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**Report of the Follow up on the Decisions of the XXI Meeting of the Forum of
Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Follow up on decisions - XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

I. Introduction

1. The XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-12 October 2018.
2. In this session, the ministers followed up on the agreements signed at the XX Meeting of the Forum, which took place in Cartagena, Colombia, in March 2016.
3. The ministers addressed priority issues of the 33 countries of the region, and agreed on 4 main priority areas by adopting a decision on Chemicals, Marine Litter and Waste management; Climate Change; Sustainable Consumption And Production: Decoupling Economic Growth From Resource Use And Environmental Impact; and Innovative Solutions to Enhance the Benefits of Biodiversity and Ecosystems.
4. The ministers also adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration, which underscores and highlights other important initiatives and approaches for the region including, gender mainstreaming, the 2030 Agenda, the work of the working group on environmental indicators, the implementation of the Paris Agreement among others.
5. Also, as a novelty of the past meeting of the Forum, there were a number of initiatives and priority areas, that, since they were not agreed upon or adopted as decisions of forum, it was agreed by the meeting to capture them as initiatives proposed by countries of the region, and they were included as annexes to the Report of the Meeting of the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment. These priorities are: 1. Gender mainstreaming, Electric Mobility; Green Climate Fund Access; Involvement of private sector in environmental agenda; and Climate Change in marine and coastal ecosystems.
6. Following is a brief narrative on the progress made under each of the adopted decisions.

II. Implemented actions

DECISION 1. CHEMICALS, MARINE LITTER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste

7. Following the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, countries were encouraged to express their interest in being part of the Steering Committee of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for the period 2019-2020. The composition of the Steering Committee was completed during first half of 2019, with the following composition: Mesoamerica: Costa Rica -vice-chair- and Honduras; Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda and Dominican Republic; Andean: Ecuador and Peru; Southern Cone: Argentina -Chair- and Brazil.
8. During this period, the work of the Network has been presented and promoted in different fora, such as the BRS COPs regional preparatory meeting (Montevideo, Uruguay, February 2019), or the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting (Puerto Varas, Chile, August 2019). Advocacy actions have also been conducted by the Chair and vice-chair of the Steering Committee to enlarge the membership of the Network with non-governmental organizations, as well as to leverage resources to support implementation of the Action Plan.

9. In relation to the implementation of the Action Plan 2019-2020, all focal points and relevant organizations were invited to identify potential activities or projects that are related with the actions included in the Action Plan, which are planning to implement, or willing to lead or co-organize. As a result, several countries and organizations expressed interest to contribute/be engaged in a total of 31 activities (out of the total 33 activities), thus facilitating the detailed planning and initiate the implementation of some activities.

10. By August 2019, a progress report on the implementation of the Plan, as prepared by the Monitoring Subcommittee (Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru), was circulated to all focal points. By then, a total of 4 actions had been completed, while 8 were in development or partially completed, and 21 remained to be initiated. The completed actions had been joined by around 430 face-to-face participants and 82 online participants.

Marine litter

11. A range of activities to reduce marine litter have been conducted at national level throughout the region, namely in the Caribbean, where 70-85% of marine litter comes from land, and most of it consists of plastics. Numerous governments are taking action. Currently, more than 18 territories have banned single-use plastics or Styrofoam products, while three countries have introduced bans at local levels, two have announced bans to begin in 2020 and 2021, 14 are discussing it within government and 4 have begun public consultations. Countries in Latin America have adopted similar measures, such as the entry into force of the ban of plastic bags in Panama, or recent regulations adopted in Peru.

12. During the last United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), the Clean Seas Campaign had 3 new signatories (Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, and Paraguay), which raised the number of Latin American and Caribbean signatories to 20.

13. Pilot interventions are also taking place. For instance, an effort to reduce the volume of single-use plastics in the Caribbean is being implemented in Dominican Republic and St. Lucia under the global project *Transforming Tourism Value Chains in developing countries and small island states for more resource efficient and low-carbon development*. The project has mapped the tourism value chains, identified key stakeholders and established an on-going communication and collaboration with more than 20 hotels, tourism associations and technical partners in both countries. The capacity of the industry to phase out single-use plastics will be improved by identifying and recommending sustainable procurement and eco-innovative solutions, proposing on the best waste management practices in the sector and raising awareness among the tourism sector on the environmental impacts generated by single-use plastics in the Caribbean.

Waste Management

14. In accordance with Decision 1, UN Environment invited all governments in the region and relevant organizations to express interest in joining the *Voluntary coalition of governments and relevant organizations for the progressive closure of dumpsites and the effective transition towards the integrated waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean*. By August 2019, a total of 10 governments had already joined the Coalition and nominated focal points, who were invited to a constitutive meeting that took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 10-11 September 2019.

15. During the meeting, the objectives, organization structure, and working framework of the Coalition were agreed, as well as the main elements and actions of the Work Plan 2019-2020. In relation to the organizational structure, a Steering Committee

has been established, comprised by government focal points and other relevant organizations, which will be supported by the Secretariat.

16. The Action Plan includes the development of the roadmap for the progressive closure of dumpsites in the region, as well as the development of technical and financial guidelines, capacity building, and information exchange activities.

17. At national level, several countries have adopted additional measures to promote waste prevention and recycling, such as the approval in September 2019 of the law on integrated waste management in Uruguay.

18. At subregional level, the Caribbean Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan will be addressed at the 3rd High Level Forum on Waste Management (St. Kitts & Nevis, 16-17 October 2019).

19. Capacity building activities have also been conducted within the framework of the University Consortium for sustainable waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean, including certificate courses in Chile and Panama. Additional trainings are being organized in Trinidad & Tobago and Mexico.

Delegates at the intersessional meeting may wish to comment and reflect on the following related issues:

- a) Mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation on chemicals and waste: potential support from countries and organizations to facilitate implementation of the Action Plan 2019-2020 and feedback on the progress to date; guidance to the Secretariat and Steering Committee of the Intergovernmental Network on the process and considerations to prepare the Action Plan 2021-2022, to be submitted at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.
- b) Marine litter and microplastics: countries may wish to reflect on national steps taken to prevent marine litter and reduce plastic waste at source (e.g. Belize could share on its recently launched Marine Litter Action Plan. Countries could inform on recent developments to ban single-use plastics (e.g. Panama, Peru, others...), and reflect on lessons learnt in implementing related policies and regulations, as well as suggest mechanisms for regional exchange of information and concerted action.
- c) Waste Management: countries shall be encouraged to join the Voluntary Coalition for the progressive closure of dumpsites, support its work plan, as well as reflect and provide guidance on the scope and elements of the roadmap that will be prepared for the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. A report on the outcomes of the 3rd High Level Forum on Waste Management in the Caribbean may be provided by the representative from St. Kitts & Nevis.

DECISION 2. CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional cooperation on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and Long-Term Strategies (LTS)

20. In response to the mandate of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Buenos Aires, UN Environment geared to dedicate its resources to supporting cooperation on NDCs and LTSs from a regional perspective through the LAC Center for Transparency. Support over the last year has included working to advance common technological, methodological, and conceptual frameworks for the consolidation of transparency practice in LAC as a critical element to support NDCs and LTS regional learning. The Center has allocated its resources to provide countries with technical support in the development of policies to establish the guidelines and strengthen the instruments allowing:

- a) Provision of technical advice for NDC implementation and subsequent gathering of lessons learned.
- b) Track progress, account and update of NDCs sharing outcomes and supporting peer learning.
- c) Strengthen the long-term planning exercises and link 2030 efforts with the 2050 vision to ensure coordination in implementing the Paris Agreement, SDGs and domestic policies in each country.
- d) Guide the financing of climate action and enable new sources of investment to promote climate action and track climate policies.

21. UN Environment is promoting regional collaboration on NDC and LTS based on the best practices and the key results obtained on each country and through the exchanges between experts in the region and worldwide. It has also promoted technical knowledge exchanges through regional workshops (during the Latin American and Caribbean Climate Week) and regular webinars. In addition it has supported 12 countries in the region to access resources in the framework of the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru) and is in the process to develop programmes in Bahamas, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago. All these projects include a South-South cooperation component to enhance regional cooperation and lessons learned.

Climate innovation: strategies and policies on clean technology, sustainable urban mobility and transport

22. Following the direction of the Forum of Ministers a landmark report will be launched during the UNFCCC's COP25 in Chile titled "Zero Carbon Latin America and the Caribbean". The report will focus on actions on the innovations required to achieve decarbonization of the power and transport sectors by 2050. It will showcase several innovative examples of decarbonization developments in the region, including policies and technologies stimulating the exchange of information and experiences among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

23. Secondly, a technical cooperation project related to distributed solar in Panama and Colombia is starting implementation with support from the Spanish Government. This initiative is based on successful experiences from Mexico and will contribute to the establishment of financing and implementation frameworks for the scale-up of distributed

solar generation in these countries and to promote regional cooperation on this technology.

24. Thirdly, UN Environment through the MOVE platform has provided capacity building to a network of more than 600 technical public officers from the region by showcasing state-of-the-art technology trends and lessons learned from pioneering countries. Furthermore, it launches annual status reports on electric mobility in the region. The 2018 version was launched during the COP24 in Katowice focusing on the potential of regional collaboration for the advancement of electric mobility. Similarly, the 2019 version of this report will be launched during the COP25.

25. The first “Workshop on Electric Mobility Legislation” was co-organized by UN Environment, Globe International and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile Region IV, with the participation of legislators from nine Latin American countries. The event created a space to exchange experiences and knowledge between peer legislators and establish a regional network for future collaboration. Moreover, in 2018 UN Environment published a practical guideline for the development of national electric mobility strategies. Since then, with support from Euroclima+ Programme and the Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency (AECID for its initials in Spanish), UN Environment has assisted countries from the region to formulate their own national electric mobility strategies, including Panama and Colombia and Argentina. Paraguay used the guidelines to develop its strategy with support from the Inter-American Development Bank. Over the next year, a new regional programme including 10 countries of the region is expected to be launched with cooperation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Adaptation measures

26. An online community of practice for adaptation planning has been supporting the region through regular online training and face to face workshops for both Latin American and Caribbean countries. Adaptation planning finance has been or is in the process of being catalyzed for Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama and Paraguay. In addition, sub-regional regional adaptation initiatives catalyzing international climate funding being developed for Central American and Andean countries. Lessons learned from adaptation initiatives under implementation in El Chaco region in Paraguay could be upscaled in El Chaco regions of Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil.

27. Support to the development of adaptation indicators have been provided though the inclusion of development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks at national level in the adaptation planning project proposals for Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador (Paraguay and Panama proposals are being drafted); the inclusion of specific sessions on adaptation monitoring frameworks and indicators in the 5 face-to-face workshops on adaptation planning organized during 2016-2019; and the organization of specific webinars on adaptation monitoring and indicators under the REGATTA knowledge management activities (Communities of Practice on Ecosystem based adaptations and National Adaptation Plans-NAP).

28. The Centre for Climate Transparency is also supporting the development of adaptation metrics in 3 countries in the region (Chile, Perú and Paraguay) under the CBIT initiative (GEF's Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency).

Regional collaboration platform

29. Capacity building, south-south cooperation and knowledge management activities in line with the priorities of the Regional Platform for Cooperation on Climate Change have been promoted through existing platforms, such as REGATTA (with support for the Government of Spain) and Euroclima+ (with support from the UE).

30. The REGATTA initiative has focused specially on supporting knowledge management activities for the development of NAPs, NDC and LTS capacity building, as well as through supporting the webinars platform of electric mobility. Euroclima+ focused on promoting Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) by supporting the implementation of the "Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Andes" and developing a political dialogue, methodologies and tools for the integration of EbA in urban planning. The Center for Transparency and the MOVE Platform are supported both by the Spanish Cooperation and the European Union through the Euroclima+ initiative. In addition, these initiatives have started coordination efforts with other agencies and initiatives active in the region in order to avoid duplication of efforts, such as GIZ, AECID, International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIAPP for its initials in Spanish), Agence Francaise de Développement (AFD) and the Interamerican Development Bank (IADB).

DECISION 3. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: DECOUPLING ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM RESOURCE USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Implementation of the 10YFP and the Regional Strategy on SCP

31. In relation to the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), UN Environment has invited all governments in the region to update their representatives to the Executive Committee and Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP. It is expected to confirm the members of the Committee at the Intersessional meeting.

32. The Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)/One Planet Network invited National Focal Points (NFP) to report progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.1 – which refers to the national implementation of the 10YFP – through an online platform available in the website of the One Planet Network. This will collect information on national policies contributing to the SCP and will be shared at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. By September 2019, 2 informative webinars have been organized with the participation of national focal points from the region.

33. At the national level, Argentina, with the support of the 10YFP, is advancing in the development of its National Strategy on SCP.

34. Recently, as a continuous commitment to SCP, many Latin-American and Caribbean countries are interested in, are developing, or have already developed their national circularity/green economy strategies and/or action plans. UN Environment together with other organizations like the World Economic Forum, the Ellen McArthur Foundation or the Konrad Adenauer Foundation have intensified their efforts to promote a common and coherent approach on circular economy to the region. As part of these efforts emerge the proposal of setting up a Regional Coalition on Circular Economy (including social, economic and environmental circularity) to facilitate cross-country

collaboration, sharing knowledge, best practices and opening a space for a stronger participation of the private sector.

35. Regarding the mandate to develop regional *SWITCH* programmes on SCP, a first high-level mission took place in November 2018, with Barbados, UNEP and the European Union Delegation for the Caribbean to start the dialogue for the development of a potential Switch Caribbean Programme. UNEP participated in the Annual Coordination meeting of *SWITCH* Programmes and Barbados presented the interest for a *SWITCH* Caribbean at a *SWITCH* side event during UNEA-4.

International Resource Panel

36. In accordance with the request made by the Ministers of Environment at the Regional Forum and thanks to the support of the German Government (GIZ), the Global Alliance on Sustainable Buildings and the International Resource Panel (IRP) will support the regionalisation of the IRP report on “The Weight of Cities”. This will include regional consultations and outreach meetings to prepare an assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective of this report is to support science-based decision making on resource efficient and low carbon urban development and planning.

Sustainable, Efficient, Resilient and Inclusive Cities

37. Countries have advanced in the development of a Sustainable Cities Platforms, including monitoring frameworks of indicators aligned to the SDGs. A South-South Cooperation workshop was organised (Buenos Aires, June 2019) with government representatives from Argentina and Mexico and civil society actors from Colombia and Brazil.

38. The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC) in cooperation with the international Energy Agency, Global Green Building Council, and World Resources Institute, is preparing a Regional Roadmap for Latin America and the Caribbean. It will address technical guidance and policy recommendations in topics such as urban planning, new buildings, retrofits, systems, operations, materials, resilience and clean energy. By September 2019, 2 informative webinars have been organized with the participation of representatives from national governments, private sector and academia.

Innovative and sustainable business

39. Responding to the decision of the Forum to work on innovative and sustainable business, through the project “Driving Sustainable Consumption in Latin America with Better Product Information and Design” (ICSAL Project). The project has regional activities and national implementation in 3 countries: Colombia, México and Costa Rica. This includes delivering capacity building workshops and technical assistance to private sector on sustainable product design and eco-innovation and consumer information and the development of a regional ecolabelling “Sello Ambiental Americas”.

40. At the national level, the project Resource Efficiency through the Application of Life Cycle Thinking (REAL) finalized successfully in September 2019 with the support of 2 pilot projects in Nicaragua and Guatemala to improve resource efficiency in coffee and palm oil value chains using life cycle and eco-innovation approaches.

41. Work has been done also in the tourism sector in the Caribbean. The project “Transforming Tourism Value Chains (TTVC) in developing countries and small island states for more resource efficient and low-carbon development” is being implemented in Dominican Republic and St. Lucia. By August 2019, each country has launched their respective national action plans that sets the actions required to reduce Greenhouse

Gas (GHG) emissions and improve resource efficiency in the accommodation sector. Furthermore, the project has built local institutional and networking alliances, and provided capacity building sessions to more than 90 business and other relevant stakeholders in both countries to support the implementation of activities and the monitoring on resource efficiency performance.

42. In synergy with Decision 1 Chemicals, marine litter and waste management, a project pilot to phase out single-use plastics in the Caribbean is being implemented. To date, in both countries more than 20 hotel chains have been engaged and have expressed their interest to reduce the volume of single-use plastics in their value chains by adopting sustainable purchasing practices and eco-innovative solutions.

Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-Labeling (SPPEL).

43. The Environmental Alliance of America (“Sello Ambiental America”) was officially constituted in September 2019 by Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico. The initiative for the development of a regional eco-label is open for all countries in the region. The Alliance has been presented in regional and national forums and bilateral meetings with other Latin America and Caribbean countries have taken place to expand the influence. This process is supported by the project *Driving sustainable consumption in Latin America with better product information and design* (ICSAL Project). Governments, standardization and accreditation bodies in Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico are receiving capacity building and technical assistance to strengthen their national labelling infrastructure.

44. On the other hand, following the results of the SPPEL Project and the recommendations of the report *“Green Growth in the Pacific Alliance”*, resources from Norwegian Government were mobilized to support the implementation of a project on Sustainable Public Procurement with the Caribbean and the Pacific Alliance.

45. At the national level, the Government of Chile launched in January 2019 the National Sustainable Public Procurement Action Plan together with technical guidelines for the development of SPP criteria.

46. The Government of Peru launched in May 2019 the Peruvian Life Cycle Assessment Database with the aim of increasing the use of LCA data in public policy development and private sector. Furthermore, Peru conducted LCA studies for strategic sectors and priority products for SPP that resulted in the identification of opportunities of GHG mitigations to be integrated in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as, in the development of SPP criteria for 4 products.

Sustainable Lifestyles and Education

47. In synergy with the Decision 3 “Environmental Education” of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean 2016 Cartagena, the Environmental Training Network Annual Meeting 2019 was held from the 1 to 3 of July, in Quito Ecuador. It gathered 13 directors of environmental education of the ministries of the environment and concluded with the approval of the Work Plan 2019-2020, the consolidation of synergies with sustainable lifestyles and recommendations on environmental education.

DECISION 4. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Regional Cooperation Program for Biodiversity

48. There is progress in the development of a preliminary proposal for the creation of a platform for the exchange of relevant information and a Working Group has been formed, led by Costa Rica, and which has the participation of Cuba, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Uruguay, to advance in the design of this Strategy.

49. The objective of the regional programme is (I) Strengthen the institutional capacities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to integrate (mainstream) considerations on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in different productive sectors of the countries, including fishing, agriculture, energy, and others prioritized according to national particularities; (II) Promote, improve and facilitate the communication and exchange of information between authorities and focal points on biodiversity and ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean countries.

50. In 2020, the Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that guides towards a 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”. This regional programme aims to assist countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region to be identify and establish common positions towards the negotiations to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in association with relevant partners such as the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs)

51. The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAP) continue to be an important platform for prioritizing biodiversity and ecosystems in countries. There is an increase in the understanding of how sustainable use of biodiversity can boost the creation of new industries, employment opportunities, and boost national economic diversification. In this sense, there is an increase in the support of Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects for the development and review of NBSAPs in the countries of the region.

52. In particular, the review of the NBSAPs aim to highlight the importance of the SDGs in biodiversity strategies, as a way to influence and inform National Development Plans, by aligning the actions towards the achievement of targets beyond conservation, integrating productive sectors. Currently, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Venezuela are in the process of reviewing the NBSAP, with more countries to be assisted in the region.

GEF Biosafety Project Panama

53. The GEF Biosafety Panama project has carried out important activities for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol during this period. Efforts are being made to create an updated legal framework, and all the necessary training for its implementation in the country, in addition to the implementation of a Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for transparency and presentation of everything that has to do with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).

Decade for Ecosystems Restoration

54. The 2021-2030 has been declared the United Nations Decade for the Ecosystems Restoration, a proposal of the Government of El Salvador and the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA for its initials in Spanish), in which countries in the region will take actions for the restoration of degraded ecosystems through efficient productive system, including sustainable agriculture practices.

55. Developing regional strategy on restoration led by UN Environment will consolidate ongoing work and develop new actions through a nature-based solution and a landscape approach that addresses environmental degradation and destructive activities, contributing to remove huge amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The strategy will propose the prioritization of buffer zones to protected areas, in which productive activities related to sustainable use of biodiversity can be developed, with an emphasis on Biotrade, and the empowerment of indigenous population and women. It will include sustainable financing through a mix of private, blended and public capitals, building on experiences in other regional projects such as the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and the Amazon Vision projects.

56. A joint proposal with the Climate Change subprogramme of UN Environment's Programme of Work, has been submitted for discussion in the framework of the EUROCLIMA+ Programme, titled Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development in the Amazon, with the goal of strengthening the regional vision towards securing the natural capital for resilient development of the Amazon through a landscape approach, which recognizes and values the ecosystem services of the Amazon in productive sectors, and the livelihoods of indigenous people and local communities, in the context of climate vulnerability.

Blue Economy

57. The Blue Economy Summit took place in Roatan, Honduras from 6-7 June, addressing key areas of importance to Caribbean countries, from ocean contribution to the 2030 Agenda and poverty eradication, innovative solutions for integrated management and sustainable use of marine resources, harnessing natural capital of marine and coastal ecosystems, sustainable consumption and production / integrated public policies, to harnessing a sustainable blue economy approach for a climate-resilience future.

58. Several proposals related to Blue Economy are underway by UN Environment. These focus on building an integrated enabling framework for sustainable blue economy, facilitating the integration of natural capital and cross-sectoral considerations into policies and planning across all relevant sectors. Application of sectoral area-based measures, nature-based approaches, and macro-economic incentives, with the private sector actors to facilitate and incentivize the shift towards sustainable economic activities.

59. A GEF proposal for the Marine Corridor of the Eastern Tropical Pacific (CMAR) is being developed with Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama. Parallel to this proposal, an International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment of Germany project for the Mesoamerican Region (MAR) has been submitted in collaboration with MAR Fund, Marviva, GRID Arendal, the World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) and UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme. A rapid assessment for Blue Economy in Uruguay is also underway.

Protected Areas

60. The Integration of Amazon Protected Areas Project (IAPA-Amazon Vision) finalized its first phase of implementation in the 8 Amazon countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela) in March 2019, with an event presenting project results coordinated by UN Environment, such as the development of guidelines for sustainable tourism in protected areas, as well as a first encounter between development banks and protected area systems, a valuation of ecosystem services in Amazon protected areas related to tourism, a legal analysis on the governance of transboundary protected areas, and a document demonstrating the links between the 2030 Agenda and protected areas.

61. The project is currently in a transition phase in which webinars presenting project results are being organized, as well as coordinated activities to enhance previous achievements, such as the development of indicators to measure the contribution of productive activities in protected areas to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

62. The project focused on two tri-border area landscapes (North Landscape: Colombia-Ecuador-Peru; South Landscape: Bolivia-Brazil-Peru), and its results include an analysis on the vulnerability and climate risk of the amazon protected areas, reports on the implementation of the Protected Areas Programme of Work, 44 regional and landscape meetings, as well as three regional dialogues, the creation of a project portfolio for the Amazon, the creation of an effective management protocol, and more than 300 protected area agents contributing to the activities of the project. A financing sustainability strategy was developed for the implementation of the Protected Areas Programme of Work that can be implemented by the Amazon national protected area systems.

63. The III Congress for Protected Areas in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place from 14-17 October in Lima, Peru, under the theme “Wellbeing and natural solutions for sustainable development”, and will approach the importance of integration biodiversity into all sectors of society, as well as international strategies, global commitments, partnerships and opportunities and how these benefit from integration. The contributions from protected areas to the achievement of the SDGs will be demonstrated.

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