

OCT.
2016

NEWSLETTER

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CALENDAR | CONTACT

HABITAT III TO DEFINE THE NEW GLOBAL URBAN AGENDA IN QUITO



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE



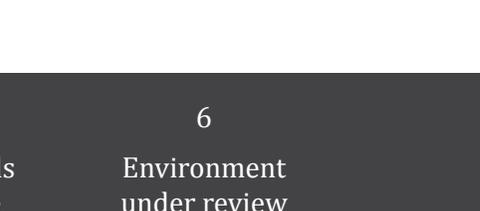
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY



CLIMATE CHANGE



ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT



CHEMICALS & WASTE

ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW



- 1 Environmental governance
- 2 Resource efficiency
- 3 Climate change
- 4 Ecosystem management
- 5 Chemicals & waste
- 6 Environment under review

OCT.
2016

CALENDAR

CONTACT

Habitat III to define the new global urban agenda in Quito

◀ HOME

Governments, municipal authorities, academia, the private sector and civil society from all over the world will meet in Quito, Ecuador, on October 17-20 for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, to define a new global urban agenda.



The conference provides a key opportunity for furthering attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, agreed upon in New York in September 2015. Half of the world's population lives in cities, and making cities more efficient, inclusive, and resilient is precisely what SDG 11 seeks. The idea of this goal is to guarantee universal access to adequate, safe and affordable housing, along with access to public green spaces, among other things.

If progress can be made towards this goal, headway can also be made towards the other SDGs concerning cities, such as, inter alia, sustainable production and consumption, health, flexible infrastructure, energy for all, water and sanitation.

UN Environment provides specific support in key areas – such as construction, transportation, energy, waste and wastewater management, and ecosystem-based adaptation – on databases, tools and methodologies, through multi-stakeholder participation and peer learning.



1
Environmental
governance

2
Resource
efficiency

3
Climate
change

4
Ecosystem
management

5
Chemicals
& waste

6
Environment
under review



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

UN Environment Executive Director visits LAC

In the first few days of August, Executive Director Erik Solheim made his first visit to Latin America and the Caribbean as the UN Environment’s new head.

Solheim visited Panama, where he met with Environment Minister Mirei Endara and top country authorities and toured the Panama Canal expansion, one of the continent’s most important infrastructure works.

He then went on to Costa Rica, where he met with this Central American country’s president, Luis Guillermo Solís, and Edgar Gutiérrez, Minister for Environment and Energy and the current president of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with whom he reaffirmed the ties of cooperation for consolidating the country’s efforts towards carbon neutral development and respect for the environment.

Finally, in Brazil he attended the opening of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Río de Janeiro, where he presented UN Environment’s Green Passport campaign in support of sustainable tourism. Solheim met with the country’s top authorities as well as key civil society groups.

The UN Environment Executive Director will return to the region in October to participate in the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador (October 17-20, 2016), and to visit Colombia and Argentina.



- ▶ Guide about Principle 10 in Spanish
- ▶ Chief climate change negotiators met in Argentina
- ▶ Sharing experiences for moving forward on sustainable development
- ▶ Advances in environmental education analyzed in Uruguay
- ▶ Ecuadorean university wins GUPES Green Gown Award



1
Environmental governance

2
Resource efficiency

3
Climate change

4
Ecosystem management

5
Chemicals & waste

6
Environment under review



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Guide about Principle 10 in Spanish

In August, during the *Fourth Meeting of the Negotiating Committee of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean* held in the Dominican Republic, UN Environment presented the Spanish-language guide to putting into practice Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

The guide explains how to implement the [Bali Guidelines](#) adopted in 2010 on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. It is intended as a tool to help countries draft national legislation on access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters.

It also compiles examples of the laws and actions of countries at varying stages of development, making it useful for legislators, politicians and civil servants, as well as civil society organizations and the general public.

The fifth meeting of the Negotiating Committee of the Regional Agreement is set to take place in Santiago, Chile, on November 22-25.

▮ [Download the guide.](#)

Chief climate change negotiators met in Argentina

High-level officials of Latin American and Caribbean countries will participate in a meeting to share stances on implementation of the commitments deriving from the Paris Agreement adopted during the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP21,. The meeting will be held on October 12-13 in Buenos Aires.

Support for this meeting – entitled the Fifth Meeting of Chief Climate Change Negotiators in Latin America and the Caribbean – is provided by UN Environment and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, along with funding from the European Commission through the EUROCLIMA program and French cooperation.

The Fourth Meeting of Chief Climate Change Negotiators of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Chile in May 2015.

- ▶ UN Environment Executive Director visits LAC
- ▶ Sharing experiences for moving forward on sustainable development

- ▶ Ecuadorean university wins GUPES Green Gown Award
- ▶ Advances in environmental education analyzed in Uruguay



1
Environmental governance

2
Resource efficiency

3
Climate change

4
Ecosystem management

5
Chemicals & waste

6
Environment under review

Sharing experiences for moving forward on sustainable development

Representatives from governments and cooperation, civil society, and private sector organizations met in Brasilia, Brazil, on October 4-5, to share experiences in implementing integrated approaches for sustainable development.

The integrated approach to policy planning consists of fostering a balance between social development, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by 195 United Nations member states, underscores the indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need for a balance of these three dimensions.

The region's breakthroughs and challenges for the Río+20 agreements were discussed during the symposium and concrete experiences were presented of implementation of the integrated approach. Tools were also identified, along with areas of regional cooperation, for moving forward on implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The meeting was organized by UN Environment and the Brazilian government as part of a regional pilot initiative of the global project on

the integrated approach to sustainable development planning, the goal being to help the region's countries implement this approach and maximizing economic, environmental, and social benefits.



SIMPÓSIO REGIONAL SOBRE
ENFOQUE INTEGRADO PARA O
DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL
NA AMÉRICA LATINA E NO CARIBE



MINISTÉRIO DO
MEIO AMBIENTE



- ▶ UN Environment Executive Director visits LAC
- ▶ Guide about Principle 10 in Spanish

- ▶ Chief climate change negotiators met in Argentina
- ▶ Ecuadorean university wins GUPES Green Gown Award

- ▶ Advances in environmental education analyzed in Uruguay



Ecuadorean university wins GUPES Green Gown Award



The Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador was announced the winner of the GUPES

Finalists announced

Supported by



Delivered by



Green Gown Award in Latin America and the Caribbean on September 13 in Boston, US. The award recognizes good environmental practices and sustainability in higher education.

This Ecuadorean university was selected over four other finalists: Universidad Nacional del Centro de Perú, Red Costarricense de Instituciones Educativas Sostenibles (REDIES) in Costa Rica, Universidad del Norte in Colombia, and Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola in Peru.

Consisting of certificates of recognition for each winning institution's work, the GUPES Green Gown Award is sponsored by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges, EAUC, and UN Environment through its Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability initiative, GUPES.

More information

- ▶ UN Environment Executive Director visits LAC
- ▶ Sharing experiences for moving forward on sustainable development
- ▶ Guide about Principle 10 in Spanish
- ▶ Chief climate change negotiators met in Argentina

Advances in environmental education analyzed in Uruguay

Some 300 government and civil society representatives from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay met on September 22-24 in Montevideo to analyze the challenges of environmental education in the region, focusing on citizen participation and what has been achieved up to now.

The Sixth National Meeting and the First Latin American Round on Environmental Education for Sustainable Human Development were organized in Las Piedras in the department of Canelones by the National Network of Environmental Education for Sustainable Human Development, Uruguay's Ministry of Education and Culture, and the government of Canelones.

UN Environment, as secretariat of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, participated in the regional meeting.

The goal of the Environmental Training Network is to carry out the decisions reached in meetings of the region's Forum of Ministers of Environment, held every two years. In its most recent meeting, held in March in Cartagena, Colombia, a specific decision was reached on environmental education for sustainable development emphasizing, among other things, the need to implement environmental education programs in order to transform values and thus promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.



1
Environmental governance

2
Resource efficiency

3
Climate change

4
Ecosystem management

5
Chemicals & waste

6
Environment under review



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Argentina to encourage sustainable public procurement with the help of UN Environment

In August, the Argentine Ministries of Environment and Sustainable Development, Modernization, and Production launched a sustainable public procurement project to make sure the government includes sustainability criteria when procuring goods or services.

Implemented by UN Environment with the financial support of the European Union, the project was kick-started with a workshop aimed at employees of national, provincial, and municipal procurement agencies.

It reinforces the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development's commitment to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs – particularly Goal 12, which promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns and sets the target of promoting public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities, thereby contributing to reaching the other 16 Goals.

The idea of this initiative is to have not only economic but also environmental and social impacts taken into account when procuring goods and services.

Argentina and Chile express interest in sustainable financing

Argentina and Chile have expressed their interest in promoting and adopting sustainable financing mechanisms. Interest in the topic came up after a mission by the director of the UN Environment's New York Office, Elliott Harris, and Regional UN Environment Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Leo Heileman, who exchanged ideas, concepts and experiences on promoting sustainable financing in the two countries. The UN Environment directors met in both countries with representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Finance, central banks, banking associations, superintendents, stock markets, and several commercial financial institutions such as the State Bank of Chile and the Bank of the Argentine Nation.

It was agreed during the visits that two studies would be conducted on the headway being made on adopting sustainability criteria in the two countries' financial sector (and banking) transactions. In November, a promotional workshop will also be given in Santiago, Chile, on sustainable financing in the Southern Cone. Both the event and the studies will be prepared by the [UN Environment's Finance Initiative](#) with support from the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).

- ▶ Series of green economy conferences in Brazil
- ▶ Roundtable on green growth in Colombia
- ▶ Debate on sustainability in the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games
- ▶ Green economy symposium
- ▶ Green Passport campaign



1	2	3	4	5	6
Environmental governance	Resource efficiency	Climate change	Ecosystem management	Chemicals & waste	Environment under review

Series of green economy conferences in Brazil

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) conducted a series of conferences in the city of Cuiabá in Mato Grosso, Brazil, on August 22-26. The sessions were given by experts from the UN Environment office in Brazil and the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP.

Several local technicians also presented green economy projects currently underway in Mato Grosso. The event was coordinated by the International Labor Organization, ILO, with support from the Secretariat of State of Labor and Social Assistance and the Mato Grosso state government's International Relations Office.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy helps countries interested in transitioning to more inclusive economies to use resources more efficiently and achieve lower carbon emissions.

Mato Grosso is the first state to formulate projects for implementing the partnership's recommendations within the next three years.



- ▶ Argentina to encourage sustainable public procurement with the help of UN Environment
- ▶ Green economy symposium
- ▶ Roundtable on green growth in Colombia
- ▶ Argentina and Chile express interest in sustainable financing
- ▶ Debate on sustainability in the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games
- ▶ Green Passport campaign



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Green economy symposium

Experts on sustainable consumption and production, SCP, indicators from Latin America and the Caribbean met in Panama City, Panama, on August 2-3 of this year to identify SCP indicators to help with decision making in the region’s Ministries of Finance and Industry and financial and environmental sectors.

To achieve sustainable development globally, nationally, and locally, substantial changes in the way societies consume and produce are essential. SCP has been set as a priority for the region, and the countries’ environment ministries are the ones who make the decisions on this issue in their regional forums. In the most recent forum held in Cartagena, Colombia, in March 2016, the governments asked for the work of identifying SCP indicators to be continued and for new ones to be proposed for using in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The meeting held in Panama came in response to this request, so one of its main goals was to present and discuss a proposed set of SCP indicators that could contribute to the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, ILAC, and be relevant for the region in the context of the Regional SCP Strategy and the 2030 Agenda. Contributing to the measurement and standardization of the selected indicators was also a goal of this meeting.

Roundtable on green growth in Colombia

UN Environment and the German cooperation agency, GIZ, organized a roundtable on September 13 in Bogota to provide an opportunity for dialogue and interaction where representatives from government and cooperation agencies discussed Colombia’s progress on implementing green growth.

The 2014-2018 National Development Plan, entitled “Everyone for a New Country”, established the concept of green growth in Colombia as a cross-cutting strategy to achieve sustainable economic development.

The roundtable became a dialogue space where the parties were able to exchange points of view on the different initiatives, achievements, and pathways for working in coordination.

One discussion centered on UN Environment’s support for the National Planning Department’s green growth mission in cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Another initiative that aroused interest was the encouragement of green jobs by the Ministry of Labor in conjunction with the International Labor Organization, ILO.

- ▶ Argentina to encourage sustainable public procurement with the help of UN Environment
- ▶ Green Passport campaign
- ▶ Argentina and Chile express interest in sustainable financing
- ▶ Series of green economy conferences in Brazil
- ▶ Debate on sustainability in the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games



1
Environmental governance

2
Resource efficiency

3
Climate change

4
Ecosystem management

5
Chemicals & waste

6
Environment under review

Debate on sustainability in the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games

The cities hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games have taken measures to preserve the environment. How can the carbon emissions of major events such as the Olympic Games be measured?



These and other issues were discussed on July 28 at an event sponsored by the Museu

do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow) in Rio de Janeiro in collaboration with the Climate Observatory and the Organizing Committee of the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Participating in the event's opening were José Sarney Filho, Minister of Environment, Luiz Alberto Oliveira, Museum of Tomorrow Curator, and Denise Hamú, UN Environment representative in Brazil.

Green Passport campaign

UN Environment's Green Passport campaign reached some five million Internet users and thousands of tourists who visited Brazil during the Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro last August.

The second edition of this initiative, organized by UN Environment with the 2016 Rio Organizing Committee's support, used the games' visibility to raise awareness on the impact of tourism on the places being visited, as well as other environmental and social issues, including energy efficiency, rational water use, reduced food waste, and the protection of traveling children and adolescents.

The campaign involved activities ranging from film premieres to the broadcasting of messages on social media and organization of debates and workshops.

- ▶ Argentina to encourage sustainable public procurement with the help of UN Environment
- ▶ Argentina and Chile express interest in sustainable financing
- ▶ Series of green economy conferences in Brazil
- ▶ Roundtable on green growth in Colombia
- ▶ Green economy symposium

CLIMATE CHANGE

Latin America and the European Union strengthen climate change cooperation

To reinforce the fight against climate change, Latin American experts met in Costa Rica with their European Union peers on September 21-23 in the Sixth EUROCLIMA Seminar for analyzing the results of the program that had been set in motion in 2010.

UN Environment presented three studies on the matter: The Paris Agreement and its Implications for Latin America and the Caribbean, Initial Analysis of the Implications of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and The Paris Agreement and the Means of Implementation: their Importance for Latin America and the Caribbean.



The various components of the current phase are being implemented by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, the Joint Research Center, JRC, of the European Commission, UN Environment, and the EUROCLIMA program’s Technical Assistance.

A new phase, entitled EUROCLIMA+, will begin in 2017.

- ▶ The region moves forward in the fight against climate change: Leo Heileman
- ▶ Progress on climate change legislation in the region

The region moves forward in the fight against climate change: Leo Heileman



Latin America and the Caribbean are progressing rapidly on climate change legislation, and thirteen countries already have, or are in the process of developing, laws on the matter, stated Leo Heileman, UN Environment’s Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, during an international meeting of government leaders in Mexico.

The meeting, entitled the Second Climate Change Summit of the Americas, took place in September in Guadalajara and brought together leaders from 15 American countries to follow up on the new challenges presented by the 2030 Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement and exchange experiences in climate action, financing, and regulation against climate change.

Heileman explained that Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, and Honduras already have general climate change laws, nine more countries have specific bills on climate change (Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela), and 18 have sectoral regulations on energy, transportation, or agriculture. This data is reflected in a UN Environment study conducted with the European Union’s financial support as part of the EUROCLIMA program.

He also pointed out other actions being carried out in the region, including the use of new mechanisms to promote low-carbon development through tax incentives or carbon taxes, such as the ones already in operation in Mexico and Chile.

- ▶ Latin America and the European Union strengthen climate change cooperation
- ▶ Progress on climate change legislation in the region



CLIMATE CHANGE

Progress on climate change legislation in the region

Climate change legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean was the focus of the meeting of Latin American parliaments held at the beginning of August in Panama City, Panama.

Organized by Parlatino and ParlAmericas, the meeting gave legislators an opportunity to discuss the status and needs of climate change legislation in the region's countries and to highlight the importance of national legislatures for taking the step towards resilient, low-emission societies. UN Environment's Deputy Regional Director Mara Murillo shared with legislators the results of the report on the situation of climate change legislation in the region prepared as part of the EUROCLIMA program with the European Union's financial support.

Major headway is being made in the region on climate change legislation. Aside from the legislative processes set in motion by several governments, the regulatory and governance aspects

of climate change have been the focus of attention of legislators, judges, and environmental law experts in general. As a result of this collaboration, UN Environment will sign cooperation agreements with both institutions, Parlatino and ParlAmericas, to create a partnership to promote legislative frameworks that can help ensure the environmental sustainability of the region's development and deal with climate change.

Legislative Contributions on Climate Change from Latin America and the Caribbean, a report developed in 2015 by UN Environment in collaboration with Parlatino as part of the European Union's EUROCLIMA program, analyzes the region's progress on legislation for addressing climate change.

- ▶ Latin America and the European Union strengthen climate change cooperation
- ▶ The region moves forward in the fight against climate change: Leo Heileman



1
Environmental
governance

2
Resource
efficiency

3
Climate
change

4
Ecosystem
management

5
Chemicals
& waste

6
Environment
under review



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Amazon countries publish report on protected areas

Protected areas are the key to conserving the Amazonia, regulating the climate, and sustainably developing the countries it covers. Delegates from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Peru, and Venezuela met in September in Bogota, Colombia and agreed on the latest version of the regional report on protected areas (2011-2015) of the world's largest tropical forest.

The report emphasizes the role of protected areas in linking the territory socially, politically, environmentally, and economically. The document is intended to be a key tool for the Amazon countries in the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Mexico towards the end of this year.

The September meeting, in which Alberto Pacheco, Regional Coordinator for Ecosystem Management, participated, was held as part of the IAPA – Amazon Vision project, which is funded by the European Union, coordinated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, and implemented jointly by UN Environment, WWF, IUCN, and Redparques.

- ▶ Peru prepares a project on access to genetic resources
- ▶ Proposal for building resilience to climate change
- ▶ In defense of the Caribbean parrotfish
- ▶ UN Environment participates in Panama's old town beach cleanup

LAC: world record in protected areas

The Latin American and Caribbean region has the largest protected area in the world, almost five million square kilometers, according to a recent report by UN Environment and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN.

Around half of this protected land is found in Brazil, which holds the country record for possessing the largest system of protected land in the world with 2.47 million square kilometers.

With 14.7 percent of the Earth's surface and 12 percent of its territorial waters protected, the world is on the way to meeting a key global conservation goal. The 2016 Protected Planet report also shows, however, that crucial areas of biodiversity are being left without safeguarding; key habitats and species are underrepresented, and inadequate management is limiting the protected areas' effectiveness.

According to IUCN and UN Environment's World Conservation Monitoring Center scientists, at present there are 202,467 protected areas covering almost 20 million square kilometers, or 14.7 percent of the planet, with the exception of Antarctica. This is slightly below the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi 11 target of 17 percent coverage for 2020.



1
Environmental
governance

2
Resource
efficiency

3
Climate
change

4
Ecosystem
management

5
Chemicals
& waste

6
Environment
under review

In defense of the Caribbean parrotfish

The loss of herbivores such as the parrotfish is a key factor in the decline in coral, according to Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012, prepared by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, IUCN, and UN Environment.



Parrotfish spend 90% of their days grazing on the overgrowth of algae on corals, helping to maintain a healthy ecological balance between the two groups of organisms. As they go along, they chip away the calcium carbonate exoskeleton of corals with their beak-shaped mouth. These bits of coral are released back to the environment as fish droppings and are deposited as sand on the famous white Caribbean beaches. A single parrotfish can produce hundreds of kilograms of sand throughout its lifetime, making it invaluable to the tourism industry.

UN Environment is working, through its Caribbean Office, with the Youth for Sustainable Development Movement in Jamaica to promote an appreciation for the country's beaches, educate Jamaicans on the importance of parrotfish to the island's marine ecosystems and explore the possibility of harvesting lionfish as a substitute for parrotfish. The lionfish is an invasive species with significant impact on coral reef fauna due to its voracious appetite for small fish.

Peru prepares a project on access to genetic resources

UN Environment is working with Peru's Ministry of Environment on preparing a project for effective implementation of the regime for access to genetic resources and sharing of the country's traditional knowledge and benefits. In July, a workshop was conducted in Lima to validate the key aspects of this project, which is funded by the Global Environment Fund, GEF.

An effective national regime needs to be in place to regulate access to genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge, in alignment with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Nagoya Protocol on access and fair and equitable benefit-sharing, ABS, deriving from the use of genetic resources, and thereby to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and human wellbeing.

- ▶ LAC: world record in protected areas
- ▶ Amazon countries publish report on protected areas
- ▶ Proposal for building resilience to climate change
- ▶ UN Environment participates in Panama's old town beach cleanup



ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Proposal for building resilience to climate change

In July, representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and the Dominican Republic met in San Salvador, El Salvador, to draft a Central American proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for building resilience to climate change in the Central American Dry Corridor and arid areas of the Dominican Republic.

The meeting had the support of UN Environment in close collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration under the auspices of El Salvador’s Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Gustavo Máñez, UN Environment Regional Climate Change Coordinator, highlighted the potential of this proposal to replicate existing best practice in the region, enhance cooperation among countries, and increase the resilience of communities affected by climate change in the Dry Corridor. One of the goals is to reinforce the natural ecosystems and the services they produce, as well as to involve the private sector in promoting adaptation.

UN Environment participates in Panama’s old town beach cleanup

UN Environment participated in the national beach cleanup in Panama on Sunday, September 25, as one of the Month of the Ocean celebration activities.

Under the motto of “Oceans, Beyond What You See”, the initiative seeks to educate and raise awareness among the Panamanian society on the importance of taking care of the ocean and its resources. The activity program for the entire month includes recreational, cultural, educational, and sports activities, forums, fairs, contests, and beach cleanups.

Marine garbage, especially plastics, is one of the biggest problems facing all the planet’s oceans, including Panama’s. According to recent UN Environment reports, every year some eight million tons of plastic winds up in the ocean, affecting all marine organisms, whether fish, birds, or mammals such as whales and dolphins, as well as posing a potential risk for human health. By 2050, it is estimated that there will be more plastics than fish in the oceans. The Twelfth Month of the Ocean is coordinated by a committee formed by 55 scientific, government, academic, civil, and private organizations.

- ▶ Peru prepares a project on access to genetic resources
- ▶ Amazon countries publish report on protected areas
- ▶ In defense of the Caribbean parrotfish
- ▶ LAC: world record in protected areas



1
Environmental
governance

2
Resource
efficiency

3
Climate
change

4
Ecosystem
management

5
Chemicals
& waste

6
Environment
under review



Honduras to inventory mercury with UN Environment support

On August 30, Honduras presented a project that, with the help of the United Nations, will make it possible to take a detailed inventory of the uses and emission sources of mercury, a hazardous metal the handling of which is regulated by the Minamata Convention, a legally binding global agreement that provides for controls and phase-outs for a broad range of products, processes, and industries where mercury is either used, released, or emitted. The agreement also addresses direct mercury mining, exporting and importing, and storage of waste mercury under safe conditions.

Some 20 tons of mercury are released to the environment every year in this country as a result of artisanal and small-scale gold mining, according to the Environment Ministry's Pollutant Research and Control Center, CCESCCO-MIAmbiente.

Another 23 tons of mercury from various production sectors are released unintentionally, though information on the size of this phenomenon is lacking. Little data is available, for example, on the amount of metal released from fluorescent lamps, alkaline batteries, or hospital waste that is not adequately disposed of at the end of their life cycle.



Minamata Convention on Mercury

- ▶ The region celebrated the International Day of the Ozone Layer
- ▶ Curacao hosts waste management workshop

UN Environment collaborates with Honduras on designing a national waste management strategy

At the end of August, the Honduras National Center for Cleaner Production (CNP+LH) and UN Environment held their first workshop on the national and local waste management plan they have begun to design as part of a UNEP global project on comprehensive waste management solutions.

The workshop brought together 50 representatives from different Honduran government ministries, local governments, academia, the private sector, the recycling and waste management sector, and international organizations, among others.

During the event, the preliminary results of the project's national reference point were presented, and a discussion evolved on defining the strategy and the process needed to develop it. Information was also given on the current status of waste management in the country.



1
Environmental
governance

2
Resource
efficiency

3
Climate
change

4
Ecosystem
management

5
Chemicals
& waste

6
Environment
under review

CHEMICALS & WASTE



The region celebrated the International Day of the Ozone Layer

This year the focus of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was on its recovery. According to a recent scientific study, this shield around the Earth is beginning to heal thanks to the international community's concerted efforts to eliminate the substances that deplete it.

In different cities around the world, including several in Latin America, International Ozone Day was commemorated on September 16 under the motto, "Ozone and Climate: Restored by a World United".

In Colombia, the first environmental olympics were held for refrigeration and air conditioning technicians, while in Costa Rica a forum was organized to analyze the challenge of introducing new refrigeration and air conditioning technologies. In Guatemala, for its part, prizes were awarded to the winners of a children's drawing contest and training was given on the ozone layer on September 12-16.

Venezuela organized a pro-ozone layer protection walk on September 16 with the support of various international organizations and civil society. Brazil, meanwhile, launched the second phase of its National Program for the Elimination of Hydrofluorocarbons, HFCs, and in the Dominican Republic a workshop was given to technicians on alternative non-HFC refrigeration and air conditioning technologies.

- ▶ Curacao hosts waste management workshop
- ▶ Honduras to inventory mercury with UN Environment support

- ▶ UN Environment collaborates with Honduras on designing a national waste management strategy

Curacao hosts waste management workshop

A workshop on waste management was held in Curacao on September 27-28 to identify concrete design alternatives for prevention and reduction policies on waste flows and dumps.

The event, organized by UN Environment and the Curacao government with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, focused on the islands of Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, Saba and Sint Maartin.

Solutions were discussed in the workshop for increasing recycling and waste management through more cooperation and exchange of experiences between the islands' public and private sectors.

Some 40 representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and international organizations participated in the event.



- ▶ The region celebrated the International Day of the Ozone Layer
- ▶ Honduras to inventory mercury with UN Environment support

- ▶ UN Environment collaborates with Honduras on designing a national waste management strategy

Region moves ahead on identifying sustainable consumption and production indicators

In August, Latin American and Caribbean experts met in Panama to discuss a proposed set of sustainable consumption and production indicators that could contribute to the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and be relevant for the region in the context of the Regional Sustainable Consumption and Production Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These indicators could also help the region's finance and industry ministries and financial and environmental sectors in their decision making.

To achieve sustainable development globally, nationally, and locally, substantial changes in the way societies consume and produce are essential, and the region's environment ministries are prioritizing sustainable consumption and production. In March 2016, at the last meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment held in Cartagena, Colombia, the governments asked for the work of identifying sustainable consumption and production indicators to be continued and for new ones to be proposed to support and contribute to ILAC and be relevant for the region in the context of the

Regional SCP Strategy and the 2030 Agenda.

The Panama meeting, held in response to this government request, was financially supported by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF). The experts identified 13 SCP indicators, which will be proposed to the technical teams.





JOIN THE CONVERSATION



UN ENVIRONMENT

**www.pnuma.org
noticias@pnuma.org**

**UN Environment Regional Communications Unit
Panama City, Panama**



1
Environmental
governance

2
Resource
efficiency

3
Climate
change

4
Ecosystem
management

5
Chemicals
& waste

6
Environment
under review