



## INICIATIVA DE POBREZA Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

UNDP-UNEP Poverty and  
Environment Initiative

### UNDP-UNEP PEI LAC INCEPTION MEETING

#### BACKGROUND

The Poverty and Environment Initiative – PEI, is a joint programme established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as an effort to mainstream environment issues into national plans, sectoral strategies, environmental policies, and economic decision making - mainly budgetary allocations, in order to improve poor people's livelihoods, countries economic growth, and to better achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). PEI strengthens government institutions in order to mainstream poor people's environmental concerns into countries national plans and budgetary processes.

The UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Facility – PEF, based in Nairobi, included in mid 2008 as part of the global PEI programme, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); in order to launch the programme in the region, an inception meeting was held with PEI candidate countries. Each country was represented by related government institutions (Ministries of Environment, Planning and Finance), as well as by members of UNDP's - Country Offices (CO). The meeting objectives were to create awareness about poverty and environment mainstreaming; take stock of the countries current situations, problems, needs and related policies; feasible opportunities to attain poverty-environment mainstreaming.

#### INCEPTION MEETING

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008, UNDP-UNEP hosted at the Holiday Inn Hotel (Rep. of Panama), the inception meeting for the launching of their joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative – PEI for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Candidate countries (i.e. Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Uruguay) were represented by related government institutions and UNDP CO's (e.g. programme managers, officers, analysts).

Starting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., the first session of the meeting included welcoming remarks from Mrs. Mara Murillo (Regional Deputy Director – UNEP ROLAC), Mr. Beat Rohr (Deputy Director – UNDP RBLAC), Mr. John Horberry (Director UNDP-UNEP PEI) and Mr. Nick Remple (UNDP-UNEP PEI LAC RT).

Mr. Gabriel Labbate (UNDP-UNEP PEI LAC RT) continued with a presentation on poverty-environment linkages and their opportunities and challenges. The presentation described the type of poverty-environment dynamics that PEI looks for in candidate countries and provided examples of them. Having presented the benefits and challenges from mainstreaming environment into anti-poverty and development processes, Mr. John Horberry continued the session with a presentation that introduced the main elements of PEI. This included the history of the program, experiences, and mechanisms to fully integrate environmental management into national development plans – particularly budgets and investments, as well as the steps for the implementation of a PEI programme.

The following session consisted of a panel composed by government representatives from Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay, that presented their experiences on mainstreaming environment into national plans. The presentations included:

- Ecuador: Mrs. Doris Solís (Minister of the Coordination Ministry of Natural and Cultural Heritage), commented on the “Sumak Kausay” or “Good Living”, an initiative that promoted the countries’ new Constitution, approved in September 2008. It is important to highlight that 20% of the new Constitution’s articles are related to environment issues. With this new document, the State recognizes natural and cultural heritage as strategic resources, therefore it includes for the first time environment and intercultural rights in the Constitution. A sustainable development model was also created under three pillars: social justice, environmental awareness and inter-generational equity. The latter is based on the recovery and conservation of nature, and a balanced, articulated and inclusive land planning.
- Nicaragua: Divided in 4 regions (Pacific, Central, North Atlantic and South Atlantic), the government was represented by Mr. Roberto Wilson (Executive Director of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region Government). He presented the country’s environmental policy for 2008-2012, which includes coastal resources protection and development, conservation and management of protected areas and biodiversity, forest protection and development, national reforestation campaign, sustainable land management, adequate solid waste management, control and reduce contamination, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. He also commented that the legal framework includes several environmental laws: Law 217 or “General Law for the Environment and Natural Resources”, Law 462 or “Forest Law”, and the Water Law. As for their institutional framework, the country has a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA by its initials in Spanish).
- Perú: Mr. William Postigo de la Motta (Economist from the Ministry of Environment), presented the so-called “National Agreement Policies”, where out of 31 approved policies, only one (No. 19), regulates sustainable development and environmental management. The objectives of this policy includes mainstreaming national environmental policies among land planning and economic, social and cultural policies; institutionalize public and private environmental management in order to protect the biodiversity; and facilitate a sustainable management of natural resources.
- Uruguay: Mr. Diego Martino (UNEP Liaison at Uruguay), informed that the country’s main environmental concerns are: protected areas, pollutants and urban and industrial solid waste, coastal management, policies for environmental management, and climate change. Likely entry points for the country could be solid waste and fisheries.

After a scheduled lunch break at 1:00p.m., Mr. Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva (Chief Economist from UNDP-NYC) followed with a presentation on conditional cash transfers, which have proven to be a promising vehicle in social assistance policy and could be applied as mechanisms to influence private behavior in poverty-environment settings.

The following session consisted of a panel on environmental mainstreaming into budgetary process and included representatives from the governments of Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Ecuador.

A brief summary of their comments follows:

- Guatemala: Mr. Luis Zurita (Viceminister from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) informed that the budget of the Ministry of Environment is expected to quadruple by the year 2011; there's a Social-Environmental Cabinet run by the President of the country; and during 2009, the country will mainstream environmental issues into several governmental sectors, including education.
- Paraguay: Mrs. Veronica Serafini (Ministry of Finance) informed that public expenditure has increased considerably, particularly social expenditure (aimed at combating extreme poverty), and that institutional changes have been made in order to implement different environmental policies such as: National Environmental Policy, National Strategy to Combat Poverty, National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity. Currently, the allocated budget for environmental issues is 1.5% of the government's national budget distributed among the Secretary of Environment, Public Health, Ministry of Social Development and National Defense Ministry. Mrs. Serafini commented that there are several environmental programmes and plans, but because of lack of funding these are not being implemented.
- Peru: Mr. Federico Arnillas (President of the "Mesa de Concertación para la Lucha contra la Pobreza" - MCLCP), informed that the main objective of this institution is to facilitate the dialogue between government parties and other stakeholders, in order to mainstream poverty and environment issues into budgetary processes. Currently, he considers that the government budget acts as an insufficient instrument, inefficient, and inequitable for public expenditure, resulting in increased poverty and social exclusion. As for the implementation of PEI in the country, he suggested likely entry points such as reforestation and water sanitation.
- Ecuador: Mr. Jaime Jimenez (Finance Director of the Ministry of Environment), informed that environmental expenditures for November 2008 were almost 200% greater than in 2007. The main objectives of the Ministry are to reduce environmental risk and ecosystem vulnerability, mainstream environmental issues into local and national plans, and sustainable management for coastal marine resources.

After a scheduled coffee-break, Mr. Pascal Girot presented an overview of environmental and social tendencies in Central America. Mr. Girot suggested that in the next 20 years significant changes should be expected: economies more open to international systems, more urbanized societies, more democratic political systems. It should also be expected challenges involving security and energy and a re-launching of regional integration processes. The greatest issues that the region currently face are food safety, poor access and management of medical centers and social security, centralized political systems, weak democracies, corruption-prone electoral systems, public insecurity (mainly as a result of drug-trafficking and organized crimes), and poor management of natural resources (forestry and mining).

Mrs. Ligia Castro de Doens (National Environment Authority – Panama) provided the first presentation of Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Castro informed that 38% of Panama's national territory is under protected status. Some of the activities held by the Authority are: environmental planning in 10 basins, reforestation and restoration for connectivity in the Biological Corridor. She also commented about a community development project (PRODEC by its initials in Spanish), which is financed by the Panama Canal, and aims to improve and restore community areas. The Authority's funding comes mainly from international donors. However the government has programmatically increased the allocation of the budget.

Miguel Pellerano (former Regional Director of UICN for South America and Under Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development in Argentina) followed with a presentation on

mainstreaming poverty and environment into regional development plans. He presented a field study from the region of American Chaco (Gran Chaco Americano), a region characterized by uncontrolled deforestation, unsustainable management of natural resources, inadequate plans for environmental management and lack of communication between national and local governments. This situation has resulted in floods, drought, increased migration to peri-urban poverty belts, damages in the urban area, as well as the agricultural, mining, industrial and forestry sectors. Since damage wasn't only environmentally related (it also involved social and economic issues), he considers that environment should always be mainstreamed into development plans, as a strategy to decrease poverty levels. Another subject he presented was the "Law of Native Forests" (Ley de Bosques Nativos). This law aims to regulate and decrease deforestation through the following: land planning, land ownership, banning burning of forests and provision of monetary compensations (through a National Fund). Forests are to be considered a guarantee of ecological balance, conservation of biodiversity.

Taking the place of Mr. Leonardo Herou (Congress of Mayors of Uruguay – which couldn't attend the meeting for health related purposes), Mr. Diego Martino described the experience of the "Container's Law". Under the slogan "Tu envase nos sirve" ("your bottle or package is of use to us"), the Ministry of Environment, Land Planning and Housing (MVOTMA by its initials in Spanish), designed a law that regulates the use of non-returnable containers, as an instrument to encourage their reutilization, recycling and revalorization. The project has programmatically increased their geographical coverage and the percentage of recovered waste plastic containers. It also provides social benefits since it improves the plastic containers' classifiers livelihoods by including educational programs, banning child work, ensuring a regular wage, and encouraging pregnant women to undergo regular medical controls.

A scheduled break-out group session continued after a coffee-break, in which countries (grouped by their geographical distribution) discussed the guidelines for implementation of the PEI programme. The objective was to identify likely sectors for poverty and environment synergies, opportunities and challenges for poverty and environment mainstreaming and likely first steps to implement the programme in each country.

After the lunch break at 1:00p.m., Mr. Sergio Feld (UNDP-UNEP PEI RT Asia-Pacific), described the team's experiences in the implementation of PEI in the Asia-Pacific region. While they're currently working with 10 countries, each is undergoing different stages. Some of the challenges they've encountered are: insufficient budget allocation for environmental issues - since most of the countries allocate only around 1% or less of their PIB; corruption; environmental issues handed as an externality; and lack of government awareness of poverty and environment linkages.

The event finalized the same day, at 5:00p.m. Mr. Gabriel Labbate and Mr. Nick Remple provided a summary of conclusions. Mr. John Horberry and Mr. Ricardo Sánchez gave the closing remarks.

Finally, the PEI LAC RT held bilateral conversation with country representatives (both government and UNDP). The objective of these conversations was to jointly define next steps for PEI activities in each country. A summary of these discussions is provided in a separate document.

**ANNEX 1**

**POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE  
INCEPTION MEETING  
Panama 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
Holiday Inn, Clayton, Panama city**

<b>MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	
8:30-9:00 AM	Registration
9:00-9:45 AM	<p><b>Session 1: Opening Remarks and objectives of the meeting</b></p> <p>Ms. Mara Murillo, Deputy Regional Director, UNEP/ROLAC – welcome remarks            Mr. Beat Rohr, Deputy Director, UNDP/RBLAC – welcome remarks            Mr. John Horberry, Director, UNDP-UNEP-PEI – welcome remarks            Mr. Nick Remple, Coordinator, UNDP-UNEP-PEI - meeting objectives</p>
9:45-10:15 AM	<p><b>Session 2: Poverty Environment Linkages – Concepts, Opportunities and Challenges</b></p> <p>Mr. Gabriel Labbate – Coordinator, UNDP-UNEP-PEI Regional Team</p> <p><i>Note: This session would present an overview of poverty environment linkages. This session conceptualizes the type of poverty environment synergies sought by the program (15-20 minutes presentation followed by questions and answers).</i></p>
10:15-10:30 AM	Coffee Break
10:30-11:15 AM	<p><b>Session 3: Mainstreaming environment into development policy – description of the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)</b></p> <p>Speaker: Mr. John Horberry, Director, UNDP-UNEP (PEI presentation + discussion)</p> <p><i>Note: This session would continue the line of thought of the previous one by describing the objectives and characteristics of the PEI and examples of mechanisms to incorporate poverty-environment linkages into government policy. (20-30 minutes presentation followed by questions and answers)</i></p>
11:15-12:30 PM	<p><b>Session 4: Mainstreaming the Environment in National Planning</b></p> <p>Panel: 4 members from governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uruguay (OPP; MOVOTMA)</li> <li>• Nicaragua (Mr. Roberto Wilson; Executive Director GRAAN)</li> <li>• Peru (Mr. William Postigo de la Mota, Senior Advisor on Strategic Planning; Ministry of Environment)</li> <li>• Ecuador (Ms. Dora Solis, Minister; Ministry of Natural and Cultural Heritage)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This session would present experiences from countries in incorporating environmental concerns in non-environmental sectors. What they have done and what the next steps are.</i></p>
12:30-2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00-2:45 PM	<b>Session 5: Tools for promoting and financing environmental mainstreaming</b>

	<p>Speaker: Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva (Chief Economist. UNDP/RBLAC)</p> <p><i>Note: this session presents an overview of tools to finance environmental mainstreaming. It will cover topics of conditional cash transfers, taxes and subsidies, carbon markets, cap and trade system, etc. (20-30 minutes presentation followed by questions and answers)</i></p>
2:45-4:00 PM	<p><b>Session 6: Mainstreaming the Environment into Budgeting Process</b></p> <p>Panel: 4 members from governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guatemala (Mr. Luis Zurita, Vice Minister, MARN)</li> <li>• Paraguay (Ms. Verónica Serafín, Economist, Ministry of Finance)</li> <li>• Peru (Mr. Federico Arnillas; President, Concertación Group)</li> <li>• Ecuador (Mr. Jaime Jiménez; Finance Director, Minister of Environment)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: this session would provide country experiences on internalization of the environmental expenditures into budgetary allocations. What they have done and what the next steps are.</i></p>
4:00-4:15 PM	Coffee Break
4:15-5:30	<p><b>Session 7: Poverty environment linkages (session 1) – case studies</b></p> <p><b>Poverty and Environment in tropical and dry forest areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Miguel Pellerano, former IUCN Regional Director for South America and former Under-Secretary of the Environment, Argentina (presenting poverty environment linkages in dry and semi dry forest lands)</li> <li>• Mr. Pascal Girot, IUCN Central America, Coordinator Regional Program (presenting poverty environment linkages in tropical forest lands)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: This session would present concrete case studies in terms of people finding a solution to poverty-environment problems. (20-30 minutes for each presentation followed by questions and answers)</i></p>
19:00 PM	Departure from hotel to reception dinner at Miraflores Restaurant

<b>TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	
8:30-9:00 AM	Opening of the second day by <b>Ms. Ligia Castro</b> , Director, National Environmental Agency, Panama.
9:00-9:30 AM	<p><b>Session 8: Poverty environment linkages (session 2) – case studies</b></p> <p>Poverty and the Environment in the urban sector</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Leonardo Herou; Congress of Mayors, Uruguay</p> <p><i>Note: the purpose of this session is to present an experience on solid waste management in Uruguay, which shows joint poverty and environment benefits (20 minutes presentation followed by questions and answers)</i></p>
9:30-11:00 AM	<b>Session 9: Break-out groups to discuss the application of the guidelines on mainstreaming the environment in participating countries</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Southern cone countries (Paraguay, Uruguay)</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Andean countries (Peru, Ecuador)</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Caribbean (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guyana)</li> <li>▪ Group 4: Central America (Guatemala, Nicaragua)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: the groups would discuss the guidelines in relation to: (i) likely sectors for poverty environment synergies; (ii) opportunities for poverty environment mainstreaming; (iii) challenges for poverty environment mainstreaming; (iv) likely first steps to begin PEI in their countries.</i></p>
11:00-11:15 AM	Coffee break
11:15-12:30 PM	<p>Session 10: Presentation of findings from the groups' discussion on guidelines on mainstreaming the environment in relation to local and regional situation (20 minutes each group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Group 1: Southern cone countries (Paraguay, Uruguay)</li> <li>▪ Group 2: Andean countries (Peru, Ecuador)</li> <li>▪ Group 3: Caribbean (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Guyana)</li> <li>▪ Group 4: Central America (Guatemala, Nicaragua)</li> </ul>
12:30-2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00-2:30 PM	<p>Section 11: Experience of PEI in Asia/Africa and relevant comparisons with LAC</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Sergio Feld (UNDP-UNEP-PEI regional team Asia Pacific)</p> <p><i>Note: having received information from the previous sessions on poverty environment linkages in LAC, and the feedback from governments about guidelines for PEI and next steps, Mr. Sergio Feld will present an overview of experiences and findings from Asia and Africa that are of relevance to LAC and can serve as good lessons learned for the implementation of PEI. (15 minutes presentation followed by questions and answers)</i></p>
2:30-3:30 PM	<p>Session 12: Summary and closure</p> <p>Main conclusions: Nick Remple or/and Gabriel Labbate (UNDP-UNEP-PEI Regional Team)</p> <p>Closure of meeting: speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Horberry (UNDP-UNEP-PEI)</li> <li>• Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, Director, UNEP/ROLAC</li> <li>• Mr. Beat Rohr, Deputy Director, UNDP/RBLAC</li> </ul>
<b>Country-specific Meetings</b>	
4:30-5:00 PM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
5:00-5:30 PM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
5:30-6:00 PM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates

**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Country-specific Meetings (continuation)**

9:00-9:30 AM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
9:30-10:00 AM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
10:00-10:30 AM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
10:30-11:00 AM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
11:00-11:30 AM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates
11:30-12:00 PM	Country to be defined in view of departing dates

## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANT

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