



Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Rio Principle 10 in the Caribbean Region

Hyatt Regency Trinidad Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 16-17 September 2013
Preliminary Programme

This workshop is part of the Eye on Earth Special Initiative "Access for All"



Background

Strengthening effective engagement of all stakeholders in environmental decision-making is considered an important pre-requisite of sustainable development. **Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration** ("Rio Principle 10") was adopted at the 1992 Rio Summit by Heads of State and Government with the goal to strengthen access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

This was reaffirmed in the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA) in 1994 and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (MSI) (2005).

In February 2010 a milestone was achieved in the field of environmental law and application of Principle 10 when the Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council, Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) in Bali, Indonesia, unanimously adopted the '**Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**' (Bali Guidelines). These Guidelines seek to assist countries in filling possible gaps in their respective relevant national legislation, and -where relevant and appropriate- in sub-national legal norms and regulations at the State or district levels etc., to facilitate broad access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. Responding to country requests for capacity development for Principle 10 implementation and implementation of the Bali Guidelines, UNEP and UNITAR have launched a 2-year joint global capacity development initiative, including a regional workshop component. The project is part of the "Access for All" Special Initiative an initiative endorsed at the 2011 Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi.

In the preparations and during the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (**Rio+20**) Governments and stakeholder groups have pointed to the need for global, regional and national steps to enhance implementation of Principle 10. As a result, **The Declaration on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean** was signed in the framework of the Rio +20 Conference. In the Declaration, the signatory countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay, committed to develop a Plan of Action to 2014, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as Technical Secretariat, to advance the achievement of a regional instrument on the rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice, which enshrines Rio Principle 10.

In view of the above mentioned developments, UNEP, UNITAR, ECLAC and others have joined forces to cooperatively support the development of Principle 10 and the application of the Bali Guidelines in Latin America and the Caribbean. This workshop presents a joint effort to raise awareness among countries in the region on Principle 10, the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 in LAC and the Bali Guidelines and will be followed by targeted activities to assist interested and committed countries to implement the Bali Guidelines at the national level.

While Caribbean SIDS are currently involved in preparations for the Third Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (to be held in September 2014) as well as on the definition of a post-2015 development agenda, the workshop will be an opportunity to review progress made 10 years after the MSI and 20 years after the BPOA were adopted, with regard with public participation, access to information and access to justice in the Caribbean region. It is expected that the outcomes of the Workshop will feed into the regional processes in preparation for the global meeting to be held in 2014.

The workshop will target all relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

Workshop Objectives

- Review progress made 10 years after the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI) and 20 years after the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) with regard to public participation, access to information and access to justice in the Caribbean region and identify challenges being faced by Caribbean SIDS
- Take stock and identify key issues for effective implementation of Principle 10 in the region
- Introduce and discuss relevance of the *Guidelines for Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (Bali Guidelines).
- Introduce and discuss the relevance of the LAC Principle 10 Declaration for regional Principle 10 application
- Exchange good practices and lessons learned for the three pillars of Principle 10 (public participation, access to information, access to Justice)
- Identify opportunities for action, capacity development and networking
- Identify countries needs for the implementation of the Bali Guidelines

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Cite good practices of Principle 10 implementation in the region
- Analyze key provisions of the Bali Guidelines and their relevance for national legislation
- Initiate steps and support action for national follow-up
- Participate effectively in international processes related to Principle 10 implementation

Preliminary Program

Day 1:

9.00h – 9.40h: Welcome Remarks and Inauguration of the Workshop

- Alexander Juras, Chief of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, Division of Regional Cooperation, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (on behalf of UNEP and UNITAR)
- Diane Quarless, Director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Carole Excell, Senior Associate, The Access Initiative, World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Hon. Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago (TBC)

9.40h – 10.30h: Workshop Objectives and Methodology and Introduction of Participants

- Achim Halpaap, Associate Director, Training Department, Head Environment Unit, UNITAR

10.30h – 10.45h: Coffee break

Session 1 : International and Regional Context of Principle 10

Objective: Provide an overview of Principle 10 relevant international and regional developments and related perspectives of governments and key stakeholders (1992 Rio Declaration, Bali Guidelines, Aarhus Convention, Principle 10 LAC Declaration)

10.45h – 12.30h: Panel discussion: Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992 within the context of implementation of the BPoA and MSI

- Presentation by Carlos de Miguel (ECLAC) and Mark Griffith (UNEP)
- Presentation by Hon. Justice Winston Anderson, Caribbean Court of Justice

Panellists:

Peter Mitchell, Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago

Danielle Andrade, Jamaica Environmental Trust

Peter A. Murray, Organization of Eastern Caribbean

- Open discussion

12.30h – 14.00h Lunch Break

Session 2 : Identifying Good Practices and Lessons in the Region

Objective: For the key pillars of Principle 10 - information, participation, justice - provide case illustration, identify good practices and implementation challenges in countries in the region and introduce legal guidance contained in the Bali Guidelines

14h – 16.00: Theme 1: Access to Information

- Brief introduction to relevant provisions of the Bali Guidelines and the Bali Guideline Implementation Handbook (Stephen Stec)
- The Legal basis for access to information on environmental matters in the Caribbean (Carolle Excell, WRI)
- Open Discussion
- Working groups to identify good practices and implementation challenges , with the objective to define key elements of regional benchmarks

16.00h – 16.15h: Coffee break

16.15h – 18.00h Theme 2: Public Participation

- Brief introduction to relevant provisions of the Bali Guidelines (Stephen Stec)
- The legal basis for public participation in environmental matters in the Caribbean (Melinda Janki, Justice Institute Guyana)
- Open Discussion
- Working groups to identify good practices and implementation challenges, with the objective to define key elements of regional benchmarks

18.00h – 18.30h: Reporting to Plenary (Summary of Working Group Discussion, Theme 1 and Theme 2)

Day 2

Session 2 (cont.)

9.00h – 11.00h: Theme 3: Access to Justice

- Brief introduction to relevant provisions of the Bali Guidelines and the Rio + 20 Declaration on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability (Andrea Brusco, UNEP)
- The Legal basis for access to justice in environmental matters in the Caribbean and effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy judicial and administrative proceedings (Hon. Justice Winston Anderson, Caribbean Court of Justice)
- Open discussion
- Working groups to identify good practices and implementation challenges , with the objective to define key elements of regional benchmarks

11.00h – 11.15h Reporting in Plenary

11.15h – 11.30h: Coffee break

11.30h – 13.00: Theme 4: Regional Cooperation on Principle 10 implementation

- The LAC Principle 10 Declaration (Constance Nalegach, Government of Chile, President of the Presiding Officer of the Principle 10 Declaration)
- The Aarhus Convention: Experiences with a regional instrument in the ECE region (Theodore Koukis, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UNECE)
- Open discussion

13.00h – 14.00h Lunch Break

Session 3: Advancing National Action and Capacity Development

Objective: Explore opportunities for national action and capacity development to effectively implement Principle 10 at the national level, addressing also regional synergies

14.00h – 15.45h Panel Discussion: Knowledge-sharing from Principle 10 Capacity Development Initiatives in the Region

Facilitator: Derrick Odersson

- Princess Gordon, focal point of the Government of Jamaica and coordinator of the working group on capacity building and cooperation , Principle 10 Declaration
- Loiza Rauzduel, CANARI, Trinidad and Tobago
- Open Discussion

16.00h – 17.30: National Implementation of the Bali Guidelines: Opportunities for Capacity Development Support (Achim Halpaap/UNITAR and Alexander Juras/UNEP)

- Presentation by UNITAR (Achim Halpaap)
- Questions and Answers

Session: 4: Conclusion and Follow-up Action

17.30h – 18.00h: Review key outcomes of the workshop discussion and identify recommendations for follow-up/Workshop Closure

- Open discussion in plenary
- Workshop evaluation
- Workshop closure

The United Nations Environment Programme

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The United Nations Program for Environment has the task of leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples ways of improving the quality of life without compromising those of future generations.

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) located in Panama City works closely with the 33 countries of the region - including 16 small island developing States, with a population of about 588 million people. The office works to serve the needs of the region and its activities are integrated into the work programs approved by the Governing Council of UNEP.



The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

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ECLAC, which is headquartered in Santiago, Chile, is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Its purpose is to contribute to the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world.

In June 1951, the Commission established the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico City, which serves the needs of the Central American subregion, and in December 1966, the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean was founded in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, ECLAC maintains country offices in Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Montevideo and Bogotá, as well as a liaison office in Washington, D.C.



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