



# INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS)

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS  
2010 – 2014



Organization of  
American States

Department of Sustainable Development,  
General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

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# ACRONYMS

<b>ACTO</b>	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CAPRADE</b>	Andean committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief
<b>CCCCC</b>	Caribbean Community Climate Change Center
<b>CDEMA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Management Agency
<b>CEHI</b>	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
<b>CEPREDENAC</b>	Centre for the Coordination of Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America
<b>CIC</b>	Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the La Plata Basin
<b>CIDA</b>	Former Canadian International Development Agency
<b>CIDI</b>	Inter-American Council for Integral Development
<b>CIDS</b>	Inter-American committee on Sustainable Development
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
<b>CQA</b>	Construction Quality Assurance
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CONAE</b>	Comision Nacional de Actividades Especiales
<b>CSEP</b>	Caribbean Sustainable Energy Project
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>DSD</b>	Department of Sustainable Development
<b>ECPA</b>	Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System
<b>FEMCIDI</b>	Special Multilateral Fund for the Inter-American Council for Integral Development
<b>GCC</b>	Global Climate Change
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>HAW</b>	High Andean Wetlands
<b>HFA</b>	Hyogo Framework of Action
<b>IABIN</b>	Inter-American Biodiversity Network
<b>IACNDR</b>	Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction

<b>IASP</b>	Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policies on Risk Reduction, Risk Management, and Disaster Response
<b>IADC</b>	Inter-American Democratic Charter
<b>IIN</b>	Inter-American Children’s Institute
<b>ISARM</b>	Internationally-shared Aquifer Resources Management
<b>INDM</b>	Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation
<b>ISP</b>	Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision-making
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>IWRM</b>	Integrated Water Resources Management
<b>MEAs</b>	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NFPs</b>	National Focal Points
<b>LPB</b>	La Plata Basin
<b>ODPEM</b>	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan-American Health Organization
<b>PIDS</b>	Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development
<b>PES</b>	Payment for Ecological Services
<b>RAMSAR</b>	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
<b>ReefFix</b>	Marine Ecosystems Services Valuation Project
<b>REEEP</b>	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
<b>RISK-MACC</b>	Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change
<b>SAP</b>	Strategic Action Plan
<b>SATAS</b>	Strategy for the Management of Transboundary Aquifer Systems
<b>SECCM</b>	Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Section of DSD
<b>SICA</b>	Central American Integration System
<b>TAS</b>	Transboundary Aquifer System
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<b>UNISDR</b>	UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
<b>UNFCCC</b>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNITAR</b>	UN Institute for Training and Research
<b>VCA</b>	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
<b>WHMSI</b>	Western Hemisphere Species Initiative
<b>WHP</b>	White Helmet Program
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization

# 1. WHAT IS THE PIDS PIDS?

The Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development establishes the priorities and policy guidelines of the Organization of American States (OAS) with respect to sustainable development and environment.

*Through resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96) the OAS General Assembly has underscored the importance of sustainable development as a conceptual framework within which the Organization of American States (OAS) should work both as a forum for concerted action and for technical cooperation*

Since the adoption of the first PIDS in 2001, and in furtherance of article 95 of the OAS Charter, the Program has established three main lines of action for the General Secretariat of the OAS in the framework of sustainable development:

- a) Serve as a hemispheric forum to promote dialogue and coordinate progress in the area of sustainable development;
- b) Support the exchange of information relating to sustainable development, and facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, institutions, and organizations; and

- c) Act as a partner in cooperation among stakeholders involved in sustainable development in those areas in which the OAS General Secretariat has a comparative advantage.

The current PIDS which is the focus of this report, was approved by the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development celebrated in Santa Cruz de la Sierra to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the 1996 Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Declaration of Santa Cruz +10). The Program was initially approved for the period 2006-2009. The Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development held in Santo Domingo in 2010, in response to a call from Heads of State during the 5th Summit of the Americas, extended the PIDS for the 2010-2014 period and urged the CIDS to initiate a process for its revision and update, taking into consideration the assessment of the PIDS presented to member states and the recommendations and directions provided by the mentioned Declaration<sup>1</sup>.

Within the established three main lines of action, the current PIDS focuses the OAS activities and strengthen their impact on selected strategic areas of action within sustainable development, namely:

- a. Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources;
- b. Water resources, land and health;
- c. Natural hazards risk management;
- d. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- e. Coastal zone management and adaptation to climate change;
- f. Renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion; and Capacity building and institutional strengthening for sustainable development and environmental management.

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1. Source: AG/RES. 2644 (XLI-O/11).

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) have long recognized that sustainable development requires an integral approach involving economic, social and environmental elements moving in tandem to support human development, reduce poverty and promote equality, equity and social inclusion. OAS member states have been at the forefront of efforts aimed at promoting sound governance principles, including through hemispheric instruments such as the OAS Charter (which pioneered the use of the term “Integral Development”), the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), the Social Charter and the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision-Making (ISP).

For more than 50 years, the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) currently in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) has served as the principal technical body within the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) for assisting Member States on matters of sustainable development. To that end, and over that time, DSD has executed thousands of technical cooperation projects that have helped to build and sustain capacity within national governments and regional intergovernmental organizations on sustainable development issues. These interventions in turn, have generated critical knowledge and experience that is fed into policy dialogue at the national, regional and global levels.

The work of the DSD has been positively impacted by several seminal, global and hemispheric events. At the global level, UN Conferences on sustainable development held in Brazil (1992 and 2012), Barbados (1994), South Africa (2000), Mauritius, (2005) and Samoa (2015) have all helped to inform, sharpen and strengthen the policy and strategic programming focus of DSD’s work. The outcomes of the first Rio Conference has had the strongest and most enduring influence of all, as reflected the Declaration of Santa Cruz which was adopted at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1996, and its Plan of Action; in the Declaration of Santa Cruz+10; in the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006-2009), extended until 2015, and in the Declaration of Santo Domingo for Sustainable Development in the Americas, adopted in the Dominican Republic in 2010.

The presentation of this Report on the progress made in the implementation of the PIDS for the period 2010 to 2014, for consideration at the IV Ordinary Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), coincides with the start of a global process aimed at fashioning a Post-2015 Development Agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Alongside this process are equally critical processes in disaster risk management and climate change respectively which also conclude in 2015.

## Structure of the Report

While implementation of the PIDS began immediately following its approval in 2006 at the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development (CIDI/RES. 178 (XI-O/06) and adopted by the General Assembly (AG/RES. 2201 (XXXVI-O/06); and renewed by the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas as well as by the OAS General Assembly during the reporting period<sup>2</sup> the report only describes the implementation of the PIDS over the past 4 years (2010-2014). A previous report describing implementation for the period 2006 -2009 was presented at the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities in the Dominican Republic in 2010(CIDI/RIMDS-II/INF.1/10). The various OAS and Summit of the Americas mandates that have been issued during the period including from the OAS, are referenced where appropriate, and relevant in the Report.

The Report is structured in two parts: a summary report describes in a narrative format, highlights of the implementation of the PIDS; and an Annex which provides an account by PIDS area, of results of each program and sub-program of the PIDS.

This summary report is structured along the lines of the Strategic Areas of Action set out in the PIDS as follows:

- Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Management of Forests and other Natural Resources
- Water Resources, Land and Health
- Natural Hazards Risk Management
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
- Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion and
- Capacity building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management

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2. XLIV Regular Period of Sessions of the OAS General Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay, Resolution AG/RES. 2816 XLIV-O/14



Organization of  
American States

# SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS

## Highlights on Sustainable Development



Cumbre  
Extraordinaria  
de las Américas  
Monterrey, México 2004  
SPECIAL SUMMIT  
Monterrey, Mexico  
2004

Coordinate international efforts with a view to mobilizing resources for sustainable economic development and for combating poverty and hunger in all countries of the Hemisphere. The information revolution brings new opportunities for increasing access to knowledge for development, and for enhancing equitable citizen participation in the sustainable development of our societies, particularly in rural, remote, and marginalized areas.



VI  
SUMMIT  
OF THE  
AMERICAS  
Caracas, Venezuela 2001

Business is part of the solution to several major global challenges. Companies should communicate and support the sustainable development goals, help with implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, mobilize financing for development and help the international community to reach a meaningful universal agreement on climate action in Paris.



SUMMIT ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
Santiago, Chile 1992

The objectives of this Extraordinary Summit were to establish a common vision for the future in accordance with the concepts of sustainable development. The 98 mandates from this Summit focused on health, education, sustainable agriculture and forestry, sustainable cities and communities, water resources and coastal areas, energy and minerals. The summit also established institutional arrangements that resulted in the establishment of a network of experts and officials in environmental law and the formulation of an Inter-American strategy for the promotion of public participation in decision-making for sustainable development by the OAS.



CUMBRE  
DE LAS AMÉRICAS  
Santiago, Chile 1992  
II SUMMIT  
Santiago, Chile  
1992

Strengthening of the national, hemispheric, and international efforts aimed at environmental protection as a basis for sustainable development that provides human beings a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. Energy integration, based on competitive and transparent activities, and in compliance with national conditions and objectives, contributes to the sustainable development of our nations and to the improvement of the quality of life of our people with minimum impact on the environment.



III SUMMIT  
Quito, Ecuador  
2001

Strengthen environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources with a view to ensuring a balance among economic development, social development and the protection of the environment, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Pursuing renewable energy initiatives, promoting energy integration and enhancing regulatory frameworks and their application, while promoting the principles of sustainable development.



I SUMMIT  
Miami, USA  
1994

The leaders sought to expand prosperity through economic integration to eradicate poverty and discrimination in the Hemisphere and to ensure sustainable development and at the same time protect the environment.



VI SUMMIT  
OF THE AMERICAS  
Caracas, Venezuela 2001

Work with subregional, regional, and international financial institutions with the aim to strengthen financing mechanisms for adaptation to climate change, mitigation, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, with a view to reducing and managing disaster risk and strengthening the resilience of communities and nations that are vulnerable to or affected by disasters.



V SUMMIT  
Part of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
2000

Continue to make a particular effort to promote sustainable development in small and vulnerable economies of the Hemisphere. Social and economic development and protection of the environment, including the sustainable management of natural resources, are mutually reinforcing, interdependent pillars of sustainable development.



IV CUMBRE  
DE LAS AMÉRICAS  
Mar del Plata, Argentina  
2000

Favor the research, development, and adoption of renewable and efficient energy sources and the deployment of technology for cleaner and more efficient energy sources, including among them, those that foster the intensive use of labor, which, together with the promotion of sustainable development, and addressing climate change concerns, permit the reduction of poverty.

# 3.0 STRATEGIC APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING THE PIDS

Implementation of the PIDS has been pursued through the following thematic groupings in the structure of the Department as approved by Executive Order issued by the Secretary-General<sup>3</sup>:

- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Sustainable Communities, Risk Management and Climate Change
- Sustainable Energy
- Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance

The relationship between the strategic areas of action in the PIDS and the Department's structure is shown in Table 1 below. This structure has greatly facilitated better exploitation of the natural synergies that exist within and between the respective program areas.

**Table 1: Implementation of the PIDS by Department Program Area**

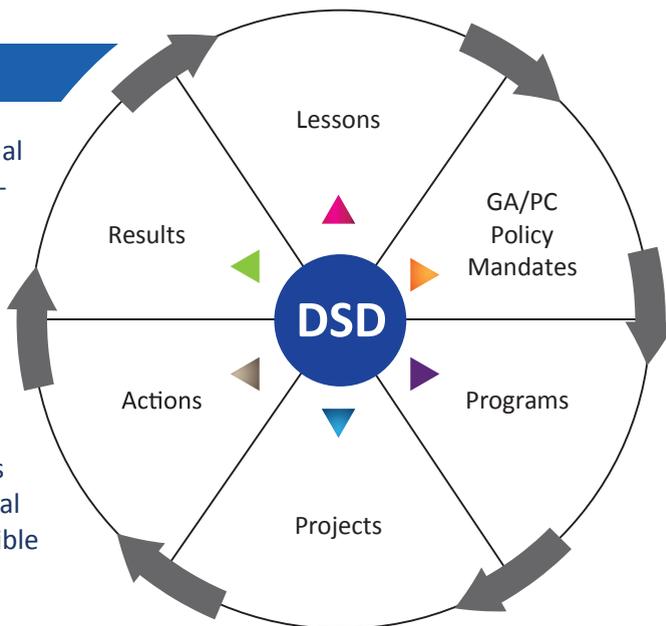
<b>PIDS Strategic Areas of Action</b>	<b>Department Program</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Management of Forests and other Natural Resources</li> <li>▪ Water Resources, Land and Health</li> <li>▪ Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</li> <li>▪ Natural Hazards Risk Management</li> </ul>	Integrated Water Resources Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water Resources, Land and Health</li> <li>▪ Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</li> <li>▪ Natural Hazards Risk Management</li> <li>▪ Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change</li> <li>▪ Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion</li> </ul>	Sustainable Communities, Risk Management and Climate Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion</li> </ul>	Sustainable Energy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All PIDS Strategic areas of Action with an emphasis on Capacity, Building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management (cross-cutting)</li> </ul>	Environmental Law, Policy and Governance

3. Executive Order No. 08-01 Rev. 6, Annex D Section V "The Department of Sustainable Development: [http://www.oas.org/legal/english/gensec/D\\_EXECUTIVE\\_SECRETARIAT\\_FOR\\_INTEGRAL\\_DEVELOPMENT\\_0801\\_REV6.doc](http://www.oas.org/legal/english/gensec/D_EXECUTIVE_SECRETARIAT_FOR_INTEGRAL_DEVELOPMENT_0801_REV6.doc)

In implementing PIDS, the work of the DSD is focused at four different levels: (i) political level, (ii) programmatic level, (iii) technical level, and (iv) institutional level. These four areas come together in the manner shown in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: How DSD Works**

At the Political Level, efforts are made to strengthen regional political and institutional mechanisms and promote strategic partnerships. In this context, the DSD's programming focuses on fomenting national and regional political dialogue on environmentally-sustainable development policies and best practices with a view to improving decision-making and environmental governance. The main outputs in this respect have consisted of Ministerial and sectoral meetings, proceedings and declarations and the consolidation of the meetings of the National Focal Points and Networks for the various thematic areas, as instruments for horizontal cooperation between governmental institutions responsible for water management, energy, biodiversity, disasters, and environmental governance, respectively.



Further, DSD works to promote the development of common regional positions on sustainable development and environmental issues, while facilitating the harmonization of legal, regulatory and policy frameworks, and strengthening existing strategic partnerships and develop new alliances.

At the Programmatic level, DSD seeks to:

- work with member states in identifying and integrating priority issues and areas of work, defining thematic programs to achieve OAS mandates and to address their needs using cross-cutting approaches and promoting constructive synergies among the different areas, while respecting sub-regional and regional specificities and priorities;
- identify opportunities for joint programming, in particular with other SEDI Departments, responsible for science, technology and innovation, social development and employment, trade and tourism, and the Summit of the Americas Secretariat, among others;
- make strategic and focused use of its networks as channels for the exchange of information on cross-cutting issues;
- incorporate reporting on thematic synergies into monitoring and evaluation instruments and analytical reviews and policy briefs;

At the Technical level, the DSD approach focuses on framing its technical cooperation services in a manner that directly responds to the PIDS priorities and the OAS member states' agendas. Here DSD has been able to contribute its experiences and lessons learned to the evolution of the regional and international agenda on poverty alleviation and sustainable development issues. In this context, DSD has provided technical cooperation to member states and their institutions in the formulation of policies, laws, and regulations, as well as planning instruments in the thematic and priority areas of action, leading to policy and regulatory reforms, development of National Plans and advances in the use of innovative environmental policy instruments, among others. Additionally, DSD's efforts have focused on analytical and advisory activities, contributing to ministerial meetings and planning instruments related to sustainable development, preparing technical papers and policy briefs, contributing to environmental reviews and assessment studies, etc. and promoting the exchange and transfer of new technologies and scientific and technical knowledge.

At the institutional level, the DSD's approach has involved organizational and administrative strategies directed at improving its planning, management, and communication tools and enhancing its overall capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the coordination and focus of its services and strengthen its impact at the national and regional levels. Here the DSD has sought to strengthen its technical and analytical capacity and consolidate its management capacity, through targeted contracting of staff and training (albeit infrequent), stimulating in-house thematic debate through "Brown Bag Lunches", research, the production of technical publications as well as the development of pertinent tools and procedures.

In the context of the OAS Charter (Article 95) and resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), the four different levels of DSD focus on supporting the PIDS objectives establishing that the OAS will:

- (a) Serve as a hemispheric forum to promote dialogue and coordinate progress in sustainable development;
- (b) Support the exchange of information relating to sustainable development, and facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, institutions, and organizations; and
- (c) Act as a partner in cooperation among stakeholders involved in sustainable development in those areas in which the OAS General Secretariat has a comparative advantage.

It is relevant to note that the work conducted under the PIDS is complemented by efforts carried out by the DSD in the context of the Declaration of Santo Domingo and the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10.

# 4.0 REVIEW OF PIDS IMPLEMENTATION BY STRATEGIC AREA OF ACTION



## 4.1. Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable management of Forests and Natural Resources

The PIDS recognizes that the sustainable agriculture and the management of forests and other natural resources requires an integral approach to the various themes that comprise the area and the identification of successful opportunities through cooperation in environmental management at the project and policy level.

*Advance dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land use planning*

In the implementation of programs in this area, the DSD has sought to address various cross-cutting themes such as biodiversity, water, land management and hazard risk management through programs and projects being implemented in these areas, while respecting the substantive responsibilities of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in this area.

*Provide cooperation for developing action plans for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources*

The DSD has been supporting the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in the implementation of a sustainable development plan for the Trifinio Plan and Biosphere Reserve which includes actions related to sustainable coffee production. This initiative arose out of concern over increasing deforestation rates in the region. Keen to address this concern and to contribute to the integration process in Central America, the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras signed a cooperation agreement with the OAS and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) for the development of the Trifinio Plan. Following development and adoption of the Plan with DSD support, an international treaty was

signed establishing the Trifinio Region as the only indivisible, ecological territory in the world consisting of 40 municipalities of the three countries that comprise it. This territory includes the Fraternity Biosphere Reserve, the Foggy Forest of Montecristo and the International Fraternity Park shared by the Trifinio Countries.<sup>4</sup> The institutional framework created by the Treaty includes: (i) The Trifinio Tri-national Commission formed by the Vice-Presidents of each country (Maximum Authority); (ii) an Executive Secretariat; and (iii) National Directorates in each country.

The DSD compiled and analyzed experiences from 4 countries in the Americas to better understand available options to address the loss and degradation of natural formation, functions, and reduced capacity for carbon storage, among other soil properties. These experiences have been shared amongst leading experts on soil protection, and representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations and academia, through the IUCN Specialist group on soils<sup>5</sup>. Efforts in this area of the PIDS include furthering dialogue with regards to sustainability of soy production in South America.

With support from the Government of the United States, the DSD launched the first phase of the **Sustainable Communities in Central America and the Caribbean** project<sup>6</sup>, which is funding 14 innovative community-level sustainable development projects in Central America and the Caribbean. Under this initiative, civil society organizations in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago received

4. Treaty between the Republic of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras for the development of the Trifinio Plan (entered into force on 28 May 1998).
5. <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/Events/CDWRH.pdf>
6. <http://www.ecpamericas.org/initiatives/default.aspx?id=65>

grants of \$50,000 each to implement demonstration projects in clean energy and energy efficiency, resilience to natural hazards, sustainable transport, waste management and water resources management.

Through its GEF-funded projects in transboundary basins such as the Sustainable Management of the Water Resources of the La Plata Basin with respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change (“La Plata Basin project”), the Sustainable Forest Management in the Transboundary Gran Chaco Americano Ecosystem (“The Chaco project”) and the Regional Framework for Sustainable Use of the Rio Bravo project (“Rio Bravo project”) as well as its projects in sustainable communities and environmental law, policy and governance (described later in the annex to this report), the DSD has helped to:

- advance dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land uses and planning through discussions within the Council for Integral Development (CIDI) as well as through Ministerial Meetings and its Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and Inter-American Water Resources Network;
- facilitate the adoption of strategies and integrated policies including through over 30 workshops organized alone and/or in collaboration with the FAO, IICA and UNESCO; and
- develop strategic action plans for the conservation of natural resources in transboundary river basins.
- Advance dialogue towards the adoption of strategies and policies that support integrated approaches and alternative land uses and planning.



## 4.2 Water Resources Land and Health

*Serve as a forum for inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation*

In keeping with the mandates set out in the PIDS, the Department continued to serve as a regional forum for inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation in the development of policies and strategies for integrated water resource management. These efforts were supported mainly through project activities financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as by the Governments of Finland, Austria and Brazil and were executed through the DSD's technical offices in Argentina and Brazil. These activities have benefitted from the participation of high-level government authorities, scientists, NGOs and civil society actors in close partnership and collaboration with important national, regional and international water resources organizations.

The PIDS, as well as subsequent OAS General Assembly mandates on water, reaffirm international recognition that building sustainable water management must be an integral part of a broader development strategy that encompasses anticipating and avoiding water-related conflicts, addressing poverty and rural development, and designing and meeting food security and health-related concerns.<sup>7</sup>

Considering that in the Americas many of the problems affecting the water sector are related to issues of governance, the DSD's efforts in this program area have sought to: (i) increase access to safe drinking water in poor and vulnerable communities; (ii) improve water resources management; and (iii) strengthen regional coo-

7. Includes AG/RES. 2780 (XLIII-O/13) "Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management in the Americas" adopted at the OAS General Assembly held in Guatemala on June 5, 2013

peration for coordinated management of shared river basins and policy dialogue.

#### *Promote the Exchange of Information*

During the review period, DSD convened or supported over 50 events including Inter American Dialogues (through the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN), workshops, seminars, and conferences that examined new and emerging issues such as the management of trans-boundary aquifers as well as the links between water and climate change. Additionally, the DSD continued to support the work of National Focal Points for water; facilitated continuing dialogue and political cooperation among the OAS member states in water security issues including through its support for the organization of the successful 7th Inter-American Dialogue on Water held in Medellin, Colombia in November 2011, the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseilles, France, in March 2012 and in the process leading to the 7th World Water Forum in Korea.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Inter-American Dialogue on Water was a great success, drawing over 2000 participants over the 3 days of discussions, including governments ministers and high-level officials, water professionals, and civil society organizations. A highlight of the meeting was a youth forum which sought to secure the long-term engagement of youth in water resources management.

#### *Promote Convergence between Water and Health Agendas*

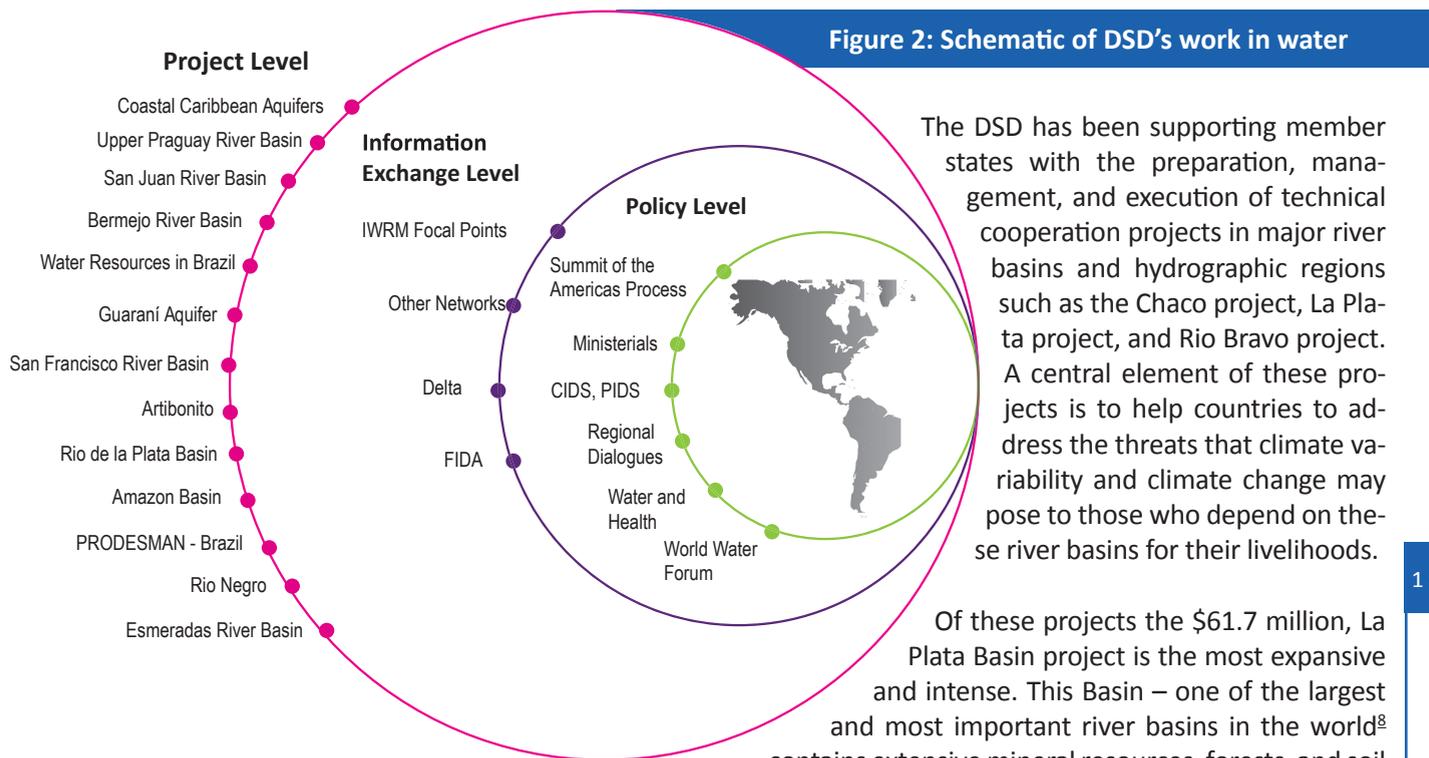
In deference to the substantive mandate of the Pan American Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Program in this area, the Department continued to collaborate with these organizations

with a view to strengthening the linkages between the water and health agendas of Member States, including through transboundary projects that emphasize ecological, economic, and social dimensions of water availability, use, and management and that strengthening the direct and indirect linkages between land use and tenure, ecosystems health, extreme floods and drought events and the availability of potable water. Through its GEF-funded projects, ISARM Americas and other initiatives focused on the sound management of chemicals, the Department continues to focus on threats to human health caused by environmental degradation and the inappropriate disposal of hazardous wastes and the presence of persistent organic pollutants.

During this reporting period, the DSD partnered with the Pan American Health Organization in the Program “Faces, Voices and Places of the Millennium Development Goals” in developing case studies to promote compliance with water and health related goals in specific regions of Central America.

While these activities have helped to advance the objectives of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) Initiative, due to lack of funding, the DSD, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) have not been able to convene regular meetings of the working group and task force of the health and environment ministers in the Americas initiative. The Department will step up its efforts to do so especially in light of the escalation of environmental health-related challenges associated with spread of vector-borne diseases such as Dengue and Chikungunya.

Provide cooperation in the formulation and execution of strategic action programs



The DSD has been supporting member states with the preparation, management, and execution of technical cooperation projects in major river basins and hydrographic regions such as the Chaco project, La Plata project, and Rio Bravo project. A central element of these projects is to help countries to address the threats that climate variability and climate change may pose to those who depend on these river basins for their livelihoods.

Of these projects the \$61.7 million, La Plata Basin project is the most expensive and intense. This Basin – one of the largest and most important river basins in the world<sup>8</sup> contains extensive mineral resources, forests, and soil fertility and contributes about 70 percent of the GDP of the five countries, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Since 2001, these countries have been concerned with the potential effects of climate change, on zones to the west of the basin that already experience dry, and semi-arid conditions; and zones within the north-eastern region that experience heavy rainfall. Significant losses have been experienced over the past 40 years due to repeated floods and drought which have affected about 150,000 people and have cost over \$20 million every year. Studies show that many of the negative changes within the basin are man-made, such as land and soil erosion, overfishing, poor farming practices.

By the end of the project in 2015, it is expected that the participating governments will be able to better coordinate their actions and investments in the La Plata Basin to achieve sustainable utilization of water resources, and initiate the process of adapting to climate variability and climate change. More specifically, by the end of the project, it is expected

8. El costo total del Proyecto es de \$61,7 millones, de los cuales \$51 millones son aportados por los cinco países participantes; y \$10 millones son aportados por el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial (FMAM).

that the countries will have:

- established the technical and legal conditions to support the design and implementation of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the management of the basin;
- direct access to a Decision Support System (DSS) centralized within the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (CIC) for the La Plata Basin for the integrated Management of the Water Resources in the Basin;
- a stronger CIC as the permanent organization to promote, coordinate and follow up on multinational water resources management actions and harmonized development in the region, as established in the Treaty of the La Plata Basin and its associated statutes.
- established a Fund for the Promotion of Public Participation that will facilitate the active commitment of social organizations in the management of critical issues within the basin;
- strengthened existing bi-national commissions for helping to resolve water and land use conflicts within the basin.

*Support the development of programs and policies for wetlands as indispensable ecosystems in aquifer recharge and biodiversity management*

A cooperation agreement was signed during this reporting period with the RAMSAR Convention Secretariat to further common goals regarding wetland conservation and their sustainable management. The DSD has continued its support the implementation of the ISARM. This program which is being implemented in collaboration with UNESCO aims at increasing 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. With the support of National Coordinators of ISARM-Americas, representing the 24 groundwater-sharing countries of the American Hemisphere, the Program has identified 73 transboundary aquifer systems (TAS), 30 of which are located in South America, 18 in Central America, 21 in North America, and 4 in the Caribbean. Another important objective of the ISARM Americas Program is the identification of case-studies of particular interest and to create a comprehensive inventory of TAS of the Americas. To date, the initiative has produced 4 work books; the first containing an inventory of TAs released in 2007; the second covering the legal and institutional framework of aquifer management published in 2008; a third which provides a synthesis of the socio-economic, environmental and climatic aspects of the TAS; and the fourth which outlines a Regional Strategy for the Management of the Transboundary Aquifer Systems (SATAS), to be released during the World Water Forum in Korea in 2015.



## 4.3 Natural Hazards Risk Management

The links between disasters and sustainable development are well established.<sup>9</sup> It is well known that disasters can undermine sustainable development. However, the fact that unsustainable development can create the conditions that fuel disasters is not always fully appreciated. As development progresses and as more social and economic infrastructure is exposed to natural hazards, inevitably, risk increases. In addition, development can undermine the health of natural ecosystems leading to environmental degradation and compromising the contribution of ecosystem services to development.<sup>10</sup> Thus,

9. The UNISDR defines disaster is defined as ‘a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.’
10. Natural hazards are defined by the UNISDR as ‘natural processes or phenomena that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.’

each disaster results in further environmental degradation and sets in motion a debilitating cycle of poverty – disasters – environmental degradation – and back to more and higher levels of poverty and more disasters, each becoming more catastrophic than its predecessor.

*Serve as a hemispheric forum to support national, regional and hemispheric action to reduce the vulnerability of economic and social infrastructure to national hazards*

The Department supported the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General in organizing and presenting 3 meetings dealing with disaster management issues and challenges in the Americas.

During the review period, DSD provided sustained technical support during extensive negotiations among member states which led to the endorsement by the OAS General Assembly in June 2012, of the “Inter-American

Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance<sup>11</sup>”, (The Inter-American Plan). In response to instructions from OAS member states DSD designed and is actively managing a mechanism that takes advantage of the online database of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to update, analyze, and systematize, periodically, the experiences and best practices implemented and/or informed voluntarily by member states in accordance with the recommendations of the Inter-American Plan.

*Promote sustainable public/private natural hazard risk management mechanisms that lessen loss of life*

Through its RISK-MACC program, the Department supports the review and strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks for delivering humanitarian assistance, facilitating the timely deployment of humanitarian assistance teams, and the distribution of relief supplies. Focus is also centered on community-based, Early Warning Systems (EWS) and increasing local community resilience. The program also strives to build a knowledge base that includes scientific, technical and socio-economic information and experience, and lessons learned which can be translated into “good” practices. Cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders are essential elements of the success of the Program.

The Department carries out its mandates and directives in natural disaster risk reduction, through: 1) project execution for developing “good” practices and addressing pressing issues in critical areas; 2) networking for information and knowledge sharing and transfer of “good” practices, including through the INDM so as to optimize the use of scarce human and financial resources; and 3) supporting the policy

formulation functions of various organs of the OAS including the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and its various committees, the Inter-American System, particularly, the IACNDR and the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

*Support the implementation of OAS General Assembly and CIDs resolutions on natural hazards vulnerability reduction*

The RISK-MACC program responds to relevant OAS mandates and directives, the changing priority needs of member states, and related work underway at the regional and international and levels, including through the UN System. The Program continued to support the implementation of the *Regional Platform of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA,)* and the *implementation of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and its Inter-American Strategic Plan (IASP) for Policies on Risk Reduction, Risk Management, and Disaster Response and promotes inter-agency coordination for its implementation.*

In keeping with RISK-MACC’s strategic and overarching objectives, projects executed during the review period have emphasized close collaboration with national agencies including emergency preparedness and prevention agencies, agriculture, health, environment, education, finance and planning ministries. As with other programs, DSD has emphasized coordination, cooperation and co-execution whenever possible with regional, intergovernmental organizations, such as the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Executive Secretariat of the Center for the Coordination of Natural Disasters Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC) and other organizations.

11. AG/RES. 2750 (XLII-O/12) adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2012

More specifically DSD:

- worked with the Executive Secretariat of the CIM in drafting a policy paper on Gender-oriented Women Rights Protection, during and in the aftermath of complex emergencies as well as with drafting of proposals to support the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Management across women ministries and institutes in the Americas.
- worked with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in the drafting of a policy paper on Child Rights in Disaster Risk Management
- developed a mainstreaming policy for the OAS, which is being implemented across all secretariats, organs and specialized organizations of the OAS;
- prepared and published a policy document entitled, "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change: Addressing the underlying causes of disasters and the pre-conditions of vulnerability";
- worked with other SEDI departments to integrate Disaster Risk Management in program dealing with tourism and trade;
- promoted community resilience to disasters through the US-DoS funded project Sustainable Communities in Central America and the Caribbean Requests. In the first phase, three projects were awarded financial support: two in Guatemala, and one in St. Kitts and Nevis.
- promoted the integration of DRM in all transboundary integrated water resources management (IWRM) projects;

*Encourage the exchange of information for i) facilitating the interpretation of natural hazard information*

DSD supported the development of algorithms and satellite earth observation image processing applications for disaster mitigation with the Argentine National Commission of Outer Space (CONAE).

*Consider the special needs of Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries in relation to climate change adaptation*

DSD continued to support the implementation of CARICOM Regional Strategy on Climate Change and Sustainable Development within the context of a Cooperative Agreement signed with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in April 2008. Additionally

DSD supported the preparations of CARICOM Member States for effective participation in Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

*Support inter-governmental dialogue, practical cooperation, and exchange and sharing of practical experiences*

With financial support from the US Department of State, the DSD has been conducting country needs assessments to enhance national DRM Systems and improve hemispheric coordination and cooperation by inter alia, examining practical experiences in DRM in key sectors, based on case studies and exchanges of good practices in three selected sub-regions in the Americas: (i) the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic, (ii) the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and (iii) (CA-PRADE).



In the case of the Central American Isthmus, the analysis and discussions were based on a country needs assessment undertaken in Honduras. The Honduran study and the discussions held in a sub-regional encounter, in 2013, highlighted the need to further develop early warning systems, particularly, integrating community-centered systems that capitalize on ancestral knowledge and community networks and capacities, with data and information provided by state-of-the-art satellite and radar technology. In coordination with CEPREDENAC and its members, which are also the INDM National Operational Focal Points in the region, a comparative analysis was undertaken to examine complementarities between the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and the Central American Policy for Integral Risk Management (PCGIR) and its Regional Plan, and in the context of the consultation process for the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of the UN.

In the case of the CARICOM region, the analysis and discussions were based on a country needs assessment undertaken in Saint Lucia, which focused on physical and environmental planning. The study was presented and further discussed in June 2014 at the first meeting of the subcommittee on Physical and Environmental Planning of the 2014-2023 Implementation Plan of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, being executed by CDEMA. In this way, the study serves to establish a baseline and identify criteria for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of the CDM Strategy in the area of physical and environmental planning.

In the CAPRADE region, a case study on Disaster Risk Management in the Tourism sector in Peru was completed which served as the basis for discussions and the preparation of a country needs assessment in the region. The study was presented at the XX Meeting

of CAPRADE, in Lima, in July of 2014, and yielded relevant lessons and practical experience.

The core methodology adopted in these projects such as focus groups meetings and validation workshops have helped to promote awareness and understanding of the relevant issues among government officials and development partners at the national and region level.

*Encourage private sector and civil society involvement in community-based disaster preparedness and prevention*

Through the OAS-White Helmet Program (OAS-WHP) the DSD provided technical support in several member States in developing their national volunteer networks and systems. Examples include: (1) CONRED (Guatemala) Volunteers national System; (2) strengthening of the National Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and Shelters and Logistic Information Management, in El Salvador; and (3) SINAGER Volunteers National System, in Honduras. The OAS-WHP provided humanitarian relief and response to various disasters, organized and presented workshops and seminars, and supported the strengthening of sub-regional mechanisms for disaster preparedness and response.

*Promote community-based prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response*

With financial support from the Governments of Germany and the People's Republic of China, DSD worked with the national competent agencies in matters of disaster preparedness and response, in all seven member States of the Central American Isthmus (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,

Nicaragua and Panama) and the Dominican Republic to document a harmonized manual for the design, installation and operation of community-centered Early Warning Systems (EWS) for Floods. It also designed and implemented an on-line database for the registry of multi-hazard EWS. Additionally, DSD is providing technical support to the participating member States in adopting the manual and the on-line database.

Further, under the Sustainable Communities Initiative supported by the US Department of State, the DSD convened a major side event during the World Urban Forum in April 2013; and a Mayors colloquium in Miami in December 2013 on the theme "Towards Sustainable and Resilient Communities in the Americas."

*Support the coordination of international and national activities*

The Department continues to be integrally involved in advancing the objectives of a Cooperation Agreement signed in 1997 between the GS/OAS and the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through its Regional Unit for the Americas, (UNISDR Americas). Additionally in the context of a Cooperation Agreement signed in 1997 between the GS/OAS and the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) the Department continued to support the implementation of the **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the Americas** and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response. In this regard, the Department, on behalf of GS/OAS prepared and presented the Regional Report for the Americas, in Geneva, at the Third (2011) and Fourth Global Platforms (2013).



## 4.4 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

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The PIDS acknowledges that biodiversity is critical for the maintenance of the global climate, and for food and agriculture production. Biodiversity includes the variability among living organisms that generate ecosystem service benefits such as tourism, fisheries, forestry, protection of coastal assets from storm surges, and carbon sequestration from protected areas and key ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, and tropical forests.

*Promote integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into land use planning and land management*

The PIDS rightly treats the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity as a cross-cutting issue with links to land-use planning and land management, forest management, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, coastal zone management and environmental law. Management issues that affect the sustainability of land and communities include the sustainability of water resources, border-area development and natural hazard risk reduction.

*Serve as a regional forum for promoting networks*

During the review period the Department successfully completed the implementation of the GEF-funded, IABIN Project, which helped to promote dialogue at the inter-American level in order to advance strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The key milestones included the

award of 127 (average \$10,000) data content creation grants to 18 countries to digitize key biodiversity data on a geospatial platform that allows for value-added, decision-making products, such as environmental assessment, alternative development scenario evaluation, climate change predictions, and carbon sequestration potential. Even though the project has been completed the IABIN database continues to be used by biodiversity management officials in participating states.

*Explore the development of WHMSI in a manner that reflects the interests and priorities of member states; support efforts for establishing, restoring or consolidating biological corridors*

Under the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), funded by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Government of Monaco, DSD is supporting the development of policies and strategies for the management of migratory species. In partnership with the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, DSD is helping to improve the valuation of environmental services in 7 Andean countries and Costa Rica.

*Identify gaps in knowledge and new fields of interests and a research agenda to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*

Further, through the use of a database, the Department has been analyzing trends in PES transactions that have occurred in the region, as well as the challenges and contributions of legal and institutional frameworks to the implementation of PES schemes which could become an important value-added product for decision-making in biodiversity protection.

*Building capacity to of member states for promotion of forest law enforcement and governance*

During this reporting period, the DSD implemented delivered 2 1-week, capacity building program on Payment for Ecosystem Services including implementation of legal and institutional frameworks that support these schemes with regards to forest in the Trifinio region and in the Peruvian Amazon for more the 100 municipal authorities and government officials<sup>12</sup>, con el fin de fortalecer la capacidad sobre el pago por servicios de ecosistemas, por medio de la implementación de marcos jurídicos e institucionales que apoyan estos esquemas en relación con los bosques en las regiones del Trifinio y en el Amazonas peruano

*Supporting the effective implementation and enforcement, of laws, policies and regulations that address illegal trade in endangered species and protection of wild flora and fauna.*

The DSD has been addressing this priority of the PIDS through the development of the Inter-American Judicial Capacity Building Program on the Environmental Rule of Law, as well as efforts to support implementation of the Convention on Nature protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere Convention and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The DSD supported the work of the Standing Committee Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods and conducted a dialogue on implementation of CITES core priorities which has resulted in increased collaboration between the DSD and the CITES Secretariat.

12. <http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/elpg/Cursos/4Edicion.asp>  
<http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/DSD/ELPG/Cursos/PSA/3Edicion.asp>



The DSD through WHMSI also supported training to member States to implement the recent listing of five shark species in CITES.

*Promoting the exchange of information to supporting the development of environmental legislation to conserve biodiversity and water resources and to combat desertification.*

Technical assistance was provided to various member States in developing and strengthening environmental legislation related to environmental management, water, biodiversity and payment for ecosystem services was provided during this reporting period as illustrated in the annex.



## 4.5 Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

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### *Promote the exchange of information*

The DSD's activities in this area are described earlier in the report particularly in relation to the topics of water, sustainable communities, biodiversity and hazard risk management respectively. However, it should be noted that all of the DSD's programs impact directly and/or indirectly on climate change adaptation.

Many of the actions indicated in the PIDS regarding climate change adaptation were implemented in the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) which ended in 2001. This project served as the platform for the formation of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center based in Belize. Since the establishment of this Center, the DSD took the strategic decision to channel further support to the region through the Center within the framework of a Cooperative Agreement which was signed between the OAS and the CCCCC in April 2008. The DSD through its Director played an integral role in the design of a Caribbean policy, strategy and implementation plan on climate change, all of which have been approved by Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Additionally, the DSD has been assisting the CCCCC in its efforts at strengthening the capacity of government officials in region to participate effectively in negotiations of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

*Provide cooperation for the establishment of coral reef monitoring networks; and for the development of methodologies for coastal vulnerability and risk assessment mapping.*

Under the Marine Ecosystems Services Valuation Project (ReefFix) funded by the Governments of Chile, Monaco and Mexico, DSD is building capacity in The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia in the use of economic valuation methodologies that sustain the social, economic and environmental benefits of coral reefs.<sup>13</sup> ReefFix is an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) tool that works supports stakeholder analysis and socio-economic valuation with a view towards improving oversight of marine resources to meet commitments made by SIDS to increase coverage and effective management. ReefFix has multi-level linkages that train officials in participating countries in (i) ecosystem goods and services valuation methodologies (ii) cost-effective interventions to improve marine ecosystem health, and (iii) revenue raising techniques of cost recovery and user pays/polluter pays principles. In this process, ReefFix uses and develops cost-effective techniques that can be replicated throughout the wider Caribbean that will include capacity building exercises.

During this reporting period, the DSD implemented the project “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” to assess and address climate change vulnerabilities on socioeconomic infrastructure and propose community based adaptation strategies. The project focused on addressing challenges in communities which livelihoods depend on the fisheries and agriculture sector.

In late 2013, the DSD began implementing the project entitled “Renewable Energy and Climate Science Metrology and Technology Challenges in the Americas Initiative,” the details are which are provided in the next section (at page 26).

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13. <http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/biodiversity/ReefFix>



## 4.6 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion

The governments of the Americas are aware that energy paradigms need to be revised to adequately respond to the challenge of supplying reliable energy to their populations. In this context, three main challenges arise as crucial for the region: energy security, the environment, and social and economic development. Their most obvious manifestations are fossil fuels market fluctuations, climate change and pollution, and poverty, respectively.

DSD's energy program seeks to address these issues by advancing the notion that energy security can be effectively addressed only through sustainability, integration, market transformation, and diversification. DSD's strategies in this context include developing reliable energy diversification approaches at the national and regional levels; advancing the integration of sustainable energy policies into public, private and community sector strategies; and developing approaches

to save energy, including the implementation of energy efficiency standards for industries, buildings, appliances, and vehicles and their inclusion in energy policy and legislation. The Program combines longstanding regional expertise on energy issues in Latin America and the Caribbean with a focus on key essential elements: (i) Institutional strengthening and improved governance; (ii) Technology exchange and capacity building; and (iii) Energy integration.

*Promoting policy and regulatory measures to advance the use of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency Promotion (EE) technologies; and identifying and promoting opportunities in these areas.*

During the review period, DSD supported sustainable energy developments in OAS Member States through greater use of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency systems, energy resource diversification

including the use of cleaner fossil fuels, cooperation/interconnection among countries of the region, and efforts to address energy poverty. These efforts have been facilitated mainly through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) funded by the US Department of State; the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Project (CSEP) funded by the European Union; the U.S-Brazil Bio-fuels Partnership; and the Renewable Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP).

Under the auspices of ECPA, the Department supported an energy preparatory meeting for the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Bogota, Colombia, at which the “Connect 2022” initiative – designed to support electricity interconnections throughout the hemisphere – was launched. Further, through ECPA, DSD continued its execution of 6 renewable energy pilot projects in the Caribbean, facilitated investigations and expert exchanges in biofuels between the United States, Brazil and Colombia, and contributed to the production and distribution of 500 clean cook stoves in Central America.

Through the CSEP, the Department assisted with the drafting of geothermal resource legislation in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the preparation of national energy policies and sustainable energy action plans in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Additionally, the Nevis Island Administration was assisted with the drafting of a Power Purchase Agreement for the first 1.1 MW wind farm on Nevis (in operation), an 8 MW wind farm on St. Kitts (in design), and a 32 MW geothermal power plant (in design) on Nevis. Solar photovoltaic projects were implemented in Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and prefeasibility studies and bio-fuels resources assessments were conducted in the

Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis. Under the US-Brazil Biofuels Partnership, DSD is supporting the development of ethanol facilities in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. The first of these plants was set up in Honduras in August 2014.

Between 2011 and 2013, DSD supported the implementation of a pilot project in Ecuador to introduce and showcase the viability and applicability of the Closed Looped Cycling (CLCP) design method in the production sector that can improve energy efficiency and environmental performance and increase the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of businesses, in particular Small and Mediums size Enterprises (SMEs). The project resulted in (1) the creation and approval of a National CLCP Program; (2) the certification of the first Cradle-to-Cradle Certified Packaged Product in Latin America and the Caribbean; (3) the establishment of a new Cleaner Production Center for Ecuador; and (4) the inclusion of dedicated chapter/text in the National Development Plan “Plan para el Buen Vivir 2013-2017” to further the implementation of the CLCP Program. This intervention laid the foundation for an expanded program, also funded by the US-DOS involving Colombia, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago.

Through the activities of the ECPA Energy Efficiency Working Group, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Honduras will receive technical assistance to identify recommendations for the recommendations for the development and implementation of concrete actions to promote energy efficiency.

Since 2009, the DSD has operated the ECPA Clearinghouse. In this capacity, it organized over 30 meetings, workshops, forums and other gatherings to sustain dialogue and technical cooperation among key stakeholders. In April 2010, the DSD also hosted



the Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank, and is currently working in close collaboration with the Government of Mexico to support a second ministerial in that country's capital in late February 2015. As ECPA Clearinghouse, the DSD built several tools to enable regional dialogue, foster knowledge sharing and support the implementation of initiatives on energy and climate across the Americas.

In late 2013, DSD with funding provided by the US-DOS through ECPA, commenced the implementation of the project entitled "Renewable Energy and Climate Science Metrology and Technology Challenges in the Americas Initiative" with the aim of promoting energy independence low carbon economic growth, advancing the deployment of renewable energy technologies and reducing the region's potential contribution to climate change. The project involves the development

and distribution of the technology, measurements and associated standards needed in the Americas to provide effective and efficient implementation of renewable energy technologies that sustain a low-carbon economy.

#### *Developing and accessing innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies*

A large part of the Department's efforts during the review period has been dedicated to assisting Member States in exploring financing mechanisms for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. It is anticipated that the Department will become even more integrally involved in this aspect of the evolution of sustainable energy initiatives in the hemisphere, as the evidence clearly points to financing as the major stumbling block to the deployment of such projects.

Under the Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI) which is being implemented under the rubric of ECPA, DSD has been helping OAS Member States in the Caribbean to address critical commercialization challenges related to the expanded use of sustainable energy alternatives. In this regard, regional sustainable project development workshops have been held.

By the end of 2014, Caribbean countries will have responded to a Call to indicate their interest in receiving advisory financing services to support the commercial development of RE and EE projects. Based on the needs identified by Caribbean energy officials in various forums, it is anticipated that requests will be received for assistance with the preparation of bidding documents, evaluation of technical proposals, procurement studies for commercial and bankable project opportunities, identifying sources of project funding, management of public-private partnerships and negotiating power purchasing agreements. In these efforts, the DSD will draw on and seek to build upon a Financiers guide to Sustainable Energy Lending in the Caribbean which was developed under the CSEP.

Additional interventions are planned in 2015 to build the capacity of energy and finance officials to access funding for energy projects and to facilitate foreign investment in the energy sector.

#### *Information sharing, technical assistance and training*

The Department continues to invest considerable time and resources in information sharing and capacity building. A sample of interventions in these areas includes:

- annual policy dialogues within the framework of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forums (CREF) in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.
- policy dialogues within the framework of the Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to promote awareness of climate change issues in advance of Conferences of the Parties
- training activities for the use of energy efficient lighting in the Caribbean;
- organization and management of the ECPA website as a tool for information dissemination on renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies;
- organization of a training workshop for Energy Efficiency Technologies for the countries of the Caribbean, held in Saint Lucia;
- study tours of renewable energy projects in Europe for key stakeholders from the Caribbean
- the publication of a Caribbean Educators Guide to Sustainable Energy Education and Awareness;
- the publication of Energy Efficiency Guidelines for Office Buildings in Tropical Climate which was used as the basis of a regional training workshop for architects and designers.



## 4.7 Capacity building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management

Earlier sections of this report document interventions in hazard risk management, biodiversity, water, energy and climate change in this cross-cutting area. The PIDS establishes that democratic governance requires the



development of responsible management of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of the member states, and the promotion of civil society participation. Governance and environmental management place priority in identifying best practices, developing technical skills at the institutional and local levels to assess and manage linkages among environmental, social, and economic issues, which are the components of sustainable development. The OAS will collaborate with the development of integral policies that take said components into account. In that regard, the OAS will work towards the Development and strengthening of environmental law, in support of sustainable development priorities established by the member states. Environmental management will

consider at the outset and in an adequate manner the protection of those communities that depend on the natural resources for their economic subsistence.

Additionally, the DSD through its Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance Program (ELPGG) supports member states in developing and strengthening their enabling legal-institutional framework required for sustainability and environmental protection. The Program has defined the following objectives: (i) enhance the effectiveness of environmental laws, policies and institutions in the region; (ii) improve capacity in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of government as well as empower civil society; and (iii) strengthen mechanisms in member states that advance the incorporation of sustainable development concerns into decision-making.

Despite the leading role of the Western Hemisphere in the adoption of environmental laws, progress is hampered by the absence of a coordinated approach to the implementation of international commitments at the national and local levels. In large measure, this shortcoming is due to the lack of a systemic assessment of compliance possibilities, stakeholder roles and institutional needs for implementation.

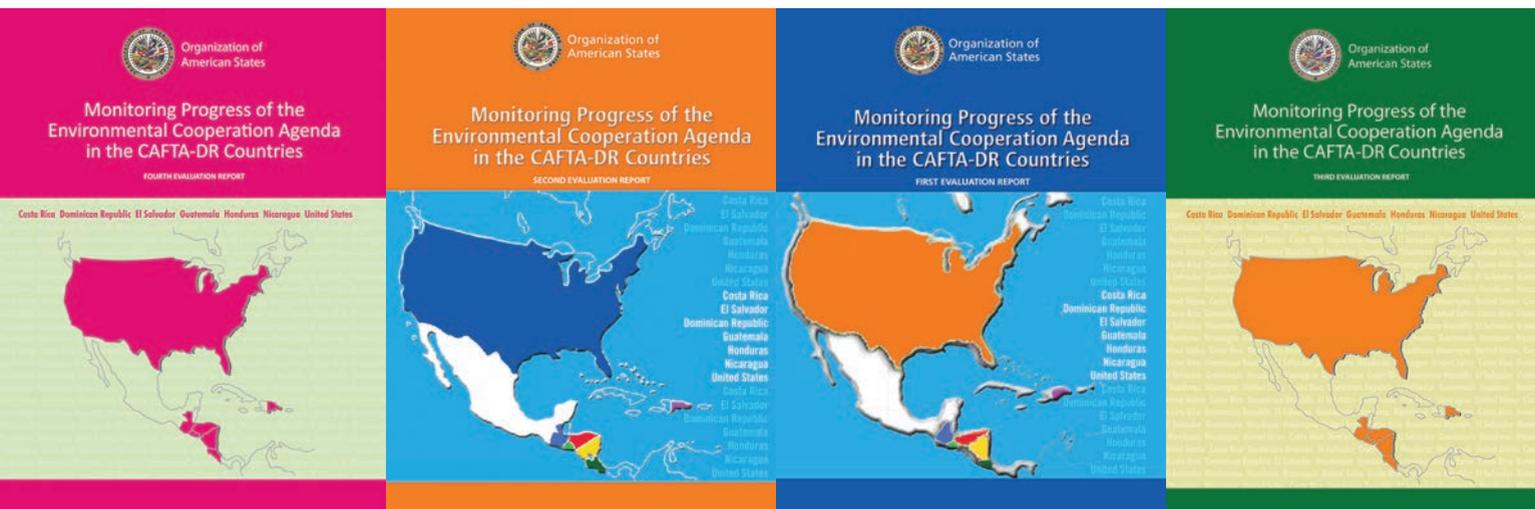
#### *Networking for Enhanced Environmental Law, Policy and Governance*

The PIDS clearly establishes that the OAS will work towards the development and strengthening of environmental law, in support of sustainable development priorities established by the member states. The DSD's strategies to implement the program include the identification of concrete emerging priorities and exchange of information and experiences

in environmental law and policy; the provision of technical support; the promotion of dialogue; capacity building; and the development of partnerships.

The approach of the Program is both thematic and procedural. Under the thematic approach, the Program addresses from a governance perspective, all the priorities of the DSD with a special emphasis placed on trade, investment and environment; water law and policy; climate change and the domestic environmental law agenda; and conflict prevention and management of shared natural resources. Key procedural issues within environmental governance include: environmental enforcement, market based instruments, access to justice, public participation, judicial capacity building and institutional strengthening, dialogue and exchange of information and dispute resolution, among others.

The foundation of the Department's efforts in this program area is the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA) which continues to serve as a mechanism for Member States to exchange information and experience in the area of environmental law, enforcement and compliance. The expertise gathered in FIDA has supported implementation of the PIDS by assisting in-country and regional efforts in the area of environmental law, policy and governance and the implementation of Multilateral and regional Environmental Agreements. An example of this is the design of a joint program with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) addressing implementation of this Convention. Additionally, through FIDA the Department conducted several ex-ante national-level assessments of the environmental and social effects of trade liberalization and economic integration on key country sectors and identified capacity building needs related



to domestic policies, laws, regulations and standards affecting market access of goods and services.

DSD has been supporting Member States in strengthening their governance frameworks for sustainability and environmental protection. Here, efforts are focused on the linkages between trade, investment and sustainable development, including through the Pathways for Prosperity in the Americas initiative and the cooperation agenda agreed under the Central America – Dominican Republic and United States Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). The use of cross-cutting approaches, such as the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision-Making (ISP), access to justice, legal enforcement, and dispute resolution, has enabled DSD to support the integration of environment and sustainable development issues into decision-making processes in a manner that engages all stakeholders.

The core of the ISP which was approved by the CIDI in 2000 contains seven (7) principles and several

policy recommendations aimed at achieving greater involvement of all sectors of society in the decision-making process on sustainable development and environmental issues. Two principles with strong relevance in the context of access rights are those dealing with access and transparency. The principle of access recognizes that in order to participate effectively, citizens should have timely access to the different levels of government, to information, to the political process and to the judicial system. The principle of transparency acknowledges that in order for alliances between civil society and the government to be effective, trust and transparency are required, since the transparency of all parties involved in a decision-making process facilitates more meaningful participation by ensuring that the motivations and objectives are explicit and the reliability and availability of information is timely.

Significant effort has been made towards implementation of the ISP in Central America and the Dominican Republic where member states have

identified more than 200 provisions in their legal frameworks regarding access to environmental information in areas such as environmental impact evaluation, toxic substances and waste, the establishment of protected areas and climate change, among others.<sup>14</sup>

In September 2014, the DSD delivered a series of workshops in the Copan region involving local and regional government officials, civil society organizations and youth groups. Over 100 participants were trained in the use of participatory decision-making tools, conflict resolution and resource management. This training effort is part of series of capacity building exercises that have taken place throughout the Central American Region directly reaching over 200 beneficiaries.

#### *Facilitating Dialogue on Environmental Management*

During the first half of 2012, DSD held its series of policy dialogues in Washington and Colombia – in the context of the UN’s Rio + 20 Conference – which culminated in key messages delivered to the Chair and a major side event at the Conference in June 2012, at which the results of the Dialogue series were shared with participants. Additionally, DSD played a pivotal role in the planning and management of the World Congress on Justice, Law and Governance for Environmental Sustainability, as well as in the formal launch of the Global Council for the advancement of justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability which was hosted by the OAS. DSD is recognized by UNEP as a key partner in the implementation of the Rio Declaration adopted at this Conference within the Americas.

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14. Unpublished work by the OAS.

In keeping with the PIDS, the DSD has been assisting member states efforts in ensuring that interventions in the strategic area of biodiversity take into account and support the objectives of the relevant international instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as other relevant regional and multilateral mechanisms.

One of the main challenges of the region in regards to environmental law has to do with compliance. Hence through four thematic networks (Water Resources, Biodiversity, Risk Management and Environmental Law) focused on the exchange of information and experiences; several programs contribute to the compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and regional agreements related to environment and sustainable development. More than 1000 experts on environmental law and policy from the Americas and beyond participate in and support OAS activities. To date the OAS has cooperative agreements with more than 50 institutions to support the implementation of international agreements.

#### *Providing Cooperation for capacity building in environmental management*

A significant contribution in this reporting period is the establishment of an Inter-American Judicial Capacity Building Program on the Environmental Rule of Law as well as working with parliamentarians in mainstreaming sustainable development and the environmental rule of law into the legislative agenda. As part of the-

se efforts more than 15 judges and prosecutors from the region participated in a symposium held within the first UNEA resulting in key messages towards promoting the environmental rule of law.



Official photo of the UNEA Environmental Rule of Law Symposium

Technical assistance has been provided to various member states in support of their efforts to develop and strengthen their national legal frameworks for environmental management.

Following the adoption of the Western Hemisphere Convention on Nature Protection and Wild life Preservation by many of its member States, the OAS has had an important role in the establishment of protected areas and biological corridors as well as in the process of constructing the legal –institutional framework for their management in particular in a multinational context.

The rise of bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) represents an important opportunity for cooperation regarding environmental law and institutions, despite the tensions that have traditionally existed

regarding environmental issues in the trade context. New RTAs include environmental commitments related to enforcement of environmental laws and the implementation of conventions to which signatories are Parties.<sup>15</sup>

Member states received support in the area of environmental governance and institutional strengthening. The Department provided technical assistance to CAFTA-DR countries in meeting their long-term environmental goals in the context of an environmental cooperation agenda with a project portfolio of approximately \$85 million.

The positive contribution of this cooperative program is evidenced by concrete indicators, developed by the DSD with support from the Parties, related to, inter alia, the strengthening and enforcement of environmental laws, the use of market-based conservation, and CITES implementation. Concrete results in the context of the DR-CAFTA Environmental Cooperation process include :

15. See Dominican Republic – Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) article 17.12: Relationship to Environmental Agreements: 1. The Parties recognize that multilateral environmental agreements to which they are party play an important role in protecting the environment globally and domestically and that their respective implementation of these agreements is critical to achieving the environmental objectives of these agreements. The Parties further recognize that this Chapter and the ECA can contribute to realizing the goals of those agreements. Accordingly, the Parties shall continue to seek means to enhance the mutual supportiveness of multilateral environmental agreements to which they are all party and trade agreements to which they are all party; 2. The Parties may consult, as appropriate, with respect to ongoing negotiations in the WTO regarding multilateral environmental agreements.

- Improved environmental impact assessment and licensing processes in the beneficiary countries;
- Existence of regulatory frameworks for solid waste and waste water management;
- Enhanced civil society participation in conservation and environmental management programs; and
- Composition of a Prosecutors' Network for wildlife protection.<sup>16</sup>



Taking into account the PIDS calls for consideration at the outset and in an adequate manner the protection of those communities that depend on the natural resources for their economic subsistence, joint efforts have taken place with the CITES Secretariat to support member States assess and address the implications of decisions of the convention in the livelihoods of local communities and the poor. An event within the 8th meeting of the UN Open Working group on the Sustainable Development Goals was co-sponsored by the DSD with the focus on sustainability at the intersection of trade environment and development.

The Department conducted various capacity building activities in trade and environment focusing on the environmental governance aspects of existing and emerging links among these two areas, such as the need for effective institutional and legal frameworks. An online training course with the CAPACINET Initiative of the OAS Effective public Management Department of the Secretariat of Political Affairs has also been developed on trade

and environment as well as an on-site edition jointly with American University benefiting over 120 government officials from the region in the past four years. Various publications on this subject have been produced as a contribution to the development of an agenda for cooperation that focuses primarily on the new challenges that the region faces as a result of the new economic and trade reforms.

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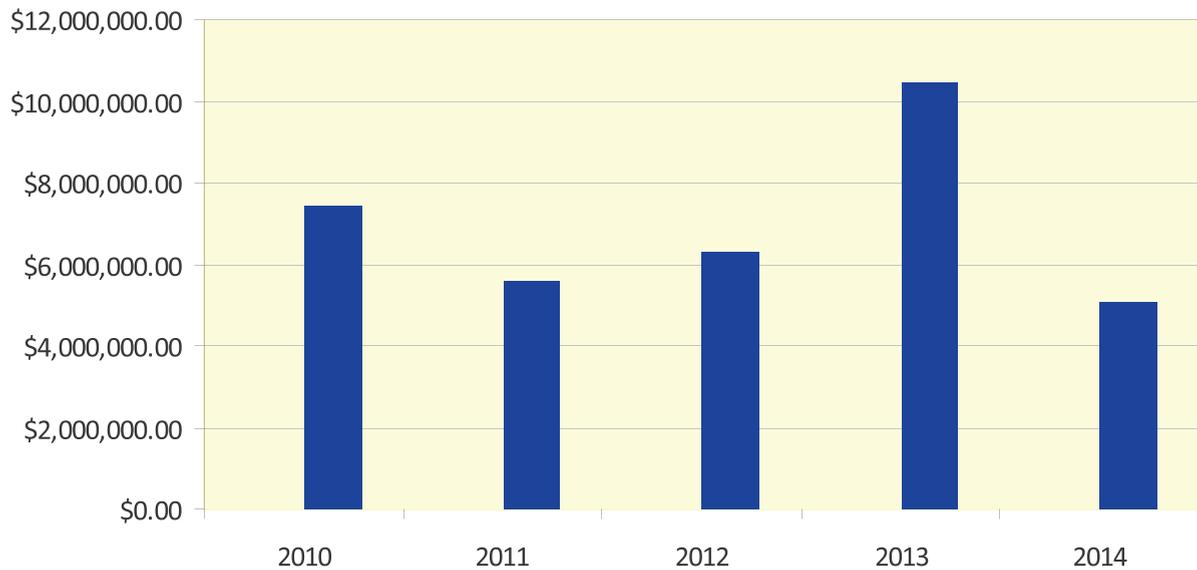
16. OEA, Seguimiento de los Avances del Programa de Cooperación Ambiental en los países del RD-CAFTA (Washington, D.C, 2014).

# 5.0 COOPERATION AND FINANCING

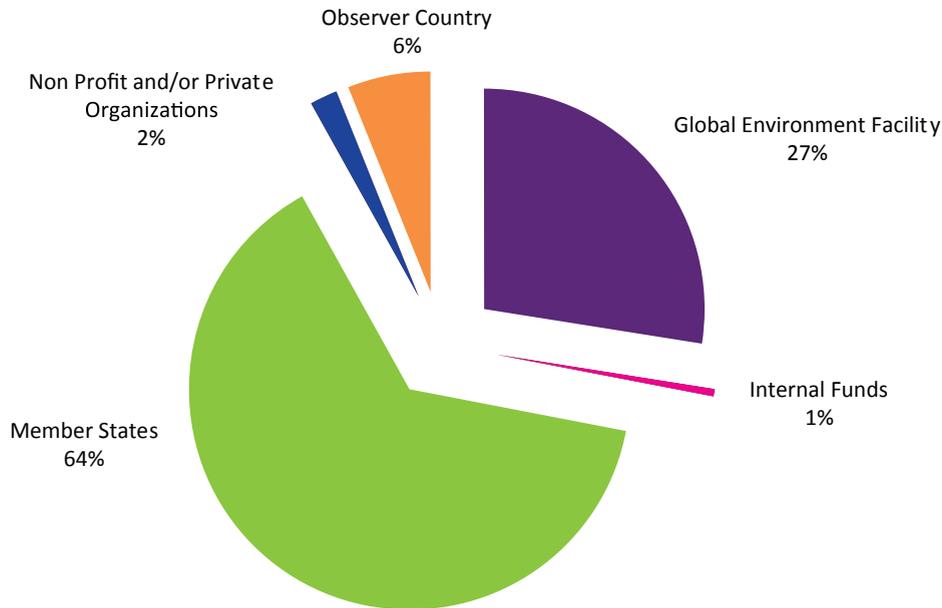
## *Fundraising*

During the review period, the Department executed an average annual project portfolio of 45 projects. The average annual revenue yield for the OAS during this period was approximately \$7.5 million.

### **DSD Specific Fund Contributions January 2010 - September 2014**



## DSD Specific Fund Contributions January 2010 - September 2014 Donor Portfolio



The major contributors to the Department during the review period were OAS Member States, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the REEEP and Observer States to the OAS.

DSD's energy, climate and sustainable communities programs have received significant and timely support from the US Department of State. Importantly, this support has enabled the Department to become involved in cutting-edge work, in areas such as Metrology, and Closed-Looped Cycling. The Government of Argentina has enabled satellite image processing applications for disaster mitigation and has facilitated technical support in several member States in developing their national volunteer networks and systems through the White Helmets Program. The water resources program received significant contributions from the Government of Brazil.

GEF-funded projects executed by DSD have made a significant contribution towards advancing the water resources and biodiversity management agendas in the region and have helped to build local capacity, enhance inter-institutional coordination and cooperation between countries and

renew and strengthen the commitment of the countries of the region to integrated management of trans-boundary water issues such as sedimentation of water courses, deforestation, soil degradation and biodiversity reduction. An essential feature of all projects includes mechanisms for political dialogue and stakeholder engagement which have greatly supported the necessary policy, legal and institutional reforms at the national and regional levels.

Observer country contributors include the Governments of China, Finland, Italy, Monaco and Spain who supported DSD's water resources, risk management, adaptation to climate change and environmental law, policy and governance programs.

The DSD has also formed important partnerships with institutions like the REEEP that has enabled the Department to implement a hemispheric initiative to promote the development of sustainable energy policies throughout Latin America. The European Union funded a Caribbean Sustainable Energy Project (CSEP) enabling the Department to assist with the drafting of geothermal resource law in Nevis and Dominica respectively and the preparation of national energy policies and plans in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Two grants from the World Bank facilitated the Department's support to Member States' efforts to develop and strengthen environmental law and good governance through capacity building and institutional strengthening.

### *Constraints to Fundraising*

Challenges at the national and regional levels have affected the willingness of some donors to support various projects. These challenges include:

- The absence of effective sustainable development policy frameworks in many countries and regions;
- A lack of absorptive capacity at the national and regional levels;
- Inefficient use of project resources in some countries;
- Fragmented national institutional arrangements for sustainable development;
- A lack of sustained country ownership at all stages of the project cycle;
- Limited project cycle management capability; and
- Limited capability in managing the consultancy function.

The major internal challenges for the Department have arisen from the loss of several senior specialist posts financed through the Regular Fund. This has affected the implementation of the PIDS, and in particular the Department's ability to raise funds, and to design, execute and evaluate projects, and support the work of the various organs of the OAS. In such a scenario, the knowledge-building, capacity of the Department is has been affected with implications for its continuing comparative advantage and its ability to add value to its work.



## *Opportunities*

DSD is continuing its efforts at attracting more diversified funding for its work both in terms of donors, quantum of funding and the program areas that are impacted. The Department is particularly keen to raise more money for its work in risk management, climate change, and environmental law, policy and governance programs. Sustained funding for the functioning of the Department's thematic networks is also an area of concern.

While new funding sources have been identified such as the Climate Adaptation Fund agreed at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in the Copenhagen Denmark in December 2009, SIDS-DOCK, and the Climate Investment Fund, accessing such funds continues to present significant challenges, primarily the desire of member states to retain as much of these resources as possible. These challenges notwithstanding, DSD, has applied to Board of the Adaptation Fund to become an Implementation Agency of the Fund.

Opportunities are also envisaged with the European Union especially with interventions in Caribbean and Central America. The EU recently announced that a sizeable grant will be made available to support renewable energy and energy efficiency activities in the Caribbean. It is hoped that the experience acquired by DSD's in successfully executing the EU-funded, CSEP project and the awareness in the participating countries of DSD's effective execution of the project, will encourage the EU and the countries to consider utilizing the services of the Department.

# 6.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

## *Cooperation and Coordination with multilateral Agencies*

DSD continues to enjoy harmonious and fruitful relationships with several regional and international organizations, including IICA on agriculture and land resources issues; the IADB, and OLADE in energy; and with ECLAC on capacity building of Caribbean officials for effective participation in international negotiations, in particular the Rio +20 and the Third International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States which was held in Samoa in September 2014.

In addition, the DSD continued to work with several UN-system agencies as well as the secretariat for MEAs, such as CITES, the UNFCCC, the CDB and RAMSAR conven-

tions. Its collaboration with UNEP in matters relating to law, justice and governance for environmental sustainability is deserving of special mention. UNEP has given full recognition to the institutional sovereignty of the OAS in every joint activity under this program, more recently in a Global Symposium on the Environmental Rule of Law which was held during the first United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi in June, 2014. Discussions between UNEP's Executive Director and DSD's Director during the UNEA have resulted in a decision to conclude a Cooperative Agreement by the end of 2014.

A listing of partners and their engagement by PIDS program area is shown at Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Key DSD Partners by PIDS Program Area**

PIDS Program Area	Strategic Partners
Sustainable Agriculture and the management of forests and other natural resources	IICA, FAO, UNEP, the GEF, IUCN, UN Forum on Forests (UFF)
Water Resources, Land and Health	CARPHA, IICA, The GEF, UNESCO, UNEP,
Natural Hazards Risk Management	CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, CAPRADE, UNISDR,
Conservation and Use of Biodiversity	CBD, CITES and RAMSAR Convention Secretariats, IUCN, UNDP,
Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change	ECLAC, CCCCC, UNFCCC Secretariat,
Renewable Energy and Energy efficiency promotion	ECLAC, EU, OLADE, REEEP, Texas A & M University,
Capacity Building and Institutional strengthening	UNEP, IUCN CEL, INECE, American University, George Washington University, MEA Secretariats.

# 7.0 CONCLUSION

The period under review was one of the more challenging periods in the life of the Department. Still, as this report shows, the Department held its own and continued to explore as many avenues as possible to support the sustainable development programs of OAS Member States.

The Department's successful performance over the period was due in large measure to the sustained professionalism of its staff at Headquarters and in the field, to the outstanding support of personnel at all levels of the General Secretariat and to the generous support of its development partners.

The Department acknowledges the outstanding technical and financial support that it continues to receive from old and new partners. A debt of gratitude is owed to all.

# 8.0 ANNEX

## Detailed Results by Strategic Area of Action

*3.1 Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other Natural resources.*

**The OAS will take the following actions in this area:**

**a) Serve as a regional forum for:**

**i) Advancing the dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land uses and planning.**

i) In November 2010, the DSD compiled and analyzed experiences from four countries in the Americas to better understand available options to address the loss and degradation of natural formation, functions, and reduced capacity for carbon storage, among other soil properties. These experiences have been shared amongst leading experts on soil protection, and representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations and academia, through the IUCN Specialist group on soils. <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/Events/CDWRH.pdf>

The DSD advanced dialogue regarding alternative land use planning through four workshops conducted in the context of the Sustainability impact assessment of Soy project executed in Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina with the purpose of providing input to integrated policy formulation: <http://www.oas.org/DSD/EnvironmentLaw/trade/Soja/Librosoja.pdf>. Additionally, dialogue was promoted through the responsible soy roundtable.

Advanced dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land uses and planning through discussions within the Council for Integral Development (CIDI) as well as through Ministerial Meeting, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), the Inter-American Water Resources Network and participation in for a such as the UN Forum on Forests.

**ii) Facilitating the adoption of strategies and integrated policies, in coordination with other institutions such as... as appropriate, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society. Special emphasis should be given to areas and countries affected by processes of desertification, within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

ii) During the period of this report, the DSD's contribution to the publication "Trade and Sustainable Land Management in the Context of Drylands. ICTSD Selected issue Briefs. International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland:

<http://www.oas.org/dsd/documents/tradesImdrylandsfinaisept2007.pdf>. Has been used to support dialogue regarding the role trade can play in helping address unsustainable practices in drylands in the context of the ten-year plan of action under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

**b) Promote the exchange of information for:**

**i) Supporting the governments in their establishment of an inter-American network for sharing of information and best practices related to sustainable agriculture, the sustainable management of forests, and other related topics, taking into account the experience and activity of other multilateral, regional and national initiatives and programs in this area, such as the Sustainable Development Network Programme (SDNP-UNDP).**

**i) Funds have not been available to establish specialized networks in these areas. However, the DSD has provided support to member States in this area through different fora such as the IABIN thematic networks on pollinators and invasive species and through the environmental impact assessment of trade project which addressed sustainability of sugar cane and melon in Costa Rica and Guatemala as well as African palm and palm oil in Ecuador and livestock cattle in Colombia. Information was shared through more than five workshops in the region and presentations in forums such as the OECD.**

The DSD worked to further exchange of information and experiences in the area of sustainable forestry and agriculture through a policy dialogue session that focused on The importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems in Economic growth and Equity in Latin-America and the Caribbean within the Rio+20 policy dialogue series hosted at headquarters and resulting in key messages transmitted to the Chair of the Conference and member States on this topic:

[http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/rio+20/Documents/5\\_Dialogue-Forests\\_Key\\_Messages.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/rio+20/Documents/5_Dialogue-Forests_Key_Messages.pdf)

Additionally, the DSD collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in an initiative entitled “Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Why these are Important for Sustained Growth and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The report “Latin America and the Caribbean, a Biodiversity Superpower” developed under this initiative examines the financial and economic costs and benefits derived from the sustainable management of the region’s ecosystems, as well as the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystems for productive activities across various sectors. The forestry chapter prepared by DSD in collaboration with other stakeholders explores the composition of forest resources in Latin America, the role of their ecosystem services in the region’s economy across each sector, livelihoods and markets, and the costs of a business as usual versus a sustainable ecosystem management (SEM) scenario. This report has been distributed to thousands of stakeholders throughout the world: [http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/biodiversity/Report\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/biodiversity/Report_ENG.pdf)

**c) Provide cooperation for:**

**i) Developing action plans and/or carrying out, at the request of member states, projects for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources including protection of watersheds and sensitive biodiversity resources.**

i) Over 120 USD\$20,000 small grants awarded to NGOs, universities, herbaria and museums in the Americas for the digitization of biodiversity data under IABIN.

In the context of the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Guaraní Aquifer System (GAS) Project a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and Trans boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) were developed. Pilot projects were also conducted to assess the interaction between agricultural activity and the sensitive resources related to the GAS.

Supported the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in the implementation of a sustainable development plan for the Trifinio Plan and Biosphere Reserve including actions related to sustainable coffee production.

Facilitated the adoption of strategies and integrated policies including through over 30 workshops organized alone and/or in collaboration with the FAO, IICA and UNESCO; now developing strategic action plans for the conservation of natural resources in the La Plata, and Chaco river basins. Promoting alternative approaches to land management; supporting 14 innovative community-level sustainable development projects in Central America and the Caribbean. Under this initiative, civil society organizations in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago received grants of \$50,000 each to implement demonstration projects in clean energy and energy efficiency, resilience to natural hazards, sustainable transport, waste management and water resources management.

Following receipt by the DSD jointly with the Institute for Economy and Environmental Law of Paraguay of the crystal award in the 2008 Global Development Marketplace: Sustainable Agriculture for Development, During this reporting period, the DSD implemented the project "Payment for Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Agriculture" to support implementation of the payment for Ecosystem Services Law in Paraguay and to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of 500 households while protecting and improving the ecosystem service capacity by implementing a menu of agro-forestry practices combined with a scheme of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). The project targeted three pilot sites located in the Department of San Pedro, which includes a portion of the Bosque Atlántico del Alto Paraná (BAAP) along with other sensitive ecosystems.

### 3.2 Water Resources, Land, and Health.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

#### a) Serve as a regional forum to:

**i) Support, with the consent of States concerned, mechanisms for inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation in the development of policies, strategies, and for integrated water resource management, in accordance with relevant international laws, and integrated land management**

i) Promotion of dialogue on water policies in the Americas with specialized agencies of Member States and: IDB, PAHO, CAF, WB, WWF, TNC, GWP, IUCN, IWA, WWC, UNESCO, IICA, IPCC.

	<p>Publications in the context of ISARM Americas Program in partnership with UNESCO: Socio Economic, environmental and climatic aspects of trans-boundary aquifers in the Americas (ISARM-Americas III) OAS-UNESCO -Transboundary aquifers management strategy (ISARM-Americas IV). OAS-UNESCO</p> <p>3 Meetings of OAS-UNESCO ISARM- Americas Program focal points supported to strengthen dialogue.</p>
<p><b>ii) Facilitate and strengthen the dialogue to address the problems that create linkages between environmental degradation and health, in support of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) initiative, with the participation of the Pan-American Health Organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme.</b></p>	<p>Contributions to OAS policy dialogues, round tables, Permanent Council and CIDI sessions related to Water Resources Management.</p> <p>-Rio+20 Policy Dialogue Series, Session on Water Governance resulting in key messages that were transmitted to the Chair of the conference and member States: <a href="http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/rio+20/Documents/3_Dialogue-Water_Key_Messages.pdf">http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/rio+20/Documents/3_Dialogue-Water_Key_Messages.pdf</a></p> <p>-“Policy Dialogues on Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for the Americas” <a href="http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/PoliticalDialogues.asp">http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/PoliticalDialogues.asp</a></p> <p>ii) Contributions to the V Assessment Report on Climate Change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability (WG-II) of UN-IPCC, Leading authorship of the chapter on “Emergent risks and reasons for concern of climate change”.</p> <p>-SHRU-Brazil (Solid Waste Project): technical cooperation to improve the management of the urban environment in Brazil including review of current regulations and the legal framework for solid wastes and its compatibility with other existing regulations. Harmonize theme-based legislation, develop proposals, programs and projects in the subject</p>
<p><b>iii) Support initiatives in full collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization to integrate actions related to provide good quality water and sanitation for the population.</b></p>	<p>iii) Contribution to discussion of IDB/UN Habitat publication : “ ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL AND THE RIGHT TO WATER IN THE AMERICAN REGION” in the context of the 7th Inter-American Dialogue on Water. <a href="http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/water-sanitation/access-to-water-and-sanitation-for-all-and-the-right-to-water,4861.html">http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/water-sanitation/access-to-water-and-sanitation-for-all-and-the-right-to-water,4861.html</a></p>

<p><b>iv) Promote cross-sectoral approaches to integrated water resources management in accordance with relevant international law, and land use planning, integrating the ecological, economic, and social dimensions in program and project design.</b></p>	<p>iv) Cross-sectoral approaches are promoted throughout OAS efforts in the region and within the projects being implemented.</p>
<p><b>b) Promote the exchange of information to:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Support actions to encourage the dissemination and exchange of information and experiences in water resources management and land tenure and management among the countries of the Hemisphere, by strengthening information mechanisms and networks.</b></p>	<p>i) Information systems developed within the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Bermejo River Basin, the CONEA PROSAR project the Trifinio Plan, and the Guarani Aquifer System Project.</p> <p>Supported the 56th OAS Policy Roundtable on "Environmental Statistics: Challenges for the Productive Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean"</p>
<p><b>ii) Support and promote special meetings such as World Water Forums, and the Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management at the hemispheric level, as well as support sub regional meetings to facilitate discussion among water authorities and the society concerned with water management.</b></p>	<p>ii) The DSD is a key partner in the Americas Process of the World Water Forum, during this reporting period the DSD had participation in Marseille 2012 and is continues to support the process towards Korea 2015. Towards the Marseille forum, strong support was provided in the context of the six priorities and targets established for the region. Currently the DSD is supporting preparations for the 7th World Water Forum. - Political/thematic and regional process of the VI and VII World Water Forum (Marseille 2012 and Korea 2015).</p> <p>During this reporting period, the DSD co-organized the 7th Inter-American Dialogue on Water (D7), this effort was recognized by AG/RES. 2780 (XLIII-O/13): Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management in the Americas.</p> <p>The Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision Making (ISP) is shared with authorities working on water management in the context of OAS supported meetings.</p>

<p>iii) Share best practices, disseminate information, and facilitate discussions related to strengthening policy, institutional, and legal frameworks, to address water and land resource degradation problems, and the linkages between environmental degradation and health issues.</p>	<p>iii) The DSD with support of the GEF executed the Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Trans-boundary Water Resources Management project (DELTAMERICA) in Latin America and the Caribbean project DELTA AMERICA Project to promote South-to-South learning, develop and implement mechanisms to disseminate the lessons being learned in International Waters-related projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, and improve capacity for integrated land and water resource management.</p>
<p>iv) Strengthen the policy dialogue between the Pan American Health Organization and the OAS to foster promotion of initiatives related to water and health.</p>	<p>iv) Partnered with Pan American Health Organization in the Program “Faces, Voices and Places of the Millennium Development Goals” in developing case studies to promote compliance with water and health related goals in specific regions of Central America.</p>
<p>c) Proporcionar cooperación para:</p>	
<p>i) Support member states in the formulation and execution of strategic action programs for integrated water management to promote sustainable development.</p>	<p>i) Regional Executing agency of multinational projects aimed at promoting integrated water resources and sustainable land management. Through these projects Strategic Action Programs(SAPs) were formulated or in formulation process for the following basins:</p> <p>- <b>Plata Basin Framework Program</b> : A \$10.7 million GEF-financed project being executed in collaboration with United Nations Environment Program, the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for La Plata Basin (CIC) and the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The project seeks to prepare a Strategic Action Program (SAP) to coordinate actions and investments in the La Plata Basin in order to achieve sustainable utilization of its water resources, adapting to climate variability and change, mitigating their negative impacts and capitalizing on the opportunities that such variability and change may provide</p> <p>-<b>Amazon River basin</b>: A 7.2 GEF-financed project for the Integrated and Sustainable Management of Trans-boundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin considering Climate Variability and Change. Executing agency for the project’s first phase, currently being executed by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OTCA).</p>

- **Río Bravo Basin:** Project to advance the integrated management of the Rio Bravo basin through the creation of a comprehensive binational action program based on ecosystems, the principles of integrated management of water resources, and sustainable use along the basin. The SAP is intended to create the necessary social-economic and policy mechanisms for implementing the agreed action program and engendering the necessary reforms. The SAP will also promote the coordinated management of the basin by participating stakeholders.

- **Strategic Action Program for the Brazilian Amazon (PRODEAM):** The project executed in collaboration with the Government of Brazil, contributes to consolidate a development plan for the Brazilian Amazon region, by updating the regional database in order to provide modern technological information systems.

- **Satellite applications for Water monitoring (CONAE-PROSAT):** A program for developing satellite systems and related applications based on water moisture monitoring to improve socio-economic conditions and to reduce vulnerability to extreme natural hazards in the region.

- **Tri-national basin TRIFINIO-Honduras:** Program for Sustainable Development of the transboundary region of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala a new Strategic Action Program is under development

- **São Francisco River Basin:** The SAP formulated by the DSD for the São Francisco River Basin is to promote an integrated approach to the planning and management of the water resources of the Basin.

- **Bermejo River Basin:** Supported implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Binational Basin of the Bermejo River (developed with support of the DSD between between 1997 and 2000) to assist the governments of Argentina and Bolivia in addressing the root causes of the principal environmental problems affecting the Bermejo River Basin.

**ii) Establish, among member states, mechanisms for integrated water resources management, taking into consideration public participation in the decision-making process.**

ii) A set of Guidelines and Experiences in Trans boundary Water Resources Management Projects in Latin America, were prepared as part of DELTAMERICA project to facilitate the discussion amongst water authorities and the society: <http://www.oas.org/DSD/WaterResources/documents/DELTA.pdf>

<p><b>iii) Support member states in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and policy, regulatory and legal programs related to the implementation of integrated water resource management and land management practices, including rehabilitation of ecosystems.</b></p>	<p>iii) Technical Support provided to Mexico through dialogue process in their legislative assembly in the context of the ongoing water reform. Review of Grenada’s National Environmental Management bill, and support to Paraguay and Dominican Republic in the strengthening of legal frameworks related to payment of hydrological ecosystem services.</p>
<p><b>iv) Support activities of member states in the formulation and implementation of programs and projects oriented to addressing threats to health caused by environmental degradation, including threats to water quality that entail problems associated with hazardous wastes and persistent organic pollutants.</b></p>	<p>One week capacity building program on payment for Ecosystem services including legal and institutional frameworks implemented in the Trifinio region and in the Peruvian Amazon for more the 100 municipal authorities and government officials:  <a href="http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/elpg/Cursos/4Edicion.asp">http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/elpg/Cursos/4Edicion.asp</a>  <a href="http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/DSD/ELPG/Cursos/PSA/3Edicion.asp">http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/DSD/ELPG/Cursos/PSA/3Edicion.asp</a></p> <p>iv) The DSD lead a Consultation process towards the development of a regional action plan for saicm implementation in Latin-American and the Caribbean. Furthermore a database on Persistent Toxic Substances for Latin America and the Caribbean was developed by the DSD <a href="http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/ELPG/pastProjects/soundChemicalsManagement.asp">http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/ELPG/pastProjects/soundChemicalsManagement.asp</a> as well as guidelines for transferring experiences between south and Central America on persistent hazardous substances.</p> <p><u>SHRU-Brazil</u> (Solid Waste Project): technical cooperation to improve the management of the urban environment in Brazil including review of current regulations and the legal framework for solid wastes and its compatibility with other existing regulations. Harmonize theme-based legislation, develop proposals, programs and projects in the subject</p> <p>Water quality monitoring and assessment being conducted within the framework of La Plata basin project. Basic monitoring networks to be strengthened in shared watercourses to help monitor physical and chemical conditions. Health and sanitation studies being developed for implementation of coordinated actions in La Plata basin.</p> <p>Supported the implementation of 2 pilot projects under the OAS Sustainable Communities in Central America and the Caribbean Initiative in Honduras and Guatemala that seek to promote the adoption of sustainable waste management technologies while supporting the livelihoods of rural communities.</p>

**v) Support member states in the design and implementation of programs and projects for sustainable fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture development.**

v) Supported Government of Jamaica in implementation of project “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” to assess and address climate change vulnerabilities of the fisheries sectors of the Whitehouse (Westmoreland Parish) and Black River (St. Elizabeth Parish) Communities.

Development of strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in La Plata basin, with special emphasis on wetlands, riparian ecosystems and ichthyic fauna conservation, within the context of La Plata Basin project.

**vi) Support member states in advancing the development of programs and institutional policies that enable the recognition of wetlands as indispensable ecosystems in the recharge of aquifers, in the conservation of biodiversity, and the supply of quality water, as well as the strengthening of actions that ensure the ecological wealth of wetlands.**

vi) Cooperation agreement executed with the RAMSAR convention Secretariat to further common goals, sharing data, knowledge and information relevant to biodiversity conservation of wetlands and sustainable management within the Americas and development and execution of joint projects related to RAMSAR Strategic Plan and the DSD mandates, such as the proposed UNEP implemented, DSD executed, GEF funded project, titled “Valuation of Ecosystem Services,” which is part of the RAMSAR Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands.

### *3.3 Natural Hazards Risk Management.*

**The OAS will take the following actions in this area:**

**a) Serve as a hemispheric forum to support national, regional and hemispheric actions to:**

**i) Promote sustainable development by reducing the vulnerability of economic and social infrastructure to natural hazards in national development plans.**

i) DSD: (i) developed “good” practices for addressing pressing issues in critical areas; (ii) promoted networking for information and knowledge sharing and transfer of “good” practices, including through the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) and (iii) supported the policy formulation functions of various organs of the OAS including the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and its various committees, the Inter-American System, particularly, the IACNDR and the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

**ii) Promote sustainable public/private natural hazard risk management mechanisms that substantially lessen loss of life, prevent and reduce potential damage, and shorten the effects of the disaster recovery period.**

ii) Since 2010, two more Member States ratified The Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance: Nicaragua, on August 6, 2010; and Colombia, on January 24, 2013. These two additional ratifications add to the ratifications of Panama, in 1995; Peru, in 1996; Uruguay, in 2000; and Dominican Republic, in 2009.

The DSD continued to advocate for the Convention as the only legally binding regional agreement in the world in matters of humanitarian assistance in cases of disasters.

INDM has sponsored seminars and dialogues surrounding the issue of Disaster Risk Management. Some examples are: (i) the Training on Tele-detection Applied to Disaster Mitigation, co-organized and presented with the Argentine National Committee for Outer Space Activities (CONAE), at the Space Center Teofilo Tabanera of the Institute of High Outer Space Studies Mario Gulich, in La Falda, Cordoba, in September of 2009; (ii) the Regional Workshop for Hydro-surveyors, in Managua, in November of 2009, which was presented in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Colombian Institute for Hydrological, Meteorological and Environmental Studies (IDEAM); and (iii) the Seminar Increasing the Resilience to Natural Hazards in the Tourism Sector in the Americas held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in November of 2010, as part of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development. Also as part of the Dialogue Series in the Framework of Rio+20, sponsored by the DSD in 2012, INDM co-sponsored a dialogue under the theme Disaster Risk Reduction: A Matter of Good Governance.

**iii) Improve public awareness and decision-making in development planning by disseminating hazard-prone area maps.**

iii) Hazard maps developed by the DSD under the Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project(CDMP), continue to be disseminated through the CDMP Natural Hazard Mapping Resources Page: <http://www.oas.org/cdmp/document/seismap/>

**iv) Foster catastrophe loss protection in the region by supporting the efforts of development lending institutions and the insurance industry to improve natural hazard risk management.**

With support of the World Bank, the DSD was the executing agency for the Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project (CELP). The objective of the project was to build legislative capacity to enhance legal and institutional frameworks for state of emergency and budget appropriation in eleven CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic. Furthermore, the project aimed to make recommendations on how to improve legislative channels and administrative procedures during and immediately after the occurrence of a natural disaster. A Checklist for the Consideration of Lawmakers aimed at supporting the effective flow of resources under disaster conditions was one of the key results of the project as well as Emergency legislation profiles developed for each beneficiary country. Capacity, building, dialogue and training were at the center of this project.

<http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/ELPG/pastProjects/caribbeanEmergency.asp>

**v) Encourage private sector and civil society involvement in community-based disaster preparedness and prevention activities.**

v) The DSD supported *Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change* across all OAS secretariats, organs and specialized organizations such as the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN): The DSD worked with the Executive Secretariat of the CIM in the drafting of a policy paper on Gender-oriented Women Rights Protection, during and in the aftermath of complex emergencies, and has worked with that secretariat in the drafting of proposals to support the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Management across women ministries and institutes in the Americas.

SEDI/DSD has also worked with IIN in the drafting of a policy paper on Child Rights in Disaster Risk Management, a position paper that serves as the basis for the OAS-IIN policy on Disaster Risk Management and children rights.

A mainstreaming policy for the OAS, across all secretariats, organs and specialized organizations of the OAS was implemented supporting fora and policy formulation in various areas, and publishing a policy document entitled, *Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change: Addressing the underlying causes of disasters and the pre-conditions of vulnerability*.

Disaster Risk Management has also been integrated throughout other SEDI departments and programs, as well as other sections and programs of SEDI/DSD. Examples are:

1. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Tourism, with the organization and presentation of a seminar in the context of the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities in Sustainable Development, in Santo Domingo, in 2010. A study on DRM in the Tourism Sector was conducted in Peru under a Country Needs Assessment financed by the US Department of State, through its Permanent Mission to the OAS;

2. DRM and Trade: a risk assessment of trade in the Caribbean is being undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada;

3. Community Resilience to Disasters was also integrated as one of the four pillars of the US DoS funded project Sustainable Communities in Central America and the Caribbean Requests for Proposals (RFP). In the first phase, three projects were awarded financial support: two in Guatemala, and one in St. Kitts and Nevis. The second phase also is expected to include small grants for community resilience in Central America and the Caribbean; and

4. DRM is well integrated in all trans-boundary integrated water resources management (IWRM) projects, namely the GEF-UNEP projects, “Sustainable Management of the Water Resources of the La Plata Basin with respect to the Effects of Climate Variability and Change”, and “Sustainable Forest Management in the Trans-boundary Gran Chaco Americano Ecosystem”. Also, under the IWRM, SEDI/DSD supports the development of algorithms and satellite earth observation image processing applications for disaster mitigation with the Argentine National Commission of Outer Space Activities (CONAE).

**vi) Support the implementation of OAS General Assembly and CIDS resolutions on natural hazards vulnerability reduction.**

vi) The DSD served as technical secretariat of the Permanent Council – CIDI Joint Working Group, between 2009 and 2012, when the Inter-American Plan was endorsed by the General Assembly (AG/Res. 2750 (XLII-O/12)). SEDI/DSD provided technical support to five technical meetings held in Washington, DC, in 2010 and 2011, and to the discussions held by the Joint Working Group that resulted in the Inter-American Plan and the “Diagnostic and Suggested Course of Action” of the Joint Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States (GTC/DAH-12/11 rev. 3 corr. 1).

With the financial contribution of the Argentine White Helmet Commission, through its Special Fund, the DSD, developed an on-line monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the Inter-American Plan, which is available through the Web-based portal of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM).

All efforts of the DSD are supportive of implementation of GA and CIDS resolutions on natural hazards vulnerability reduction.

**vii) Promote the strengthening of early warning systems that are people-centered, in particular, systems whose warnings are timely and understandable to those at risk, which take into account the demographic, gender, cultural, and livelihood characteristics of the target audiences.**

vii) In 2010, the INDM presented two round tables at the OAS Headquarters on “Community-centered Flood Early Warning Systems (EWS): The Central American Experience”, and “Floodplain Management with No Adverse Impact in Coastal Zones and Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Variability”. And between 2009 and 2010, two virtual fora were presented on Good Practices on “Risks and Extreme Hydrological Events: Flood Early Warning and Resilience Capacity”, as well as one on tele-detection applied to disaster mitigation.

With the financial support of the Governments of Germany and the People’s Republic of China, SEDI/DSD worked with the national competent agencies in matters of disaster preparedness and response, in all seven member States of the Central American Isthmus (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) and the Dominican Republic to develop and publish a harmonized manual for the design, installation and operation of community-centered Early Warning Systems (EWS) for Floods. It also designed and implemented an on-line database for the registry of multi-hazard EWS. Currently SEDI/DSD through its Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change Program (RISK-MACC) provides technical support to the participating member States in adopting the manual and the on-line database.

	<p>In coordination with Centro Para la Investigación y Planificación del Desarrollo Maya Sotz'il, the DSD implemented a pilot project to strengthen the capacity of indigenous communities to prevent and mitigate the risk of natural disasters in the Central Highlands of Guatemala focusing on their traditional knowledge for risk management, developing an early warning and response system and adopting sustainable productive practices as an adaptation effort to climate change.</p>
<p><b>viii) Consider the characteristics and special needs of the Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries in relation to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change and of climate variability and, in this sense, grant them, as deemed appropriate, special attention in terms of facilitating financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building.</b></p>	<p>viii) The DSD Provided technical support to 2 meetings of the CARICOM Task Force on Climate Change aimed at advancing the implementation of CARICOM Regional Strategy on Climate Change and Sustainable Development; supported the preparations of CARICOM Member States for participation in UNFCCC conferences in Denmark and Mexico.</p>
<p><b>b) Encourage the exchange of information to:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Facilitating the interpretation of natural hazard information.</b></p>	<p>i) This was the focus of the Second Hemispheric Encounter, in Santa Marta, Colombia,, under the theme, 'From Theory to Practice'.</p>
<p><b>ii) Reducing natural hazard vulnerability through emergency preparedness, planning, investment, and scientific research.</b></p>	<p>ii) The OAS-White Helmet Program has provided technical support in several member States in developing their national volunteer networks and systems. Examples are: (1) CONRED (Guatemala) Volunteers National System; (2) Strengthening of the National Civil Protection, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and Shelters and Logistic Information Management, in El Salvador; and (3) SINAGER Volunteers National System, in Honduras.</p> <p>The OAS-White Helmet Program provided humanitarian relief and response to various disasters, organized and presented workshops and seminars, and supported the strengthening of subregional mechanisms for disaster preparedness and response.</p>

<p><b>iii) Reducing or eliminating the destructive effects of recurring hazardous events on people and their economic and social infrastructure through the application of appropriate risk reduction measures.</b></p>	<p>iii) The DSD implemented the project “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” to assess and address climate change vulnerabilities on socioeconomic infrastructure and propose community based adaptation strategies. The project focused on addressing challenges in communities which livelihoods depend on the fisheries and agriculture sector.</p>
<p><b>iv) Supporting established networks for the exchange of experiences and methods in the forecasting and mitigation of natural hazard events.</b></p>	<p>iv) On the basis of the cooperation agreement signed by the GS/OAS and the secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), SEDI/DSD co-organized and co-sponsored two sessions of the Regional Platform of the Americas, one in March of 2011, in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, and one in November of 2012, in Santiago, Chile. SEDI/DSD also participated at the last session in May of 2014, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and is a member of the sessions of the Regional Platform Advisory Committee. SEDI/DSD has prepared the Regional Report to the Global Platform in all four global sessions, since 2007 and until the last one in 2013, presenting the regional reports for the 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 biennials.</p>
<p><b>c) Provide cooperation to:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Promote community-based prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response in cases of disaster.</b></p>	<p>i) In coordination with <i>Fundacion Pro-Peten</i>, the DSD implemented a pilot project to reduce wildfire risk in Guatemala by strengthening capacities for integrated fire management in agricultural productive activities of two communities, design and implement wildfire risk management protocols and early warning systems, create, equip and train two wildfire commissions at the community and municipal level in detection and immediate responses well as two community brigades.</p>
<p><b>ii) Identify natural hazard assessments and the evaluation of financial, economic and physical risk.</b></p>	<p>ii) In the CAPRADE region, a case study on Disaster Risk Management in the Tourism sector in Peru developed by the DSD, served as the basis for discussions and the preparation of a country needs assessment in the region. The study was presented at the XX Meeting of CAPRADE, in Lima, in July of 2014, and yielded relevant lessons and practical experience.</p>

*Country Needs Assessments for Enhancing National Disaster Risk Management Systems and Improving Hemispheric Coordination and Cooperation:*

With the financial support of the US Department of State through its Permanent Mission to the OAS, SEDI/DSD has been conducting country needs assessments to enhance national DRM Systems and improve hemispheric coordination and cooperation. The assessment was conducted by examining practical experiences in DRM in key sectors, based on case studies and exchanges of good practices in three selected sub-regions in the Americas: (i) the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic, (ii) the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and (iii) the Andean States members of the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE).

In the case of the Central American Isthmus, the analysis and discussions were based on a country needs assessment undertaken in Honduras. The Honduran study and the discussions held in a sub-regional encounter, in 2013, highlighted the need to further develop early warning systems, particularly, integrating community-centered systems that capitalize on ancestral knowledge and community networks and capacities, with data and information provided by state-of-the-art satellite and radar technology. In coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the Center for the Coordination of Natural Disasters Prevention in Central America (CEPRENAC) and its members, which are also the INDM National Operational Focal Points in the region, a comparative analysis was undertaken to examine complementarities between the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance and the Central American Policy for Integral Risk Management (PCGIR) and its Regional Plan, and in the context of the consultation process for the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of the UN.

In the case of the CARICOM region, the analysis and discussions were based on a country needs assessment undertaken in Saint Lucia, which focused on physical and environmental planning. The study was presented and further discussed in June 2014 at the first meeting of the subcommittee on Physical and Environmental Planning of the 2014-2023 Implementation Plan of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, being executed by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). In this way, the study serves to establish a baseline and identify criteria for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of the CDM Strategy in the area of physical and environmental planning.

	See above reference to “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” project.
<b>iii) Promote hazard-resistant building practices and standards.</b>	<p>iii) In coordination with HOPE Nevis Incorporated, the DSD implemented a pilot project to Build community resilience to drought, flooding and other natural hazards in one community in each of Nevis’ five parishes by implementing sustainable preventative practices to safeguard the communities from hazards and equip the local population with the knowledge and technical skills to prepare, respond to and minimize the fallouts from natural and human induced hazards.</p> <p>Through the Haiti Building Standards Development Project, the DSD worked towards ensuring the compatibility of the Haitian building Norms with the other norms being developed by other CARICOM countries. An assessment conducted in Haiti in 2004 was the baseline for this project:  <a href="http://www.oas.org/dsd/Nat-Dis-Proj/HBSD/Background.htm">http://www.oas.org/dsd/Nat-Dis-Proj/HBSD/Background.htm</a></p> <p>As Chairman of CDEMA’s Physical development and Environment Committee DSD is helping to promote the adoption of sounding building codes and standards in CDEMA member states.</p> <p>Building code standards were part of the legal framework assessed through the Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project (CELP) and awareness regarding promoting hazard resistant building practices was raised among beneficiary countries.</p>
<b>iv) Assist in the implementation of vulnerability and risk audits of lifelines and critical facilities in order to promote life safety and loss reduction.</b>	<p>iv) The DSD with the support of Canada is working on an assessment of Natural Hazards and other Risk to Sustainable Trade in the Caribbean.</p>
<b>v) Foster the study of the use of vulnerability reduction incentives and hazard mitigation in the property insurance industry.</b>	<p>v) The DSD has addressed the of vulnerability reduction incentives and hazard mitigation in the property insurance industry through the different trainings and capacity building efforts conducted in the region.</p>

<p><b>vi) Facilitate technical training and information dissemination.</b></p>	<p>vi) Over 12 training workshops executed alone and in collaboration with CDEMA, CAPRADE, and CEPREDENAC</p>
<p><b>vii) Support the incorporation of natural hazards mitigation goals and objectives in national development plans, the adoption of appropriate building codes and zoning procedures, and the preparation, strengthening and implementation of regional disaster reduction plans.</b></p>	<p>vii) See Reference above to Haiti Building Standards Development Project.</p>
	<p>Convened a major side event during the World Urban Forum in April 2013; and a Mayors colloquium in Miami in December 2013 on the theme “Towards Sustainable and Resilient Communities in the Americas”</p>
<p><b>viii) Support the coordination of international and national activities aimed at the preparation of sector vulnerability profiles and investment plans to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.</b></p>	<p>viii) The DSD with the support of Canada is working on an assessment of Natural Hazards and other Risk to Sustainable Trade in the Caribbean.</p>
	<p>Continued to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the Americas and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response through the preparation and presentation of the Regional Report for the Americas, in Geneva, at the Third (2011) and Fourth Global Platforms of the UNISDR (2013).</p>
<p><i>3.4 Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</i>  <b>The OAS will take the following actions in this area:</b></p>	
<p><b>a) Actuar como un foro regional para:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Promoting integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the land-use planning and land management process.</b></p>	<p>i) DSD continued to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystems management in the design and implementation of its projects and in the 2 policy dialogues hosted by the Department.</p>

**ii) Promoting discussion of biodiversity at the inter-American level in order to advance strategies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.**

ii) Ongoing discussion taking place within the ambit of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) management committees. The value and use of biological corridors in the context of the annual migration of the Monarch Butterfly was the theme of the Earth Day 2014 event organized by DSD with support from the permanent missions of Canada, the United States and Mexico. The Mesoamerica 2020 project also seeks to advance discussion on Biodiversity Conservation Practice in Mesoamerican Member States.

**iii) Promoting networks such as Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and other actions and activities that facilitate sharing information and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and otherwise support the achievement of the objectives in the conventions listed above. In addition, to explore the development of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Initiative (WHMSI), in a manner that reflects the interests and priorities of all member states.**

iii) The DSD Successfully completed the GEF-funded IABIN project through which 127 (average \$10,000) data content creation grants were awarded to 18 countries to digitize key biodiversity data on a geospatial platform that allows for value-added, decision-making products. The IABIN database continues to be used by biodiversity management officials in participating states to support decision making. The IABIN project created a forum that fosters technical collaboration and coordination among Member States in the collection, sharing and use of biodiversity information relevant to decision-making on natural resources management, conservation, and education to promote sustainable development in the region.

The DSD is helping to improve the valuation of environmental services in 7 Andean countries and Costa Rica, under WHMSI, and in partnership with the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands.

The Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) works with wildlife agency directors and senior officials as a cooperative hemispheric non-binding mechanism to conserve shared migratory species.

The Mesoamerican 2020 Initiative launched by the OAS with support of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in June 2014 will 1) work with key actors to address the underlying human dimensions of species and ecosystem conservation and 2) strengthen the capacity of Mesoamerican individuals and institutions to be stewards of the land and secure a sustainable future.

<p><b>iv) Facilitating the adoption of strategies, and integrated policies, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, on mutually agreed terms, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society, in coordination with other organizations, and promote dialogue to avoid duplication of efforts. Special emphasis should be given to understanding linkages between the processes of desertification and biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, water-related issues, and climate change.</b></p>	<p>iv) The OAS Sustainable Communities in Central America and the Caribbean Initiative has co-implemented 22 demonstration innovative projects in four major fields: Renewable Energy, Waste Management, Resiliency to Natural Hazards and Sustainable Transportation Solutions.</p>
<p><b>v) Strengthening the capacity of member states to promote sustainable forest management and to address illegal practices, according to national legislation, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national, sub-national, regional and sub-regional levels, including through collaboration with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, as appropriate.</b></p>	<p>Supported the implementation of a pilot project in Ecuador on the Closed Looped Cycling (CLCP) which resulted in: (1) the creation and approval of a National CLCP Program; (2) the certification of the first Cradle-to-Cradle Certified Packaged Product in Latin America and the Caribbean; (3) the establishment of a new Cleaner Production Center for Ecuador; and (4) the inclusion of dedicated chapter/text in the National Development Plan “Plan para el Buen Vivir 2013-2017”. This intervention laid the foundation for an expanded program, also funded by the US-DOS involving Colombia, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago.</p> <p>v) IABIN, ReefFix, and WHMSI all supported global best practices to minimize deforestation and land degradation and protect critical megabiodiversity areas.</p> <p>Delivered two, 1-week, regional capacity building programs on Payment for Ecosystem Services including implementation of legal and institutional frameworks that support these schemes with regards to forest in the Trifinio region and in the Peruvian Amazon for more the 100 municipal authorities and government officials.</p> <p>Supported training conducted by the Network on Wildlife Enforcement (in Spanish known as “Red de Observancia y Aplicación de la Normativa Silvestre –ROAVIS-) to 26 judges and prosecutors in Honduras to address illegal practices regarding wild life and forest to promote forest law enforcement. This training received financial support from the US Department of Justice and the US Department of Interior.</p>

**vi) Supporting the effective implementation and enforcement, at the national and sub-national levels, of laws, policies and regulations that address illegal trade in endangered species and protection of wild flora and fauna, including through the implementation of CITES, as well as the promotion of strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife.**

vi) Completed the design of an Inter-American Judicial Capacity Building Program on the Environmental Rule of Law (including CITES implementation and the promotion of strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife) for implementation in 2015; continued to support the implementation of the Convention on Nature protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); supported the work of the Standing Committee Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods; supported training efforts in Guatemala to environmental prosecutors of the Central American Region with regards to CITES implementation, conducted a dialogue on implementation of CITES core priorities which has resulted in increased collaboration between the DSD and the CITES Secretariat; supported training to member States to implement the recent listing of five (5) shark species in CITES.

**b) Promote the exchange of information for:**

**i) Supporting the governments in the management of an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network to promote compatible standards and inter-operable means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and capacity building on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.**

i) Created the IABIN Data Integration and Analysis Gateway (DIAG) that provides a custom view of content in the system for IABIN users and showcases the information produced by the 5 IABIN thematic networks (TN). Additionally, it allows the user to easily browse and search for content in the system, add the content to an interactive map, and run analyses on data from multiple TNs providing access to over 70 datasets developed by IABIN, over 2800 public datasets from Data Basin and map services.

**ii) In coordination with governments, identifying gaps in knowledge and new fields of interest, as well as a research agenda to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.**

ii) IABIN's 5 Thematic networks in Species/Specimens, Pollinators, Invasive Species, Protected Areas, and Pollinators as well as the database on payments for ecosystems services (PES) supported best practices and lesson learned in market based initiatives for environmental policymaking.

	<p>Supported Member States efforts in analyzing trends in Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) transactions and the challenges and contributions of legal and institutional frameworks to the implementation of PES schemes which could become an important value-added product for decision-making in biodiversity protection.</p>
<p><b>iii) Improving regional cooperation for biodiversity management through the sharing of experience and expertise in protected areas and natural habitats.</b></p>	<p>iii) Through the IABIN Protected Areas Database and Marine Park Databases and related workshops extensive regional and trans-boundary information was shared between countries allowing better biological corridor management.</p> <p>Enhanced cooperation achieved through the WHMSI with the Secretariats for the RAMSAR and CMS Conventions.</p>
<p><b>iv) Developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and building capacity in member countries to participate actively in the development of data layers and assessment of environmental information as it relates to sustainable development and protection of human health and biodiversity.</b></p>	<p>iv) Se creó la Red de Especies Invasoras de IABIN (I3N), la cual incorpora información de países en todas las Américas para apoyar la detección y gestión de especies exóticas invasoras. I3N ofrece desarrollo de capacidades y una variedad de herramientas electrónicas para la gestión de la información y el manejo al acceso a la información. Se adjudicaron 21 donaciones de \$10.000 cada una para digitalizar datos sobre especies invasoras en 15 países.</p>
<p><b>v) Desarrollar el Sistema Global de Sistemas de Observación de Tierra (GEOSS) y desarrollar capacidades en los Estados Miembros para participar activamente en el desarrollo de capas de datos y evaluación de la información ambiental en lo que se relaciona con el desarrollo sostenible y la protección de la salud humana y la biodiversidad.</b></p>	<p>v) Worked extensively with GEOSS in Global Monitoring initiatives such as the Encyclopedia of Life (EofL) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)</p> <p>Supported the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by co-authoring Chapter III: The relationship between environmental change and human wellbeing in Latin-America and the Caribbean of the “Latin-America and the Caribbean: Environment Outlook. GEO LAC 3”. Available online at:  <a href="http://www.pnuma.org/geo/geoalc3/Doc%20COMPLETO/GEO%20ALC%203%20WEB%20VERSION%20C.pdf">http://www.pnuma.org/geo/geoalc3/Doc%20COMPLETO/GEO%20ALC%203%20WEB%20VERSION%20C.pdf</a></p>

**c) Provide cooperation to:**

**i) Carrying out regional, sub-regional, and bilateral projects for the management and sustainable use of biological diversity, including wildlife and forests, and formulating strategies and considering coordinated action plans for managing natural ecosystems and biological resources shared by two or more countries.**

i) Over 120 USD\$10,000 small grants awarded to NGOs, universities, herbaria and museums in the Americas for the digitization of biodiversity data under IABIN.

With the assistance from the WHMSI Steering Committee, the DSD selected and funded six proposals of up to US\$20,000 on a competitive basis to support conservation efforts of marine migratory species and habitats of greatest concern. WHMSI is also implementing the Flyways in the Americas Framework and Migratory Bird Action Plan 2014-2020 currently under review of the WHMSI Council and to be submitted to the CMS COP in November 2014

The DSD is working to better understand the impact of climate variability and change in Payments or compensations for Environmental Services as an adaptation strategy for livelihoods and to optimize financial contributions to the true potential of the service in two selected areas with transboundary watersheds as case studies in the Andean region and/or Amazon basin covered by Climate Outlook.

**ii) Supporting countries, upon joint agreed request, in identifying new protected areas in the region, and formulating plans for the management of protected areas and buffer zones with similar characteristics, and for establishing, restoring or consolidating biological corridors, as jointly agreed by those countries where the Protected Area would be located.**

ii) Awarded 7 small grants to implement, update and maintain an Internet-accessible Database for protected areas in several countries in the Americas under IABIN's Protected Areas Thematic Network. ReefFix has worked on supporting the Caribbean Challenge where 20% of marine areas will be under sustainable management

Supported the establishment of the Haiti's second Marine Protected Area (MPA) called the "The Three Bays Protected Area (Parc Marin des Trois Baies)" located in Northeastern Haiti through ReefFix.

**iii) Promoting integrated soil management and measures to combat desertification through sustainable development projects and integrated regional studies for such purposes as reversing significant degradation and erosion, in conformity with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.**

iii) IABIN, ReefFix, and WHMSI all supported global best practices to minimize deforestation and land degradation and protect critical megabiodiversity areas.

The DSD has been working to contribute to the reversal of land degradation trends in the Gran Chaco through supporting sustainable land management in the productive landscape.

[http://www.oas.org/dsd/WaterResources/projects/Chaco\\_esp.asp](http://www.oas.org/dsd/WaterResources/projects/Chaco_esp.asp)

<p><b>iv)Assisting member states, at their request, in strengthening activities in support of the development of environmental legislation to conserve biodiversity and water resources and to combat desertification.</b></p>	<p>iv) During this reporting period, the DSD has supported Grenada in the development of their national Environmental Management Bill, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay in efforts related to development of payment for ecosystem services legislation, Mexico in the process towards a new water law, and in developing a work plan for the Senate’s Environment and Natural Resource Committee.</p>
<p><b>v) Strengthening technical and institutional capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of plants, animals, and ecosystems.</b></p>	<p>v) IABIN, ReefFix, and WHMSI all supported global best practices to minimize deforestation and land degradation.</p> <p>The DSD supported the work of the Standing Committee Working Group on CITES and Livelihoods and is currently working on a tool kit to implement the CITES decision on livelihoods that will contribute to sustainable use of plants, animals and ecosystems.</p>
<p><b>vi) Building cooperative initiatives at a hemispheric, regional, and sub-regional level among environmental, natural resource, and law enforcement authorities to enhance the capacity to detect and effectively respond to illegal trans-boundary trade in wild flora and fauna to strengthen implementation of obligations under CITES.</b></p>	<p>vi) The DSD has supported the work of the International Network on Enforcement and Compliance, the creation of an enforcement network in south America and the activities of ROAVIS, in addition to the work of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and the FIDA network.</p>
<p><b>3.5 Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change</b>  <b>The OAS will take the following actions in this area:</b></p>	
<p><b>a) Promote the exchange of information in order to:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Formulate policies and options for cost-effective response and adaptation to the impacts of global climate change.</b></p>	<p>i) Efforts in this area continue to be supported by DSD’s networks in water, and disaster mitigation.</p> <p>Organized 4 discussion/policy forums on climate change involving experts including in the CIDI, 2 as part of the climate change policy dialogue supported by the Permanent Mission of Peru and France as hosts of COP 20 and COP 21 respectively. See:</p> <p><a href="http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/DialogosPoliticosp.aspx">http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/DialogosPoliticosp.aspx</a></p>

	Database on Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) developed.
<p><b>ii) Enable the further integration and linkages between initiatives and projects addressing adaptation to climate change, and mitigation of natural disasters.</b></p>	<p>Supported Government of Jamaica in implementation of project “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” which resulted in community based adaptation strategies for the fisheries sectors of the Whitehouse (Westmoreland Parish) and Black River (St. Elizabeth Parish) Communities and for the agricultural sector of the Darliston (Westmoreland Parish) and Flagaman (St. Elizabeth Parish) communities.</p>
<p><b>iii) Establish databases and information systems to allow key regional and national institutions to acquire, analyze, store, and disseminate data on climate change and the impacts on natural and man-made systems.</b></p>	<p>The DSD is working to better understand the impact of climate variability and change in Payments or compensations for Environmental Services as an adaptation strategy for livelihoods and to optimize financial contributions to the true potential of the service in two selected areas with tran-sboundary watersheds as case studies in the Andean region and/or Amazon basin covered by Climate Outlook.</p>
	<p>ii) Designed a OAS-wide mainstreaming policy on disaster risk management (DRM) which inter alia addresses the linkages between DRM and climate change and the preconditions for disaster arising from poor development planning;</p>
	<p>Building the capacity river basin organizations such as the CIC, to adapt to the effects of climate variability and climate change on ecosystems and on the livelihoods of people living in these areas, through the design of Strategic Action Plans in the La Plata, and Chaco river basins.</p>
	<p>IABIN, ReefFix, and WHMSI all supported global best practices to minimize deforestation and land degradation.</p>
	<p>iii) IABIN, ReefFix, and WHMSI all supported global best practices to minimize deforestation and land degradation.</p>
	<p>Disaster Legislation database developed.</p>
	<p>Promotion of databases established by the CCCCC.</p>

<p><b>iv) Increase knowledge on the impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emission on socio-economic sectors and natural resources.</b></p>	<p>iv) IABIN, ReefFix, and WHMSI all supported global best practices to minimize deforestation and land degradation.</p>
	<p>See reference to “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” project</p>
	<p>Supported the execution of an ECLAC study on the Economic Impacts of Climate Change in the Caribbean; and supported the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC) in designing a regional policy, strategy and implementation Plan on climate change adaptation which were adopted by CARICOM Heads of Government in 2012.</p>
<p><b>b. Provide cooperation in order to:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Establish and operate sea level/climate and coral reef monitoring networks.</b></p>	<p>i) Through the ReefFix Project as an Integrated Coastal Zone Management tool the DSD has worked with SIDS to complete stakeholder analysis and socio-economic valuation with a view towards improving oversight of marine resources to meet SIDS commitments to increase coverage and effective management. ReefFix has been implemented in over 14 case studies in the Caribbean in the following approaches: (i) ecosystem goods and services valuation methodologies (ii) cost effective interventions to improve marine ecosystem health, and (iii) revenue raising techniques of cost recovery and user pays/polluter pays principles.</p>
	<p>Since the successful completion of the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean (CPACCC) and the WATER LEVEL OBSERVATION NETWORK FOR CENTRAL AMERICA (RONMAC) in 2001 no new activities have been undertaken in sea level monitoring. However DSD continues to support the work of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, the Global ocean observation System and CATHALAC in this regard.</p>
<p><b>ii) Develop appropriate methodologies for coastal vulnerability and risk assessment and mapping.</b></p>	<p>ii) Through the ReefFix Project as an Integrated Coastal Zone Management tool the DSD has worked with SIDS to complete stakeholder analysis and socio-economic valuation with a view towards improving oversight of marine resources to meet SIDS commitments to increase coverage and effective management.</p>

ReefFix has been implemented in over 14 case studies in the Caribbean in the following approaches: (i) ecosystem goods and services valuation methodologies (ii) cost effective interventions to improve marine ecosystem health, and (iii) revenue raising techniques of cost recovery and user pays/polluter pays principles.

Methodology developed to assess coastal vulnerability at the community level in two parishes of Jamaica through the “Coastal Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change in Jamaica” project.

### 3.6 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion

**The OAS will take the following actions in this area:**

#### a) Serve as a regional forum for:

**i) Organizing and implementing the Renewable Energy in the Americas Initiative (REIA), which builds collaborative partnerships to accelerate the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies throughout the Americas.**

i) In 2008, REIA transitioned to become the Sustainable Energy Program of the Americas (SEPA). The objective of SEPA was to provide member states with assistance to enhance the sustainability of the energy sector throughout the region. Areas of assistance included: policy and regulatory reform, human and institutional capacity building, technical assistance and resource evaluation, knowledge management, and financing support. Additionally, SEPA followed up with the mandates of the 37th General Assembly, organized the Inter-American Meeting of National Authorities and Experts on Energy for Sustainable Development (Washington, DC) and coordinated energy expert consultations in the Caribbean (Bahamas), Southern Cone (Chile), and Central America (El Salvador).

In 2009, SEPA transitioned into the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), conceived as a flexible mechanism to accelerate sustainable energy in the Americas.

**ii) Participation in renewable energy and energy efficiency partnerships launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD).**

ii) DSD supports the WSSD partnership known as “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)” by serving as its Regional Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean.

DSD supported the implementation of the WSSD initiative “Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP)”.

<p><b>iii) Promoting policy and regulatory measures to advance the use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies in the Americas.</b></p>	<p>iii) Implemented the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Program (CSEP). The project was aimed at increasing the sustainability of the energy sector in the Caribbean through improved governance and management. The project was implemented in St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts &amp; Nevis, St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and The Bahamas. 6 policies and action plans developed and adopted in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Draft Power Purchase Agreements developed for 1.1 MW wind farm; a 32 MW geothermal plant (In design) and an 8 MW wind farm in St. Kitts and Nevis</p>
	<p>Supported the drafting and assisted in consultation process for the adoption of the Nevis Geothermal Resource Law.</p>
	<p>Provided support for the preparation of the Renewable Energy Incentives Law in the Dominican Republic.</p>
	<p>Through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) provided US\$ 3,806,013 in grants for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, financed 31 projects and convened 12 stakeholder meetings.</p>
<p><b>iv) Developing and accessing innovative financing mechanisms suited to the technical characteristics of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and appropriate to the social and economic needs of the demographically diverse end-users.</b></p>	<p>iv) Caribbean countries are being assisted in addressing critical challenges to the commercialization of energy through the Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI). By January 2015, eligible countries will begin to receive technical assistance to help them access financing and to facilitate investment in energy projects based on their response to a Call for Expressions of Interest launched in November 2014.</p>
	<p>DSD worked with the government of St. Kitts and Nevis to identify and secure project developer and finance for geothermal and wind farm project opportunities.</p>
	<p>DSD implemented the Grenada Caribbean Solar Finance Program (CSFP). The program aimed at increasing access to solar hot water systems for low to middle income segments of the population of Grenada.</p>

	<p>DSD supported the drafting and the negotiation of the Power Purchase Agreement for geothermal project in St. Kitts and Nevis.</p>
<p><b>v) Identifying and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency project opportunities in the Americas.</b></p>	<p>Through REEEP, supported projects seeking to encourage banks to provide financing to renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.</p>
	<p>v) DSD: (a) continued efforts with relevant national regional and international agencies to identify new projects and to consolidate the gains from existing successful projects, including through a donor coordination group in the Caribbean led by the EU; (b) completed prefeasibility studies and bio-fuels resources assessments in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis; (c) supported the design and development of ethanol facilities in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador; (d) supported the installation of 800 litre/per day ethanol plant in Catacamas, Honduras in August 2014; (e) assisted Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Honduras in identifying concrete actions to promote energy efficiency, through the ECPA Energy Efficiency Working Group; (f) commenced the implementation of a Renewable Energy and Climate Change Science Metrology Project Challenges in the Americas Initiative in the Americas aimed inter alia at developing and distributing technology , measurements and associate standards for the efficient implementation of low-carbon technologies; (g) convened a successful regional workshop in Saint Lucia in August 2014 with participation by 16 high level representatives of development partners in the region, which identified country capacity needs in RE/ EE the meeting and an agreement to establish a database of projects and an online inventory of experts in RE and EE in the region, to be based at the CARICOM Secretariat.</p>
	<p>The DSD undertook feasibility study to determine the viability of cellulosic ethanol production and use in Belize.</p>
	<p>DSD, with support from the US and Brazilian governments, supports the bilateral agreement on biofuels to promote and develop project opportunities for biofuels with the goal of supporting development as improve economic sustainability, competitiveness, and socio-economic conditions throughout the region. The target countries included in this agreement are El Salvador, Haiti, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts &amp; Nevis, Jamaica, Guatemala, and Honduras.</p>

**vi) Sharing information on renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and delivering technical assistance and training on matters related to sustainable energy development.**

vi) The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas is the main platform used to share and exchange energy and climate information. The following ECPA initiatives were designed to deliver technical assistance and training on matters related to sustainable energy development:

- Closed Looped Cycle Production in the Americas
- ECPA Caribbean Initiative
- Energy Efficiency Working Group
- Low Carbon Communities in the Caribbean (LCCC)
- Sustainable Energy Capacity Building Initiative (SECBI) – Caribbean Region

Renewable Energy and Climate Science: Metrology and Technology Challenges in the Americas. Information on RE/EE shared through the ECPA Clearinghouse and through meeting of the ECPA/EE Working Group chaired by Mexico

Over 80 workshops in RE/EE, bio-fuels, and closed looped cycling delivered including with support from partners such as the EU, Clean Energy Solutions Centre, Clinton Foundation, CARICOM, the Carbon War Room, and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP); 12 officials of national standards bodies in the EE designs for office and public buildings in tropical climates; 27 government officials trained in financing sustainable energy projects in the Caribbean; developed a Financial Guide for Sustainable Energy Lending in the Caribbean; designed an Educators Guide to Sustainable Education; released a Teachers Booklet on Integrated Instruction and a Learn and Save with the Energy Masters “ booklet was prepared for children.

### 3.7 Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

#### a) Serve as a regional forum to:

**i) Facilitate dialogue towards the consideration of technical, social and economic issues in environmental management, including the rights that may derive from those of the traditional indigenous knowledge, stressing that they are issues related to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, that deal specifically with the topic.**

i) The DSD continues to implement on annual basis the training course designed to increase the capacity of participants to negotiate and implement international trade agreements that contain environmental provisions or a sustainable development perspective. A module within this training includes the issues related to intellectual property rights and linkages to Biodiversity. During this reporting period over 120 government officials have participated in this training.

The DSD is a knowledge partner of the Green growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) and of its Metrics and Indicators Research Committee of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, which's mission is to facilitate research for measuring inclusive green growth to better understand and monitor the interactions between economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. A paper on MEASURING INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH AT COUNTRY LEVEL is currently being produced.

**ii) Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in environmental law and policies, in particular, through the governmental experts designated by the member states to participate in the activities of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA).**

ii) Exchange of information through FIDA while mostly virtual due to resource constraints, has been effective. Focal points are informed of emerging issues on environmental law and policy including DSD activities implemented in partnership with other institutions.

**iii) Continue collaborating through FIDA in cooperative efforts towards developing and strengthening environmental laws, policies, and institutions, and in cooperation with member states, reinforce instruments or incentives of environmental compliance utilized by the member states in the establishment of their policies and legislation.**

iii) During this reporting period, the DSD has supported Grenada in the development of their national Environmental Management Bill and Biodiversity Strategy, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay in efforts related to development of payment for ecosystem services legislation, Mexico in the process towards a new water law, and in developing a work plan for the Senate's Environment and Natural Resource Committee.

The DSD with the rainforest alliance and the Vance Center for International Justice prepared a summary of best practices on market-based mechanisms that have been utilized successfully to promote conservation of natural resources and promote sustainable development in Latin America. This summary has been used by partners in this effort to support implementation of the market based instruments and incentives that showed positive results.

A publication was launched focusing on Legal and Institutional Frameworks for PES Services: Eight Country Analysis which examines trends and experiences in implementing PES in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

Supported Member States efforts in analyzing trends in Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) transactions and the challenges and contributions of legal and institutional frameworks to the implementation of PES schemes which could become an important value-added product for decision-making in biodiversity protection.

One week capacity building program on payment for Ecosystem services including legal and institutional frameworks implemented in the Trifinio region and in the Peruvian Amazon for more the 100 municipal authorities and government officials including the issue of enabling legal and institutional frameworks :

<http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/elpg/Cursos/4Edicion.asp>  
<http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/DSD/ELPG/Cursos/PSA/3Edicion.asp>

Supported dialogue amongst parliamentarians on environmental law and policy.

Supported implementation of the Inter-American Strategy for sustainable development decision making as a tool to support environmental compliance in member States in collaboration with FIDA focal points.

<p><b>iv) Exchange information concerning environmental cooperation activities in the territory of the member states and develop a list of relevant programs and projects funded by cooperation partners in the Americas.</b></p>	<p>iv) Information exchanged through virtual and face-to-face meetings of DSD networks in water, biodiversity, energy, law and disaster management.</p> <p>List of relevant programs and projects funded by cooperation partners developed for Central America and the Dominican Republic due to funding constraints and challenges in tracking the many projects of partners in the area. However the DSD contributes to existing lists and project databases such as that of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas and the UE project database of the EU in energy in the Caribbean.</p>
<p><b>b) Promote the exchange of information to:</b></p>	
<p><b>i) Foster collaboration with public, private, and civil society organizations interested in the law and environmental policy.</b></p>	<p>i) Regular exchange of information and collaboration pursued with public, private and civil society organization including through Climate change policy dialogue series towards COP XX and XI and a Dialogue series (June 2011 to May 2012) consisting of six sessions towards the Rio + 20 conference; and a side event at the conference in June 2012. Furthermore continues collaboration with civil society fostered in work supporting implementation of the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision making, in particular organizations interested in the legal recommendations regarding the elements of Rio principle 10(Access to information, access to process and access to justice).</p> <p>The DSD has a roster of more than a 1000 organizations interested in law and policy including those registered to follow OAS activities with which it promotes its work fostering collaboration.</p>
<p><b>ii) Foster collaboration among experts on environmental law and policies.</b></p>	<p>ii) Collaboration fostered with the DSD Environmental Law Advisory group, with experts within the UNEP lead process of the World Congress on Justice, Law and Governance for Environmental Sustainability, the first UN Environment Assembly, with parliamentarian organizations, academia and with over 900 members of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.</p>

<p><b>iii) Support the development and implementation of national and international environmental policies.</b></p>	<p>iii) Support provided in the development of policies in strategic areas of action of the PIDS related to environmental management, sustainable land management, forestry and agriculture, biodiversity, coastal zone management and adaptation to climate change, water resource management and energy.</p> <p>Supported the Peruvian Congress in the 1st Encounter of Presidents of Parliament which focused on the role of Parliament as a Main Actor in the Effective Dialogue for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Social Inclusion and addressed the issue of the environmental rule of law.</p> <p>Provided input into Barbados Green Economy Policy and the Peruvian Sustainable Purchasing National Policy.</p>
<p><b>iv) Support member states in complying with the commitments acquired through environmental agreements and in making decisions related to sustainable development, taking into account the environmental, economic and social dimensions.</b></p>	<p>iv) Direct support provided in the implementation of the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, CITES, UNFCCC, CBD, RAMSAR, CMS and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants among other, in the implementation of regional environmental agreements in the context of bilateral trade pacts (In particular the DR-CAFTA and the US-Peru PTPA) and in the development of international sustainable development agreements such the Future We Want (Rio + 20) and the Samoa Pathway from the Third International Meeting on SIDS.</p> <p>The work of the Metrics and Indicators Research Committee of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, in which DSD participates, has contributed to this objective by providing countries with metrics and necessary data in support of decision making.</p> <p>Technical capacity built regarding environmental and sustainability assessments of trade in 10 countries of the region and incorporation of integrated decision making in trade and environment in the Americas training course.</p>
<p><b>v) Generate profiles of best practices for sustainable development and environmental management of trade transportation corridors in coordination with regional infrastructure integration strategies.</b></p>	<p>v) The DSD has been supporting efforts of the Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas initiative (pillar II) on trade facilitation by identifying best practices linking environmental management. Efforts on the Central American Border Management Reform Project as well as the Single Windows Network REDVUCE have been supported. Additionally, the DSD has a compilation of case studies and practices regarding sustainable development and trade corridors that are applicable for the region in its website.</p>

**c) Provide cooperation to:**

**i) Develop capacities in support of good environmental management especially in the areas of environmental policies, legislation, regulations and standards.**

i) Over 100 workshops delivered to develop capacities for good environmental management and technical support provided to more than 15 countries in areas of environmental policies, legislation, regulations and standards.

Inter-American Judicial Capacity Building on the Environmental Rule of Law Designed

**ii) Support member states in the incorporation of environmental policies into their development plans.**

ii) Technical assistance provided to member States in the different policy development efforts supported by the DSD.

An event within the 8th meeting of the UN Open Working group on the Sustainable Development Goals was co-sponsored by the DSD (in partnership with UNCTAD and the CITES Secretariat) with the focus on sustainability at the intersection of trade environment and development.

**iii) Build capacity, through technical and analytical support, upon request of member states, to undertake environmental impact assessments to minimize economic, environmental, and social externalities.**

iii) Technical capacity built regarding conducting environmental and sustainability assessments of trade in 10 countries of the region. Support to Central American countries regarding Environmental Impact Assessment systems.

Support to CITES Standing Committee on livelihoods in the development of a tool to assess the impacts of decision making under the Convention.

**iv) Support the development of environmental legislation in member states.**

iv) The DSD has supported Grenada in the development of their national Environmental Management Bill and Biodiversity Strategy, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay in efforts related to development of payment for ecosystem services legislation, Mexico in the process towards a new water law, and in developing a work plan for the Senate's Environment and Natural Resource Committee.



Organization of  
American States