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**REPORT ON THE COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
IN THE AREA OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a regional study conducted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, in their respective roles as technical secretariat and coordinator, of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The objective was to carry out an in-depth study of the international statistical activities in the area of environmental statistics, with a view to strengthening coordination of those activities and optimizing their contribution to the development of environmental statistics in the region. The study is based primarily on the results of a survey in which 33 ECLAC member countries were invited to take part in order to (a) report on the current status of statistical programmes in the area of the environment; (b) identify the activities in the area of environmental statistics supported by international cooperation; and (c) determine the challenges and needs of Latin American and Caribbean countries in this area. In addition, a bibliographical review was conducted using other sources of information, such as websites.

The results of the study show that 80.5% of national institutions have an environmental statistics programme but lack the necessary human and financial resources. Another major challenge for environmental statistical programmes is the lack or inadequacy of inter-agency agreements.

In terms of international cooperation, the study reveals that most of the countries in the region (72%) participate in initiatives that directly or indirectly promote development of environmental statistics. In addition, 28% of the institutions that took part stated that they had environmental statistics programmes supported by international cooperation.

According to countries and regional agencies, the priority areas for international cooperation support are training and technical assistance with technical and methodological issues ranging from the generation of basic statistics to the establishment of environmental accounts.

As revealed in the study, there are various organizations and initiatives relating to the development of environmental statistics in the region. Some initiatives cover the entire region, while others such as those of the Andean Community and Central America and the Caribbean have a subregional focus. Therefore, the Statistical Conference of the Americas plays an important role in promoting coordination of these initiatives by inviting various organizations to participate in the meetings of the Conference and its working groups. For example, the Andean Community, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) all participate in the meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics.

With regard to financing of international cooperation, the main donors have made relatively few investments in the development of environmental statistics. Some activities are financed bilaterally or by multilateral institutions, but many are isolated activities such as technical assistance, fact-finding missions, support for conferences or activities relating to monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and which require relatively little funding. Therefore, donors must recognize the present demands in the area of development of environmental statistics in order to channel more funds towards this emerging area. For this reason, it is important to direct and transmit these requirements gradually, perhaps via the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

Lastly, some recommendations based on the evidence provided by the study are put forward for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Statistical Community of Latin America and the Caribbean:

1. The institutions of the countries of the region must take the necessary steps to secure the human and financial resources needed for the operation of the environmental statistical programmes.
2. Adequate time and resources must be set aside in order to establish inter-agency agreements and coordination mechanisms.
3. Where possible, institutions should include activities (technical assistance, horizontal cooperation, expert participation in regional forums, etc.) in bilateral projects in order to generate synergies in regional and subregional initiatives and to create opportunities for exchange with other countries.
4. In order to enhance coordination in the area of environmental statistics, institutions should keep the Working Group on Environmental Statistics informed of their activities and projects in this area.
5. National institutions should seek better coordination and inter-agency collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts in the collection of statistical information.
6. Institutions should state their needs regarding the development of environmental statistics and draw up project proposals focusing specifically on the issue.
7. With the help of ministries of the environment, existing funds for projects aimed at dealing with environmental problems (for example, climate change, management of water resources and forests.) could be tapped by incorporating in such projects a component that supports the development/strengthening of environmental statistics.

INTRODUCTION

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC has formulated a strategy to assist the countries of the region in strengthening their official statistics, "...stimulating improvement of its technical quality, international comparability international, regional and bilateral cooperation, and its credibility, thus contributing to improving the region's public policies".¹

In 2009, the Working Group on Environmental Statistics was formally established incorporating Mexico (as the coordinator), together with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic Panama, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and ECLAC as Technical Secretariat. The Working Group on Environmental Statistics includes representatives of national statistical offices as well as ministries of the environment of the member countries. The Secretariat of the Andean Community and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development have since joined the group and act as advisory agencies.

The general objective of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics is to promote the development of relevant statistics on natural resources and the environment and their integration into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The specific objectives of the Working Group are to promote the creation of inter-agency platforms for collaboration in, and coordination and integration of, regional initiatives in environmental statistics, indicators and accounts.

At the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago in April 2010, the Commission was asked, "in collaboration with Mexico, as coordinator of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics, to prepare an in-depth report on international statistical activities in the area of the environment, with a view to strengthening coordination of those activities and optimizing their contribution to the development of environmental statistics in the region and presenting it at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference".²

In response to this request, ECLAC, together with Mexico, conducted a study to examine the international statistical activities in the area of the environment in the region. The findings of this study are presented in this report.

The report is made up of five sections. Section 1 sets out the objectives and methodologies of the study. Section 2 presents the findings of the survey. Section 3 presents information on international and regional agencies that work on environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and examines their responses to the survey. Section 4 contains an analysis of the trends and looks at the main donors in the area of statistical development in the region. Lastly, section 5 analyses the situation and formulates recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

¹ ECLAC, Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, LC/L.2715 (Rev.1), Santiago, 2007.

² ECLAC, Report of the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2456(CE.9/5)), Santiago, 2010.

I. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGIES OF THE STUDY

The object was to conduct an in-depth study of the international statistical activities in the area of environmental statistics, with a view to strengthening coordination of those activities and optimizing their contribution to the development of environmental statistics in the region.

To this end, a survey was conducted (see annex 1) in order to: (a) report on the current status of statistical programmes in the area of the environment; (b) identify the activities in the area of environmental statistics supported by international cooperation; and, (c) determine the challenges and needs of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in this field. The relevant questionnaire was sent out to the national statistical offices and to the ministries of the environment in the 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries belonging to ECLAC. It was also sent to the following five regional organizations, which support the development of environmental statistics: the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, ECLAC and UNEP.

In addition, a bibliographical review was conducted and other sources of information, such as websites, were used. One noteworthy source analysed was the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) entitled Paris 21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics-PRESS (2010)³. This global overview of international support for statistical development contains information on donors, areas and amounts and can facilitate collaboration and coordination between international organizations and countries. The methodology for collecting the information used in PRESS 2010⁴ has constraints due to possible under- or overestimates and so the results must be used with care.

Of the 33 countries of the region⁵ participating in the survey, 28 responded (85%). Responses were also received from the five agencies that promote development of environmental statistics in the region, which were invited to take part.

With regard to the limitations of the study, it is important to note that in many cases the questionnaires were completed by only one national office. Given that in Latin America and the Caribbean, the national statistical offices and ministries of the environment are the main public agencies responsible for generating, systematizing and disseminating environmental statistical information, it would have been useful to have responses from both organizations involved in order to obtain a general overview of the environmental statistical situation in each of the countries. Of the 36 questionnaires received, 23 were completed by national statistical offices and 13 by ministries of the environment (see annex 2). Only in the case of 8 of the 28 countries were responses received from both entities, while in 15 cases only national statistic offices responded and in 5 only ministries of the environment responded.

³ Section 4 presents some of the findings of the report PRESS 2010.

⁴ See [online] <http://www.paris21.org/sites/default/files/PRESS2009-methodology.pdf>.

⁵ The countries surveyed were: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

**II. STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

This section presents the findings of the survey on international cooperation received by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of environmental statistics.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES

Of the 36 participating institutions, 29 (80.5%) stated that they have an environmental statistics programme, 6 do not have a programme and 1 institution did not answer the question. Of the institutions that have a programme of this nature, 18 are national statistical offices and 11 are ministries of the environment (see table 1).

Table 1
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN EXISTENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS
PROGRAMMES IN NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES AND
MINISTRIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Country	National statistical offices	Ministry of the environment
Antigua and Barbuda	...	✓
Argentina	...	✓
Bahamas	X	...
Barbados	...	X
Belize	...	✓
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	X	...
Brazil	✓	...
Chile	X	✓
Colombia	✓	...
Costa Rica	✓	✓
Cuba	✓	...
Dominican Republic	✓	✓
Ecuador	✓	...
El Salvador	X	X
Grenada	✓	...
Guatemala	✓	✓
Guyana	✓	...
Haiti	✓	...
Jamaica	✓	...
Mexico	✓	✓
Nicaragua	...	✓
Panama	✓	✓
Paraguay	✓	...
Peru	✓	...
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Suriname	✓	...
Uruguay	✓	...
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	✓	✓

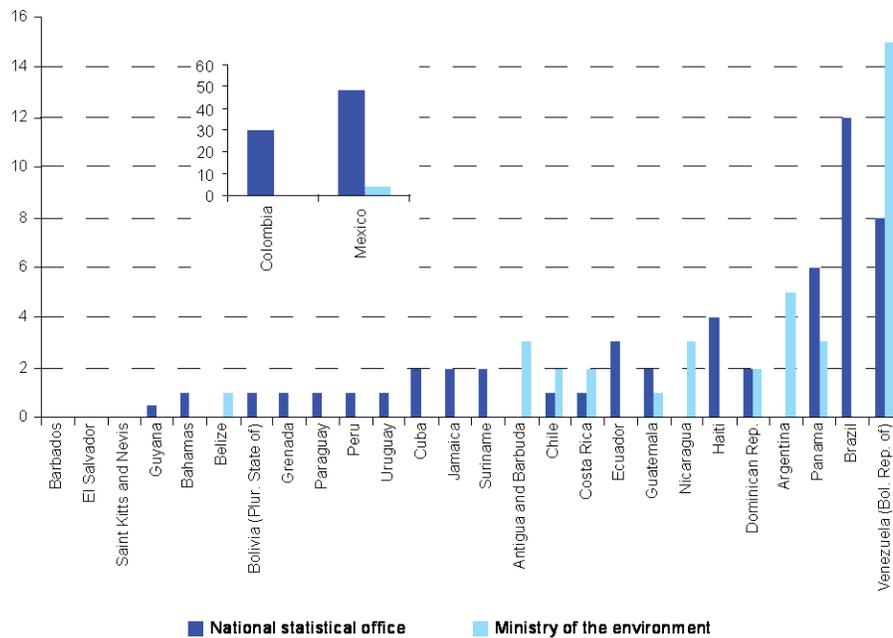
Source: Prepared by the authors.

Note: ✓= have a programme; X= no programme; (...) = no information available.

Of the 27 countries⁶ that responded to this question, 23 (85%) have an environmental statistics programme, either in the national statistical office and/or the ministry of the environment. In fact, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama (have an environmental statistics programme in both institutions).

The survey reveals that in terms of human resources, 25 (89%) of the 28 countries polled have experts assigned to the area of environmental statistics (see figure 1).

Figure 1
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (28 COUNTRIES): TECHNICAL STAFF THAT WORK
 IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES**
(Number of full-time technical staff)^a



Source: Prepared by the authors.

^a Part-time staff working on environmental statistics count as 50% of a full-time technical staff member; thus the information presented could be an overestimate.

Table 2 shows that 28% of the institutions have one technical expert dedicated to the area of environmental statistics, 22% have two experts, while 25% have four or more experts.

⁶ Of the 28 countries that responded to the questionnaire, Saint Kitts and Nevis was the only one that did not respond to this question).

Table 2
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (28 COUNTRIES): EXPERTS WORKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES

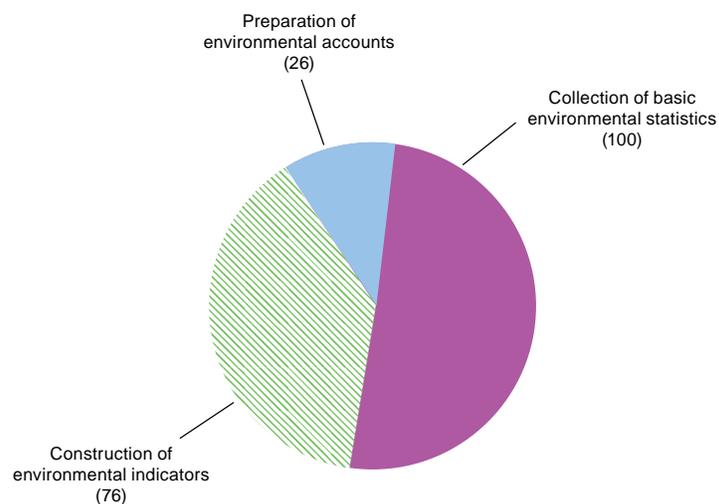
Number of experts	Number of institutions	Percentage
0	4	11
0.5	1	3
1	10	28
2	8	22
3	4	11
4 or more	9	25

Source: Prepared by the authors.

The countries with the highest numbers of experts working in the area of environmental statistics are: Mexico, Colombia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Brazil.

In terms of the main functions of the programmes, all institutions stated that they collect environmental statistics (34), 76% collect basic statistics and create indicators, and 26% create environmental accounts (see figure 2). Indeed, only 8 institutions in 7 countries (Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama) state that they conduct all three activities simultaneously.

Figure 2
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (28 COUNTRIES): MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the authors.

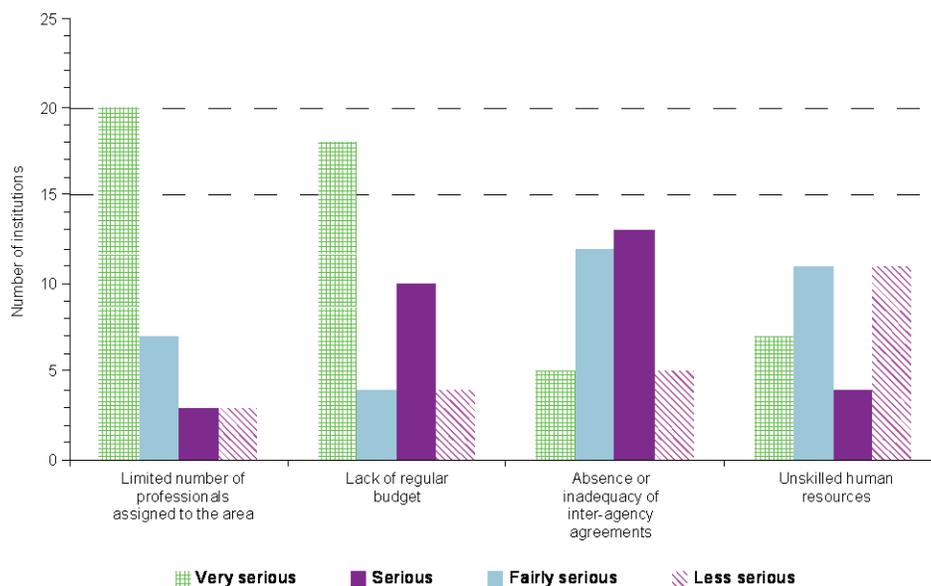
The following activities are also mentioned by some countries: preparing maps and environmental statistics with georeferenced information; coordination of national environmental statistics systems and analysis of indicators to monitor environmental public policies.

In terms of financing, of the 36 institutions participating in the survey, only 13 (36%) have a specific budget for the development of environmental statistics, whereas the remaining 23 institutions (64%) do not have an established budget. In addition, only the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Mexico have a budget for collecting and preparing environmental statistics in both institutions (national statistical offices and ministries of the environment).

Regarding the main constraints in creating and establishing environmental statistics programmes, 56% of the institutions consider that the most significant is the number of professionals dedicated to the area, as well as the lack of regular financing (see figure 3).

The lack or inadequacy of inter-agency agreements is another constraint that affects 47% of institutions (it is very serious for 5 institutions and serious for 12 institutions).

Figure 3
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (28 COUNTRIES): MAIN CONSTRAINTS IN CREATING AND STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES



Source: Compiled by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

B. PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In addition to finding out about the current status of environmental statistics programmes in the countries of the region, the survey sought to obtain information on the work on environmental statistics supported by international cooperation.

Of the 36 institutions that participated, only 10 (28%) —7 were from national statistical offices and 3 from ministries of the environment— responded that they were currently conducting or participating in multilateral, bilateral or horizontal projects relating to the development of environmental statistics (see table 3).

Table 3
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INSTITUTIONS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROJECTS

Country	Institution	International counterpart	Area
Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of the environment	Global Environmental Facility	Compiling basic statistics
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	National statistical office	Swedish Cooperation	Not specified
Brazil	National statistical office	United Nations Statistics Division	Environmental accounts
Costa Rica	Ministry of the environment	Central American Commission on Environment and Development	Indicators for monitoring the fulfilment of environmental agreements under the Free Trade Agreement
Dominican Republic	Ministry of the environment	Central American Commission on Environment and Development	Indicators for monitoring the fulfilment of environmental agreements under the Free Trade Agreement
Ecuador	National statistical office	ECLAC	Environmental indicators
Guyana	National statistical office	No counterpart specified	Environmental indicators
Jamaica	National statistical office	CARICOM, funded by the European Union	Training workshops
Panama	National statistical office	National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico	Environmental accounts
Suriname	National statistical office	Conservation International	Not specified

Source: Prepared by authors.

Regarding the institutions with plans for starting a project on environmental statistics in the near future, 10 (28%) responded positively (see table 4).

Table 4
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (10 COUNTRIES) INSTITUTIONS PLANNING TO START ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROJECTS SOON

Country	Institution	International counterpart	Area
Antigua and Barbuda	Ministry of the environment	Global Environmental Facility	Energy statistics
Barbados	Ministry of the environment	Global Environmental Facility and UNEP	indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development
Brazil	National statistical office	United Nations Statistics Division	Forest accounts
Colombia	National statistical office	World Bank	Emissions accounts
Ecuador	National statistical office	ECLAC	Standardization of methodologies
Mexico	National statistical office and ministry of the environment	Inter-American Development Bank	Regional strategy for the development of environmental statistics
Peru	National statistical office	No counterpart specified	Survey on solid waste
Suriname	National statistical office	World Wildlife Fund	Not specified
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	National statistical office	Inter-American Development Bank	Regional strategy for the development of environmental statistics

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Indeed, 3 of the 10 institutions that have plans to start environmental statistics projects state that they are participating in the regional project presented to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics for financing under the Regional Public Goods Program (see box).

Box 1

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF OFFICIAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC POLICYMAKING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This project proposal was drawn up by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and presented to the fund of the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for funding of the 2010 round (<http://www.iadb.org/int/bpr>).

The main objective of the project is to create a regional strategy and an action plan for the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics systems. The strategy covers, in particular, the institution-building and technical development needed to produce basic statistics, indicators and environmental accounts in accordance with the priorities and resources available in each country, as well as a methodological framework for regional comparison and aggregation of information.

IDB will notify the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the results of the evaluation of the proposal by mid- 2011. If the project is adopted, activities will start in the second half of 2011.

Source: compiled by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

In terms of technical assistance (including horizontal cooperation), 61% of agencies report having received support in the area of environmental statistics in the last two years. Table 5 shows that ECLAC was the main international organization providing technical assistance.

Table 5
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (19 COUNTRIES) INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

Country/Institution	International organization
Antigua and Barbuda-Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment	Global Environmental Facility
Bahamas-National statistical office	ECLAC and CARICOM
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)-National statistical office	ECLAC and Swedish National Statistics Institute
Brazil-National statistical office	ECLAC, United Nations Statistics Division, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)
Chile-Ministry of the Environment	ECLAC
Colombia-National Administrative Department of Statistics	Andean Community and National Statistics Institute of Spain
Costa Rica-National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)	UNEP and ECLAC
Costa Rica-Ministry of the Environment and Energy	ECLAC and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development Cooperation Agreement
Cuba-National Statistical Office	ECLAC
Dominican Republic-National Statistical Office	European Union and ECLAC
Ecuador-National Institute of Statistics and Censuses	ECLAC
Guatemala-National Institute of Statistics	Universidad Rafael Landívar
Guatemala-Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources	ECLAC
Guyana-Bureau of Statistics	CARICOM
Mexico-National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)	ECLAC
Panama-National Institute of Statistics and Censuses	INEGI of Mexico
Paraguay-Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses	ECLAC
Saint Kitts and Nevis- Statistics Department	CARICOM and United Nations Statistics Division
Suriname-General Bureau of Statistics	United Nations Statistics Division
Uruguay-Department of Statistics and Censuses	Not specified
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)-National statistical office	ECLAC
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)-Ministry of People's Power for the Environment	ECLAC

Source: Prepared by the authors.

III. ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES FOR THE ADVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The number of international, regional and subregional initiatives designed to promote the development of environmental statistics has grown steadily over the past decade. The results of the survey on countries' participation in such initiatives are presented below along with a summary of ongoing initiatives. The results of the questionnaires sent to regional organizations that are contributing to development and strengthening of environmental statistics in the region are also included.

A. INITIATIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

According to the survey, 72% of the institutions are participating in international and/or regional initiatives relating to the development of environmental statistics. Table 6 shows information on the participation of national institutions in major initiatives.

Table 6
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (21 COUNTRIES): MAIN INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS^a

Country/Institution	Andean Community Indicators	Working Group on Environmental Statistics	ILAC Indicators	Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)	London Group	Others
Antigua and Barbuda-Ministry of the environment		✓				
Argentina-Ministry of the environment			✓			
Barbados-Ministry of environment						CARICOM Indicators
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) National statistical office	✓					
Brazil-National statistical office		✓	✓	✓	✓	UNCEEA
Chile-National statistical office		✓				
Colombia-National statistical office	✓	✓	✓		✓	UNCEEA, Millennium Development Goal 7
Costa Rica-National statistical office		✓	✓			
Costa Rica-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			
Cuba-National statistical office		✓	✓			
Dominican Republic-National statistical office		✓	✓			

Table 6 (concluded)

Country/Institution	Andean Community Indicators	Working Group on Environmental Statistics	ILAC Indicators	Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)	London Group	Others
Dominican Republic-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			
Ecuador-National statistical office	✓		✓			
El Salvador-Ministry of the environment			✓			
Guyana-National statistical office						Caribbean Community Indicators
Jamaica-National statistical office			✓	✓		
Mexico-National statistical office		✓		✓	✓	Oslo Group
Mexico-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			
Nicaragua-Ministry of the environment			✓			
Panama-National statistical office		✓				
Panama-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			
Peru-National statistical office	✓		✓			
Suriname-National statistical office				✓		
Uruguay-National statistical office			✓			
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)-National statistical office		✓	✓			Millennium Development Goal 7 Indicators
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			Millennium Development Goal 7, FTA Indicators

Source: Prepared by the authors.

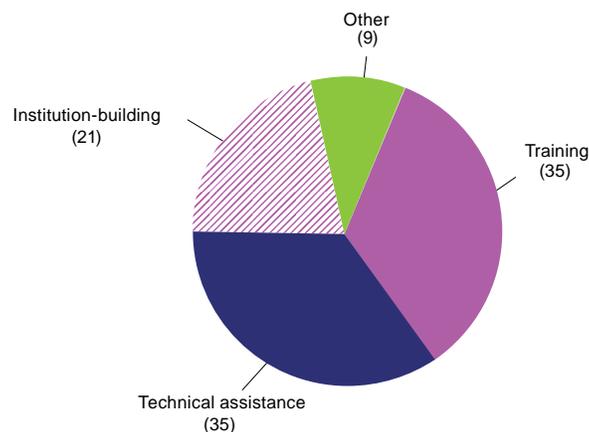
^a The main initiatives are: Andean Community environmental indicators, Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) indicators, Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), London Group on Environmental Accounting, Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), indicators of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals: Ensure environmental sustainability, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) environmental indicators, Central America Free Trade Agreement environmental indicators.

Clearly, the regional initiatives are those that attract the highest level of country participation. Foremost of these is the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), (18 agencies from 15 countries); this is followed by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (15 institutions from 10 countries). There are fewer countries

participating in international initiatives, such as the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the London Group on Environmental Accounting. Further information on the organizations and initiatives that are contributing to the development and strengthening of environmental statistics in the region is provided in annex III.

Countries were also asked what the priority should be for international, regional and bilateral organizations that support the development of environmental statistics. Figure 4 shows that training and technical assistance are priority areas.

Figure 4
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PRIORITY AREAS THAT REQUIRE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS
(Percentages)



Source: Prepared by the authors.

Regarding the specific areas (see table 7) that require support from the international community, various issues were reported that are related primarily to training and technical assistance for generating basic statistics, indicators and environmental accounts. One of the priority issues which stand out with regard to institution-building is support for the organization and strengthening of the units responsible for generating environmental statistics.

Table 7
**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: PRIORITY ISSUES THAT REQUIRE
 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Priority areas and issues	Response (percentage)
Training (35%)	
• Generation of basic statistics	22
• Environmental accounts	19
• Environmental indicators	11
Technical assistance (35%)	
• Generation of basic statistics and indicators	26
• Environmental accounts	19
• Generation and maintenance of environmental statistics systems	8
Institution-building (21%)	
• Organization and strengthening of an environmental statistical unit	56
• Computing platforms to process and disseminate information	25
• Environmental statistic awareness courses	13
Other (9%)	
• Financial resources	43
• Exchange of experience	29

Source: Prepared by authors.

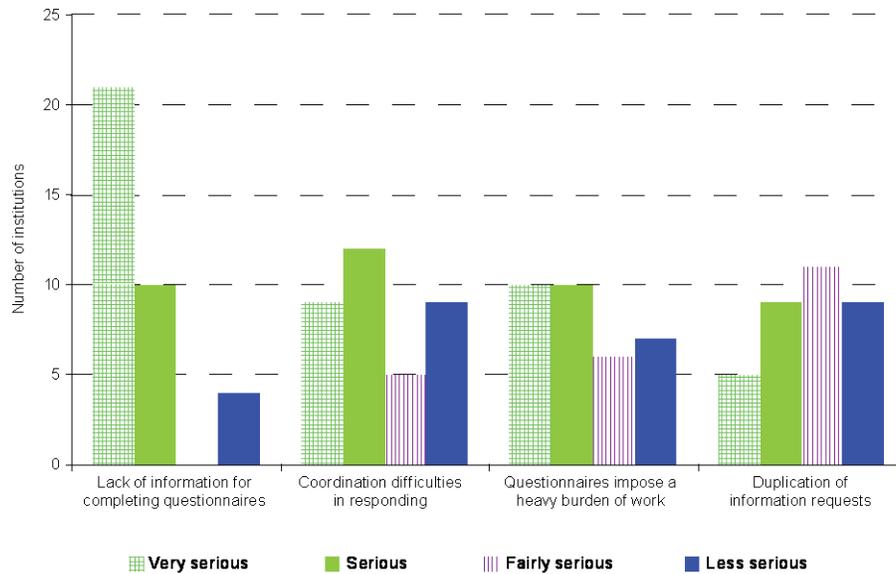
B. INFORMATION REQUESTS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

There is a growing demand for information on environmental statistics, both at the national level (from ministries and citizens) and at subregional, regional and international levels from international organizations. Although this growing demand has driven environmental statistics development, it has also led to a work overload as a result of multiple and sometimes duplicate information requests. In general, countries state that the international community needs to improve its coordination and synergies within the framework of the international statistical system to avoid duplication of efforts and to help the countries use the scarce resources available in this area efficiently (ECLAC, 2009).

According to the results of the survey and as shown in table 8, most of the countries receive environmental statistics requests from at least four international organizations. In the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama, both national statistical offices and ministries of the environment responded to the questionnaire and actually received the same information requests from various international organizations.

With regard to the factors impeding responses to information requests, the lack of information available to complete the questionnaires in full stands out as the most important. It is followed by coordination difficulties between the agency and other national organizations to respond to requests of this nature; problems responding to requests because the questionnaires require a lot of work; and lastly, the duplication of information requests is a further difficulty (see figure 5).

Figure 5
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: IMPEDING FACTORS IN RESPONSES TO ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS REQUESTS



Source: Prepared by the authors.

Table 8
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: REQUESTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Country/Institution	CARICOM	ECLAC	FAO	OECD	Latin American Energy Organization	United Nations	Multilateral Agreements
Antigua and Barbuda-Ministry of the environment	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Argentina-Ministry of the environment		✓					
Bahamas-National statistical office	✓	✓				✓	
Barbados-Ministry of the environment						✓	✓
Belize-Ministry of the environment	✓	✓				✓	✓
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	✓
Brazil-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	✓
Chile-National statistical office		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Chile-Ministry of the environment		✓		✓		✓	
Colombia-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	✓
Costa Rica-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	✓
Costa Rica-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Table 8 (concluded)

Country/Institution	CARICOM	ECLAC	FAO	OECD	Latin American Energy Organization	United Nations	Multilateral Agreements
Cuba-National statistical office		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Dominican Republic-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	
Dominican Republic-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			✓	
Ecuador-National statistical office		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
El Salvador-National statistical office		✓				✓	
El Salvador-Ministry of the environment		✓				✓	✓
Grenada-National statistical office	✓	✓				✓	
Guatemala-National statistical office		✓				✓	
Guatemala-Ministry of the environment			✓			✓	✓
Guyana-National statistical office	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Haiti-National statistical office	✓					✓	
Jamaica-National statistical office	✓					✓	
Mexico-National statistical office		✓		✓		✓	
Mexico-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Nicaragua-Ministry of the environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Panama-National statistical office		✓				✓	
Panama-Ministry of the environment		✓	✓			✓	
Paraguay-National statistical office		✓				✓	
Peru-National statistical office		✓				✓	
Saint Kitts and Nevis-National statistical office	✓					✓	
Suriname-National statistical office	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Uruguay-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	✓
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)-National statistical office		✓	✓			✓	
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)-Ministry of the environment			✓			✓	✓

Source: Prepared by the authors.

C. OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

The results of the responses received from the five organizations that participated in the questionnaire are presented below.

Table 9 shows that four of the five organizations have an environmental statistics programme. However, only ECLAC and the Andean Community have a full-time expert dedicated to this area, whereas CARICOM has a statistical assistant and a part-time project coordinator. CARICOM also indicated that it will have permanent staff to support this area by 2011.

Table 9
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

Organization	Existing programmes	Number of dedicated experts	Participation in initiatives	Initiatives	Regions/countries they support
Andean Community	Yes	1	No	-	Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
CARICOM	Yes	2 part-time	Yes	Collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division	The Caribbean
Central American Commission on Environment and Development	No	0	No	-	Central America
ECLAC	Yes	1	Yes	Working Group on Environmental Statistics, Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. (UNCREEA), London Group, Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES)	Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	Yes	0	Yes	ILAC and Working Group on Environmental Statistics	Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Table 10 shows that the priority activities of environmental statistics programmes conducted by the regional organizations taking part in the survey are collecting and publishing environmental statistics and training and technical assistance in generating environmental statistics. In addition, ECLAC and UNEP are technical secretariats for two regional initiatives relating to environmental statistics development.

Table 10
**REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: MAIN FUNCTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL
 STATISTICS PROGRAMMES**

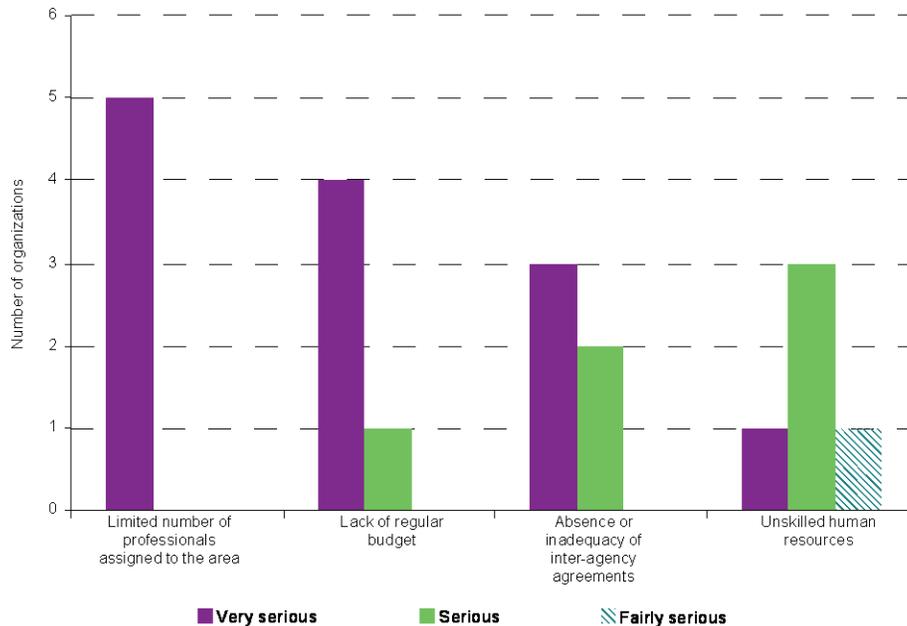
Organization	Collection and publication of environmental statistics	Training in the generation of environmental statistics	Technical assistance in environmental statistics	Technical Secretariat	Others
Andean Community	✓	✓			Horizontal cooperation
CARICOM	✓	✓			Creation of a resources centre to help countries collect environmental statistics
ECLAC	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Working Group on Environmental Statistics)	
UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean			✓	✓ Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

In relation to the main constraints in creating and establishing environmental statistics programmes, figure 6 shows the organizations and national institutions both agree that the main constraint is the limited number of professional staff working in the area. The second concern is the lack of regular funding for environmental statistics, followed by the lack of or weak inter-agency agreements. The last constraint is unqualified human resources.

Other constraints mentioned by the organizations include: the lack of high-level political commitment for generating and using environmental information; weak inter-agency collaboration; high levels of rotation of experts that work in environmental statistics; and the lack of uniform criteria on information that should be generated in the countries.

Figure 6
**REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
 STATISTICS PROGRAMMES**



Source: Prepared by the authors.

Of the five organizations, four state that they are currently conducting or participating in an environmental statistics project. CARICOM is currently conducting activities in the area of environmental statistics with funding from the European Union. The Central American Commission on Environment and Development is launching a regional environmental observatory that includes the generation of environmental indicators for Central America. ECLAC, in conjunction with the German Agency for International Cooperation is launching a project designed to strengthen national capacities for the use of the International Recommendations for Water Statistics and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEAW) as a framework for organizing and compiling water statistics. Lastly, UNEP is using funding from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to support Nicaragua in the production of indicators of sustainable development within the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC).

Organizations were also asked to suggest a priority area for international, regional and bilateral organizations that support the development of environmental statistics in the countries of the region. Table 11 shows that most of the organizations consider training and technical assistance in the area of environmental statistics to be the priority for international cooperation.

Table 11
**REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PRIORITY ISSUES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
 IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS**

Organization	Training	Technical assistance	Institution-building
Andean Community	✓ Use of georeferenced technologies to create environmental indicators	✓	
CARICOM	✓ Training in environmental statistics	✓ Assisting countries in collecting environmental statistics	
Central American Commission on Environment and Development	✓ Methodologies for collecting information	✓ Harmonization of indicators and sources of information	
ECLAC		✓ Environmental accounting, public and private expenditure on environmental protection	✓ Creating strategic plans to create national systems of environmental statistics; inter-agency agreements and coordination of inter-agency platforms
UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	✓ Constructing indicators for decision-making (climate change, sustainable development)	✓ Harmonization of environmental indicators of different regional initiatives	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

Lastly, the regional organizations mentioned the importance of better collaboration, exchange of information and inclusion of key players in regional initiatives to optimize inter-agency coordination at the regional level in the area of environmental statistics.

IV. TRENDS IN FINANCING AND PRINCIPAL DONORS CONTRIBUTING TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

For the purposes of this study, it was deemed appropriate to conduct a bibliographical review on financing and the main donors contributing to statistical development, in particular, environmental statistics. This section is based primarily on the results of the PARIS21 report entitled Partner Report on Support to Statistics –PRESS 2010.⁷

To create the PRESS report, the statistical activities were classified as follows: (1) demographic and social statistics; (2) economic statistics; (3) environmental and multi-domain statistics; (4) general

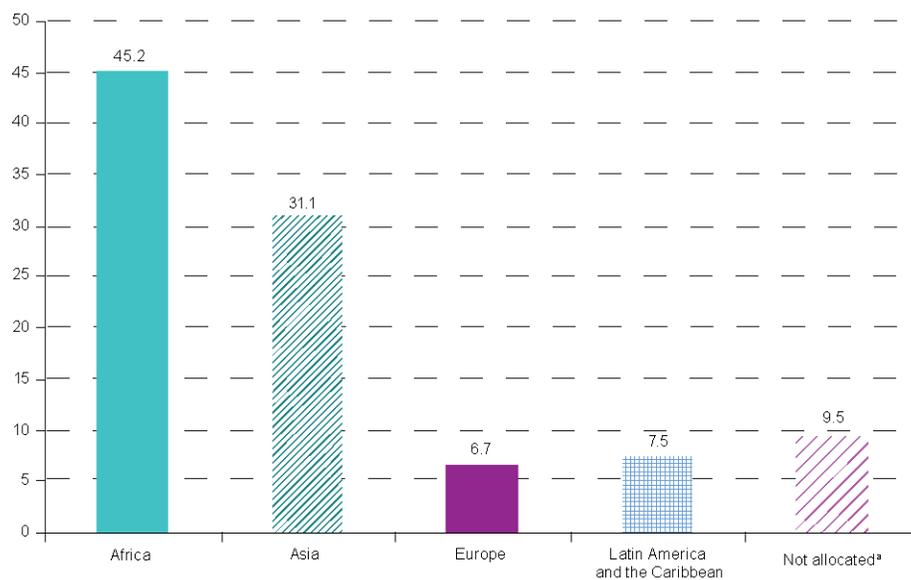
⁷ The PRESS report only covers the following 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

statistical items/methodology of data collection; processing, analysis and dissemination; and (5) strategic and managerial issues of official statistics at the national and international level. Environmental and multi-domain statistics have the following subcategories: environment, poverty, gender, Millennium Development Goal indicators, globalization and sustainable development, among others.

A. GENERAL TRENDS

Financial support committed for the development of statistics between 2008 and 2010 stood at US\$ 1.57 billion. Africa received US\$ 710 million (45.2% of the world total), almost half of the total amount of aid, while Asia received US\$ 488 million (31.1%), Latin America and the Caribbean received US\$ 117 million (7.5%) and Europe US\$ 104 million (6.7%). The amount assigned on a global level to projects and programmes that are not linked to a particular country was US\$ 149 million.

Figure 7
**FUNDING COMMITTED TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT BY
 GEOGRAPHICAL REGION, 2008-2010**
(Percentages of the world total)



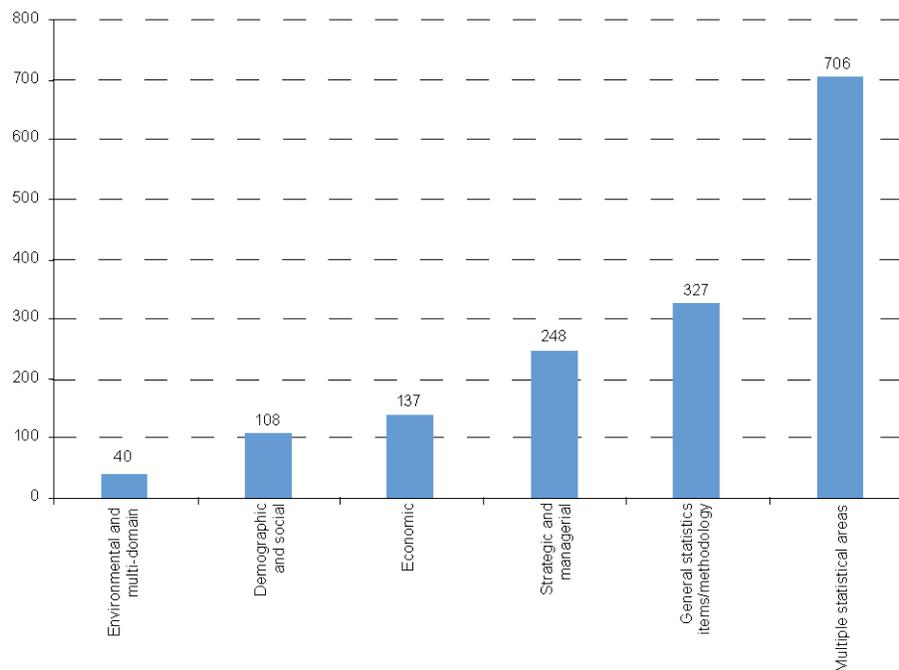
Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of data from the PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics – PRESS, (2010).

^a Refers to activities not linked to specific countries.

In fact, Latin America and the Caribbean received almost the same funding as Europe, a region which is more advanced in terms of statistical development.

Figure 8 shows that the financial resources allocated specifically to the area of environmental and multi-domain statistics on a global scale are insufficient. The resources allocated to the area of environmental and multi-domain statistics are separated into different subcategories that make up this group: for example, poverty, gender and globalization statistics and Millennium Development Goals indicators, among others.

Figure 8
FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BY STATISTICAL CATEGORY, 2008-2010
(Millions of dollars)



Source: PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS, 2010).

Methodologies, strategies and management mechanisms are the statistical areas that received most support according to PRESS 2010. In fact, institution-building is highly supported in a number of forms: design of the strategic statistics plan, strengthening of national statistical systems and delivery of technological resources. However, training of statisticians and the application of international standards and methodologies receive much less financial support from donors.

B. PRINCIPAL DONORS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The same scarcity of resources applies to the allocation of environmental statistics at the regional level. For example, the statistical cooperation project between the European Union and the Andean Community (ANDESTAD), which seeks to improve the quality of statistics used to prepare, manage and evaluate

public policies at the national level, and in particular, the common policies for the Andean Community, does not consider environmental statistics within its areas of activity.⁸

Table 12 shows the main donor institutions and countries that have conducted activities with technical and financial support in the area of environmental and multi-domain statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Table 12
MAIN DONORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND MULTI-DOMAIN STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2008-2010

Bilateral donors	Area(s)	Multilateral donors	Area(s)
European Commission	Statistics on living conditions and poverty, environmental indicators	European Free Trade Association	Support for the conference on environmental statistics of the International Association for Official Statistics
Spain	Statistical training programme and fact-finding mission on environmental statistics	Caribbean Development Bank	Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals
Luxembourg	Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals	Inter-American Development Bank	Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals
The Netherlands	Environmental accounts	World Bank	Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, training in environmental, social and gender statistics
Sweden	Environmental statistics	ECLAC	Training in environmental statistics, indicators and accounts
		United Nations Statistics Division	Environmental accounts, water accounts
		Global Environment Facility	Environmental statistics
		UNEP	Training in construction of environmental indicators

Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of PARIS 21, Partner Report on Support to Statistics – PRESS, 2010 and responses to the survey conducted by the Working Group on Environment Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

Table 12 shows that support for the development of environmental statistics in the region was received from just a handful of bilateral donors. The main multilateral organizations were the United Nations and the World Bank.

⁸ The Andean Community created a community statistical system called ANDESTAD with the help of the European Union, European countries and international organizations. This initiative seeks to support regional integration and build regional institutions through harmonization and continuous improvement of the quality of statistics that are needed to create, manage and evaluate Community public policies. The beneficiaries are the National Institute of Statistics of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Ecuador and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru. The areas covered are institutional support; foreign trade and transport; national accounts and macroeconomic statistics; business and territorial statistics; and poverty (see [online] www.comunidadandina.org/andestad/)

C. FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES FOR STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

There are some funds and programmes at international and regional levels that are specifically designed to advance the development of official statistics, and, although some others are not specifically designed for statistical development, they have been used for that purpose. Below is a summary of the main funds and programmes from which countries can request environmental statistical development support.

1. The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB)

This global facility is administered by the World Bank and its principal objective is to improve the production, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics in countries. TFSCB supports projects at national, regional and global levels (the maximum amount granted is US\$ 400,000) to improve the collection, processing, analysis, storage, dissemination and use of official statistics. Although all developing countries are eligible to apply for funding, priority is given to countries that are implementing poverty reduction strategies or any other national development strategy geared to statistical development. TFSCB supports two types of projects: the first type is geared to the preparation of national strategies for statistical development and the second to building and strengthening capacities in key priority areas. For further information, see [online] <http://go.worldbank.org/XB8911KC60>.

2. Adaptable program loans under the Statistical Capacity Building Program (STATCAP)

These programmes are used by the World Bank to finance investments designed to improve the capacities of statistical systems in different countries. They were designed as flexible instruments to meet the needs of countries at different levels of development. To participate, countries must have a national strategy in the relevant area [see [online] <http://go.worldbank.org/RG3DER8ZT0>].

3. Statistics for Results Facility (SRF)

SRF is a relatively new facility, administered by the World Bank and its main objective is to increase developing countries' capacity to formulate policies and make decisions through sustained improvement in production, availability, quality, and use of statistics. Its specific objectives are (i) to support implementation of national strategies for statistical development; (ii) to promote a system-wide approach in statistics at national level; and (iii) to promote improved coordination and partnership between statistics users and statistical producers at national level. Funds for national level projects will range between US\$ 5 million and US\$ 10 million. An initial pilot phase has been established with five African countries and Afghanistan. Following the evaluation of the pilot phase, SRF will be broadened to include other low income countries. For more information, see <http://go.worldbank.org/QIVZQ1DFW0>.

4. Regional Public Goods Program (BPR)

This programme of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supports innovative public-policy solutions that respond to transnational challenges or opportunities by means of collective action among the countries in the region. Although it does not specifically focus on statistical projects, the Regional Public Goods Program has financed regional projects that aim to create regional public goods in the shape

of national statistics systems. The areas for which financing is provided are: (i) social policy for equality and productivity; (ii) infrastructure for competitiveness and social welfare; (iii) institutions for growth and social welfare; (iv) competitive regional and global international integration; and (v) protection of the environment, responsiveness to climate change, promotion of renewable energy, and ensuring food security (see [online] <http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/regional-integration/regional-public-goods/regional-public-goods,1419.html>).

5. Programme for training statisticians in Latin America

The National Statistics Institute of Spain and the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Public Administration and Policies received support from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development with the launch of the programme for statistical training in Latin America. The objective of the programme is to strengthen and modernize statistical systems in Latin America through training and improvement of their human resources. At the same time, the online training which is part of this programme is organized in collaboration with the Economic and Technological Development Distance Learning Centre Foundation. This programme has incorporated courses on environmental statistics (see [online] http://www.ine.es/ine/ine_fiiapp/fiiapp.htm).

V. ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS PROGRAMMES

A previous regional study (ECLAC, 2009) stated that in 2008 the region had made considerable progress in compiling official environmental statistics by creating relevant programmes in both national statistical offices and ministries of the environment; it also revealed, however, that the human and financial resources assigned to the area were clearly insufficient.

In 2011, this trend continues with 80.5% of the institutions that took part in the survey stating that they have an environmental statistics programme and 61% stating that they have between one and three experts dedicated to the area. Most institutions (64%) do not have a budget allocated for such a programme. Therefore, it is not surprising that 56% of the organizations consider the main constraint to be the limited number of experts assigned to that area, followed by the lack of regular funding.

Regional organizations and countries indicated that their main constraint was the limited number of professionals assigned to the area. This was followed by insufficient regular funding and lack or inadequacy of inter-agency agreements.

The greatest challenge to the development of environmental statistics is undoubtedly the lack of human and financial resources available. This raises a number of questions: for example whether the area is important enough to warrant allocation of the necessary resources whether whatever is not measured is unimportant or, from a different perspective, whether it is unimportant because it is not measured?

It is no coincidence that the region's countries that are most advanced in this area, for example, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, are those with the highest number of experts dedicated to generating environmental statistics, accounts and indicators. Environmental statistics are complex by nature and cut

across many different sectors; thus, various organizations take part in their production. For this reason, there must be sufficient professional staff dedicated to this type of programme.

As previously mentioned, all of the agencies are committed to collecting basic statistics, while 76% also produce indicators and only 26% create environmental accounts. Although all the national institutions that participated in the study stated that they were collecting basic statistics, the information generated remains limited, unclear and discontinuous in most of the countries. Since the number of experts working on environmental statistics programmes is so low, it is difficult to strengthen these programmes and respond appropriately to the demand for systematic, timely and quality environmental information. Likewise, it is difficult to produce a synthesis of statistics such as environmental accounts, which, integrationist by nature, are designed to provide information on management and formulation of public policies and this requires a high level of commitment by trained staff.

The lack of human resources assigned to the area of environmental statistics is also evident in the regional organizations that participated in the study. Of the five organizations, four stated that they had an environmental statistics programme, but only three that they had a limited number of experts involved in these activities: one full-time expert in the Andean Community and ECLAC, and two part-time experts in CARICOM. At the same time, the number of countries requesting technical assistance and training in the area of environmental statistics is also increasing. For these reasons, ECLAC is often unable to cope with the requests for technical assistance and training.

Another key challenge to environmental statistics programmes is the lack or inadequacy of, inter-agency agreements. Producing environmental statistics requires collaboration and coordination between national statistical offices, sectoral ministries, agencies, local authorities and other bodies that generate information on the status of natural resources and environmental impact. The roles and responsibilities of the different organizations that collect and produce environmental statistics are often confusing and can lead to duplication of efforts.

By law, the national statistical offices are the governing body of official statistics systems in many countries and therefore they are responsible for coordinating the collection and dissemination of official environmental statistics. However, ministries of the environment also produce, collect and use environmental statistics and they must create a set of environmental indicators pursuant to the prevailing law, in order to monitor compliance with the national environmental policy. This institutional complexity is such that inter-agency agreements are needed to help to define roles and responsibilities, permit exchange of data, promote collaboration, reduce duplications and contribute to the development of a national system of environmental information. Therefore, it is very important to generate forums for collaboration such as inter-agency platforms, working groups or committees that can identify structural impediments to collaboration, and to establish coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the efficient production of official environmental statistics. In addition, it is important to determine and meet the human resources requirements for to the proper conduct of these coordination processes. Coordination of meetings, preparation of technical material, logistics and costs of meetings and monitoring hours of work are important and are often not included among the tasks to be carried out by technical staff.

B. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

The study reveals that most of the countries in the region (72%) participate in initiatives that directly or indirectly promote the development of environmental statistics such as the sustainable development indicators created by the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development and the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. In addition, 28% of the institutions indicated that they have projects on environmental statistics supported by international cooperation. The percentage of agencies that have received support in the past two years, primarily from ECLAC, in the area of environmental statistics is higher (61%).

Countries conducting environmental statistical projects or planning to start projects in the near future with the support of international cooperation are advised to seek opportunities for collaboration and generate synergies with regional initiatives such as the Working Group on Environmental Statistics. An estimate of costs should be included in the project design as it will enable exchange of experiences and collaboration with other countries (horizontal cooperation) and agencies (training and technical assistance). This type of support could significantly strengthen bilateral projects and could have a multiplier effect, which is always attractive for donors.

According to the countries, the priority areas requiring international cooperation support are training (35%), technical assistance (35%) on technical areas and methodologies for areas ranging from generating basic statistics to compiling environmental accounts. Given that it was the experts responsible for environmental statistics who responded to the questionnaire, it comes as no surprise that there is a particular emphasis on technical issues. If the surveys had been addressed to the directors of national statistical offices, perhaps there would have been greater emphasis on institution-building as a key priority area for international cooperation.

Most regional organizations indicated that the priority areas for international cooperation should be training and technical assistance in technical and methodological areas. ECLAC drew attention to the need to support institution-building. The following specific suggestions were made: strategic plans should be drawn up for the creation of national systems of environmental statistics; agreements should be strengthened and inter-agency platforms established. Lastly, the organizations highlighted the importance of improving collaboration and including key actors in regional initiatives to optimize regional inter-agency coordination.

With regard to the requests for information on environmental statistics from international organizations, most countries received environmental statistics requests from at least four international organizations. In fact, many national statistical offices and ministries of the environment in the countries received the same request. The main constraints in responding to these requests included the lack of information to complete the questionnaires and difficulties in coordinating with other national organizations that produce the environmental information requested.

In general, the countries have objected to responding to various demands and have asked international organizations to improve coordination to reduce the work load and avoid duplication of efforts.

In response to this request and to the need to improve inter-agency coordination, ECLAC decided to stop collecting national information in the countries of the region and collect environmental statistics from international sources for publication in the Database of social, economic and environmental

indicators and statistics of ECLAC (CEPALSTAT) and in its Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean. The reason for this decision is to avoid duplication of efforts as a lot of the information that ECLAC sought was also requested by the United Nations Statistics Division, the Food and Agricultural Organization and other international organizations.

Therefore, it would be useful if other organizations such as CARICOM, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development could evaluate their information collection programmes to establish if it is possible to improve collaboration with other organizations in areas where the same information may be requested. This would also enable them to focus their information requests on issues not covered by other organizations.

Annex III summarizes the different organizations and initiatives relating to the development of environmental statistics in the region. Some initiatives cover the entire region, while others have a subregional focus, as is the case in the Andean Community and the countries of Central America and the Caribbean. Therefore, the Statistical Conference of the Americas is playing an important role in promoting coordination of all of these initiatives by inviting various organizations to attend the meetings of the Conference and its working groups. For example, the Andean Community, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and UNEP participate in the meetings of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics. Another example is the database on statistical activities in international organizations of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, an initiative that contributes to improving coordination and collaboration between different agencies.

C. FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

During the period 2008-2010, Latin America and the Caribbean only received 7.5% of the global funds allocated for the development of statistics in general. In view of this constraint, it is very important to have a strategic vision for the use of these funds and invest them in priority areas where there is less development, as is the case of environmental statistics. Indeed, environmental and multi-domain statistics received the least financial support during that period.

The main donors have made relatively few investments in the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some activities are financed bilaterally or by multilateral bodies, but many are specific activities that involve relatively little funding, such as a technical assistance mission, a fact-finding mission, support for a conference or monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Analysts may well ask whether this is because countries do not formulate specific projects for the development of environmental statistics or because donors prefer to finance development of other statistical areas or other aspects of statistical development such as institution-building. Donors, for their part, state that the onus is on the countries (rather than on the donors) to indicate the priority areas requiring support.

A number of funds used to support statistical development could be better harnessed to advance in the area of environmental statistics. From what is known, the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building has financed few projects relating to environmental statistics. The proposal prepared by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics under the Regional Public Goods Program and put to the

Inter-American Development Bank for approval in 2010 is the first proposal that covers the area of environmental statistics. The Spanish National Statistics Institute and the International and Ibero-American Foundation of Public Administration and Policies could also be better used if countries request training through the Statistical Conference of the Americas in specific areas of environmental statistics.

Various international organizations, such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Global Environmental Facility, have funds that were created to tackle environmental problems, such as climate change, deforestation and water resources management. Most of the projects aimed at resolving environmental problems require environmental information as a basis for their actions. A number of the Global Environmental Facility projects have generated valuable information on the status, pressures and impacts on natural resources. Unfortunately, these efforts were not linked to environmental statistics systems in the countries. It is normal that once a project ends, the information is not used or updated. Although these funds are not explicitly designed for the development and/or strengthening of environmental statistics programmes, the statistical offices, in conjunction with the executing agencies (usually ministries of the environment) can propose the inclusion of statistical components in these projects and this could be mutually beneficial in terms of the specific objectives of the project and environmental statistical development of the country in question.

By way of conclusion, donors must be aware of the existing demands in the area of environmental statistics development in order to direct more funds to this emerging area. For this reason, it is important to gradually direct and disseminate these funds, for example, through the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following recommendations, based on evidence provided by the study, are put forward for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the statistical community of Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. The institutions of the countries of the region must take the necessary steps to secure the human and financial resources needed for the operation of the environmental statistics programmes.
2. Adequate time and resources must be set aside in order to establish and/or strengthen inter-agency agreements and coordination mechanisms.
3. Where possible, institutions should include some activities (for example, technical assistance, horizontal cooperation, expert participation in regional forums, etc.) in bilateral projects, in order to generate synergies with regional and subregional initiatives and to facilitate exchanges with other countries.
4. In order to enhance coordination in the area of environmental statistics, institutions should keep the Working Group on Environmental Statistics informed of their activities and projects in this area.

5. National institutions should request international, regional and subregional organizations to improve inter-agency coordination and collaboration in order to avoid duplication of efforts in the collection of statistical information.
6. Institutions should state their needs regarding the development of environmental statistics and draw up project proposals focusing specifically on the issue.
7. With the help of ministries of the environment, existing funds for projects aimed at dealing with environmental problems (for example, climate change and management of water resources and forests) could be tapped by incorporating in such projects a component that supports the development/strengthening of environmental statistics.

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- PARIS 21 (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century) (2010), Partner Report on Support to Statistics – PRESS.

7. Is your institution/agency currently conducting or participating in environmental statistics projects supported by international cooperation (multilateral, bilateral or horizontal)? [?]

- Yes – Please specify the international counterpart and briefly describe the objective(s) of the project(s) (there is no word limit): _____
- No

8. Are there plans to start a project in the near future (1 year) on environmental statistics with the support of international cooperation (future projects)?

- Yes – Please identify the international counterpart and briefly describe the project(s): _____
- No

9. Has your institution/agency received technical assistance (including horizontal cooperation) in environmental statistics over the past two years? [?]

- Yes – Please provide a description (e.g. duration, type of assistance, organization that provided technical assistance etc.): _____
- No

10. What, in your opinion, should be the priority for international, regional and bilateral organizations supporting the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean? Please select two. [?]

	1	2	3	4
a) Lack of information available to complete the questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Coordination problems in responding to the questionnaire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Duplication of information requests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Completing the questionnaire requires too much work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other – Please specify (there is no word limit): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Training - specify areas (there is no word limit): _____
- Technical assistance - specify areas (there is no word limit): _____
- Institution-building - specify areas (there is no word limit): _____
- Others – Please specify (there is no word limit): _____

11. Please specify the international organizations that request environmental statistics information from your institution/agency.

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- ECLAC
- FAO
- OECD
- Latin America Energy Organization
- United Nations (energy, water and waste)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements/Conventions (specify) _____
- Other- Please specify (there is no word limit): _____

12. What are the major constraints of requesting information? The constraints are identified in order of importance: **4= the most important, 3= important, 2=quite important, 1= the least important.** Please select relevant constraints only.

Box for additional comments (there is no word limit):

THANK YOU!

HELP FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS

Question 1: Does your institution/agency have a programme on environmental statistics?

A programme on environmental statistics is a global programme covering a wide scope (whether or not the subject areas covered are dealt with exhaustively). It provides information on the environment, as opposed to information on specific areas, which is generally prepared by ministries for purposes of resource management. For example, water statistics may be provided by the ministry of the environment, the ministry of water resources, the meteorological offices as well as the ministry of agriculture. However, in this questionnaire, these programmes are not considered as environmental statistics programmes. A programme on environmental statistics collects water statistics and statistics on other resources in order to provide information on the environment (regardless of whether the data are collected or received from other institutions).

Question 2: Total number of experts working in the environmental statistics programme in your institution/agency (in full-time equivalent)

The term “experts” refers to the professionals in the area, whereas “support staff” are administrative staff.

Question 7: Is your institution/agency currently conducting or participating in environmental statistics projects supported by international cooperation (multilateral, bilateral or horizontal)?

For the purpose of this questionnaire, international cooperation in environmental statistics refers to all the international activities focusing on the exchange of experiences and resources between countries to develop and/or strengthen national programmes on environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. This cooperation may be multilateral, bilateral or horizontal. Multilateral cooperation refers to cooperation activities between countries conducted through agencies, institutions, organizations or independent multilateral entities, such as the United Nations, World Bank, etc. Bilateral cooperation refers to direct cooperation activities between the donor country and the receiving country through independent government /agencies in both countries. Horizontal cooperation refers to mobilization and exchange of human resources, experts and materials relating to environmental statistics between countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Question 9: Has your institution/agency received technical assistance (including horizontal cooperation) in environmental statistics over the past two years?

“Technical assistance” refers to activities in which knowledge and experience are passed on from experts to staff in the institution in order to strengthen their skills and technical capacity in areas where there is a deficit and to successfully develop environmental statistics.

Question 10: What, in your opinion, should be the priority for international, regional and bilateral organizations supporting the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean?

“Training” refers to all the activities organized to strengthen and train staff in the institution in order to develop their knowledge and skills, thus improving the performance in areas directly related to environmental statistics, such as courses, seminars and exchange of experiences. “Institution-building” refers to a set of actions which aim to improve internal management and the performance of environmental statistics programmes.

Annex 2

LIST OF RESPONDING COUNTRIES

Country	Institution
Antigua and Barbuda	Environment Division
Argentina	Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development
Bahamas	Department of Statistics
Barbados	Ministry of Environment, Water Resource Management and Drainage
Belize	Department of the Environment
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	National Statistics Institute (INE) of Bolivia
Brazil	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)
Chile	National Statistics Institute (INE) of Chile Ministry of the Environment (MMA)
Colombia	National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia
Costa Rica	National Statistics and Census Institute of Costa Rica (INEC) Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAE)
Cuba	National Statistical Office of Cuba (ONE)
Ecuador	National Statistics and Census Institute of Ecuador (INEC) General Directorate of Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC)
El Salvador	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)
Grenada	Central Statistical Office
Guatemala	National Statistics Institute (INE) of Guatemala Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)
Guyana	Bureau of Statistics
Haiti	Haitian Institute of Statistics and Informatics (IHSI)
Jamaica	Statistical Institute
Mexico	National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT)
Nicaragua	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua (MARENA)
Panama	Comptroller General of the Republic of Panama (INEC) National Environmental Authority (ANA)
Paraguay	General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Census (DGEEC)
Peru	National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI)
Dominican Republic	National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic (ONE) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Statistics Department
Suriname	General Bureau of Statistics
Uruguay	National Statistics Institute (INE) of Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	National Statistics Institute (INE) of Venezuela Ministry of People's Power for the Environment (MINAMB)
Organizations	
CAN	Andean Community
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCAD	Central American Commission on Environment and Development
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Annex 3

**MAIN ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

A. ORGANIZATIONS

World Bank

The World Bank's mission is to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors. The World Bank offers technical assistance and financial support for statistical development to its member Governments. Training courses and seminars are also provided. See [online] <http://data.worldbank.org/about/data-programs>.

Andean Community

The Andean Community is a group of four countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia), which joined together for the purpose of achieving rapid, better balanced and more autonomous development. The Andean Community created the Community Statistical System to provide the bodies and institutions of the Andean Integration System with statistical information to establish, agree and analyse Community policies. The Community Statistical System contributes to integration of the Andean Community by strengthening regional institutions and the capacity of national statistical systems, following basic standards that ensure the best quality economic, social and environmental statistics. See [online] <http://estadisticas.comunidadandina.org/eportal/>.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Among the programmes of the CARICOM Secretariat is the Regional Statistics Programme, which seeks to develop a sustainable statistical infrastructure, providing accurate, timely and reliable statistical information of a high quality and broad scope, facilitating analysis and dissemination of these data, promoting their use in effective and efficient decision-making and simultaneously, fostering a similar enabling environment for statistical development among Member States of the Caribbean Community. The Regional Statistics Programme is currently engaged in a number of projects aimed at building capacity in Member States. See www.caricomstats.org.

Caribbean Development Bank

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is a regional financial institution established by agreement in October 1969. Member countries include the States and territories of the Caribbean region. The Bank's purpose is to contribute to the harmonious economic growth and development of its member countries and to promote cooperation and integration among them, having special regard to the needs of the less developed members of the region. Statistical services are carried out within the Economic Department of the Caribbean Development Bank. From time to time, the Department conducts short

training programmes in aspects of economic management that are of specific interest to member countries (see [online] www.caribank.org).

Central American Commission on Environment and Development

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development is the environmental body of the Central American Integration System. Its main objective is to contribute to sustainable development in Central America, strengthening integration and cooperation for environmental management. The Central American Commission on Environment and Development is currently preparing an environmental observatory for its member countries with a view to contributing to decisions and policies made by authorities. The observatory will include a set of indicators for environmental management.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was founded for the purpose of contributing to the economic development of the region through the coordination of international cooperation and reinforcement of economic ties between countries in the region and between these and other nations of the world. The purpose of the work programme of the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division is to support the member countries of ECLAC and the regional community in improving their capacity to generate, analyse and disseminate statistical information and indicators vital to the design and monitoring of economic and social development policies in a timely manner, in keeping with international standards and guided by the best practices established for this field. ECLAC also promotes the Statistical Conference of the Americas as the intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Commission that sets cooperation priorities for statistical development in the region. See [online] www.eclac.org.

Inter-American Development Bank

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is a multilateral institution that finances projects for development in a sustainable, climate-friendly way in Latin America and the Caribbean. It focuses its efforts in the following areas, considered priorities: social policy for equality and productivity; infrastructure for competitiveness and social welfare; institutions for growth and social welfare; competitive regional and global international integration; and protection of the environment, response to climate change and ensuring food security. IDB is an active participant in building statistical capacity in the region. The Bank's strategy in the area of statistics is to strengthen the national statistical systems of the region, emphasizing the improvement of the quality of basic statistics, in order to increase the credibility of the statistics produced, recognize the importance of statistics in the national agenda, and inform and facilitate the adoption of decisions relating to sustainable development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. See [online] www.iadb.org.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) came into being in June 1981, when seven Eastern Caribbean countries signed a treaty agreeing to cooperate with each other and promote unity and solidarity among the members. The mission of the Organization is to be a centre of excellence contributing to the sustainable development of OECS Member States by supporting their strategic integration into the global economy. The OECS Secretariat collaborates with Member States to produce and disseminate a range of data on trade, tourism, agriculture, the labour market, environment, health and social conditions, to facilitate processes that will improve policy formulation and decision-making within

the Secretariat and Member States. Moreover, the Secretariat is committed to the implementation of projects, programmes or initiatives that will equip Member States with enhanced statistical infrastructure, systems and data management capacities (see [online] www.oecs.org).

United Nations Statistics Division

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is committed to the advancement of the global statistical system. It is responsible for the collection and dissemination of global statistical information, developing international standards and norms for statistical activities, and supporting countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical systems. The Statistics Division coordinates programmes for developing statistics and environmental accounts and helps countries to improve their information systems by means of technical cooperation. See [online] <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/>.

United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Panama City, works to serve the needs of the region and its activities are integrated into the work programmes approved by the Governing Council of UNEP. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean also acts as the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development and therefore supports the production of indicators in the region's countries (see [online] <http://www.pnuma.org>).

B. INITIATIVES

Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

In 2009, the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas was formally established with Mexico as the coordinator and the following members Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, the Secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (ECLAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme. The Andean Community and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development recently joined as advisory agencies. The general objective of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics is to promote the development of relevant statistics on natural resources and the environment and integrate them into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (see [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/ceacepal/>).

Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development

The Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development was adopted in mid-2002 at the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held during the World Summit on Environment and Sustainable Development of Johannesburg. It is part of the Plan of Implementation adopted at the aforementioned Summit and is the principal instrument for the promotion of sustainable development within the region. Its main objective is to evaluate the progress of the region's countries (regional goals) and adopt guidelines of action in priority

areas of environmental management and sustainable development. It also aims to achieve commitments consistent with the Millennium Development Goals. The Technical Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development is located at the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. See [online] <http://www.pnuma.org/forumofministers/00-presentation/>.

London Group

The London Group on Environmental Accounting was created in 1993 to allow professionals to share their experiences of developing and implementing environmental accounts linked to the economic accounts of the System of National Accounts. It is made up of experts primarily from national statistical agencies but also international organizations. Over the years, the London Group on Environmental Accounting has played a leading role in advancing the methodologies on environmental-economic accounting. The most notable accomplishments of the London Group have been its contribution to the Handbook of National Accounting: Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting 2003 (SEEA-2003) and, more recently, to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water), which was adopted as an international statistical standard. For further information, see [online] <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup/>.

Millennium Development Goals Indicators

ECLAC, as part of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, has monitored progress of the region's countries towards achievement of the Goals. The main objective of this initiative is to increase the availability of reliable and good quality statistical information for monitoring country progress towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. In recent years, ECLAC has been preparing a regional agenda of statistical reconciliation, which aims to set up common methodological guidelines for the production of statistics relating to the Millennium Development Goals, and is continually working to strengthen technical capacity to ensure appropriate monitoring of progress towards the Goals (see [online] www.eclac.org/mdg).

Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD)

The Member States of the Central American Integration System, with the support of the Paris 21 Consortium, are forming the Central American Statistical Commission which aims to generate a regional statistics system on the basis of information provided by national and regional institutions. See [online] <http://www.sica.int/sica/centroestad.aspx>.

United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

This Committee was established by the United Nations Statistics Division at the thirty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2005. The general objectives of the Committee are: to mainstream environmental-economic accounting and related statistics; to establish the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) as an international statistical standard; and, to advance the implementation of the SEEA in countries. See [online] <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/>

Expert Group on the revision of the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics

The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its forty-first session (February 2010), endorsed a programme of work for the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) of 1984. The United Nations Statistical Commission recommended that an Expert Group should be established to conduct the revision of the FDES and that all relevant stakeholders should be engaged in the process. The objectives are the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) of 1984, and the definition of a set of basic statistics. See [online] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/fdes/fdes_egm.htm.