

Second Regional Latin American and Caribbean Training Programme on Environmental Law And Policy

Training Report

The ***Second Regional Latin American and Caribbean Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy*** took place in Panama City, Panama, from 25th July to 5th August, 2005.

DPDL organizes every two years in Nairobi, Kenya, the Global Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy, which is held entirely in English. UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean proudly carried out in 2004 (Mexico City, 6- 11 December), the First Regional Latin American Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy, entirely in Spanish, following the mandate originated in the Sixth Global Training Programme to organize regional editions of the Training Programmes, with the goal to optimize the available resources and allow the participation of a greater number of delegates.

In this way, with the support of the Government of Spain, through the Ministry of Environment, UNEP/ROLAC, as part of the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, and convinced that capacity building is a priority tool to modify social conducts and achieve sustainable development, organised the Second Regional Training Programme for the Spanish speaking countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, including Brazil.

The Training Programmes are inserted in programme area 1 of the *Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the 21st Century*, under Capacity Building, aiming at "Strengthening the regulatory and institutional capacity of developing countries, to develop and implement environmental law".

The objectives of the Regional Training Programme are: (i) To stimulate discussion among the participants on environmental law and policy development and application; (ii) to promote interest in the compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements; (iii) to allow participants to develop initiatives and make decisions on a better informed basis in their respective countries.

The Second Regional Training Programme (RTP2) welcomed 62 environmental law professionals among judges, parliamentarians, government officials, local authorities, as well as representatives of civil society, from Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as from the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO).

The *First Regional Latin American Training Programme on Environmental Law and Policy* having been considered the first programme of its kind in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and a real success, the Spanish authorities decided to support a two-week-long Second Programme. The additional week was supported in order to allow the RTP2 to cover as much topics as possible and to train the participants in the best possible way.

The Programme was honoured with the participation of 28 distinguished presenters, including renowned Environmental Law professors and experts, Judges, Officers from UNEP, other United Nations Agencies, various Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and qualified national and international NGO's, from Latin America and Spain, who were in charge of the relevant lectures and conferences.

The Opening ceremony of the RTP2 counted on the presence of Ms. Ligia Castro de Doens, General Administrator of the National Environment Authority of Panama (ANAM); Ms. Amparo Rambla, General Deputy Director of Foreign Affaires of the Ministry of Environment of Spain; and Mr. Ricardo Sánchez Sosa, Regional Director of UNEP for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC).

Mr. Ricardo Sánchez pointed out that the event was indeed an important achievement of UNEP in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, especially within the framework of the Montevideo Programme and the UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.

Ms. Amparo Rambla stated the commitment of the Spanish Government to continue supporting the Regional Training Programme for the Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries on a yearly basis, since the results of the First Training Programme and the organization of the Second Programme shown how fruitful, serious and prolific this activity was for the effectiveness of Environmental Law.

Ms. Ligia Castro de Doens expressed how proud the Panamanian Government was to hold such an important event in his capital city, especially under its role as current President of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin American and the Caribbean.

The two week Programme included the following subjects:

- Environmental Legal System
- Environmental Law and Effectiveness of Environmental Law
- The role of UNEP in the development of Environmental Law; UNEP Environmental Law Programme, Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development
- Environmental Law Principles
- International Environmental Law Development
- Environmental Sustainability: the Millennium Development Goals
- Development of Environmental Law in Latin America
- State of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Environmental Justice in Europe
- Civil Environmental Liability
- Criminal Environmental Liability
- Environmental Damage
- Environmental Damage Valuation
- Administrative Environmental Justice
- Procedural Aspects of Environmental Law
- Economic Integration Systems and the Environment
- Sustainability in Port Areas
- Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration: Access to Information and Participation in Decision Making on Environmental Issues
- Protection of Forests
- Food Law: Food Security - Codex Alimentarius
- Phytosanitary Protection and the Environment
- Mining Activities, Environment and Social Relations
- Water Legislation and Policy
- Hydrocarbons Projects
- Air Pollution
- Urban Environmental Management
- Outlook on the Protection of Cultural Heritage
- Biotechnology: Rules on Access
- Regulation of the Cultivation of genetically modified organisms
- International Regime on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair Sharing of the Benefits derived from their Utilization
- Trade and Environment
- Sports and the Environment
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Theory of the Implementation of Environmental Law and its Enforcement
- Challenges on the Implementation of Environmental Law

And the following Multilateral Environmental Agreements:

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
- UNEP Regional Seas Programme
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol
- International Plant Protection Convention and the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- International Agenda on Chemicals (Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM))

The last day of the event Dr. Ricardo Lorenzetti, Minister of the Argentine Supreme Court of Justice and Dr. Gabriel Real Ferrer, Director of the PhD on Environmental Law at the University of Alicante, Spain, made two special conferences on “Environmental Law as a New Law Discipline”, and “The Compensatory Role of the State and Access to Environmental Citizenship”, respectively. The conferences were in-depth and of an authoritative level of reflection. They were extensively applauded and highly praised.

The Closing ceremony on 5th August 2005 was led by Mr. Eduardo Reyes, Deputy General Administrator of the National Environment Authority of Panama (ANAM); Mr. José Eguren, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Panama; and the informant in her capacity as Coordinator of the Environment Law Programme of UNEP/ROLAC, on behalf of UNEP. The satisfaction for the outcome of those two weeks of hard and in depth work was evident among authorities, experts and participants. A serious commitment to promote and apply the knowledge acquired was encouraged and supported by the whole group.

An electronic net has been created at the request of the group (authorities, presenters and participants) to be able to keep in touch, disseminate and exchange information and ideas, make and reply to queries and reciprocally provide assistance among colleagues in the development and implementation of environmental law in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The event was covered by the Panamanian, the Mexican and the Argentine press and radio, and also by the United Nations Radio (NY).

Considering the results of the two Regional Training Programmes very positive, the authorities, participants and experts expressed their wishes for this activity to continue over the coming years. The satisfaction, gratification and delight of each of the participants have been demonstrated since then through the various letters of congratulation and gratitude received by this Regional Office and sent even by Ministers of the Environment of some of the participating countries. In particular, the Ministry of Argentina was so pleased with the outcome of the Programme that has postulated Buenos Aires as city candidate to hold the Third Training Programme. The same was done by the Dominican and the Peruvian participants.