

ANNEX  
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GUIDELINES OF PORT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDUCT

1. Contribute to the development of a sustainable multimodal transport system since ports are a key element of the inland transport network.
2. Foster consultation, dialogue and general collaboration between Port Administrations and stakeholders to determine current needs and identify problems in relation to sustainable port development.
3. Generate scientific, technological and research capacity to serve as guidance for the region's port environmental policy.
4. Enhance environmental cooperation between Port Administrations and facilitate information sharing and implementation of acceptable environmental practices through the creation of a Port Network for the Americas.
5. Within the context of hydrocarbons spill response, strengthen current cooperation mechanisms in the region and promote the creation of contingency plans to prevent and respond to such contingencies in a timely and efficient manner.
6. Develop environmental education, public awareness and information programs to increase people's awareness on environmental issues and integrate sustainable development to port policies, encouraging port Administrations to draft an environmental policy that is made available to the public and establishes the strategies and methods for its fulfillment, hence contributing to promote "the sector's social responsibility" at ports.
7. Encourage Port Administrations to conduct the pertinent environmental impact studies on port projects and appropriate strategic environmental impact assessments of port development plans, in order to determine, from early stages, the way to reduce their effect on the environment.
8. Promote continuous improvement of port environmental conduct and management by encouraging the use of Environmental Management Information System tools based on national needs and policies.
9. Promote follow-up actions through the application of environmental indicators according to national laws, for objectively measuring recognizable progress in environmental stewardship practices at the ports of the Hemisphere.
10. Foster the creation of environmental reports as a way to disseminate good environmental conduct to stakeholders and Inter-American institutions, following the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group on Environmental Port Protection of the Inter-American Committee on Ports.
11. Strengthen the dissemination of environmental improvements achieved by ports with a view to enhancing better understanding of the role of ports and their efforts towards sustainability.