

Latin America ^{OLC}
and the Caribbean



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UNEP in the regions

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Latin America and the Caribbean UNEP in the REGIONS

Environment for Development

The mission of the United Nations Environment Programme

is

“to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations”



About UNEP

UNEP, established in 1972 to be the watchdog of the environment, has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The organization follows the guidance and requests of the ministers of the environment of member countries, who are part of UNEP's Governing Council.

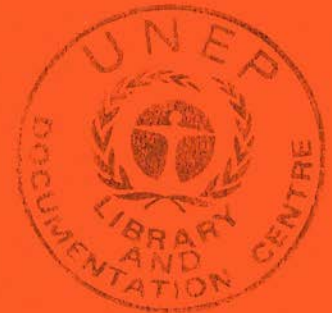
UNEP is organized in divisions that reflect its various priorities: Early Warning and Assessment; Policy Development and Law; Policy Implementation; Regional Cooperation; Trade, Industry, and Economics; support for Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and coordination of UNEP's work as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Six regional offices make up the Division of Regional Cooperation: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and West Asia; together with a small coordination unit at the headquarters. A number of liaison offices have been set up under the relevant regional offices – in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Moscow, Brasilia, and Beijing.

What we do

For the past thirty years, since the deteriorating state of the environment first caught the world's attention, UNEP has nurtured global collaboration on environmental issues. Some problems have been tackled: the loss of biodiversity, degradation of soil and water, climate change, production and consumption patterns, the relationship between trade and the environment, and environmental legislation, to give a few examples. At times, UNEP seemed a lone voice, but over time, the world community has taken more notice. More action has been taken – major environmental fora have resulted in action plans and programmes of activities - but with varying, and often disappointing, results. As the global environmental crisis deepens, more is expected from UNEP and the world community in the wake of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of 2002 and the resulting Plan of Implementation.

UNEP remains a leader in environmental initiatives, encouraging the adoption of multilateral environmental agreements, integrating the private sector into a new culture of environmental responsibility, creating space for the participation of civil society and fostering environmental policies and legislation. Capacity building and technology transfer are at the top of



We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected.

United Nations Millennium Declaration – 2000

Development Goals in the Millennium Declaration

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development



UNEP's agenda. Close partnerships with governments, international, and non-governmental organisations have been forged.

Intensive worldwide preparations for WSSD (Johannesburg, 2002) took place during 2000-2002. In the aftermath of the Summit, UNEP realigned programmes more closely with the resulting Plan of Implementation, but maintained an essential continuity with the UNEP priorities and programmes of the immediate past. New strategies for the regional programmes have been put in place as a blueprint for the way forward – strategies that are within the global priorities and mandates of UNEP, but that also respond to the different regional priorities and help fulfil the internationally-agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region contains four sub-regions: the Andes, the Caribbean, Mesoamerica, and the Southern Cone, all with their own special characteristics and rich diversity. The topography ranges from tropical islands to mountain ranges and high plateaus, rainforests, deserts and plains. The climate varies widely; its diversity is reflected in the variety of ecosystems that include many of the world's biologically richest eco-regions, such as the tropical forests and several mega-biodiverse countries, as well as the urban environments, where 75 per cent of LAC citizens live.

Andean region: Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela

- Surface area 4.7 million sq km, or 25% of Latin-America
- Population in 2005 123.2 million
- GNP - \$US 255 billion - almost 14% of the Latin-American total
- Almost 20% of regional GNP depends on the extraction and processing of natural resources
- Forest covers 230 million hectares, or 35% of the LAC total – deforestation is a major challenge

Caribbean region

- Wide variation in size of the Caribbean islands – 91 sq km (Anguilla) to 110 860 sq km (Cuba)

- Important variations in socio-economic conditions, cultures and political systems
- Cuba accounts for over one-third of the population (appr.11 million) and almost half the land area
- Wide diversity of habitats, including coral reefs, sea-grass beds, mangroves, wetlands and rocky shores
- Tourism contributes 30-50% of GDP – receives over 6% of world tourism – designing suitable environmental protection policies a major challenge
- High environmental and economic vulnerability

Central America and Mexico: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Mexico

- Surface area 2.5 million sq km - the land bridge between North and South America 30% of the region covered by the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor – comprising the Central American System of Protected Areas (SICAP), neighbouring buffer zones and multiple use areas
- Wide geographical diversity - the 100km-long Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, extensive mountain chains, an 8,000 kilometre-long of coastline, extensive mangroves
- Over 20 % of the population lives from coastal marine activities
- Deforestation a major challenge – due to logging, agricultural and range expansion, and domestic fuel requirements in over 60% of homes in rural areas

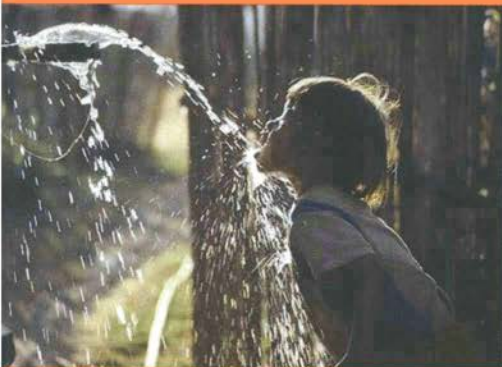
The Southern Cone: Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil

- Surface area 12.6 million sq km, home to 250 million people in 2005
- Wide variety of landscapes - forest (629 million hectares), prairie, steppe, scrub, wetlands, and desert
- Lowest population density and highest urbanization rates in LAC
- High percentages of urban dwellers – over 89.3% in Argentina; 80% in Brazil and 93% in Uruguay
- Fourth largest economic group in the world after the EU, NAFTA and Japan - a total GDP of \$US 1100 billion
- Managing the urban environment and deforestation are the major challenges

NB. Some statistics combine the Andean and Southern Cone regions into one - South America- as many of the illustrations show



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Latin America and the Caribbean in brief:

- the land area covers 15% of the earth's surface 11 of the 55 countries that have high rankings in human development are from the Latin America and Caribbean region and 21 countries are in the medium category, according to the UNDP index
- population estimated at 519 million in 2000, has risen to 550.8 million in 2004 or 8.63% of the world total
- the annual population growth rate has fallen - to 1.3% in 2005, from 2.4% in 1972 - Central America 2.1%; Mexico 1.7%; South America 1.4% and the Caribbean 1.04% (CELADE - LAC Demographic Centre - 2002)
- the birth rate per every thousand inhabitants was 24.5% from 1990 to 1995 and 20.7% from 2000 to 2005, (ECLAC Statistics 2004)
- life expectancy was 72.3 years in 2005
over 77% of the people live in urban areas - four cities have over 5 million inhabitants, 2 cities over 10 million, while Mexico City and Sao Paulo have over 15 million each
- 43.4% of the people live in poverty of which 18.8% belong to indigenous groups (ECLAC, 2003)
- adult literacy rates overall averaged 88.6% in 2002 (UNDP 2001), but inequalities in income distribution affect access to schooling, attendance and performance levels
- inequalities in income distribution and access to land underlie social instability and continuous political and financial turmoil
- economic growth is sluggish after a period of steady growth throughout the 1990s:
 - GDP average annual rate for 2003, based on constant prices in 1995, was 2.0%
 - Growth of per Capita Gross Domestic Product in the region in 2003 was 0.5% (average annual rates)
 - Private capital flows have failed to expand enough to cover the financial needs of many low income countries, and this situation has not been redressed by the redistributive effects of official resource flows. Official development finance (and particularly its largest component, bilateral assistance) has not increased as much as expected, although it has shown a slight upward trend since commitments were undertaken in this regard at the International Conference on Financing for

Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002. Total debt service increased substantially in the 1990s, reaching 41% of exports in 1999 before dropping back to 29% in 2003 thanks to an expansion in exports. The interest burden declined in the first half of the 1990s, from 2.6% of the region's GDP in 1990 to 1.6% in 1997, but the trend then reversed, bringing the ratio back up to 2.3% by 2003

- Personal income is forecast to grow at an estimated 0.3% annually from 2003 to 2005 - the lowest rate in the world (World Bank)
- Economic problems and crises have resulted in the termination or slowing down of environmental projects/ activities.

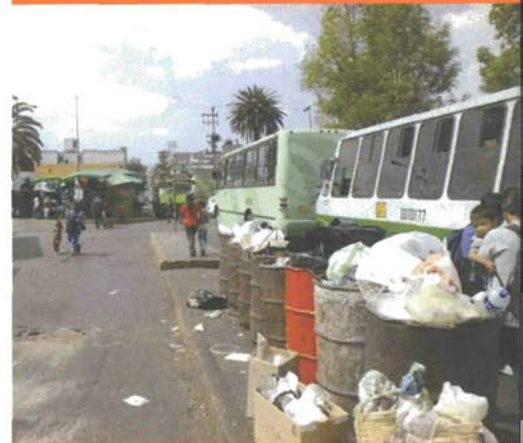
The environment in Latin America and the Caribbean

The main pressures on the environment and natural resources are poverty, increasing income inequality, limited planning, especially in urban areas, and high dependence of many economies on the exploitation of natural resources.

Environmental challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean and what is being done

Land

- The region has the world's largest reserves of arable land – but unplanned urban expansion, erosion, non-sustainable land use, loss of nutrients, chemical pollution, overgrazing and deforestation have caused degradation in a once productive agricultural land - over 300 million hectares – 16% of the world total - have been degraded
- ◆ *Action: National action programmes are underway. Mechanisms such as the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty, the Andean Pact, and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development promote control systems against land degradation*



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Freshwater

- 40% of the population lives in areas that only have 10% of the region's water resources
- The quality of the surface and groundwater has deteriorated - pollution of aquifers is extensive and saline intrusion affects coastal areas
- ◆ *Action: Water-related services are becoming more efficient through public-private partnerships and by applying economic instruments. In Brazil, for example, a national water resources policy and management system has improved the water resources management*

Forests and biodiversity

- With 25% of the world's forests, LAC accounted for over 40% of natural forest loss over the last 30 years and has some of the world's most endangered forest habitats and fastest rates of deforestation
- Biodiversity is threatened by habitat loss, land degradation, land use change, deforestation, and marine pollution - of 178 eco-regions, 31 are in a critical state and 30% of Caribbean coral reefs are considered to be at risk
- ◆ *Action: New legal instruments help to reverse these trends. Forest certification schemes encourage sustainable forest use - for example, a Bolivian law opens state forests to private companies provided that there is community participation. Over 10% of the region is protected in private or community-managed forest reserves and more are being created. The trade in endangered species has been partly curbed*

Coastal and marine areas

- Land-based pollution, over-exploitation of fisheries, habitat conversion (including by tourism), and the oil and gas industry pose the major environmental threats
- 60% of the population lives within 100 km of the coast - the quality of coastal ecosystems has been modified by coastal urban development
- 34 of the 51 local production systems in the Central Caribbean are threatened by over-exploitation of commercially valuable species
- ◆ *Action: National Action Plans under the GPA Strategy are very important instruments to control pollution and coastal degradation*

Atmosphere

- Poor air quality, especially in larger urban areas such as Mexico City, Santiago de Chile, Sao Paulo, and Bogota
- Air pollution is blamed for 2.3 million annual cases of chronic respiratory diseases in infants and 100,000 cases of chronic bronchitis in adults
- ◆ *Action: Better monitoring and emissions control is improving air quality. Mexico City and Santiago de Chile are improving*

Urban areas

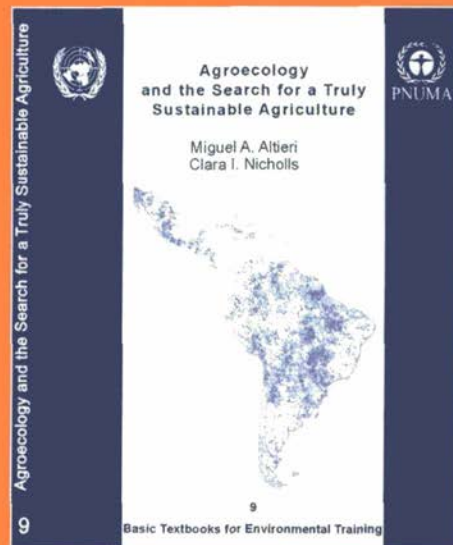
- Urban growth - population growth and rural-urban migration have caused an urban population explosion from 163.9 million in 1970 to 399.2 million in 2001 (UN Population Division)
- The problems of urban areas include inadequate water supply and sanitation, insufficient waste management, poor air quality, health problems, violence, and other social problems, environmental pollution, and the increasing vulnerability to natural hazards, especially of the urban poor
- ◆ *Action: Popular participation in decision-making, new private and public networks for the environment, and environmental education show positive results*

SOURCE: UNEP GEO - LAC 2003

I. Working for the LAC environment

The Forum of Ministers of the Environment

The Forum is the primary political inter-governmental forum in the area of environment which offers the environmental authorities an opportunity for reflection and discussion of the major challenges of the regional and global environmental agenda within the framework of sustainable development. The Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (I-LAC) and, in particular, the eight major topics agreed to at the XIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, provide the basis for environmental co-operation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries.



UNEP provides the secretariat for the Forum and, in collaboration with the agencies participating in the Interagency Technical Committee (UNDP, IDB, ECLAC and WB), coordinates and supports the implementation of various international co-operation activities and projects. These are identified by the Forum in response to national and regional environmental needs. The Forum works closely with sub-regional partners to capitalize fully on available human and financial resources.

What has been achieved

For the implementation of the I-LAC, the Forum of Ministers approved the Regional Action Plan 2004-2005. This Plan established activities and co-operation projects to be implemented in collaboration with the members of the interagency committee in the eight priority topics. The progress in the implementation of the Plan was recognized by the XV Forum of Ministers that met in Caracas, Venezuela from 31 October to 4 November 2005 (available at: www.pnuma.org). Based on the experiences of the first biennium, a regional action plan for 2006-2007 was prepared.

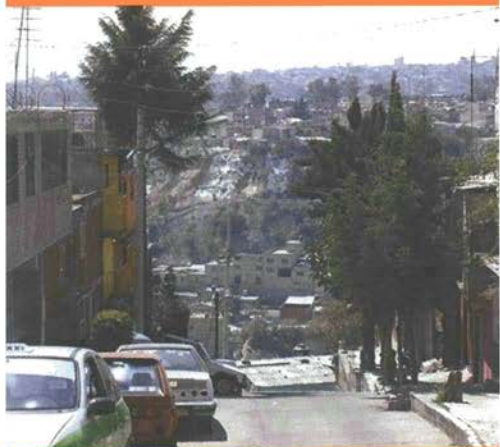
Declaration of Caracas

The Ministers recognized that “despite the efforts made to achieve sustainable development in the region, serious poverty, inequality and environmental degradation persist”. In view of this situation, they committed themselves “to take further actions to develop public policies focused on sustainability and participation”.

Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (I-LAC)

I-LAC aims to:

- Put an environmental dimension into economic and social processes
- Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources
- Help alleviate poverty and increase social equality through capacity building and technology transfer, strengthening support for economic development and increasing access to international markets by furthering regional cooperation



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I-LAC objectives are to:

- Ensure that 10% of regional energy requirements are from renewable energy sources
- Increase natural protected areas and forest lands
- Improve watershed and marine and coastal zone management and reduce discharge of pollutants
- Adopt measures to regulate access to genetic resources and ensure a fair distribution of benefits
- Reduce emissions into the air and increase coverage of drinking water services and sewage treatment
- Implement measures to reduce urban vulnerability to natural and other disasters - such as by establishing a regional early warning system
- Implement the Kyoto Protocol
- Develop technologies to ensure the quality and proper management of water
- Make significant advances in health, poverty alleviation, equity and sustainable production and consumption patterns

Where we are going - the UNEP Strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean

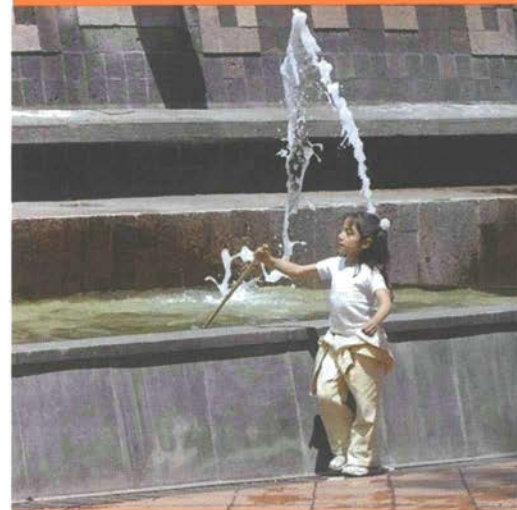
The strategy for LAC was defined in relation to the:

- Global priorities and mandates of UNEP
- UNEP Governing Council decisions relating to the region.
- The Latin American and Caribbean Initiative (I-LAC)
- Regional priorities as outlined by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC
- The Millennium Development Goals

The elements of the strategy focus on capacity building and technology transfer, maintaining continuity with previous UNEP support to LAC :

i. Support inter-governmental policy dialogue through:

- strengthening the Forum of Ministers
- consensus building for I-LAC and the WSSD Implementation plan
- promoting environment-related inter-ministerial meetings
- promoting global and regional political processes



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The commitments undertaken at WSSD and the drive towards regional integration have modified the political and economic context in the region and have encouraged UNEP to design a new strategy for the region



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ii Implement priority global, regional and national environmental programmes within the context of I-LAC to enhance the:

- incorporation of sustainable development principles into national policies
- management of the urban environment
- provision of targeted integrated environmental assessment and indicators
- early warning of emerging threats

iii Foster civil society involvement in environmental actions, focusing on civil society networks, the judiciary, formal and informal education groups, and on the general public.

iv Strengthen targeted sub-regional activities concentrating on:

- the regional delivery of UNEP programmes based on national and sub-regional needs
- sub-regional cooperation plans

Where we are going – the way forward

In the **Andean region**, to:

- ❖ Support the implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy
- ❖ Develop harmonized positions leading to the negotiation of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing
- ❖ Support the Andean members of the Group of Like-Minded Megabiodiverse Countries to carry out the Group's Work Plan and activities
- ❖ Help develop and implement a GEF project on access to genetic resources
- ❖ Support Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to promote and consolidate an Andean Biological Corridor around the Inca Trail
- ❖ Help countries to fulfill I-LAC's commitments in the priority areas - climate change, biodiversity, and water and sanitation
- ❖ Implement the UNEP training programme for judges and prosecutors and other legal stakeholders

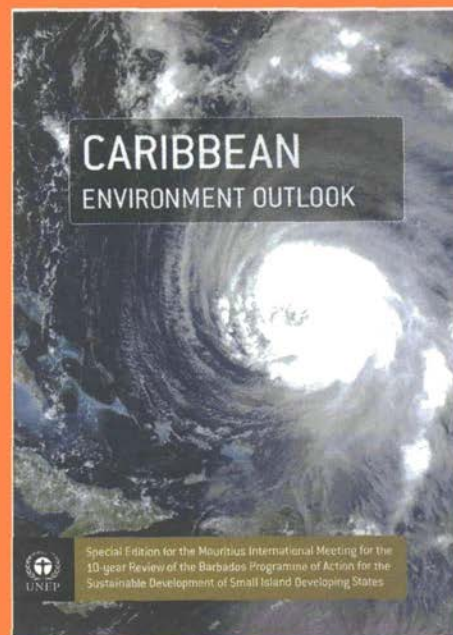
- ❖ Carry out integrated environmental assessments at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- ❖ Monitor the progress made towards achievement of I-LAC goals using indicators approved by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment

In the Caribbean region, to:

- Support with various initiatives the Caribbean Small Island Developing States
- Promote the development and use of renewable energy
 - Help mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce human vulnerability
- Address water scarcity and integrated watershed management
- Support institutional strengthening and legislation development
- Help to develop a climate change centre in Belize as a step towards establishing a regional environmental programme for the Caribbean
- Support the process of follow-up and implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action, and the Mauritius Strategy
- Implement the UNEP training programme for judges and prosecutors and other legal stakeholders
- Carry out integrated environmental assessments at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- Monitor the progress made towards achievement of I-LAC goals using indicators approved by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment

In Central America and Mexico, to:

- Help implement activities associated with the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project (MBC) especially in promoting its sustainability beyond the life of the project
- Promote environmental accreditation and certification
- Promote valuing the sustainability of forests
 - Build capacity, especially in the emerging areas of trade and environment
- Promote sustainable biotrade, agro-business, and “green banking”
- Implement the UNEP training programme for judges, prosecutors and other legal stakeholders
- Carry out integrated environmental assessments at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- Monitor the progress made towards achievement of I-LAC goals using indicators approved by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment.



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TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Adopted by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-third session in February 2005 the **Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building (BSP)** is an intergovernmentally agreed approach to strengthen technology support and capacity-building in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. The Bali Strategic Plan is designed to assist these countries:

- To strengthen their capacity to achieve their environmental goals, targets and objectives, as well as environment-related internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- To strengthen their capacity to implement programmatic goals set by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in parallel to the response by UNEP to requests by Governments for targeted capacity building within the mandate of UNEP.
- To strengthen their capacity to participate fully in the development of coherent international environmental policy, to comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level, and to use and sustain the capacity or technology obtained through training or other capacity-building efforts after such efforts have been completed.
- To strengthen their capacity to develop national research, monitoring and assessment capacity to support national institutions in data collection, analysis and monitoring of environmental trends and in establishing infrastructure for scientific development and environmental management, in order to ensure sustainability of capacity building efforts.

In the **Southern Cone**, to:

Support the environmental programme of MERCOSUR – the customs union formed by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, which also includes Bolivia and Chile as associated members by:

- Promoting the integration of the environment component into economic-trade relations of member States
- Undertaking studies and activities to improve environmental management in member States and to prevent pollution and the degradation of the environment
- Support sub-regional agreements and strengthen MERCOSUR environmental agenda, emphasizing priority themes, such as environmental goods and services and biodiversity strategies
- Promoting capacity building programmes and coordinated action at sub-regional level geared towards strengthening sub-regional participation in global fora
- Implementing the UNEP training programme for judges and prosecutors at the national and local levels, and journalist and communicators.
- Supporting the implementation of the chemical MEAs by participation in capacity building workshops.
- Carry out integrated environmental assessments at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- Monitor the progress made towards achievement of I-LAC goals using indicators approved by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment

II UNEP in the region

The UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, ROLAC, works to service the requests and needs of the region and its activities are integrated into those of UNEP Headquarters' programmes. Thus, a considerable part of the work in ROLAC mirrors the Nairobi operational structure and therefore this booklet will describe activities under headings reflecting UNEP's priorities.

Early warning and assessment

UNEP works with governments, expert centres and other partners in the region on a wide range of environmental assessment activities, providing information to support environmental management, decision-making and policy-setting. Key components of this line of work are:

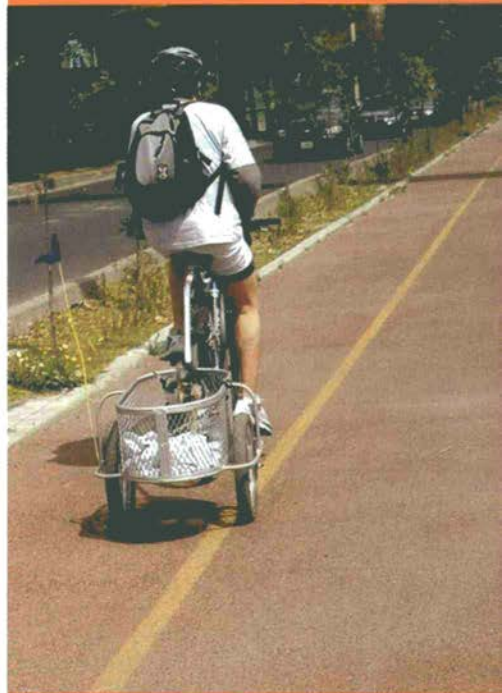
- **Integrated environmental assessments** using the methodology developed by the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) project, UNEP assists countries and partners to undertake integrated environmental assessments (at all levels from municipal to regional and global. These assessments aim to answer five basic questions on the environment: What is happening and why? What are the consequences for the environment and humanity? What is being done and how effective is it? Where are we heading? and What actions could be taken for a more sustainable future?
- **Management of statistics and indicators**, through the development of tools for improving access to and quality of environmental statistics and indicators. UNEP work with countries and partners to produce more harmonised and accurate statistics and indicators to address information gaps in priority areas for the region.
- **Early Warning**, providing early warning by identifying and assessing emerging environmental threats that may affect the long-term vulnerability of people, ecosystems and the services they provide. UNEP collaborate with leading expert institutions and scientists in and outside of the region to search emerging signs of threats in order to inform decision-makers accordingly.

What we have done? - Recent programme highlights

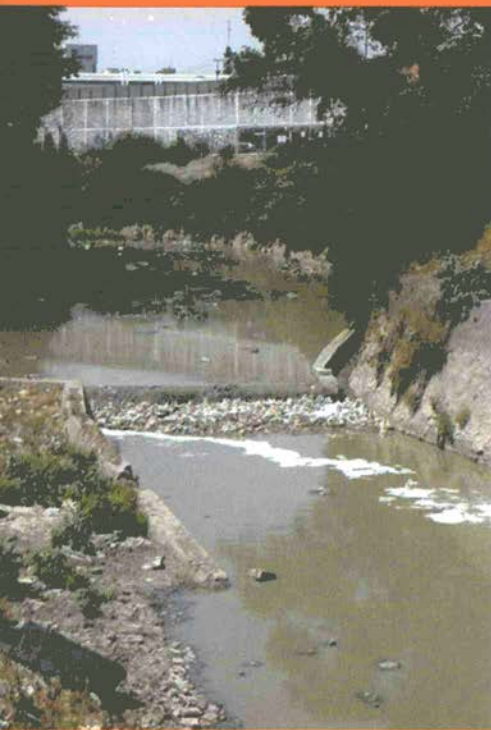
GEO – Integrated Environmental Assessment

Sub-regional GEOs

- GEO for Central America (January 2005) – a sub-regional analysis to assess the status of the environment in the Central American region. Produced in collaboration with *Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo* (CCAD), with technical help from the Development Observatory of the University of Costa Rica



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- Caribbean Environment Outlook (October, 2005) – an assessment of the state of the environment in the Caribbean SIDS and Low-Lying Coastal States in terms of environmental concerns and the driving forces of environmental change. Produced in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), with technical help from the University of the West Indies Center for Environment and Development
- A GEO process for the MERCOSUR countries in preparation in collaboration with SGT6 of the MERCOSUR with technical help from *Centro Latino Americano de Ecología Social* in Uruguay

National GEOs

- Published for The Bahamas, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. In preparation for Haiti, Saint Lucia, and Venezuela
- Brazil is conducting a national thematic assessment of forest using the GEO methodology as base

GEO Cities

- **New reports published for Arequipa, Lima and Callao, and Montevideo in 2005.** Assessments using the GEO Urban environmental assessment are underway in Asuncion, Beberibe, Cartagena, Chiclayo, Cienfuegos, Guatemala City, Panamá City, Copiapó, Esmeraldas, Great Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica, Holguin, Loja, Marabá, Montevideo, Pirahnas, Playa del Carmen, Ponta Pora, Querétaro, Rosario, San Miguel de Tucumán, San Salvador, Santa Clara, Santo André, Santo Domingo
- The Third Regional Workshop of the GEO Cities Project. The GEO Cities Project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, ran the “Third GEO Cities Third Regional Workshop” in Havana, Cuba, 25-27 May 2005. Representatives from 25 cities of the LAC region attended the meeting. The participants discussed lessons learnt through their GEO assessments as well as the impacts that their assessments have produced
- The 2005 Global Meeting of the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) and Localizing Agenda 21 Programme (LA21) was held from 26 June to 1 July 2005 and it was jointly organised by UN-HABITAT, UNEP, the Government of Cuba and the City of Havana. UNEP participated

with GEO Cities Project. The meeting offered the partners of the UN-HABITAT Urban Environment Section an opportunity to advance their collective know-how, exchange experiences, review activities, and discuss how to mainstream Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) into local, national and global policies. The meeting brought together: mayors, high-ranking city officials, urban practitioners, representatives of central/federal governments, urban institutions, heads of international support programmes and key representatives of donor agencies

- Fourth Seminar and the Urban Environmental Fair of the Network of the Authorities for the Urban-Environmental Management in the Cities of Latin America and the Caribbean. On 2 – 3 August UNEP participated in the Fourth Seminar and the Urban Environmental Fair that took place in Panama City. UNEP gave a presentation on the GEO Cities Project and its joint strategy with UN-Habitat
- World Environment Day 2005 (WED 2005). As part of the WED 2005 celebration UNEP, in close collaboration with the Sustainable Cities Programme of UNEP/UN-HABITAT, undertook several activities related to the GEO Cities Project in LAC. These activities included:
 - Production and distribution of a brochure in English and Spanish
 - Production and distribution of 28 posters in English and Spanish
 - Production, broadcasting, and distribution of a 30-second television spot in English and Spanish
 - Preparation of poster exhibits in Brasilia (Brazil), Havana (Cuba), Mexico City (Mexico), and San Francisco (USA)
 - Preparation of a panel session on “Partners Planning for Sustainable Cities” in San Francisco (USA)

GEO for Youth

- GEO for Youth for Central America published this year. The GEO for Youth for the Caribbean will be launched in early 2006
- National GEO for Youth processes underway in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Cuba
- Sub-national GEO for Youth processes established in Lima and Callao (Peru) and Morelos (Mexico)
- Capacity Building activities using GEO for Youth LAC Training Manual established in Argentina and Mexico City (Mexico)



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Capacity building and LAC in global assessments

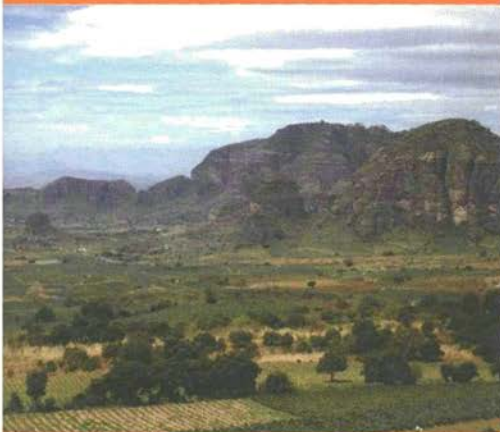
- Scenario Capacity Building Workshops organized for Caribbean countries and Honduras
- Active and organized participation of regional expert institutions and scientists in global assessments and tool development, such as GEO-4, GEO Yearbook 2004/5, GEO for Deserts, and a revised GEO Resource Book

Statistics and indicators

- The GEO LAC Data Portal, a portal of environmental statistics and indicators for the region, is available at <http://www.geodatos.org/>
- Report of the ILAC indicators for Costa Rica published in November 2005. Other countries, such as Argentina and Mexico, have started application of the same indicators at the national level
- Distribution of NASA donated Landsat/ GeoCover images to 26 countries in the region
- Establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee on geospatial information within the framework of the Forum of Ministers

Early Warning

- A set of tools for integrated environment and health assessment are contained in the report: *"An evaluation of existing methodologies; a glossary of the terms for integrated environment and health assessment, and a methodological framework for assessment"* developed in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), and regional expert institutions, at the request of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA). Pilot studies are underway in locations in Argentina and Brazil
- Regional studies on "environment and conflicts" in preparation



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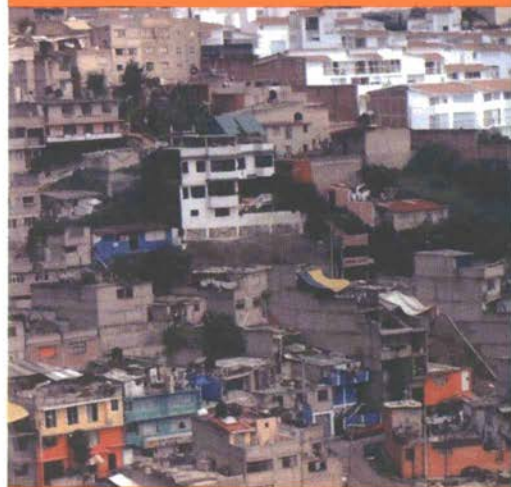
III. Environmental law and policy

UNEP supports the design, formulation and enforcement of environmental law and policy in the region through:

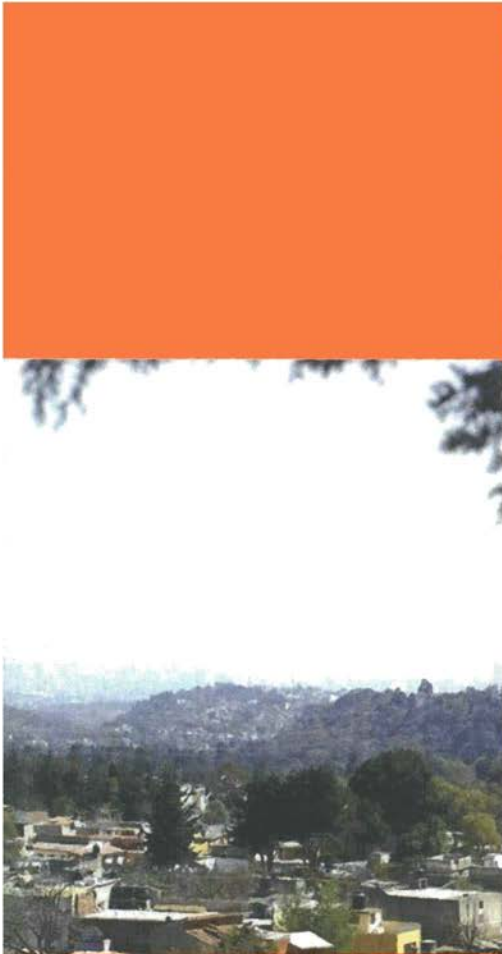
- Technical assistance to governments on environmental policies, legal instruments multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), national legislation, and appropriate institutional arrangements
- Assistance with environmental legislation to national parliaments and also to State parliaments in the case of federal governments
- Serving as the Technical Secretariat of the Environment Commission of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO)
- Capacity building and training on environmental law and MEAs for government representatives, parliamentarians, the judiciary, the legal profession, and civil society groups – implementation of the Johannesburg Principles arising from the Global Judges Symposium organised by UNEP (Johannesburg, August 2002)
- Dissemination of information - publications in the Environmental Law Documents and Environmental Legislation series, a database of environmental legal texts and judicial decisions, a web page and electronic discussion forums

What we have done - recent programme highlights

- Technical assistance to revise and improve environmental legislation in Chile, Peru, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda, Panama, and Grenada, to help Peru implement the Andean biodiversity strategy, and to the Likeminded Group of Mega-biodiverse Countries to implement its work plan
- Draft legislation and provide assistance to state parliaments in Mexico and for PARLATINO
- Technical assistance and support to PARLATINO, including the organization of workshops on specific environmental issues and concerns



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- Symposiums, seminars and planning meetings for judges and prosecutors at the national, sub-regional and regional levels - Mexico 2000, Saint Lucia 2001, Tegucigalpa 2002, Buenos Aires, 2003, Jamaica 2004, Foz de Iguazu (Brazil) 2005, La Plata, Buenos Aires and Salta (Argentina) 2005, San Jose (Costa Rica), Lima 2005, Guyana (scheduled for 2006)
- Environmental Law monographs contest for judges in 2005
- Study on legal policies, legislation and institutional arrangements in the coastal zones of the wider Caribbean – includes Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Jamaica
- Preparation of the study and publication *“Legal regimes for biosafety in Latin America”* 2005
- Regional Workshops on compliance with and enforcement of MEAs, for the English-speaking Caribbean (Kingston, Jamaica, 2003) and for Latin America (Mexico City, March 2005)
- Second, Third and Fourth International Meeting on Environmental Law organized in conjunction with the National Institute of Ecology of Mexico (2003, 2004 and 2005)
- First and Second Latin American Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy, Mexico City, 2004 and Panama City, 2005
- Regional Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources, Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization, and Associated Traditional Knowledge, Havana Cuba, June 2005

III. Technology, industry and economics

The UNEP regional programme supports decision-makers from governments, local authorities, and the industry sector in the development and adoption of policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer
- utilise natural resources in an efficient manner
- ensure an appropriate management of chemical products
- incorporate environmental costs
- reduce pollution and decrease risks for human beings and the environment.

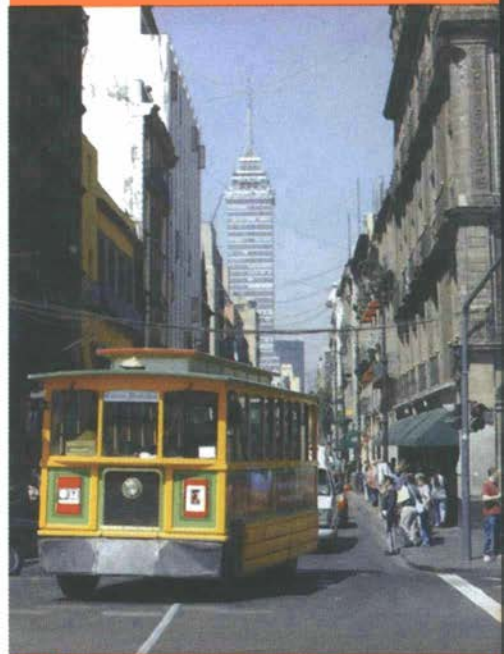
Four areas of concentration have been defined:

1. *Sustainable Production and Consumption (SCP)*

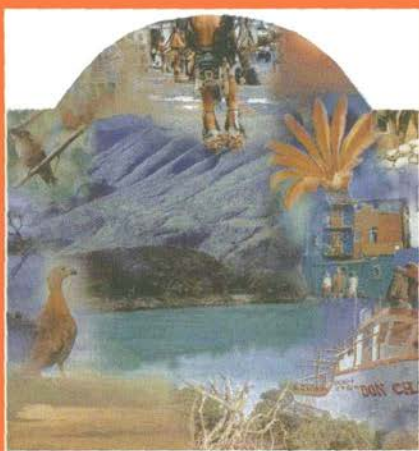
This area represents the key focus of the programme - reflecting WSSD and I-LAC priorities

What we have done - programme highlights

- Organization of the Global High-level meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production 'SCP8' in Monterrey, Mexico
- Establishment of 5 Cleaner Production and Consumption Information Centers in: Argentina, Panama, Cuba (2) and Venezuela
- Signing of the International Declaration on Cleaner Production with more than 100 institutions in Brazil
- The Third Regional Meeting of Government's Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry of Nicaragua (MARENA) and the Organization of American States in collaboration with UNDESA in Nicaragua
- Regional Status report on Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption published in collaboration with CETESB
- Adaptation and printing of the Successful Entrepreneur Calendar in Spanish in coordination with GTZ and the Ministry of Environment of El Salvador
- Implementation of the Youth XChange Project in Mexico in coordination with SEMARNAT, PROFECO and IMJ
- Delivery of a Diploma Course on Sustainable Consumption in Michoacán, Mexico, in collaboration with PROFECO
- Sustainable Procurement design of a National programme on Sustainable Procurement for SEMARNAT of Mexico
- Organization in coordination with PEMEX a National Forum on Eco-efficiency in Mexico
- Edition and printing of a Manual on Sustainable Consumption for the UNEP GEF project *Environmental Citizenship*
- Edition and printing of the book "*Key Elements of a National Cleaner Production Policy*" prepared in collaboration with the Secretary of the Environment of Argentina and the National Authority of the Environment of Panama (ANAM)



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 Argentina; Gerardo del Castillo, Iván Jiménez T., *Laguna*
de Chankamab, Mexico; Alberto Cáceres, Mexico; Gerardo
 del Castillo, Mexico; Cristian Müller, Argentina; *Pato*
muicero, Cristian Müller, Argentina;

- Organization of a Capacity Building Course on Sustainable Consumption for School Teachers of the Ministry of Education of Mexico in collaboration with SEMARNAT

2. Emergencies

The Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) methodology is an important tool to reduce local risk in emergencies and is the focus of UNEP's support in this area. APELL has been applied in many countries of the region in the wake of recent emergencies and industrial accidents.

What we have done – programme highlights

- Implementation of TransApell in Peru. Three major mining companies initiated APELL activities
- Introduction and dissemination of the APELL for Ports methodology in port areas of South America, in collaboration with GTZ and GEF

3. Sustainable Tourism

UNEP supports initiatives in sustainable tourism with governments, NGOs, and academia. Sustainable tourism has great potential for sustainable development.

What we have done – Programme highlights

- Presentation of the book "*Forging Links Between Protected Areas on the Tourism Sector*", prepared by UNEP/DTIE as part of the linking conservation of biodiversity and sustainable tourism at world heritage sites
- Technical assistance to the Tourism Commission of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) for their meeting in Santiago de Chile
 - Organization of *World Tourism Forum for Peace and Sustainable Development* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in partnership with the Government of Brazil, UNESCO, UNDP and the World Tourism Organization. The Forum activities included a side-meeting on Sustainable Tourism Certification
 - Published Roteiros de Charme Association's Guide on Brazil's member hotels with environmental practices

4. *The Ozone Action Programme*

The UNEP Ozone Action Programme for the region assists countries to develop capacities to meet and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer through:

- information exchange
- training workshops
- day-to-day guidance to National Ozone Units and focal points
- institutional strengthening projects
- support and service 3 sub-regional Ozone Officers Networks in the Caribbean, Central and South America

What we have done –programme highlights

- 20 projects on institutional strengthening - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Over 60 activities related to refrigerant management, including capacity building and training in environmentally-sound technologies for the refrigeration sector
- Translation and distribution of training modules in Spanish
- Thematic meetings and Workshops were introduced at both Networks, instead of the traditional follow-up meetings, in 2004 and continued in 2005. This approach is adapted to the needs of the countries and the participation of private sector, tertiary educational institutions, and other Government Officers, in addition to the National Ozone Officers. It was an innovation introduced for awareness and commitment purposes of the main stakeholders of the country
- Public awareness activities - posters and videos, a website in English, media activities (www.tierramerica.net) in English, Spanish and Portuguese, and a CD for children

5. *UNEP Finance Initiative (FI)*

The UNEP FI is a global partnership between UNEP and the financial sector. Over 170 institutions, including banks, insurers and fund managers, work with UNEP to understand the impacts of environmental and social considerations on financial performance.



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What we have done – Programme highlights

- Five Brazilian Financial Institutions adhered to UNEP FI by signing its statements
- Implementation of Brazilian Bank Caixa Economica Federal (CAIXA) Environmental Corporate Policy started. The partnership with UNEP aims at supporting the strengthening of its internal and external management capacities with a larger integration of social and environmental dimensions to projects, management practices, businesses, activities, and corporate decisions of CAIXA.

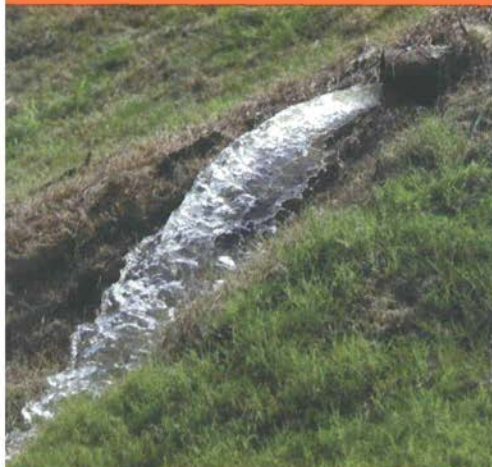
IV Natural resources

UNEP stresses the need to implement the integrated ecosystem management approach in order to ensure the appropriate protection, conservation and sustainable use of the region's rich heritage in biodiversity and natural resources, taking into account that human beings are an integral part of the ecosystems and the improvement of their quality of life in balance with ecosystems protection is the centre of this approach.

LAC participates in initiatives to designate **protected areas** and establish **biological corridors** between them. The corridors aim to ensure that habitats with important biodiversity are not fragmented and that they maintain natural genetic dispersion.

What we have done – programme highlights

- Technical cooperation and capacity building to help reactivate the Latin-American Network of National Parks and Protected Areas, Wild Fauna and Flora, and training activities for Protected Areas officers from LAC countries
- Support for activities under the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor – e.g. in biotrade, environmental certification, and sustainable forestry
- Two workshops for Mesoamerican journalists
- Encouragement of initiatives to establish other corridors, such as:
 - an Amazonian zone and Atlantic Forest corridor in Brazil
 - an Andean corridor
 - a Gulf of Fonseca corridor in Central America
 - a Cocos - Galapagos Marine Corridor



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Activities to combat **desertification and soil degradation**, such as the project to harmonise public policies in the region - an effective mechanism for conservation and improved integrated land and watershed management that targets rural development policies and instruments are undertaken in cooperation with the UNCCD.

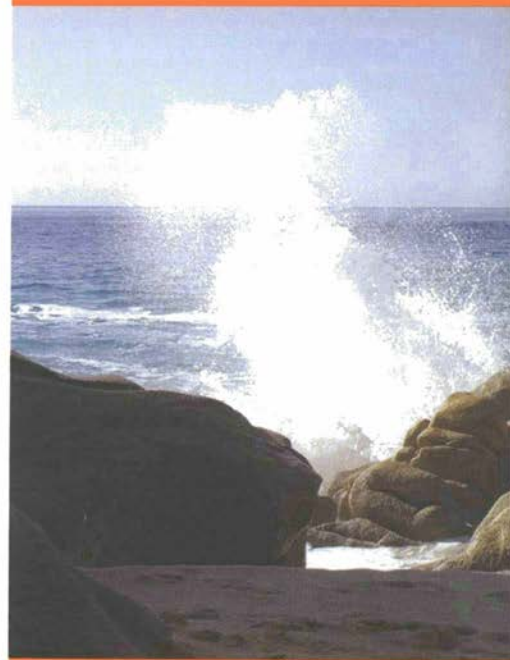
What we have done – Programme highlights

- Public policy studies produced for Barbados, Panama, El Salvador, and Dominican Republic
- Assistance to the Bi-national Border Programme in Haiti and Dominican Republic
- Cooperation with Brazil, Chile and Mexico on a project on indicators of desertification
- Study produced on the state of the principal ecosystems of the region

2. Water management activities – UNEP closely coordinates its activities in this sector with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

What we have done – programme highlights

- Studies on municipal wastewater management in the region produced as part of a Strategic Action Plan
- 12 pilot project proposals prepared for funding - 2 under implementation
- Roundtable on Integrated Water and Ecosystem Management in a Watershed Approach during the 5th Interamerican Water Dialogue
- Activities in coordination with LAC institutions to promote the implementation of rainwater harvesting practices mainly among rural and indigenous communities of LAC
- Studies on legislation, user fees, and sandy beach erosion processes in the Caribbean, as part of the Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats programme
- Organization of GPA Micro-financing Strategy Workshop for the Brazilian Coastal and Marine zones in Rio de Janeiro (2005)
- Support for the preparation of the National GPA Micro-financing Strategy for Brazil and its Action Programme for 2004-2005
- GPA Regional Consultation Workshop in the Caribbean (Panama, January 2004) - identified priority actions and partners for 2004-2006



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- Assistance to Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean to prepare for the review of the Barbados Programme of Action (2004)
- Support to the Dams and Development Project in Mexico and Brazil
- Submitted pilot projects related to the water availability and sanitation targets identified by the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) initiative to improve health and environmental conditions in the Americas
- Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Integrated Management of Basins published for São Francisco River and Pantanal (Brazil) in partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Organization of American States (OAS). The SAP for the Amazon Basin is under preparation, for which the Amazon Treaty of Cooperation Organization (ACTO) joined the partnership

V. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The early achievement of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) – established in 1981 – was the adoption of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, otherwise known as the Cartagena Convention.

The CEP concentrates on implementing the protocols, information management and exchange, and environmental education and training, through UNEP-supported activities, such as:

- promoting the use of renewable energies
- helping mitigate the impacts of climate change and lessen human vulnerability
- working to alleviate water scarcity and improve integrated watershed management
- institutional strengthening and the development of legislation
- supporting the establishment of a climate change centre in Belize – an initial step towards a regional environment programme for the Caribbean



Biodiversity-related conventions

With the adoption of an increasing number of conventions, the need has arisen for them to work more closely together, so that they may be implemented in a more efficient way. UNEP actively supports activities such as harmonizing information management and reporting, which involves strengthening the institutions and focal points of the conventions. A related pilot project is underway in Panama, in cooperation with the UNEP-supported World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

Compliance with and enforcement of MEAs

- Regional Workshops on compliance with and enforcement of MEAs for the English-speaking Caribbean (Kingston, Jamaica, 2003) and for Latin America (Mexico City, March 2005)

VI Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The Caribbean SIDS Programme is an initiative being coordinated by UNEP, as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with partners. It provides a framework within which agencies involved in environmental and sustainable development issues in Caribbean SIDS can do so in a coordinated and complementary manner. It is also intended to reduce duplication in the regions, increase impact through monitoring and evaluation indicators and provide a more effective regional strategy for resource mobilization.

What we have done – programme highlights

- Participation in the Civil Society Forum at the International Meeting of SIDS, Mauritius, January 2005
- Launching of GEO Bahamas, 6 June 2005
- Supervision of the Organic Dominica Project, Sept 26 – Oct 1 and October 7-10 2005
- Organisation of and participation in the Technical Session on the Elaboration of the Biodiversity Partnership Initiatives on “Sustainable Utilization of Non-forest Timber Products” and “The Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Island Biodiversity”, held in Barbados from 25-27 May 2005

The Cartagena Convention.

Entered into force on 11 October 1986

Has three attached protocols on:

- ❖ oil spills,
- ❖ protected areas and wildlife
- Central America's forests are disappearing faster than anywhere else in the world
- ❖ pollution from land-based sources (which account for as much as 90% of all marine pollution)

- Organisation of and participation in the Task Force Meeting for the Partnership Initiative on Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management and the Extended Task Force Meeting of Participating Agencies and Latin American Countries for Enhancing South-South Cooperation between LAC-Countries, held in Barbados on 30 May to 1 June 2005

VII Global Environmental Facility (GEF) activities in Latin America and the Caribbean

GEF priorities in the region

- The sustainable development of small island developing states
- Sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems
- Integration of the environmental perspective into development processes.
- Strengthening the regional environment agenda

Within this framework, UNEP, through the GEF, implements activities in the following areas:

1. Access to genetic resources and equitable Benefit sharing. UNEP/GEF supports national and regional efforts to establish frameworks for access to genetic resources and their equitable sharing
2. Water management. UNEP/GEF supports (i) the sustainable management of coastal aquifers in small island states of the Caribbean; (ii) the integrated management of basins in Latin America and the Caribbean; and (iii) coastal ecosystem management
3. Renewable Energy and Climate Change. UNEP/GEF continues to support the application of new renewable energy technologies in support of the target of a 10% reduction in emissions by 2010
4. Trade and environment. UNEP/GEF supports the establishment of incentives and regulations that promote "green business" throughout Latin America and the Caribbean
5. Biodiversity conservation. With a portfolio of projects growing at a fast pace, UNEP/GEF supports projects that promote the conservation of biodiversity and increasing levels of human development



6. Land degradation. It has become a major problem across the region and has a serious impact on the wellbeing of the population. UNEP/GEF has an expanding portfolio of projects in Central America, the Caribbean and South America that support soil conservation and better land management as means for increased food security and wellbeing of targeted population

Thirty eight new project proposals supporting I-LAC are being developed in these priority areas.

VIII Environmental training

The Environmental Training Network is an early area of UNEP cooperation in the region, established in 1981. Through a trust fund established in 1990 and replenished by annual contributions from governments, the ETN activities support:

- selected regional postgraduate courses on environment and sustainable development
- teacher training
- community-based training
- publication of basic texts and manuals for environmental education
- training workshops information system on environmental education and training activities on trade, environment, and sustainable development

What we have done – programme highlights

- An average of 30 seminars and workshops per year on environment and sustainable development - thousand of professional participants per year
- Pilot training project in Mexico on biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of forests and natural resources by local communities
- Regional training project on trade, environment, and sustainable development started - in cooperation with ECLAC
- Activities for the launching of the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru
- Establishing the organisation basis for the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme on Environmental Education under the general programme of the ETN



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- Production of prototypes of basic texts on environmental education
- Publications of the programme - basic texts and manuals for environmental education and training - also kept in electronic libraries
- Mid-year production, in Spanish and English, of the newsletter *Environmental Training* distributed to over 3,500 institutions and individuals
- *Recent News on Environmental Education* monthly supplement - electronic information services on opportunities for environmental education and training, events, courses, and publications

IX Communication and Public Awareness:

This is the channel by which UNEP makes itself visible in LAC and brings to regional attention matters of environmental importance, encouraging links with governments, civil society, and institutions interested in environmental topics. The UNEP message is put out both in Spanish and English through the printed word, electronic means, and the organisation of events: for example, World Environment Day, and the “Clean up the World Day”, provide ample opportunity for media coverage and information dissemination.

What we have done - programme highlights

- **Public awareness**
 - Daily information Bulletin. Distributed to Ministries, NGOs and over 5,000 subscribers
 - UNEP NEWS - a Monthly bulletin with the activities in the region is produced and widely distributed
 - UNEP/ROLAC web site now has around one hundred and forty thousand (140,000) visits a month
 - The Tierramérica network published a one-page weekly supplement in 26 newspapers in English, Spanish and Portuguese. It has one thousand radio broadcasts and generates 400,000 visits monthly
 - CNN in Spanish continues to show UNEP TV spots daily
 - *Globo Ecologia TV Programme* - 15 minute interview on UNEP activities in Brazil -Globo Ecologia is regularly seen by 6 million persons in Brazil



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- Support to environmental awards in Brazil - Von Martius Environmental Award (Brazil-Germany Chamber of Commerce) and Bayer Young Environmental Envoy (BYEE) and Bayer Environmental Award for Media (BEAM)
- The seventh International Festival of Environmental Films (Goias, Brazil), is sponsored by UNEP
- Fourteen 15-second TV spots in Spanish, English, and Portuguese were sent to the regional Environmental Ministries for distribution
- Two contests were held in 2004-2005: a youth art contest and another on photography were promoted in the region. Thousands of participants from LAC sent in their creations. Two of the global winners were from Latin America
- The web site: www.unu-brasil.org.br publishes press releases on UNEP activities in Portuguese on a regular basis.

➤ Capacity Building

- The Environmental Journalists Network in Latin America and the Caribbean is an important partner. UNEP had supported various activities, some in Chile and Brazil; this network has more than 140 affiliated members, collaborating closely with the regional office in the dissemination of environmental information
- On capacity building, four workshops for journalists were held in 2004 (Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico) in collaboration with the Ministries of Environment. The issues were on the environmental situation in LAC and new information technologies
- A project on capacity building for operators of videocassette libraries was initiated

➤ Events

- The celebration of WED 2005 resulted in an increase of activities and media coverage in the region.
- The "Clean up the World Day 2004" activity included the participation of more than 60 divers and 400 volunteers; it took place in the Chapultepec Forest of Mexico City. The event was organized by UNEP, the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), the Secretaries of Environment and Culture of Mexico City, and many environmental NGO's



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- The Art and Environment Week has been an important public awareness raising tool in Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, Panama and in Central America. This exhibit contains environmental movies, posters, pictures, paintings and cartoons
- During the celebration of the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Art and Environment Week show took place in Bogota, as well as in other cities of Colombia
- In Mexico alone, 400,000 people visited the art show in Guadalajara, Mexico City; Cautla, Tlaxcala, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosi, and Monterrey
- For the third consecutive year, the Reforma Newspaper published a special supplement on World Environment Day in collaboration with UNEP. More than 100,000 copies were printed.
- UNEP is well represented at several book fairs in Mexico including at Guadalajara, the most important book fair in Spanish-speaking countries, and at Palacio de Minería, in Mexico City.

X CIVIL SOCIETY

UNEP continues to promote civil society participation in the region through the Global Environmental Citizenship (GEC) Project, financed by the GEF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as well as by the governments of Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and six civil society networks. Through this GEF-funded project that began in 2003, UNEP seeks to increase the understanding of environmental issues and to mobilize support for GEF programmes in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, ozone layer and water.

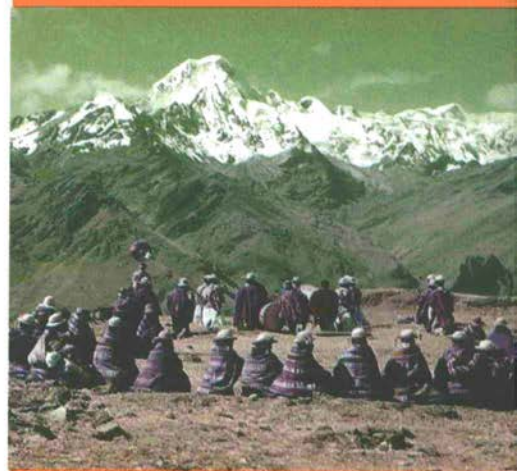
What we have done – recent programme highlights

- Six implementing networks were organised with: parliamentarians, consumer organizations, local authorities, educators, radio broadcasters, and religious leaders, in collaboration with the governments of seven different countries
- Seven national Coordination Committees were established comprised of one member of each of the networks whose main responsibility is to agree on national activities according to the networks' plans in the region

- Adaptation and production of educational and information materials, including four thematic manuals: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Ozone Layer and Water and one training manual for each of the project networks
- Training and technical assistance in the project's priority areas
- Special activities with the State of Mexico such as development of local Agenda 21
- Public awareness raised - radio and TV spots, articles in Tierramérica, and GEC Web site, including a Forum for Discussions
- **Where we are going – the way forward**
- Support the organisation of national workshops for each of the networks in the project's priority areas.
- Monthly supplements for consumers on the global environmental impacts of products and services to be inaugurated
- National organizations (such as the national councils for citizen participation) to be linked to the project to increase attention to GEF themes
- Mechanisms for dialogue and interaction between networks and government authorities are being established.

Others Activities with Civil Society

- The Regional Meeting of Civil Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, in preparation for the Ninth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Dubai, February 2006, was held in Caracas, Venezuela on 29 & 30 October 2005, in which more that 47 organizations from the civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean participated
- Five representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the Global Youth Retreat (Nairobi, Kenya, 14 to 18 February 2005)
- Eleven representatives of Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the second Tunza International Youth Conference from 12 to 18 October 2005, in Bangalore, India
- The GEO Project for Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean supported a capacity building workshop in Argentina (Buenos Aires, Argentina; 21 to 23 March 2005)



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GEO for Youth

in Latin America and the Caribbean



open your eyes to the environment



OXFORD

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- Members of the GEO Network for Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean met at the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Leadership Summit (Belo Horizonte, Brazil; 12 to 16 May 2005) to discuss progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals
- As part of the activities of the GEO Project for Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean, a pilot capacity building programme based on the GEO for Youth Capacity Building Manual was launched in Mexico City on 26 February 2005
- Training workshops for journalists were held and support was given to strengthening the Network of Environmental Journalists of Latin America and the Caribbean. (Argentina, Cuba, Chile and Mexico)
- Expansion of the Network of Environmental Videocassette Libraries continues, presently with a total of 18 countries of the region. Operators have been trained in each country
- UNEP organized a training course on environmental legislation for 70 agrarian judges from across Mexico, in response to a request by the Mexican Agrarian Supreme Court
- Study on legal policies, legislation and institutional arrangements in the coastal zones of the wider Caribbean – includes Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, and Jamaica

XI Local Authorities Network for Environmental Management in Latin America and Caribbean Cities

This Network was created in October 2001 and includes to date 150 cities of the region. It is one of the results of the Metropolitan Environmental Show that took place in the Metropolitan Area of the Valley of Mexico, and which was attended by local environmental authorities of Latin American and Caribbean cities.

What we have done

- Publication of a digital magazine *“Urban Environmental Management”* together with the Universidad Libre de Medio Ambiente of Curitiba
- Organisation of the Fourth Seminar/Fair of the Network held in Panama City with the participation of authorities members of the network.
- Organisation, jointly with ECLAC of the first distance course *“Foundations for sustainable urban environmental management”*.

Annex I

UNEP partners in the region

- ❖ United Nations organizations and agencies
- ❖ Governments of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ❖ Inter-Agency Technical Committee of the Forum of Ministries of Environment, United Nations Development Programme – UNDP, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – ECLAC, Inter-American Development Bank – IDB, World Bank - WB

Sub-regional organizations

- ❖ Andean Community of Nations,
- ❖ Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- ❖ Central American Commission for Environment and Development
- ❖ Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)

Other organizations

- ❖ Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias
- ❖ Agencia de Prensa IPS
- ❖ Asociación Latinoamericana de Derecho Ambiental
- ❖ Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Sustainable Development
- ❖ Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)
- ❖ Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe (CATHALAC)
- ❖ Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)
- ❖ Centro Interdisciplinario de Biodiversidad y Ambiente (CEIBA)
- ❖ Consejo de la Tierra
- ❖ Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias
- ❖ Consumers International
- ❖ Fundación Rigoberta Menchú
- ❖ International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance
- ❖ Organización Panamericana de la Salud
- ❖ Parlamento Latinoamericano (PARLATINO)
- ❖ Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza
- ❖ Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México (UACM)
- ❖ World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- ❖ World Bank Institute (WBI)

- ❖ World Resources Institute, EU (WRI)
- ❖ Latin-American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO)
- ❖ WWF Brazil
- ❖ Greenpeace Brazil
- ❖ Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV)
- ❖ Brazil-Germany Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Brazilian Institute of Municipal Administration (IBAM)
- ❖ Religion Studies Institute (ISER)



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For further Information contact:

UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Boulevard de los Virreyes 155, Lomas de Virreyes,
CP 11000, Mèxico, D.F.,
MEXICO

Tel: (+52) 5 202-6394 and 5 202-4841
Fax: (52) 5 202-0950
E-mail: ricardo.sanchez@pnuma.org

Design/Layout: Division of Communications and Public Information (DCPI)

www.unep.org

United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254 20) 7621234
Fax: (254 20) 7623927
E-mail: unepub@unep.org
web: www.unep.org



Division of Regional Cooperation
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean