COSTA RICA
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The YABT Acceleration Program seeks to consolidate the global reach and projection of Startups in the Americas through a support platform that includes a series of activities focused on strengthening managerial skills and access to knowledge, networks, capitals and markets. It focuses its efforts on making startups more competitive, regardless of the business model or sector in which they operate.

This program is distinguished by offering strategic connections for commercial opportunities, media exposure and personalized support through experts with recognized industry trajectory.

The 2017 program has, as its first international component, the mission and international course in Haifa, Israel. As an additional benefit, the opportunity to participate as a guest startup in the event of the XII Edition of the Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas (TIC Americas 2017) in Mexico, as a prelude to the 47th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

OBJECTIVES

Consolidate the growth strategy with a customized action plan for the participating startups and in this way facilitate their alliance with international and local actors.

Opening opportunities with new markets in countries of constant growth with the support of business mentors in order to internationalize the startups and increase their local impact.

Facilitate the construction of business communities and influence in their sector by linking networks, events and opportunities for startups committed to the Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG 8, 9, 17.

RESULTS

The program is currently selecting participants from Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 50 registrations have been received and the registration deadline is March 15, 2017. The selected startups will begin the acceleration process in April 2017 and will end in October 2017.

http://yabt.net/aceleradora/internacional
Civil Society
http://www.yabt.net/laboratorios.php

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Business Labs were put in place to educate young people and help them become entrepreneurs. The labs support creativity and innovative ideas in practical exercises, contributing to the creation of a diverse economic base while being interconnected through the development of new ventures.

Business Labs are 5-day hands-on learning exercises that build entrepreneurial awareness and the skills necessary for young entrepreneurs to take the first steps in building a business. These exercises allow them to start their own business and create decent employment opportunities for other young people in their community.

This training methodology has been adapted into a condensed but efficient version, which takes place during one day and provides practical tools and new methodologies when creating companies, called the M-Labs.

OBJECTIVES

YABT develops workshops at the national level to enable young people in the region to create jobs and overcome poverty. Through the introduction or improvement of entrepreneurial education, technological literacy and formal and non-formal programs, this workshop allows them to translate these skills into new companies created by them, which are the basis of their development.

The goal is to reduce youth unemployment and underemployment in the Americas by providing teachers and development organizations with the necessary tools and skills to design, conduct, and institutionalize business education and development programs.

RESULTS

The Workshop aims to generate entrepreneurial skills in young people through practical training, enabling them to start their own business and create decent employment opportunities for other young people in their community. During the same year there were success cases of young entrepreneurs from Panama and the region, which served as inspiration for the rest of the participants.

The workshop ended with a "Pitch Competition", where the teams presented their business proposals to a select jury made up of experts from the MASHAV Carmel Training Center in Haifa, Israel.

More than 40 young people participated in each of the two editions of the Workshop, which in addition to the experience of being part of the program, will receive complementary virtual trainings, mentoring sessions, among other benefits, as part of the workshop follow-up program.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Eco-Challenge is a special category of environmental innovation within the Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas. The Eco-Challenge supports young people from Latin America and the Caribbean to develop environmental solutions and turn them into sustainable businesses.

This program is organized by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), PepsiCo and the Organization of American States under the sponsorship of BCB in Central America and Postobon in Colombia.

With the Eco-Challenge 8.0 we are looking for young entrepreneurs between ages 18 and 34 who propose innovative and viable business solutions that promote sustainable development with the new objectives of the Development Agenda. The finalists will travel with expenses paid to the competition Finals and will have the opportunity to compete for seed capital, among other benefits.

OBJECTIVES

Eco-Challenge is a PepsiCo, Young Americas Business Trust and the Organization of American States program sponsored by CBC and Postobon, which supports youth in the development of solutions for the sustainability of the planet we share.

The program seeks to support business projects that contribute to environmental sustainability (SDG 7). Specifically, teams must develop viable, scalable and investment-ready solutions. Specifically, teams must develop viable, scalable and investment-ready solutions.

RESULTS

In 2016, 1,675 teams from 25 countries participated in the Eco Challenge, which demonstrates the growing number of young participants in creating innovative solutions to environmental problems.

In the last edition, TIC Americas has grown to include more than 4,000 young entrepreneurs from 39 countries integrating more participants from Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the last 11 years, more than 35,400 young entrepreneurs from 48 countries have participated in TIC Americas, positioning it as the relevant Talent and Innovation Competition in the Americas.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The YABT Business Opportunity Online Training Camp (BOOT Camp) is a resource center that provides young entrepreneurs with tools for the successful development of business plans, financial viability, marketing strategies, planning, administration and finance, among others, that encourage the consolidation of business ideas and companies.

Within our platform you can find the following resources:

**Live Trainings** Interactive training sessions that give participants the opportunity to learn the most relevant topics in business development.

**Webinars** Interactive sessions conducted by business experts including young entrepreneurs who share their experiences in the development of economic, environmental and social projects.

**Video Tutorials** Video tutorials cover useful tools and resources needed to develop the technical components of a business, such as designing a logo or improving your elevator speech.

OBJECTIVES

Offer free online resources to entrepreneurs for training. YABT has partnerships with multiple organizations and professionals to ensure that entrepreneurs can access resources and materials relevant to their training. This platform has more than 300 experts involved.

SDG: 4, 8.

RESULTS

BOOT Camp brings together a variety of materials on the topic of business development, advice and online training. Entrepreneurs can access free resources that have been designed to support them in the following areas: Project Development, Marketing and Administration and Finance.

Between 2016 and 2017, there have been 47 trainings, which have aided 4,089 participants.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

YABT and MASHAV work in cooperation for the promotion and development of policies and programs to position entrepreneurship as the driver of sustainable economic growth.

Over the past 15 years, through cooperation between YABT and MASHAV, hundreds of young people from the Americas have been trained through mobile courses developed in Latin America, the Caribbean and Israel, which has contributed to the strengthening of skills of young people to help their communities.

Each year MASHAV offers international courses at the Mount Carmel International Training Center in Haifa to participants from Latin America and the Caribbean focused on promoting entrepreneurial skills amongst youth.

OBJECTIVES

YABT and MASHAV work in cooperation for the promotion and development of policies and programs to position entrepreneurship as the driver of sustainable economic growth.

SDG: 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 17.

RESULTS

YABT and MASHV have joined efforts to support the countries of the Americas, with more than 23,000 young people being trained in 29 Member States, and more than 7,000 participants received in-person training. As a result, thousands of new businesses and new job opportunities were created by young people for young people.

YABT programs have a positive impact on aspects of youth life. Since its creation, YABT has strengthened more than 40,000 young people in 75 countries through programs and activities that enable young people to be productive members of their communities, opening a space for them to act as contributing partners to the development of their countries and the region.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas (TIC Americas) is organized by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT). This competition is consolidated as a platform of support and business accelerator for young entrepreneurs. TIC Americas provides guidance, training, mentoring, seed capital and investment as well as access to an international cooperation network.

The Startup Challenge focuses on empowering young people in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovation and entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on the orange, purple and green companies.

TIC Americas provides guidance, training, mentoring, seed capital and investment as well as access to an international network of contacts.

OBJECTIVES

Regardless of the business model or solution, this program is designed to support entrepreneurs on their path towards growth. Each year, young people with the best and most innovative business solutions are identified and trained to achieve sustainable and inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

TIC Americas offers entrepreneurs international visibility, training and access to useful tools, international mentors, access to private investors, and participation in other international competencies, services and follow-up activities.

It should be noted that the Finals take place within the framework of activities of the General Assembly of the OAS and the Summit of the Americas.

SDG: 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

RESULTS

Since 2007, more than 35,400 young entrepreneurs from 48 countries have participated in TIC Americas, registering a total of 16,115 business proposals.

In the last 2 editions, 28 Haitian teams have participated in this Competition, which has been consolidated as the most important Talent and Innovation Competition in the Americas.

Once TIC Americas participants make it through the competition, they enter one of the most important networks of entrepreneurs in the Hemisphere, where they will have access to new training opportunities, participation in conferences and international competitions, as well as access to new markets and investors.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The USAID Youth Power Learning initiative generates and disseminates knowledge about the implementation and impact of Positive Youth Development, as well as the cross-sectoral approach to international development. The project applies hands-on experience as part of learning and knowledge generation to promote participation and inform the global community on how to contribute to the successful transition of young people into productive and healthy adults.

YABT is a leading player in the “Youth, Peace and Security” and “Youth Participation” communities of practice. Within this framework, a series of “Youth Talks” have been implemented which facilitate a space for dialogue between youth and experts on issues such as such the Sustainable Development Goals, peace building and the current situation of young people in the region of Latin America, the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

OBJECTIVES

Facilitate a space for the exchange of good practices and effective use of resources in youth issues. Promote the active participation of young people in order to empower them as central actors of their own development in their different contexts.

Open a channel for dialogue among youth, experts, implementers and leading youth organizations to encourage action and coordinated program implementation.

Exchange experiences among countries and regions on youth-led solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG: 8, 10, 16.

RESULTS

So far the program has coordinated four Youth Talks in both Spanish and English, with hundreds of young people from all over the Americas and some from other parts of the world as active participants. The use of social media and strategies of mass communication have allowed the conversation to extend and maintain a continuous dialogue with young people in different regions of the world.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) is an initiative in which the highest representatives of the public, private and academic sectors of the Hemisphere responsible for promoting competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship and the use of new technologies meet with certain regularity to analyze the competitive landscape in the Americas, define strategies, reach agreements and approve a work plan to strengthen the exchange of good practices and collaboration among countries.

Among the events of great magnitude organized by RIAC is the Forum of Competitiveness of the Americas (FCA), which brings together more than a thousand leaders of competitiveness and is the ideal scenario for the Ministers, High Competitiveness Authorities and representatives of the private sector can engage in a fluid and open public-private dialogue to analyze the opportunities of the region. In addition, RIAC offers a number of spaces such as the Competitiveness Interchange for the Americas in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Working Group / Experts on Subnational Competitiveness (GTECS), and the Marketing and Technology Transfer Hub for the Americas in which Countries can share best practices, increase their contact networks, knowledge and build partnerships between institutions. Likewise, within the framework of each Competitiveness Forum, RIAC presents its results and shared knowledge in the regional publication known as the "Competitiveness Signals Report of the Americas".

OBJECTIVES

The RIAC seeks to facilitate high-level dialogue on public policies, cooperative activities and joint initiatives between the authorities and Competitiveness Councils of the Americas, promote the transfer of good practices, models and experiences on entrepreneurship, innovation, strategic investments and public-private partnerships of a specific region or country contributing to economic development at local, national and regional levels. In addition, through the events that the RIAC organizes, it helps the expansion of commercial opportunities, investment and technology transfer between the different actors.

RESULTS

There have been many successes achieved by RIAC since its creation in 2009 in its objective of promoting a more competitive and prosperous region. By way of example, more than 7,700 important players in the field of competitiveness have benefited from the initiatives. Only in the last two years, more than 18 cities hosted the events and 226 good practices and cases of success have been imparted in them, contributing to the first-hand knowledge of the cutting-edge technologies and innovations that are used in the different Regions of America and to learn about programs implemented by governments that have been successful in boosting economic development.

Other efforts of the Network detail the different initiatives to integrate as partners private sector, academic and civil society institutions, which currently has 20 partners and support institutions such as the IDB, CAF, ECLAC, CABEI, and the Intention of incorporating 8 new entities.

Likewise, it is important to emphasize the presence of RIAC throughout the Hemisphere through its initiatives with the participation of almost all the countries of the Americas and the high number of women attending the events.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Small Tourism Enterprises Network (STEN) was designed as a unified network that integrates public, private and community sector strategies to provide strategic support to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism industry in the Caribbean.

OBJECTIVES

STEN seeks to contribute to enhanced marketability and viability of small tourism enterprises in the Caribbean through delivery of a self-sustaining mechanism that addresses the need for increased market access, more effective promotion/communication between the tourism MSMEs and the target market, and facilitates the packaging of ‘tourism experiences.

RESULTS

The STEN project established the Inter-American and Caribbean Network of Small Hotels (INCAPH) in 2013 and supported the organization of the first four Inter-American and Caribbean Encounters of Owners and Operators of Small Hotels. These events which provide opportunities for sharing of experiences, gaining access to new information on emerging issues in the tourism sector and for cooperation within the accommodation sub-sector were held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in 2013, Quito Ecuador, in 2014, Tegucigalpa, Honduras , in 2015, and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in 2016, respectively.

In conjunction with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Regional Port Society of Cartagena and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Colombia the STEN provided training for 21 women Artisan Entrepreneurs in tourism from 15 member states in Cartagena de Indias, Republic of Colombia, October 23-24, 2014.

Additional training opportunities for Artisans in tourism were provided in collaboration with the Office for the Caribbean of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the ACS in Montego Bay Jamaica in March 2015. A total of twenty-four (24) leading regional women Artisan Entrepreneurs were trained in two separate workshops focusing on Entrepreneurship and access to the tourism sector.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The OAS Academic Scholarship Program (Regular Program), established in 1958, grants scholarships every year for the pursuit of Master’s Degrees, Doctoral Degrees and Graduate Research leading to a university degree. The OAS Special Caribbean Scholarships Program (SPECAF), established in 1983, grants scholarships for the last two years of undergraduate studies to citizens and residents of the English-speaking Caribbean OAS Member States, and Suriname. Both programs follow the OAS Manual of Procedures for the Scholarship and Training Program.

OBJECTIVES

To grant scholarships to students of the Americas for the pursuit of master’s degrees, doctoral degrees and research leading to a degree, as well as the last two years of bachelor’s degrees for students from English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean member states, in priority development areas identified by member states.

RESULTS

The Scholarship Program has awarded more than 22,000 since its creation. In 2016, 55 scholarships were awarded for Undergraduate and Graduate studies in OAS Member States institutions. In 2017, the Academic Program for Graduate studies was temporary paused. However it is expected to grant 8 scholarships for Undergraduate studies for the English-Speaking Caribbean Member States for the 2017-2018 Academic year.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) is the mechanism for cooperation among the Ministries of Labor of the Americas that seeks to build their human and institutional capacities.

It was established by the Ministries themselves following the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) of the OAS in Mexico in 2005. Since then it has made important contributions to labor administrations in the Americas, including the design of policies and programs, the improvement of internal procedures and the development of regulatory frameworks.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the RIAL is to strengthen the institutional and human capacities of the Ministries of Labor of the Americas, through an integrating mechanism for dissemination of knowledge and experience.

RESULTS

Since its inception in 2006, RIAL has trained more than 1100 government officials and produced more than 90 bilateral cooperation activities between 28 Ministries of Labor in the region. RIAL has also executed more than 20 hemispheric workshops that have included the participation of all OAS member states and have created a space for direct and productive exchange. In addition, RIAL facilitates information sharing across ministries through its Portfolio of Programs that includes more than 140 initiatives and through its biweekly newsletters that communicate the greatest initiatives being implemented by the region’s Ministries of Labor.

Through these actions, the RIAL has achieved concrete results in the Ministries, some of which include: improving the execution of programs, reforming internal procedures, designing new strategies and programs, and formulating normative frameworks to protect workers’ rights, improve working conditions and promote employment in the region.

http://www.rialnet.org
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP) offers scholarship opportunities for short-term training courses in any of the OAS member states, and OAS Permanent Observers, with the exception of the applicant’s country of citizenship or permanent residency (sponsoring country). See PDSP scholarships opportunities.

OBJECTIVES

PDSP supports the integral development of OAS member states by awarding scholarships for participation in professional development training in priority development areas identified by member states.

RESULTS

The PDSP has awarded more than 30,000 scholarships since its creation. So far in 2017, the PDSP has awarded 166 scholarships for Online and Onsite courses, and it is estimated that more than 160 additional scholarships will be awarded between August and December 2017.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE) of the OAS, through its Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), offers attractive scholarship opportunities for academic studies, professional development, and technical/vocational training with the support of its partner institutions in the Americas and around the world. PAEC is administered in accordance with the provision of the respective cooperation agreement and in line with the principles set forth in the OAS Manual of Procedures for the Scholarship and Training Program.

Citizens of the 34 OAS member states benefit from the scholarship and training opportunities offered through the OAS and institutions in its Member States and Permanent Observer Countries through joint programs, internships programs, faculty exchange programs, academic mobility programs and capacity-strengthening projects.

OBJECTIVES

PAEC pursues to provide greater access to quality higher education opportunities including academic degrees, professional development and technical/vocational training.

The purpose of this program is to attract and supplement offers of scholarships by the Member States and Permanent Observers, and by private organizations and universities, in order to increase the number of scholarships offered by the OAS Scholarship and Training Program.

RESULTS

PAEC is an active program that continues to evolve and diversify its scholarship offerings. In 2016 the program awarded over 3,000 scholarships for academic programs and professional development courses. It is estimated that the program will offer over 4,600 scholarship opportunities in 2017.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

In The Bahamas in February 2017, the Inter-American Education Agenda that promotes inter-American policy dialogue and cooperation initiatives among the Ministries of Education of the OAS member states was adopted, the next were the prioritized themes: Quality, Inclusive and Equitable Education; Strengthening of the Teaching Profession; Comprehensive Early Childhood Care. This process started in 2015, within the VIII Inter American Meeting of Ministers of Education, carried out in Panama City on February 4th and 5th 2015, where the Ministries of Education of OAS member states agreed to build an Inter-American Education Agenda. OAS Member states conceive the Agenda as a tool to follow-up and implement the Goal#4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In order to implement the Agenda, the Ministers created Working Groups formed by Ministries of Education which designed Work Plans that comprise the implementation of Inter-American cooperation actions on the Agenda’s prioritized themes. Currently, the Ministers of Education are working jointly to implement the actions proposed in the Work Plans, which progress will be showcased at the next policy dialogue instances organized by the Inter-American Committee on Education through 2017 to 2019.

OBJECTIVES

To create a mechanism that revitalizes the regional policy dialogue and cooperation among Ministries of Education of OAS member states to ensure that children, youth and adults fully enjoy the right to access to quality, inclusive and equitable education throughout their lives.

To provide OAS member states with tools and knowledge that strengthen the development and effectiveness of educational policies to address their main educational challenges as well as to follow-up on, and respond to the outcomes target proposed within the Goal #4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RESULTS

At least three regional cooperation actions on the themes prioritized in the Inter-American Education Agenda—one regional cooperation action included in each of the Work Plans designed by the Working Groups—are implemented by 2019. New tools and resources are developed jointly by OAS member states to inform and strengthen the development of educational public policies in the three thematic areas prioritized in the Agenda.

New partnerships and alliances are established with key stakeholders in the region in order to support the efforts of OAS member states to implement the Work Plans of the Inter-American Education Agenda. Member states increased their mutual knowledge and collaboration to address main national and regional educational challenges in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Educational Portal of the Americas (EPA) works in support of ICT-based education by offering online training opportunities to citizens of OAS members states. The EPA has provided thousands of citizens with access to affordable higher education, with particular emphasis on raising the quality of education and the innovative use of ICTs in learning processes for teachers, teacher educators, policy makers, civil society leaders, researchers, and university professors in the hemisphere.

OBJECTIVES

To promote quality education accessible to the peoples of the Americas through the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

RESULTS

Between 2013 and 2017, the Portal awarded 6,710 scholarships related to different areas of integral development, through a digital strategy and technological platform that holds 16 virtual courses, 4 diplomas, 2 Virtual Networks, 1 Innovation and Education Resource Center, 1 map of STEM/STEAM educational practices and 1 institutional capacity development program for innovation in education.

In 2015 and 2016 the Portal organized and implemented two international STEM / STEAM education exhibitions (Guadalajara and Puerto Rico), which benefited more than 1,900 teachers and educational agents through hands-on activities and workshops.

The Portal is currently implementing a digital education strategy for Sustainable Cities (an initiative from the Department of Sustainable Development), the Inter-American Commission of Women, and Culture and Tourism from the Department of Economic Development - OAS.

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<tr>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Additional information: [http://www.educoas.org](http://www.educoas.org)
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Rowe Fund is an educational loan program of the Organization of American States (OAS) that helps citizens from Latin America and Caribbean OAS Member States finance their studies or research in accredited universities across the United States by awarding interest-free loans of up to US$15,000 dollars.

OBJECTIVES

The Rowe Fund contributes to the economic and social advancement of developing countries within the region by providing supplementary financial aid to cover a portion of the cost of their studies in the United States. At the same time, it fosters friendship and communication between the peoples of the region through the positive benefits of intellectual and educational exchange.

RESULTS

The Rowe Fund program is an ongoing program and has been in existence since 1948. The program receives and reviews applications year-round. In addition to the interest-free student loan portfolio, the Rowe Fund also grants loans to staff members of the OAS General Secretariat and manages an investment portfolio.

During 2016, the program granted 111 new loans totaling $862,594 -81% helped international students from 22 OAS Member states cover a portion of their cost of their studies in the United States. The Fund also managed a loan portfolio of 443 accounts equivalent to USD$2.36 million. It is expected that new loans in 2017 will slightly increase.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) is a network of individuals from different sectors throughout the Americas, who are involved or interested in the teaching profession. The project promotes collaboration and interaction among Ministries of Education of OAS member states and teachers of the region, hoping that participants will take the lead and learn from each other by exchanging ideas, and generating positive change towards the professionalization of teachers, thus contributing to the improvement of education in the Hemisphere.

ITEN is an initiative of the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE) of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

OBJECTIVES

Our main goal is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in the Americas by promoting knowledge exchange, capacity building and technical assistance among Ministries of Education of OAS member states and teachers of the region, through the use of virtual tools and in-person activities.

RESULTS

During its Phase 3 which began in May 2016 and will conclude in May 2018, among other achievements, ITEN has financed 12 Technical Cooperation Exchanges with the participation of 20 OAS member states; launched 2 Toolkits about Pedagogical Strategies for the Development of Critical Thinking, which has counted with enrolment of more than 5,000 participants; has offered Massive Open Online Courses on Critical Thinking related-subjects with the enrollment of more than 3,000 participants; in collaboration with the Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), is providing training opportunities to teachers through its Audio Program Critical Thinking for Teachers; has offered a total of 26 Webinars on teaching strategies and policies on teacher professional development with more than 3,000 participants registered, reaching more than 87,000 views of its video recordings at the ITEN Youtube channel. In addition, the ITEN Virtual Communities of Practice today count with more than 27,000 participants from all OAS member states.

http://www.oas.org/en/iten/
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program seeks to ensure that environmental laws and policies provide for and encourage high levels of environmental protection, that enforcement is effective and that the public has opportunities and the means to actively participate in environmental decision-making and enforcement; focuses on protecting wildlife and habitat by combating illegal trade in endangered species and by promoting sustainable management of forests, protected areas, and other important ecosystems; promotes projects which generate income and, at the same time, conserve the natural resource base for continued and future income and economic growth.

OBJECTIVES

Provide support the Environmental Cooperation Commission in evaluating how cooperative activities in the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program contribute to the achievement of the long-term goals established by CAFTA-DR Parties. Furthermore, the OAS is in charge of disseminating achievements and results of the Program.

RESULTS

For more than 10 years, and through a simplified management approach, the OAS has identified, monitored and shared high-level outcomes and impacts through different outreach mechanisms, including monitoring and evaluation reports on the progress of the Environmental Cooperation Program, and social media. The recommendations provided by the OAS in these reports have helped identify areas of common interest for future environmental cooperation. The interaction with the key stakeholders of this Agreement led to the establishment in the OAS of the OAS Secretariat for submissions on environmental compliance issues of another important Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the Trade Promotion Agreement between Peru and the United States.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

In June 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) teamed up with the Organization of American States (OAS) to launch the MESOAMERICA 2020 partnership.

Functional landscapes are important not only to protect wildlife and critical ecosystems, but also to protect water and food security, livelihoods, and sustainable economic growth.

OBJECTIVES

The goal is to ensure the conservation of the last remaining landscapes in the region while improving quality of life for people.

RESULTS

Over 50 government officials, technical experts, representatives of NGOs and communities trained in the use of spatial monitoring and reporting tools in the context of protected areas management specifically in the Maya Forest (Mexico, Belize and Guatemala), La Moskitia (Honduras And Nicaragua), Indio-Maíz-Tortuguero (Nicaragua and Costa Rica), La Amistad (Costa Rica and Panama) and the Darién Region (Panama). Strategies and actions were identified to reduce the impact of illegal livestock in protected areas and to protect local populations and managers of threatened forests, including effective community forest management. Participating countries exchanged practical experiences of territorial governance developed by indigenous organizations and local populations. Sub-regional meetings were held to exchange good practices and experiences in coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE).
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The M4SET project seeks to improve the understanding and application of metrology in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energies and air quality. The project has been designed to support capacity building, knowledge sharing, research opportunities and collaborative activities for government officials and technical stakeholders to bridge the gap between technical capabilities, energy and environmental policies.

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen measurement capabilities in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energies, air quality and greenhouse gases as means to support the deployment of sustainable energy technologies and foster low carbon economic growth.

RESULTS

Benefits of the M4SET Project include improved metrology's infrastructure to support GHG emission measurements, air quality, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, increased technical skills on metrology applications for sustainable energy technologies and air quality reinvigoration of the role of Metrology to support the adoption of international standards and measurements needed to advance the adoption of sustainable energy technologies and improve air quality, knowledge exchange and best practices among technical agencies in the hemisphere, increased communication to bridge gap between sustainable energy, air quality and policy making, and engage government officials and metrology communities to respond to the technical needs arising as part of the implementation of the commitments to reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The UNESCO/OAS ISARM-Americas Program is the regional initiative for the Western Hemisphere, of the worldwide ISARM Program, and is jointly coordinated by the UNESCO International Hydrological Program (IHP) and the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (DSD/OAS).

The global “Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management-ISARM Program” was launched at the 14th Session of the UNESCO IHP Intergovernmental Council in June 2000, in cooperation with several other international organizations, notably the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH).

The Program aims to promote the recognition and understanding of transboundary groundwater resources, and foster collaboration among the countries sharing the same aquifer to achieve consensus on legal, institutional, socio-economic, scientific, and environmental aspects. Another important objective of the ISARM Americas Program is the identification of case-studies of particular interest and to create a comprehensive Inventory of Transboundary Aquifers of the Americas. This would be a collection of data regarding the hydro-geological characteristics.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project is to improve the management of subterranean, transboundary water resources by ensuring the water is fit for human consumption and is utilized in a sustainable manner, by both current and future generations, without causing harm to the environment.

RESULTS

Preliminary Inventory of Transboundary Aquifer Systems in the Americas, Legal and Institutional Framework for the Management of TAS in the Americas, Socioeconomic, Environmental and Climatic aspects of the TAS in the Americas, and the planning of the regional strategy for the evaluation and management of Transboundary Aquifer Systems in the Americas.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The M4EE project has been designed to support capacity building, knowledge sharing, research opportunities and collaborative activities that strengthen metrology capabilities of stakeholders engaged in the implementation and enforcement of energy efficiency regulations nationally and regionally. At the regional level the project offers support to the implementation of the Central America Technical Regulation on Energy Efficiency (RTCA) for household appliances and equipment, such as lighting fixtures, refrigerators, air conditioners, and motors.

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen capabilities of government officials and technical stakeholders to perform energy efficiency measurement and compliance assessments in equipment and appliances, as means to contribute to a sustainable energy policy development in the region.

RESULTS

Benefits will include Improved metrology’s infrastructure for energy efficiency, institutional strengthening on technical capabilities needed for regulation development, accreditation and certification of energy efficiency, increased communication between regulators and technical agencies involved on energy and policy-making, increased knowledge on testing, conformity assessment, energy performance standards, labeling and enforcement protocols for energy-efficiency, regional integration and cooperation to tackle energy and standards harmonization issues, and engage government officials and metrology communities to respond to the technical needs arising as part of the implementation of the commitments to reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Leaders of the Western Hemisphere recognize that clean energy is fundamental to the Western Hemisphere’s sustainable development and the prosperity of our citizens, and they are committed to expanding cooperation to address the intertwined challenges of energy security and climate change. To strengthen Inter-American collaboration on these issues, at the Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009 all countries of the Western Hemisphere were invited to join in an Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), to share leadership in the implementation of energy initiatives and the exchange of experiences within the countries of the Americas in support of sustainable development goals.

OBJECTIVES

To contribute to the adoption and widespread use of clean energy in the Americas, through shared leadership and cooperation in energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, and energy integration strengthened at the regional level.

RESULTS

Ongoing project. Since 2012, ECPA’s Technical Coordination Unit-homed at the OAS-has coordinated over 20 technical workshops, exchanges, expert visits, and high-level dialogues/fora throughout the region. Based on its collaborative nature, ECPA has strategically partnered more than 20 global, regional and local civil society, academia and nonprofit organizations devoted to advancing sustainable development. In 2015, a Steering Committee composed by countries for all 4 sub regions (North, Central and South America and the Caribbean) was established to guide, assess and define ECPA’s scope of action for a two-year period. This ruling body has facilitated a closer relationship with the private sector, as well as with other multilateral partners such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, resulting in better coordinated, and efficient actions. ECPA’s First ministerial meeting took place in Washington, DC in 2010, followed by a meeting in Mexico in 2015. A Third ministerial meeting will be held in Chile in September 7-8, 2017. A total of 29 Member states have been actively involved in ECPA’s activities during its implementation period. As a hemispheric, flexible and voluntary mechanism for addressing sustainable energy issues, it is expected that additional Member states become more engaged after the ministerial meeting in Chile, time when the Fifth implementation phase of ECPA will commence.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Using the most advanced methodologies and techniques, including field trips and online platforms, our courses and seminars offer participants the opportunity to exchange best practices with top port officials to achieve the highest level of knowledge.

OBJECTIVES

To provide state-of-the-art specialized training, with key leaders in the industry, to Port Officials of OAS member Countries for the development of a competitive, sustainable, inclusive and secure maritime and port sector in the Americas.

RESULTS

670 officials trained in best practices in hemispheric conferences and counting.