



### World Environment Day

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## The UNEP Regional Office marks the World Environment Day with activities in Brazil, Mexico and Panama

The UNEP Regional Director and Representative in Latin America and the Caribbean, Margarita Astráraga, participated in several activities to mark the World Environment Day (WED) in Brazil. Margarita Astráraga and the UNEP Representative in Brazil, Denise Hamú, were invited to an international seminar under the theme 'The Geopolitics of Sustainable Development' held at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden on 3 June. In her lecture, Ms. Astráraga addressed the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations

Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the necessary changes on the consumption and production patterns to ensure economic and social development respecting the planet's limits.

On 5 June, the World Environment Day, the UNEP Regional Director and the UNEP Representative in Brazil participated in an evaluation meeting of the Brazilian Panel on Climate Change with the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, and the Minister of the Environment, Izabella Teixeira, among other ministers and authorities. The meeting was held at the Palácio do Planalto, the official workplace of the President, in Brasília. Ms. Astráraga also met with senior representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA).



## World Environment Day in Mexico: Thirteenth Call for Entries for the International Poster Biennial in Mexico and Expert Dialogue on Green Economy and Poverty

UNEP, through its Representation Office in Mexico, conducted two activities as part of the celebration of World Environment Day on 5 June. First, the Thirteenth Call for Entries for the International Poster Biennial in Mexico was issued. Category D of the Biennial, in which UNEP is participating, focuses on the global campaign against food waste, under the slogan "Think-Eat-Save Reduce Your Food Footprint!"

The press conference was presided by Xavier Bermúdez, director of the Biennial, Rodolfo Lacy, undersecretary of planning for Mexico's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and Dolores Barrientos, representative of UNEP in Mexico.

Subsequently, the "Expert Dialogue: Green Economy and Poverty", focused on the essential role of the green





## ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION



economy in fighting poverty in Mexico. The event was headed by Juan José Guerra Abud, secretary of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT); Dolores Barrientos, UNEP representative in Mexico; Gerardo Esquivel, research professor at the College of Mexico (Colmex) and the lead economist of the Study on Green Economy in Mexico; Alejandro Guevara, director of the Social Sciences Division of the Ibero-American University; and Antonio Yúnez, research professor at the College of Mexico.

In his remarks, Mr. Guerra Abud stressed that “greening” the economy offers an opportunity to maintain growth and

overcome poverty. He said that the green economy is an economic vehicle for sustainable development that affords great opportunities to transform key sectors for the low-income population, such as agriculture, silviculture, fishing and water management.

The event was attended by more than 100 persons, including researchers, artists, experts, business people and senior officials of SEMARNAT as well as some 30 journalists. The UNEP representative spoke on the green economy and poverty in a lengthy interview for Foro TV, Televisa, one of the evening newscasts with the largest number of viewers in Mexico.

## UNEP announced the winner in Latin America and the Caribbean of the 2013 International Children’s Painting Competition on the Environment



Juan David Díaz, 12 years old and from Colombia, was chosen as the regional winner for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Twenty-Second International Children’s Painting Competition for 2013, organized by UNEP with the support of Bayer, Nikon and the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment.

The announcement of the regional winner of this year’s competition, with the topic “Water: The source of the life: Where does it come from?”, was made on 5 June, World Environment Day. Juan, as one of six regional winners from around the world, will receive an award in cash and an all-expense-paid trip to attend the award ceremony on 18 September in New York.

Further information: <http://goo.gl/FESf4>



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## Legislation and environment, united in World Environment Day event in Panama

As part of the commemoration of World Environment Day, the University of Panama and the Global League of Environmental Lawyers

(GLEL) signed a Collaboration Corporation Agreement on 5 June at the University’s School of Law and Political Science.

The signing event was attended by the dean of the School of Law and Political Science, Gilberto Boutín Icazas, and Aquilino Vásquez García, president of GLEL.

In addition, the charter of the Panama Chapter of GLEL, which will be presided by Jair Urriola Quiroz, was signed. The witness of honour was Andrea Brusco, UNEP legal officer in the region.



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## Forum on water, tourism and sustainability in Mexico

Within the framework of the Water, Tourism and Sustainability Forum, organized by the Helvex Foundation in Bahías de Huatulco, Oaxaca, the UNEP representative in Mexico gave a talk on “Green Economy and sustainable tourism”. The central objective of the forum was to underscore the essential role of sustainable development for ensuring a higher quality of life for current and future generations and the importance of integrating tourism into the sustainable development strategy, in which environmental, sociocultural and economic factors come into play. In addition to the president of the Helvex Foundation, the event was attended by the governor of Oaxaca and the state secretary of Tourism and Economic Development.



## International forum on green economy and social justice in Mexico

On 29 April, Puebla State University (UPAP) hosted the International Forum on Green Economy and Social Justice. The Forum was presided by well-known figures in the public, business and academic sectors, including the president of UPAP, the mayor of Puebla, the chair of the Commission on the Environment and the presidents of the Mexico State and Puebla State chapters of the National Chamber of the Manufacturing Industry (Cámara Nacional de la Industria de la Transformación, CANACINTRA). The UNEP representative in Mexico,

Dolores Barrientos, gave a talk on “Green Economy and Poverty”. Rubén Pesci, the holder of the UNESCO-FLACAM Chair on Sustainable Development, gave a presentation on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In addition, panel discussions were held on social participation processes in promoting the green economy. The event was attended by close to 300 persons, including university students, academics and experts from the public and private sectors.

## Puebla hosts the Mexico premier of the Itinerant Film Festival “FICMA: Cinema and the Environment”

The Monterrey Technological Institute’s Puebla Campus hosted the Mexico premiere of the second Itinerant Film Festival “FICMA: Cinema and the Environment”, coordinated by UNEP with the support of the National Chamber of the Manufacturing Industry (Cámara Nacional de la Industria de la Transformación, CANACINTRA) and Promotora Ambiental. The first full-length documentary, “Buy, Discard, Buy” (“Comprar, tirar, comprar”), was well received by a large turnout comprised of students, academics, artists and members of the public and private sectors. Several art and culture institutions from Puebla, including the Puebla Municipal Institute of Art and Culture, were entrusted with showing the remaining documentaries and short films during the week.

UNEP is continuing to work to ensure that the festival is shown in other states in Mexico. The next FICMA showing will be in Mérida, Yucatán, at the Great Museum of the Maya World, from 22 to 27 July. Before coming to Mexico, the regional premiere of the 2013 Itinerant Festival had taken place in Panama.



## Launch of the National Inventory of Sources and Estimations of Dioxins and Furans Emissions in Brazil

On 21 May 21, the National Inventory of Sources and Estimations of Dioxin and Furan Emissions was launched. The publication is a main step towards the development of a Brazilian National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm

Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), a project of the Government of Brazil with technical support from UNEP.

The inventory was launched by the Minister of the Environment, Izabella Teixeira, and the UNEP Representative in Brazil, Denise Hamú. Jorge Ocaña, task manager of the UNEP Chemicals Branch, presented an overview of the Stockholm Convention focused on Latin America and the Caribbean. A draft version of the National Implementation Plan is expected to be launched by the end of 2013.



© Jose Cruz, Agencia Brasil

## Guatemala measures the coverage of its mangrove swamps

Radar and satellite image analysis and fieldwork determined that in 2012 Guatemala had a total coverage of 18,840 hectares of mangrove swamps: 1,169.52 ha in the Caribbean and 17,670.56 ha in the Pacific.

These are some of the data provided by the Study on total mangrove coverage in the Republic of Guatemala launched in June as part of the Mangrove Project, which is being implemented by UNEP with Guatemala's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) with funding from the Government of Spain.

The aim of the study was to update existing information through a standardized methodology and to have a baseline on the current size and distribution of the mangrove ecosystem on the country's Caribbean and Pacific coasts that will serve as a reference for future analyses and, in particular, for decision-making processes on land management. The study was supported by the Environmental Information Systems Unit of MARN and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC).

## Mitigation Options project launched in Brazil

The project Mitigation Options of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in Key Sectors in Brazil was launched at the Brazilian Senate at the end of May by the UNEP ROLAC-Brazil Office and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Senators, deputies and senior representatives from the Ministries of the Environment; Science, Technology and Innovation; and Finances were present. "The project reinforces the partnership between UNEP and the Government Brazil. It is also an important initiative for the UNEP ROLAC-Brazil Office and a contribution to the world, since its benefits can go beyond country borders", said the UNEP Representative in Brazil Denise Hamú.

The task manager of UNEP's Division of Technology Industry and Economics (DTIE), Edu Hassing, participated in

the launching event and in the staff inception workshop. The project aims to develop an integrated strategy to mitigate GHG gas emissions in relevant sectors of the Brazilian economy, creating projections for the year 2050. The project has a special focus on the 2014 FIFA World Cup host cities.



© Lucia Scodanibbio

## REGATTA announces the winners of the “Climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean” photography contest



Two photographs from Bolivia and Brazil take away awards in the contest

On 21 June, REGATTA (Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action in Latin America and the Caribbean) announced the winners in the two categories of the “Climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean” photography contest.

UNEP, through the REGATTA project, is banking on the power of imagery to raise people’s awareness of climate change. With that intention, it organized the contest in April and May, and it is now presenting a [virtual exhibit](#) with the winning photos and a selection of others that were submitted:



Rafael Martins was the winner in the Impacts of climate change on the countries of the region category for a photograph taken in Brazil.



Christian Eugenio Calderón Montaño, for his photograph named “Sweet Harvest”—taken in Bolivia—won the award in the Mitigation and adaptation measures in the fight against climate change category.

## Start-up of the analysis of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in Mesoamerica

UNEP, through the REGATTA project, began its analysis of climate change impact, vulnerability, and adaptation in Mesoamerica with the technical support of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Centre (CATIE) and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

For the country-scale analysis, focused on the agriculture and water sectors, information is being gathered on indicators of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity to climate change in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. In addition, the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras requested a basin-level analysis, which will evaluate vulnerability in greater detail and identify adaptation measures with community participation.

The results of the local and national analyses will be shared with key stakeholders in the countries and basins selected, to support processes of drafting climate-change adaptation policies.

## Opportunities for financing climate change projects

Financing opportunities for climate change-related projects exist in the region, but how can they be accessed?

This is one of the questions most frequently received by UNEP. Hence, through REGATTA, UNEP has decided to compile information on the most important financing sources and to make it available to interested parties.

The “[Financing opportunities](#)” listing aims to disseminate information on the options in the region to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. This is a dynamic list that is open to suggestions from readers on other possible funding sources.

In addition, a webinar presentation in Spanish will be given on 9 July, at 10 a.m. EST (Eastern Standard Time): <http://goo.gl/mRyyc>



## Climate change, a priority for the Dominican Republic

On 23 May, the start-up workshop of the “Study on barriers to access to and management and accountability of financial resources associated with climate change” was given in the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo by the National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development (CNCCMDL) with the support of UNEP, through the REGATTA project.

Institutions of the Dominican government and civil society were invited to the gathering to analyse the obstacles to and opportunities for the Dominican Republic to access greater financing for climate change-related activities. The Nature Conservancy and an executive committee made up by the CNCCMDL and representatives of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Finance and Economy are also helping implement the study.

In the Dominican Republic, one of the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, climate change management is mandated by the Constitution.

## Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems in Peru



More than 30 participants took part in the workshop held in Lima on 21-22 May, organized by the Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) in Mountain Ecosystems project in Peru. The meeting aimed at presenting and discussing criteria for defining EbA and identifying useful information for the selection, prioritization and implementation of EbA measures.

One of the key points in the agenda was the discussion of criteria to define whether or not a specific climate change adaptation measure can be considered EbA. The criteria identified to define an EbA measure were drawn from the definition of EbA provided by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- The measure reduces the vulnerability of populations to climate change;
- The measure increases the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems, directly or indirectly;
- The measure uses biodiversity and ecosystem services in a sustainable manner, without affecting them and, as far as possible, improving them.

## Fifth Seminar of Latin America and the Caribbean on Energy Efficiency



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On 8 and 9 May, the Fifth Seminar of Latin America and the Caribbean on Energy Efficiency was held in Quito, Ecuador. The seminar was organized by UNEP, the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy of Ecuador (MEER).

The event was attended by some 150 persons: representatives of ministries and secretariats of Energy, Environment, industry and Trade from various countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and representatives of the private sector, international agencies, universities and research centres.

Participants in the gathering shared experiences and regional and global good practices on managing energy efficiency with a direct effect on mitigating climate change. According to the UNEP report titled Bridging the Emissions Gap, energy efficiency is one of the areas with the greatest potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across economic sectors.

Further information:  
<http://goo.gl/oHRni>



## UNEP launches two new projects on solid waste management in Central America

### Waste Agricultural Biomass in Costa Rica



© Roberto Azofeifa

A workshop was held at the end of May in San José to initiate the project “Waste Agricultural Biomass (WAB) for Energy: Resource Conservation and GHG Emissions Reduction”. The objective of this initiative is to implement awareness raising and capacity building activities to assist national stakeholders in Costa Rica to promote the conversion of waste agricultural biomass into energy. The

project is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica (MAG) and its technology transfer foundation, Fundación para El Fomento y Promoción de la Investigación y Transferencia de Tecnología Agropecuaria de Costa Rica (FITTACORI).

Workshop participants included a range of related stakeholders in Costa Rica, including agricultural, environmental and energy authorities, as well as representatives from the coffee sector. During the workshop, a global and national overview was provided, as well as a range of recommendations for the project’s implementation.

### Integrated Solid Waste Management in Honduras

A project on integrated solid waste management (ISWM) was launched in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on 23 May. The overall objective of this project is to promote ISWM, focusing on the three Rs of waste management —Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—, to build capacity at the local and national levels, and to implement a pilot project on how to develop an ISWM plan at the municipal level. This pilot project will be designed to facilitate replication in other towns in Honduras and throughout Central America. Three pilot municipalities have already been selected with the support of national partners, which include the National Cleaner Production Centre (CNP+LH), the National Association of Municipalities (AMHON) and the Ministry of the Environment (SERNA). During the launch workshop, major challenges and opportunities faced by the municipalities were reviewed, and successful case studies presented.



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## Workshop for journalists in the Caribbean on ozone, chemicals and waste



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Some 20 journalists from 11 Caribbean island countries gathered in Paramaribo, capital of Suriname, to take part in a workshop titled “Challenges of the ozone layer and chemicals and waste management in the Caribbean”. The event was organized by the Government of Suriname—through the National Ozone Unit of the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS)—and UNEP.

Several experts from UNEP and other institutions of the region gave presentations on the topics of the workshop, although the training also had an important practical component in which the journalists worked on specific news items. One of the most hotly debated issues was sanitary-landfill management. A field visit was conducted to allow participants to become familiar with advances in the trash collection system in the district of Para.



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## Seventh World Environmental Education Congress

From 9 to 14 June the Seventh World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2013) was held in Marrakech, Morocco. UNEP, through its Environmental Education and Training Unit and with the support of several regional offices, organized a number of events: a meeting of Mainstreaming of Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA); a meeting of Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES); and a workshop on environment and disaster risk reduction in conjunction with the Centre for Natural Resources and Development (CNRD) and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR).

Numerous networks of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the Partnership of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), took part in the GUPES event. "Undoubtedly, the participation of representatives from Latin America in the side events organized by UNEP and GUPES marks the beginning of a new stage in the projection of environmental university networks in the region on the global stage", noted Orlando Sáenz, coordinator of ARIUSA.

Further information: <http://www.weec2013.org/en/>

## Progress in studying the water balance of the Apurímac River Upper Basin



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On 10 May, UNEP submitted to Peru's National Water Authority (ANA) the third supervision report of the Study on the Integral Water Balance of the Apurímac River Upper Basin (EBHICA). The project is being implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) with the support of UNEP, which is responsible for overseeing the study.

The report gave a favourable evaluation of the technical fieldwork conducted in the Apurímac River Upper Basin, which began in April in the area of Caylloma, Arequipa, as well as of the process of standardizing precipitation and flow data from selected hydrometeorological stations.

Further information: <http://goo.gl/mUByH>

## Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti set an example of successful environmental cooperation

On 23 May the Fourth Meeting of the Tri-National Ministerial Committee on the Caribbean Biological Corridor was held in Santiago, Cuba. It was organized by UNEP in conjunction with the Tri-National Office of the Project for the Demarcation and Establishment of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC UNEP/EU) and Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of Environment of the three countries, along with their respective technical teams, and representatives of the European Union, UNEP and of a number of NGOs. One of the principal accomplishments at the meeting was to win the personal commitment of the ministers to define the institutional future of the Caribbean Biological Corridor initiative once the UNEP/EU CBC project comes to an end in June 2014.

Further information: <http://goo.gl/GGZhb>



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## Integrating environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction in UNDAF Venezuela

UNEP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) gave a training workshop on “Integrating environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction in UNDAF” for the United Nations Venezuela country team, within the context of the drafting of the new United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2018. Environmental sustainability is one of the programming principles of UNDAF, which channels and coordinates collaboration efforts to and among the different United Nations agencies in the country. The workshop, given by Carla Chizmar (UNEP) and Raúl Salazar (UNISDR), was attended by 15 participants from UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, PAHO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNAIDS and UN-WOMEN, among others agencies.

Further information: [www.pnuma.org/gobernanza](http://www.pnuma.org/gobernanza)

## Workshop in Panama on negotiating contracts for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

The national workshop on “Negotiating contracts for genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable distribution of benefits stemming from their use” was held on 21-22 May in Panama City. The event was part of a regional project of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the same topic in Latin America and the Caribbean, executed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and implemented by UNEP. The project aims to help eight countries of the region (Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Panama and Peru) develop and strengthen their national policies and legal frameworks on access to genetic resources, distribution of benefits and protection of traditional knowledge. The National Environmental Authority (ANAM) is the focal point for implementing the project in Panama.

Further information: [www.adb.portalces.org](http://www.adb.portalces.org)

## “Forests: The heart of a green economy”

UNEP, within the framework of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), released a documentary titled “Forests: The Heart of a Green Economy”, at the Global Symposium: REDD+ in a Green Economy, which took place on 19 and 20 June, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The objective of REDD+, as an essential tool in the fight against climate change, is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through conservation, restoration and better management of tropical rainforests.

The video portrays the experiences of Ecuador, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia in including the REDD+ initiative in the transition to a green economy and it highlights the potential challenges and opportunities of this process.

The documentary can be downloaded at: <http://vimeo.com/68497118>



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1. Workshop on the Development of the State Programme of Actions Against Climate Change (PEAC). **Date:** 3-4 July 2013. **Venue:** Mexico City.
  2. Results Workshop on "Mercury Storage and Disposal Project in Mexico and Panama" **Date:** 5-7 July 2013. **Venue:** Mexico City, Mexico.
  3. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Regional Consultation. **Date:** 11-12 July 2013. **Venue:** Sao Paulo, Brazil.
  4. High Level Meeting on Bridging Agriculture and Conservation. **Date:** 12 July 2013. **Venue:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
  5. Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Working Groups Meeting. **Date:** 24-25 July. **Venue:** Mexico City, Mexico.
  6. Consultative meeting "Protecting Human Rights and the Environment for Vulnerable Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean". **Date:** 26-27 July 2013. **Venue:** Panama City, Panama.
  7. ECCO (Environment and Climate Change Outlook) Study Workshop. **Date:** July. **Venue:** Mexico City, Mexico.
  8. New Approaches to Cleaner and More Efficient Vehicles. **Date:** 31 July-1 August. **Venue:** Santiago, Chile
  9. United Nations Environment Programme/Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry UNEP/SETAC First Seminar on Life Cycle Assessment: Life Cycle Data in Latin America. **Date:** 15-16 August. **Venue:** Mexico City, Mexico.