



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

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**Second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an
intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity
and ecosystem services**
Nairobi, 5–9 October 2009

**Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation on an
intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and
ecosystem services, Panama City, 27 and 28 August 2009**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note contains a summary of the outcomes of a regional consultation on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, held in Panama City on 27 and 28 August 2009, and attended by representatives of countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The summary is presented as received and has not been formally edited.

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Annex



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Summary of Meeting Outcomes- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Consultation Panama City 27-28 August 2009

Country Delegations from the Latin American and the Caribbean Region convened in Panama City on 27 and 28 August 2009 to debate on the need and opportunities to improve and strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The participant Country Delegations were: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The participant Delegations¹ from the Region made use of the full gap analysis, its executive summary and the needs and action document to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The delegates highlighted the following five key topics of significant importance for achieving an effective science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Establishment of a potential mechanism

Country Delegations from the Latin American and the Caribbean Region recognise the need to strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services and many support the **establishment of a proposed mechanism** as a means to strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Country Delegations recognise the need to disseminate useful information and tools to decision-making between the academic, private and public sector and local communities.

Scope and purpose of a proposed mechanism

Country Delegations from the Latin American and the Caribbean Region identified as a key topic to clarify the **purpose of a proposed mechanism** based on the following elements:

- The information should be useful for decision-making and not policy prescriptive so as to avoid politicising of the mechanism;
- The information should correspond to the appropriate scales ranging from local to global as needed;
- The mechanism should consider an approach ranging from local to global.

¹ A list of participants is attached in Annex



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The **objectives** of a proposed mechanism might be:

- Produce scientifically independent, credible and relevant information to support decision-making for the implementation of biodiversity related MEAs and other processes. It should also facilitate information exchange and ensure complementarities across these various processes.
- Promote activities at different scales that might include among others support to assessments, scenarios and modelling and related capacity building.
- Provide tools for decision-making and generation, communication and dissemination of scientific information, in particular in developing countries, which is essential for an effective science-policy interface.
- Build capacities in developing countries to generate and make new information accessible, which is necessary to guarantee their substantive participation in the new mechanism.
- Make use of already existing National, Sub-regional and Regional experiences and initiatives as a means to incorporate best practices which embrace the needs and characteristics of each country.
- Dissemination and outreach should be crucial components of the new mechanism as to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for maintaining and improving human wellbeing, promotion of sustainable development and contribution towards poverty eradication.
- Ensure that various knowledge systems and multiple disciplines are recognised as integral components of this interface

Legal Basis and Governance structure

Delegations emphasised that the new mechanism should be intergovernmental and demand driven. The mechanism should support CBD and other biodiversity related conventions.

Regarding the framework where the proposed mechanism should be established, some Delegations supported the idea that the mechanism should be established under the framework of the CBD, while other Delegations preferred that the mechanism should be under the framework of UNEP.

Delegations also highlighted the importance of defining a **governance structure** for the new mechanism to strengthening the science-policy interface biodiversity and ecosystem services at the national, regional and global levels. This governance structure should guarantee its relevance for decision-makers and the scientific community and therefore establish a fluent two-way dialogue between science and policy, without being policy prescriptive. This governance structure should also identify selection criteria for scientific experts for the preparation of assessments and other relevant studies for decision-making, which ensure an



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equitable access by all regions throughout the world. Regional initiatives and existing networks would be key to the functioning of the new mechanism.

Regional initiatives and networks should draw from existing networks and must contribute to the work of the new mechanism.

Funding

Finally, Delegations highlighted the need to clarify the sources of funding for the proposed mechanism and emphasised in no case create additional burdens to developing countries.

The participant countries in this meeting request UNEP to present preliminary budgets regarding each of the alternatives to the establishment of the mechanism.



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ANNEX



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List of Participants

I. Government Delegations

ARGENTINA

Sra. Inés Kasulini
Grupo de Trabajo sobre Conservación de la
Biodiversidad
**Secretaría de Ambiente y
Desarrollo Sustentable de la Nación**
San Martín No. 459 de 238
C1004AA1 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel.: (+54-11) 4348-8502
Fax: (+54-11) 4348-8355
C.E.: ikasulin@ambiente.gov.ar
Sitio: www.ambiente.gov.ar

BRASIL

Sr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Director, Conservación de la Diversidad
Biológica
Secretaría de Biodiversidad y Foresta
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Ave. W2 Norte SEP, cuadra 505, Bloco B
Edifício Marie Prendi Cruz, Sala 416
Brasília, D.F., Brasil 70.730-542

Tel.: (+55-61) 3105-2027
Fax: (+55-61) 3105-2028
C.E.: Bráulio.dias@mma.gov.br
Sitio: www.mma.gov.br

Sr. Pedro A.F.C. de Andrade
Segundo Secretario,
División de Medio Ambiente
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Esplanada Dos Ministerios, Bloco H, Anexo II,
Sala 204
Brasília, Brasil

Tel.: (+55-61) 3411-8447
Fax: (+55-61) 3411-8446
C.E.: pafca@mre.gov.br
Sitio: www.mre.gov.br

Sr. Ricardo Melamed
Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología
Brasília, D.F., Brasil

Tel.:
Fax:
C.E.: ricardo.melamed@ct.gov.br
Sitio:


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CHILE

Sr. Raúl Campusano
 Jefe
 Departamento Asuntos Internacionales
**Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente
 (CONAMA)**
 Teatinos No. 258, piso 6
 Col. Centro, Santiago, Chile

Tel.: (+56-2) 240-5780
Fax: (+56-2) 240-5620
C.E.: rcampusano@conama.cl
Sitio: www.conama.cl

Sr. Miguel Stutzin
 Jefe
 Departamento de Recursos Naturales
**Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente
 (CONAMA)**
 Teatinos No. 258
 Col. Centro, Santiago, Chile

Tel.: (+56-2) 240-5640
Fax.: (+56-2) 240-5640
C.E.: mstutzin@conama.cl
Sitio.: www.conama.cl

COLOMBIA

Sr. Jerónimo Rodríguez
 Coordinador
 Programa Política y Legislación
**Instituto de Investigación de Recursos
 Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt**
 Calle 28ª No. 15-09
 Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

Tel.: (+57-1) 320-2767 ext. 201
Fax: (+57-1) 320-6727
C.E.: jdrodriguez@humboldt.gov.co
Sitio: www.humboldt.org.com

COSTA RICA

Sra. Lesbia Sevilla Estrada
 Punto Focal Nacional
Convenio Diversidad Biológica
 Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación
 San José, Costa Rica

Tel.: (+506) 2256-0917 ext. 145
Fax: (+506) 2256-4389
C.E.: lesbia.sevilla@sinac.go.cr
Sitio: www.sinac.go.cr

CUBA

Sr. Roberto Pérez de los Reyes
 Especialista en Medio Ambiente
 Agencia de Medio Ambiente
**Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio
 Ambiente**
 Industria y San José, Capitolio Nacional
 12000 La Habana, Cuba

Tel.: (+53-7) 202-5547
Fax: (+53-7) 204-0852
C.E.: rperez@ama.cu
Sitio: www.ama.cu


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GUATEMALA

Sra. Enma L. Díaz Lara
 Viceministra de Recursos Naturales
Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
 20 Calle, 28-58 Zona 10 Edificio MARN
 Guatemala, Guatemala

Tel.: (+502) 2423-0507
Fax: (+502) 2360-0506
C.E.:
viceministro.rnaturales@marn.gob.gt
Sitio: www.marn.gob.gt

MÉXICO

Sr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz
 Director de Enlace y Asuntos Internacionales
Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)
 Ave. Liga Periférico – Insurgente Sur 4903, piso 2, Col. Parque del Pedregal,
 CP 14010 México, D.F., México

Tel.: (+52-55) 5004-5025
Fax: (+52-55) 5004-4985
C.E.: hbenitez@conabio.gob.mx
Sitio: www.conabio.gob.mx

Sra. Norma Alvarez Girard
 Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales
Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO)
 Ave. Liga Periférico – Insurgente Sur 4903, piso 2, Col. Parque del Pedregal
 CP 14210 México, D.F., México

Tel.: (+52-55) 5004-4970
Fax: (+52-55) 5004-4985
C.E.:
 norma.alvarez@conabio.gob.mx
Sitio: www.conabio.gob.mx

NICARAGUA

Sr. Francisco Gadea
 Director General de Patrimonio Natural
Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARENA)
 km 12.5 de la Carretera Norte frente a la Zona Franca Las Mercedes
 Managua, Nicaragua

Tel.: (+505 2) 2263-2618
Fax: (+505 2) 2263-2618
C.E.: fgadea@marena.gob.ni
Sitio: www.marena.gob.ni

PANAMÁ

Sr. Darío Luque
 Técnico de Biodiversidad y Vida Silvestra
Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM)
 Albrook Edificio 804 - Balboa, Ancón
 Panamá, Panamá

Tel.: (+507) 500-0878
Fax: (+507) 500-0839
C.E.: d.luque@anam.gob.pa
Sitio: www.anam.gob.pa

Sra. Natividad Jaramillo
 Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales
Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM)
 Albrook Edificio 804 - Balboa, Ancón
 Panamá, Panamá

Tel.: (+507) 500-0800
Fax: (+507) 500-0800
C.E.: natividad.jaramillo@anam.gob.pa
Sitio: www.anam.gob.pa



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PERÚ

Sra. Roxana Solis
Punto Focal del Mecanismo de Facilitación de
Información en Biodiversidad,
Dirección General de Diversidad Biológica
**Viceministerio de Desarrollo Estratégico de
los Recursos Naturales
Ministerio de Ambiente**
Av. Guardia Civil No. 205, San Borja
41 Lima, Perú

Tel.: (+51-1) 225-5370 anexo 249
Fax: (+51-1) 225-5369
C.E.: rsolis@minam.gob.pe
Sitio: www.minam.gob.pe

ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Mr. Randolph Edmead
Director
Department of Physical Planning and
Environment
**Ministry of Finance, Sustainable Development,
Information and Technology**
Bladen Commercial Development, Wellington
Road
Basseterre, St Kitts, and Nevis

Tel.: (+1-869) 465-2277
Fax: (+1-869) 465-5842
E-M.: phyplskb@sisterisles.kn
Web Site: www.

ST VICENT AND THE GRANADINES

Mr. Fitzgerald Providence
Senior Forestry Supervisor
Forestry Department
**Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries**
Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines

Tel.: (+1-784) 457-8594/453-3340
Fax: (+1-784) 457-8502/1688
E-M.: fitzpro@yahoo.com
Web Site: www.

URUGUAY

Sr. Víctor Cantón
Director de División Biodiversidad y Areas
Protegidas
Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente
**Ministerio de Vivienda, Territorio y
Ambiente**
Galicia 1133, Entrepiso
Montevideo, Uruguay

Tel.: (+598 2) 917-0710 ext 4456
Fax: (+598 2) 917-0710 ext 4410
C.E.: victor.canton@dinama.gub.uy
Sitio: www.dinama.gub.uy



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REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA

Sr. Jesús Manzanilla
Director General
Oficina Nacional de Diversidad Biológica
Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente
Centro Simón Bolívar, Torre Sur, 18º piso, El Silencio
1010-A, Caracas, Venezuela

Tel.: (+58-212) 408-4758/9
Fax: (+58-212) 408-1503
C.E.: jmanzanilla@minamb.gob.ve
Sitio: www.minamb.gob.ve

II. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Mr. Anantha K. Duraiappah
Chief Ecosystem Services Economic Unit
Division of Environmental Policy
Implementation
(DEPI)
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 47074 Nairobi 00100 Kenya

Tel.: (+254 20) 762-2309
Fax: (+254 20) 762-4324
E-M.:
anantha.duraiappah@unep.org
Sitio: www.unep.org

Mr. Nicolas Kosoy
Coordinator
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
Implementation
Ecosystem Services Economic Unit
Division of Environmental Policy
Implementation
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel.: (+254 20) 762-5728
Fax: (+254 20) 762-4249
E-M.: nicolas.kosoy@unep.org
Web Site: www.unep.org

Mrs. Mara Murillo
Deputy Regional Director & Officer in Charge
United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/ROLAC
Edificio 103, Ave. Morse, Ciudad del Saber
Clayton, Panamá

Tel.: (+507) 305-3131
Fax: (+507) 305-3105
E.M.: mara.murillo@unep.org
Sitio: www.pnuma.org