries met in the Parliamentarian Encounter towards COP 21 in Panama City, on 30-31 July 2015.
- The Parliamentary event was based on the results and conclusions of two subregional workshops organized by UNEP in Panama City on 21-23 October 2014 and in St. George's Grenada on 2-4 March 2015.
- PARLATINO expressed concern regarding the magnitude and severity of climate change and its impacts affecting the countries of the region, in particular the communities that are vulnerable which jeopardizes the poverty eradication efforts towards sustainable development, recognizing the efforts by the countries of the region to give a political push to the negotiations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to strengthen the climate regime through a legal instrument.
- The role of parliamentarians in the design and development of regulatory frameworks and appropriate institutional arrangements was highlighted, to establish instruments and mechanisms to achieve integrated policies that will address the economic, environmental and social aspects of climate change.
- In the framework of cooperation between PARLATINO and UNEP; it was agreed to continue the gathering and documentation of the legislative progress related to climate change in the countries of the region, which will be presented in a parliamentarian encounter on 24 November 2015 in Panama City.



Meetings of Climate Change Negotiators

- UNEP and ECLAC supported the organization of two regional meetings of chief climate change negotiators in 2014. In 2015, a meeting was held on 14 and 15 May in Santiago, Chile, and the next meeting will be held in Quito, Ecuador, on 5 November 2015.
- These meetings have the technical support from ECLAC and UNEP, with contributions from the EUROCLIMA Programme of the European Commission, and the French Cooperation.

Cooperation and exchanges on INDCs and the EUROCLIMA programme

- Mexico hosted a regional workshop on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to climate change, where Mexico presented its mitigation and adaptation commitments for 2020-2030. The workshop was held on 25 and 26 August, it was co-organized by the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), the Danish Energy Agency, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ), the Mexican International Agency for Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In this regional meeting, representatives of the participating countries, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, shared information on national development processes for the INDCs and information was also shared on a UNEP study showing technological options to achieve carbon neutrality in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2050, focusing on four sectors that account for 95% of GHG emissions: energy, transport, industry, land use and land use change.
- The workshop was followed by a meeting of national focal points of the programme organized by UNEP to report on progress in implementing program activities and guide the implementation of future activities of UNEP's work plan in the 2014-2016 phase of the EUROCLIMA programme.



Other actions

- Notable with regard to joint efforts with other Latin American countries and the sharing of technical information is the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC).
- Colombia participates actively in South-South cooperation initiatives on matters such as forest monitoring (led by Mexico) and drought (led by Nicaragua). Also notable are regional programmes such as EUROCLIMA, in which the region's countries have enjoyed support from the European Union to facilitate a sharing of experiences regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Costa Rica notes that, at the International Seminar on Climate Change, Environmental Fiscal Policy, and Environmental Flows: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Energy in Latin America (26-27 May 2015, Buenos Aires, Argentina), the focal points identified the success stories that are most attractive as models for their countries. ECLAC will support the institutions selected for information sharing, and will organize visits or distance exchanges between professionals from the five requesting entities and those of the providing entities.
- In Cuba, various training courses have been given for personnel from Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Granada, Barbados, El Salvador, Belize, St. Lucia, Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Kitts and Nevis, at the Centre for Creating Capacities to Reduce Disaster Risks

and Adapt to Climate Change – a venue created with support from the Norwegian government. Collaboration with Haiti has been strengthened through triangular cooperation with the European Union and the Norwegian government. Activities in this regard involve studies of hazards associated with climate change and, specifically, flooding due to intense rainfall, landslides, and coastal flooding from the sea. Various groups of experts have also been trained, and a methodology was adapted to address Haiti’s dangers, vulnerabilities, and risks. Also addressed was an assessment of coastal vulnerability resulting from climate change and extreme-event scenarios in Belize.

- Uruguay is going through a process of intense institutional strengthening, under the leadership of MVOTMA, with a focus on strengthening the National Climate Change Response System (SNRCC), which is the inter-institutional arrangement for coordinating and planning public and private action for mitigation and adaptation measures. Also, as part of the National Climate Change Response System (SNRCC), Uruguay has created a working group to analyse the text being negotiated in connection with the new instrument to be approved at the COP-21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris, December 2015). Another technical analysis group is preparing Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- Since October 2013, Uruguay has been the headquarters for the Integrated Finance and Operations Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The mission of the IAI is to promote understanding of global climate change, conduct cooperative research on the impact that past and present global changes have on the environments and societies of the Americas – a realm in which climate change is an essential factor. Research projects have been executed on various subjects, including changes in soil use, interaction between different crops, modes of rural subsistence and development, biodiversity, land quality, ecosystem services, hydrological regulation, and the contributions of ocean currents and rivers to production and biodiversity in the marine environment.

Integration of economic and scientific information

- With regard to the greater integration and communication of scientific and economic information mentioned in Section 3 of this Decision, Colombia’s MADS has research institutes that provide technical and scientific support for environmental policy. Thus, it is a priority for Colombia to encourage and establish international spaces and platforms to help countries interface science and policy, particularly in relation to climate change, where the challenge is great because of the technical complexities involved. Similarly, for Colombia economic information is a useful tool for understanding the dimensions and costs of climate change. Notable in this connection is the study, “Impactos Económicos del Cambio Climático en Colombia” [Economic Impacts of Climate Change on Colombia], produced by the National Planning Department, with support from the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), the IDB, and ECLAC, published in 2014. This has increased knowledge on the possible economic impacts of climate change at the national, sectoral, and regional levels, as well as on the costs that the country will be forced to bear if it fails to take measures now. Another study that has given increased visibility to economic information on opportunities related to climate change is the study, “The New Climate Economy”, in which Colombia participated as one of the commissioning countries.
- In Costa Rica, the communication of scientific and economic information is facilitated by the website www.cambioclimaticocr.com, Facebook page updates with daily news on the climate change agenda (<https://es-la.facebook.com/dccCostaRica>), production of monthly bulletins circulated to the list of contacts registered in the database, and production of short videos to encourage awareness and

exchanges, the latter of which are made available on this office's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/dcc2021>). In addition, Costa Rica and Uruguay supported the operationalization of the Red LatinClima network (www.latinclima.org).

- Chile is currently participating in negotiations on a multilateral climate change agreement. It is hoped that this agreement will be used at the global level. It sets forth legally binding obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for all member countries, and is to be signed in December 2015, in Paris, as part of the Twenty-first Conference of Parties (COP-21). As part of this process, pursuant to the commitment made at COP-20, in Lima, a public consultation was held. It took place over nearly four months, from 17 December 2014 to 15 April 2015, and concerned Chile's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) project proposal. This document represents Chile's vision and defines components of climate change action for the coming years. It is based on five main pillars: adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and strengthening, technology development and transfer, and financing. Chile's INDC is a clear expression of the commitment by the country and by the present government to multilaterally address the challenge of climate change and its consequences.
- Cuba supported regional workshops in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Jamaica, sponsored by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), at which technical information on various matters related to the impact of climate change, such as biophysical agricultural methods and models, was disseminated.
- In order to strengthen scientific research as a component of activities carried out in the framework of the Climate Change Network, Ecuador held its first National Dialogue on Research and Climate Change.
- St. Lucia is implementing a Pilot Programme for the Climate Resilience/Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project (PPCR-DVRP). The launch took place in December 2014. Review of Policies for National Adaptation to Climate Change in 2014. Re-establishment and meetings of the National Committee on Climate Change (CNCC) in 2014. Also, the project for recovery from the Hurricane Tomas emergency was completed in September 2014. Adaptation to climate change, as part of St. Lucia's disaster risk management policy, was an important element of the project. In May 2014, St. Lucia held a workshop on incorporating climate change in national development planning, with emphasis on policy makers and senior technical personnel.
- The St. Lucia National Trust hosted World Wide Views on Climate and Energy in June 2015, as part of ongoing efforts to stimulate regional and international dialogue on the right to information.
- Since 2009, the UNDP Regional Climate Change Programme has supported 20 countries in the region in their efforts to fulfill their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This support has taken the form of strategic interventions in the areas of legislation and policies, mitigation, adaptation, and climate funding. In 2014 and 2015, the regional programme and other UNDP programmes and projects have supported several countries in developing NAMA concepts, national carbon strategies, capacity development, and knowledge sharing events and publications. Starting in 2015, drawing on UNDP experience in 19 countries in Asia and Africa, the regional programme is assisting in implementing the methodology for Climate Change Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews (CPEIRs), promoting South-South cooperation.
- UNEP, UNDP, World Bank and the InterAmerican Development Bank together with other institutions supported and co-organized Latin American Carbon Forum

- UNDP is also supporting LAC countries through the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme, which aims at building capacities to design and implement Low Emission Development Strategies and national mitigation actions in different economic sectors. In all, UNDP – through the Regional Climate Change Programme, its GEF portfolio, and other programmes and projects – has been involved directly and indirectly in 40% of NAMAs that are being proposed in the region.
- UNEP, FAO and UNDP, implement the UN-REDD - Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation Programme, in the region. In 2014, the UN-REDD Programme organized a regional South-South exchange on National REDD+ Strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean. Hosted by Ecuador’s Ministry of Environment, it provided a space for capacity building and exchange of experiences among 77 participants from 13 countries regarding the development of their REDD+ national strategies or action plans.