



UNCCD



**Final Report
Thematic Programme Network for Integrated Water Resource
Management
in Latin America and the Caribbean.
Caracas, Venezuela, December 13 - 15, 2004.**

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Background

In the city of Caracas, on December 13, 2004, at 09:00 a.m., the Meeting of the Latin-American and Caribbean countries (LAC) for the official launching the Thematic Programme Network for Integrated Resource Management of Water Resources (TPN3) for the region's arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid zones was inaugurated.

Participants

At the TPN3 launching meeting there were 76 persons present, of which 22 launching were delegates from 21 countries members of LAC, 6 representatives of RIOD, 10 of regional agencies and organizations as well as 38 delegates of national agencies. The list of participants is attached as Annex IV.

Opening

During the inaugural ceremony of the event, Mr. Rodolfo Roa, Director General of the "*Dirección General de Cuencas Hidrográficas*" of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, and Mr. Sergio Zelaya, Coordinator of the LAC Unit of the UNCCD Secretariat, welcomed the attendants and underlined the importance of water resources worldwide. The Director General informed about different national initiatives aimed at an integral and participative management of water resources in Venezuela and of the general aspect of the National Action Program regarding the water issue. The UNCCD representative stressed the importance the Convention offers to the issue of integrated water resources management within the framework of the Convention and the importance of the Thematic Programme Network to achieve the Millennium's objectives in terms of access to water and combating poverty.

For the sub-sequent activities of the workshop, the participants elected by consensus the board of the meeting as follows:

Chair:	Venezuela
Vice-chair:	Trinidad & Tobago
Rapporteur:	Panama

Participants unanimously approved the final version of the Agenda, included in Annex I of this report.

Session 1 - Water resource management as an instrument for sustainable development in combating desertification, drought, and poverty in LAC.

The representative of the UNCCD Secretariat mentioned the problems related to water resources and their social and economic impact on populations of dry lands, and the need of a water management programme for the region related to water issues, as pointed out in the technical workshop on watershed management, held in Caracas in 2001, in which the countries of the region, parties to the UNCCD, identified the bases and principles of the TPN3.

The Secretariat also presented the base-document of the TPN3 thematic programme. Within this framework it was mentioned its main objectives, as well as the thematic areas, and work phases; a preliminary cost proposal, expected results, and limitations inherent to developing a program of this type. It was additionally mentioned the TPN's linkage with the National Action Programmes to Combat Desertification and Drought (NAPs) and working guidelines were suggested, such as information collection, institutional strengthening of national coordination bodies to combat desertification (NCBs) and a mid-term working plan at based on low or zero-cost activities. The document referred to the presentation is in Annex II and is part of this report.

In this segment the delegates from Chile, Guatemala, and Uruguay address the floor, to stress that the TPN should be based on the Convention strengths, considering institutions with experience in managing water and supporting their strengthening; the threat of climate change to dry regions, the importance of water, and its repercussion on ethnic communities. They also referred to conflicts arising from the use of this resource, which must be solved through dialog processes, and the need that the TPN takes into account existing realities in the countries; also, to stimulate collection and generation of information concerning decision-making.

The representatives of FAO, the International Center for Demonstration, Training and Capture of Rainwater (CIDECALL), The International Hydrological Programme (PHI-UNESCO), and NGOs expressed the importance of water supply as a priority in the region, highlighting that rainwater storage could play a strategic role in rural areas; the geographic dimension to deal with the issue; create responsiveness and awareness in affected populations; the need to assess private and governmental investment in dry lands and the associated impacts. They also indicated that NAPs and the TPN3 might be supported by the actions developed by FAO and PHI-UNESCO, among other cooperation partners. An aspect of pressing importance was mentioned regarding the extreme water deficit that Haiti suffers, for which concrete actions must be undertaken as soon as possible.

Session 2 - Round Table - Governance and Water Resources.

During this segment Uruguay informed about progress in the environmental issues in MERCOSUR and at SUBGROUP 6 level. The role of the environmental ministers in the signing of an agreement to manage trans-border watersheds was highlighted. Some activities in the country were mentioned, among which, the Integrated Support to the Coastal Zone of La Plata River, with Argentina's participation; the Environmental Protection Project of La Plata River; the Project for Emergencies of Climatic Origin; which includes an approach in water management through a geographic information system. Finally, the delegate spoke about the Integrated Management in Underground Water Administration for the Guaraní aquifer project, with participation of several countries.

The representative of Guatemala mentioned some initiatives in the country intended to solve access to water resources. He said that a large part of the population of Maya origin lives in the highlands of the watersheds and therefore they face severe problems of income, access to education, and public services. These communities make great efforts to conserve forests and natural resources but they receive no benefits in return. The government is promoting dialog tables aimed at reaching a satisfactory solution to this problem. Finally, the representative of the Guatemalan government proposed the creation of an Mesoamerican Water Institute and requested that his country be the host of the same.

The representative of the Water Center for Arid and Semi-Arid zones of LAC (CAZALAC) said that the objectives of this organization are close to UNCCD objectives on water resources. He expressed that integrated management of water resources is an issue, at which all efforts and existing initiatives aim, and proposed possible options, which may be used to increase water availability, such as desalination.

The delegate of RIOD-Venezuela indicated that one of the priorities of the TPN must be the exchange of experiences and technologies among NGOs of countries in the region as well as with land users. She referred to the importance of rescuing traditional experiences through research and improvement of knowledge of arid zones.

Concerning the legal framework, reference was made to Venezuela's Constitution which stipulates that natural resources are national patrimony and that, therefore, the State must develop policies in the matter. Comments were made on the principles ruling the water law and the problems of the watershed that supplies Caracas, as well as deforestation, and replacement of perennial crops by grasslands.

After the intervention of the round table, an open discussion with delegates and participants followed.

Representatives of El Salvador, Venezuela, Chile, Bahamas, and Uruguay spoke, as well as FAO's and RIOD-Venezuela. Interventions pointed to the existence of diverse sub-regional initiatives that must be taken into account as part of the progress in

facing integrated management problems of water resources. Payment for environmental services as a possible alternative in managing water processes was mentioned as well as water management as one of TPN3's main niches, since there are close to 80 million people in LAC without access to water, which means that at least 40 million people have to be supplied with water before 2015, within the context of Millennium goals. Likewise, the need for this program to have a clear information exchange mechanism in different sub-regions was stressed.

The representative of the UNCCD Secretariat underlined water management costs and the problems of using the existing capacities. He commented as well on the association of land and water indicators, and he mentioned the role of NGO in monitoring and assessment of policies of water use and other aspects of land and water management in arid zones.

Session 3 - Case studies.

The cases of Venezuela, Mesoamerica, and RIOD were presented.

Venezuela presented a study on recent experience in water management in the Guarico river basin. The presentation considered problems in the basin like water contamination, bio-diversity loss, and deforestation. The Water Planning Committee of Guarico River was created in order to design a development plan and the necessary institutionalization to solve the problems mentioned.

El Salvador's representative presented the TRIFINO Plan located on the higher part of the Lempa river, which includes Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. It was informed that the long-term objective of this plan is to manage natural resources, prevent and mitigate disasters, and stimulate economic diversification for a sustainable development in the sub-region.

Following the study case presentation, the Chairman gave the floor to RIOD's representative. After thanking the UNCCD Secretariat for the invitation and for facilitating NGOs participation, the representative made a summary of RIOD and its role in developing NAPs and in different sub-regional forums. She informed on Brazil's cistern program, intensely supported by community participation and which is benefiting one million families. She stressed some problems faced by the execution of the proposal, like managerial, financial resources, the cistern construction itself, and political problems in location selection, financing and infrastructure, all difficulties to implement the program.

The debate opened. The delegate of Bahamas consulted on the participation of Caribbean NGOs within the process of implementation of the UNCCD and on the water institute proposed by Guatemala. The delegate of RIOD indicated that Caribbean NGOs are preparing their work programme focused on following up NAPs in Caribbean countries. Guatemala's representative informed about the creation of the

Mesoamerican Water Institute making a summary of the importance of the issue for the sub-region concerned.

Presentation of agencies present the event.

During this session the floor was given to representatives of CIDECALL, CAZALAC, and PHI-UNESCO. CIDECALL offered data on water resource availability in the LAC region, confirming that water supply is critical in all sub-regions. He referred to different technologies to obtain and store rainwater as a way of guaranteeing supply. The indigenous group of Managua in Mexico, which has been working in technology to obtain rain water with good results, was mentioned.

CAZALAC presented the Center and indicated its relationship with PHI-UNESCO and its objectives, projected beneficiaries, program lines, and roles to accomplish. He commented on main activities undertaken and prospective projects in the region, main concerning training, research, and development.

PHI-UNESCO for LAC indicated the programme objectives and the approach used, based on a holistic and multi-dimensional vision derived from the principles of Dublin and the Third Water World Forum. Issues inherent to PHI are framed within diverse lines of action in which there are components directly related to water management in arid and semi-arid zones. The connection of PHI's objectives and the issues of TPN3 were underlined, and it was mentioned that this linkage gives an important opportunity to collaboration.

UNEP's representative referred to the need to establish an Integrated Action Program for Drinking Water that, in turn would be part of the already established global programme to protect the environment. He indicated that UNEP's regional office for LAC will give support, with other partners, to common actions on integrated water management in the framework of TPN3.

Session 4 - Group work

The Chairman submitted to the consideration of the delegates the proposal of the agenda to conform the work groups. The delegates decided to organize the work groups to analyze three proposals: a) information; b) training; and c) institutional strengthening. Participants were grouped as follows: Group 1 - Mesoamerica and the Caribbean; Group 2 - Southern Cone and Andean countries. Following, the Chairman adjourned the session of the first day.

Session 5 – Second day of work

The work of the second day started with a summary of the main points discussed the previous day, presented by Panama acting as rapporteur.

Immediately, the Chairman gave the floor to the representative of RIOD who commented on the contribution of civil society to the implementation of TPN3,

through a preliminary proposal regarding the needs of strengthening exchange with other networks and programmes, monitoring methodology implementation, and evaluation and identification of research and training needs of NGOs to fulfill their role.

Brazil's delegate commented on the policy of water resources and combating desertification in Brazil: legal and institutional aspects of both policies and ways of integrating them; the national system of water resources and managing agencies and the national program to combat desertification. The linkages between both policies were underlined, specifically between water policies and PAN where social participation, international cooperation and synergy between conventions are fundamental aspects.

Following, Cuba's representative presented the case study of Cauto river basin: economic and social data of the basin, environmental problems and land degradation, as well as forecasts which indicate an increase in environmental problems, specifically related to drought. He also referred to institutional aspects and to work specifics to better manage the basin.

The Chairman opened the debate at the plenary.

The representative of the Secretariat requested further explanation from RIOD on a project of participation indicators mentioned in the presentation; The RIOD delegate informed about the existence of a project submitted to IDB aimed at creating participation indicators of civil society in the convention implementation activities.

CIDECALL referred to grassland as the main cause of land degradation and expressed that attention must be paid to more effective land rehabilitation methods, such as aerial sowing.

Immediately, the Chairman initiated the work by groups. During the beginning of the afternoon's plenary session, group rapporteurs informed the results of each workgroup following the methodology adopted.

The delegates of Chile, El Salvador, and Nicaragua commented on the problem coincidence and the solutions proposed, mainly with respect to information and training issues, and FAO, RIOD and UNESCO representatives stressed the need to strengthen capacities at all levels.

Immediately, the plenary indicated that the working-group rapporteurs submitted a consolidate proposal. Then, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned for the day.

Session 6 – Towards TPN3 implementation

Panama's delegate made a summary of the work of the previous day. The representative of the Inter-American Network of Water Resources (RIRH) presented

general aspects of this organization, its structure and work, emphasizing on cooperation potential within the framework of the TPN3.

During the debate the floor was given to CAZALAC, FAO, and RIOD representatives to express in detail the network structure, its initiatives and the components relative to civil society representation in the same.

After that presentation, the delegate of Chile put forward the document resulting from working group consolidation. This document is in Annex III. The document was discussed and approved by the delegates being proposed to be added to the TPN3 work programme.

Following, the Chairman proceeded to submit to the plenary the recommendations agreed upon during the meeting, to BE SUBMITTED TO THE NEXT REGIONAL MEETING FOR FINAL APPROVAL; THESE ARE:

1. To approve the TPN3 proposal document and its work program, and request the Secretariat to continue efforts regarding its calendar of work for implementation, including assistance to prepare a proposal to be submitted to the GEF in coordination with UNEP.
2. To provide special support to the serious water deficit and land degradation in Haiti within the framework of its National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and Drought.
3. To welcome and accept the proposal of the government of Guatemala, approved by delegates of the Mesoamerican countries attending the meeting, to act as coordinator of the said sub-region.
4. To welcome the cooperation and collaboration offers to carry out activities and initiatives within the framework of the TPN3, made by the Inter-American Network of Water Resources, PHI-UNESCO, CAZALAC, and CIDECALL, and request the Secretariat to make the corresponding arrangements.
5. Accept the proposal of RIOD to support TPN3 implementation.
6. To express gratitude to the people and government of Venezuela for the excellent welcome, hosting and support during the meeting.
7. To express gratitude to cooperation partners (Germany, Belgium (Flandes)-CAZALAC) and the UNCCD Secretariat for making this event possible.

The delegate of Panama, the meeting's rapporteur, read the final report, which was approved by acclamation.



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During the closing ceremony, the representative of the UNCCD Secretariat and the Venezuelan delegate, Chairman of the meeting, thanked the participants and assistants, stressing the need to implement the commitments made during the meeting.

ANNEX I

Final Programme of Work

MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER	
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and registration of participants
Session 1:	Opening Ceremony
09:00 – 09:45 09:45 – 09:50 09:50 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech by authorities of the Government of Venezuela and the UNCCD Secretariat • Election of the Bureau of the meeting • Adoption of the programme of work
Session 2:	Governance and water resources
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Water resource management as a tool to promote sustainable development in the combat against desertification, drought and poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of national, subregional and regional action programmes • In the context of the regional thematic programme networks (TPNs) <p><i>(Presentation by the UNCCD Secretariat)</i></p>
Session 3:	Contribution of the integrated and sustainable water resource management to combating desertification, drought and poverty in LAC
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation of the proposal of TPN-3 <i>(Presentation by the UNCCD consultant)</i> Questions and answers
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 13:00	<p>Round Table: <i>Subregional issues in LAC. The added value of and expectations from the TPN3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main existing weaknesses and strengths concerning the integrated water resource management • Overview on the institutional, socio-economic and legal dimensions of water resources management
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
Session 4:	Presentation of case studies
14:30 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venezuela • Mesoamerica • The Caribbean <p>Questions and Answers</p>
16:00 – 16:20	Civil society contribution to the TPN-3 <i>(Presentation by RIOD)</i>
16:20 – 16:35	Coffee break
16:35 – 17:20	Interventions of the international agencies and partners in the framework of the TPN-3: (Brief presentations by the international agencies and partners attending the meeting)
Session 5:	Meeting of the subregional working groups
17:20 – 18:30	<p>Creation of working groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information 2. Building capacities in water resources 3. Institutional strengthening



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ANNEX II

TPN 3 Proposal Integrated Management of Water Resources in LAC (In separate document)

ANNEX III

Consolidated report of the working groups

The table below is a synthesis of the discussions held in the working groups and, therefore, its content does not express the amplitude of concepts presented by the participants. It is understood that the problems, objectives and proposed solutions have as objective to promote sustainable development in the dry, arid, and dry sub-humid regions of Latin America and the Caribbean and that the concept of "integrated management of water resources" must be understood within the sustainability paradigm, that is central for the UNCCD. It is necessary to point out that many of the proposed activities requires of the development of specific methodologies for implementation, as is the case of the training modules and the design of instruments for the compilation and organization of information.

The principles of the work of the TPN refer to the ones decided upon by the countries in the preliminary meeting to the TPN3, held in Caracas in 2001 and that is included after this annex. Finally, it is necessary to mention that the concept of "watershed" must be the center of the proposed actions.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Problems</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Solutions</i>	<i>Strategies</i>
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<i>Topic</i>	<i>Problems</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Solutions</i>	<i>Strategies</i>
Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of efficient dissemination of information related to water issues, printed in different languages. Insufficient equipment to gather field data. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop efficient mechanisms, which enable generation of sufficient, and quality information, at the service of countries, within TPN3 framework. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Take advantage of existing databases and make them available to users in effective means. Establish participative and democratic mechanisms to generate information and make it accessible. Promote installation of monitoring networks. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish agreements and strengthen synergies with agencies and specialized institutions. Generate information in different languages and formats. Set up operative spaces for databases at DESELAC to harmonize with other networks.
Education and training in water resources management within the convention's framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient knowledge of integral management of water resources in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid dry zones Insufficient sensitizing in integral management and rational use of water. Insufficient "water culture". 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve knowledge level of GIRH considering the basin as management unit. Promote knowledge and application of capture, preserve, and utilization of rain water and runoffs. Compile, systemize, and diffuse existing information. Promote inclusion of "water culture" and knowledge management in education and training programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Set up modules for use in teaching and training programs at all educational levels, on sustainable use of water resources, emphasizing on capture, preservation, treatment and handling. Efficiently use all communications media to promote integral management of water resources. Drive the "water culture" to all user levels. Suggest the inclusion of an item for education and training in GIRH in national budgets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support creation of training centers for water management in dry areas and reinforce the existing ones in all sub-regions. Stimulate exchange of experience in LAC countries and sub-regions. Make alliances with national and international organizations related to integral management of water resources. Support civil society organizations, main NGOs, in design and implementation of informative campaigns, considering the proposal of RIOD-LAC. Train human resources in project design, formulation and execution.
Institutional strengthening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Institutions are not strong enough or are 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Set up cooperation modalities to optimize management of 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and improve inter-institutional coordination 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Take advantage of international cooperation and financing mechanisms

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Problems</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Solutions</i>	<i>Strategies</i>
of agencies related to TPN3	<p>non-existent. There is no fulfilment /answering capacity.</p> <p>2. Insufficient coordination and articulation between local, national and international actions regarding the agenda on the water issue.</p> <p>3. Insufficient coordination, implementation and harmony within the legal and political institutional framework regarding water issues.</p>	<p>available resources in organizations working in issues related to TPN3.</p> <p>2. Contribute to the harmonization process of legal and political institutional components concerning water resources in countries, within TPN3's framework.</p>	<p>mechanisms, at national, sub-regional and regional levels, on the following aspects:</p> <p>a. That TPN3 representatives in each country be part of the National Committee of PHI/UNESCO for the International Water Program</p> <p>b. Integrate TPN3 in semi-annual PHI meetings and other relevant networks.</p> <p>c. Cooperate in joint publications.</p> <p>d. Cooperate in join organization of training courses, taking advantage of existing training centres in Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados, among other, and of CAZALAC's skills.</p> <p>2. Develop strategic alliances between countries and sub-regions within TPN3's framework for institutional strengthening.</p> <p>3. Propel economic and financial sustainability mechanisms for policies, programs and projects within TPN3's framework, emphasizing on compensation</p>	<p>to implement solutions a), b), c) and d).</p> <p>2. Make strategic alliances and specific agreements with national and international organizations related to integral management of water resources, like PHI/UNESCO, CIDECALL, RIA, SICA, CARICOM and CAZALAC, among other.</p>

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Problems</i>	<i>Specific objectives</i>	<i>Solutions</i>	<i>Strategies</i>
			(payment) for environmental services in water.	
Technology	Insufficient water availability in terms of quality and/or quantity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve water availability in terms of quality and/or quantity. 2. Facilitate exchange and efficient transfer of science, technology and knowledge generated in countries in the region, within TPN3's framework. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generate, set up and implement GIRH components related to the fight against desertification and drought with respect to basins in territorial order plans. 2. Generate capabilities to transfer and develop adequate technologies and practices. 3. Diffuse and make available technological solutions generated in countries and organizations, within TPN3's framework. 4. Search for financial resources. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include GIRH thematic in the plans and the legal framework for territorial order. 2. Enter into work agreements with public and private actors linked to research, universities, civil society, information, communications and production, at national, regional and international levels. 3. Jointly request international funds to enable finance of diverse scope projects 4. Jointly formulate and submit a GEF proposal to TPN3 on the water issue in LAC..

ANNEX III (Cont)
SUMMARY
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN LAC
(Caracas, Venezuela, 6 - 8 September 2001)

ABSTRACT

The identification of a framework of concrete measures for the efficient use of water, with approaches of management using the micro-watershed like crosscutting element, including the introduction of new technologies and use of traditional ones, the development of human resources and its capacities, and the participation of the beneficiaries in the process of decision making is the basic components and help to signal to the process for the formulation of a comprehensive program on water and land degradation in the region, including the support to the processes of poverty reduction, that were identified in the Technical Workshop on Watershed Management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CONCLUSIONS

I. STRESS ON WATER AND THE RIGHTS TO WATER

Principles

1. The integral and efficient management of water is essential to prevent desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
2. The access to water must be recognised as an universal human right, therefore it can not be ruled only by market laws.
3. Water, soil and biodiversity must be managed as a unit to increase the possibilities for sustainable development.
4. Water must be considered as an element of social stability.
5. Water has the following values: social, economical, environmental and life assuring. These values must be integrated to avoid conflicts associated with water.
6. The watershed is the integral management unit to manage water and the other resources that are part of the watershed.
7. We hope that our nations will have ensured the water that they need for their development, that they use water efficiently, that they recognised its economic, social and environmental value, and they protect water bodies and preserve the environment for future generations.

Recommendations

1. It is essential to have a democratic participation of users to implement successfully actions that will solve water problems.

2. It is necessary to provide the user with the information, education and knowledge he requires to participate in decision making and implementing actions related to water management and preservation.
3. In order to achieve a sustainable management of water and to successfully use schemes to generate economic resources for the water sector, it is necessary to have the proper legislation and to have efficient institutions to administer and preserve water.
4. It is necessary to establish preventive measures and early warning systems against drought and to promote regional and international coordination.

II. ENSURING WATERSHED INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT IN LAC TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Principles

1. Water management must be directly linked to and be based, among others, on the following approaches: Sustainable Development, Poverty reduction, integrity of the integral water concept, land management, ecosystem approach, considering local, national, regional and global needs.
2. Decisions on water use and distribution must be made in a transparent way, involving all actors.
3. It is to be underlined the importance of having updated and reliable data, as well as of using benchmarks and indicators on water at the local, national and regional level, accessible to all stakeholders.
4. It is recognised the increasing important role of women in water resources management.
5. Among the major challenges towards a integrated water resource management, there are: harmonisation of the competing interests for water use, water pricing and set up of payment mechanisms, integration of the different interests and actors; land management based on a balance between local an regional interests.

Policies and Strategies

1. We consider water issue as an adequate instrument for strategies, measures and national policies elaboration in environmental, economic and social matters, including desertification and sustainable management of natural resources related issues.
2. We consider water a the key issue that allows the linkage and the implementation of the various international agreements on natural resources and environment.
3. Land protection is strategic to increase water retention. At the same time, the use of sustainable agricultural practices environmental friendly, traditional or new knowledge (as the minimum tillage and direct seeding) that can guarantee clean productions and better water use.
4. Infiltrated, retained and conserved rain water is a strategic element to meet the increasing food and water for human and animal use demand.

Cases

1. There are concrete horizontal co-operation opportunities in the region due to the successful experiences in integrated watershed management.
2. We consider valuable the concept of "conservationist agriculture" as a part of the integrated watershed management.
3. The UN-WWAP initiative is an adequate instrument to increase the knowledge on current status of water resources and related issues.

Recommendations

1. It is important to identify and assess the impact on people of water and land policies and conservation measures undertaken in the initiatives concerning watershed management.
2. It is necessary to redefine the existing concepts and approaches on water and land degradation, together with communities, producers and private sector aimed at elaborating new methods for a better land use and management.
3. It is also necessary to encourage research activities in co-operation with producers, promote education and transfer or disseminate the conservationist agriculture principles.
4. We recommend using water as the issue that show the need of coordination among environmental, economic and social sectors.
5. We recommend strengthening the link between water and desertification, through the existing networks on water, watershed, desertification, conservationist agriculture and others.
6. We recommend updating the land management legal framework through the participation of local communities and laws that promote and strengthen change in patterns of behaviour and environmental friendly practices.
7. We recommend including in the UN-WWAP case studies on LAC, updating the information on the status of water and soil resources contained in the Programme.
8. We recommend emphasising in the UN-WWAP and other initiatives, the developing of gender indicators.

III. NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

Principles

1. Local communities have the right to a quota of revenues by water use, in a way to continue taking care and preserving resource availability.
2. Watershed conservation actions and consequent water uses must be based on criteria to make the water available to people and maintain ecosystems integral, starting from establishing priorities in the different uses.

Recommendations

1. The polluter pay principle must be reviewed, aimed at unified the criteria concerning its application.
2. It is important to clearly define the application of economic incentives, the beneficiaries, the modalities of payment, and the use of the generated economic resources for sustainable water management.

3. The PANs, elaborated in the frame of UNCCD, should clearly indicate the planned integrated water management activities related to desertification.
4. The RAPs for the fight against desertification could easier integrated management of watershed shared between 2 or more countries.

IV. TRANS-BOUNDARY PROJECTS

Principles

1. It is important to underline that shared watershed management follows the same principles driving watershed management in general.
2. Shared watershed management represents an opportunity to strengthen South-South co-operation schemes on technical, legal and financial issues.
3. There is the need to have guidelines, benchmarks and indicators to use and manage shared watershed.
4. The elaboration of joint projects is a efficient way for the small states and / or Island States to improve the knowledge and understanding of water problems, in a way to develop adequate solutions.

Recommendations

1. There is the need of drafting clear frameworks and guidelines for using the resources or shared watersheds that should go beyond of political trans-boundary agreements.
2. The trans-boundary projects, their objective and activities must be coherent with national and regional development strategies in these areas, promoting synergies.
3. There is the need of a critical analysis of the co-operation experiences and their results, aimed at dealing with the crucial problems related to the international and trans-boundary watershed management. Countries that share watersheds must identify the conditions for international co-operation aimed implementing successfully projects on watersheds.
4. It is important to develop bi-multinational strategies on shared watershed management, to link them to issues as: based on watershed products, the strengthening of international trade, tourism, and conflict resolution for water uses.
5. There is the need for a deeper analysis on the value added of trans-boundary projects, in comparison to national projects, and on how the shared management of resources could be improved to increase its impact.
6. Trans-boundary projects should consider that the external impacts can be trans-national (i.e. sedimentation in the lower watershed and consequent pollution of effluents) and that problems should be solved in a co-operative way between countries.
7. In the international co-operation for shared watershed management, it is required to develop early warning systems that consider all the potential risks of disasters, as drought, floods and land degradation.

V. GUIDELINES FOR A PROGRAMME OF WORK IN LAC

Item 1: Mainstreaming of desertification and drought issues.

- Eco-system approach as a guiding principle

Item 2: Co-operation among countries

- Development of research capacities. Legal framework and watershed resource management systems.
- Establishment of sub-regional networks and / or strengthening the existing network to promote information exchange and successful stories.
- Use of information systems to raise awareness and to support public authorities.
- Development of inter-regional co-operation initiatives with the aim of exchange experiences and technical expertise.

Item 3: Regional Programme on Water

- Use of watershed as geographical planning unit
- Draft of environmental management system
- Education and training of user and managers
- Institutional and legal frameworks for trans-boundary watershed management
- Pricing of water resources and incentive system aimed at preventing natural resources degradation
- Ranking water uses and solving conflicts by competing water resource uses
- Traditional knowledge, clean technologies and best practices
- Regional distribution of water and identification of priority areas

Item 4: Follow-up of the results of the workshop: Institutional Mechanisms for monitoring the initiatives

- Establishment of institutional mechanisms to follow-up the deliberations taken by the workshop:
- Regional working group, composed of representatives from elected countries,
- National working groups composed of representative of all stakeholders.



ANNEX IV

List of Participants

	PAIS	APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES	INSTITUCION	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO
1	ARGENTINA	FERNANDEZ B. MANUEL I.	SECRETARIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE	5411 - 43488650	mbeyro@medioambiente.gov.ar
2	BAHAMAS	NEWBOLD ROCHELLE	MIN OF HEALTH AND ENVIROMENT (BEST)	(242) 322-45-46	bestnbs@hotmail.com
3	BELIZE	WILLIAMS RUSOLPH	NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE - HYDROLOGY		hydro@hydromet.gov.bz
4	BOLIVIA	AGUILAR G. RICARDO VITO	PROTECCION DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE (PROMETA)	(591) 46633873	raguilar@prometa.org
5	BRAZIL	ALCANTARA PICCHIONI SILVIA	ASPAN - RIOD - BRASIL	(5581) 32222038	puntofocal@aspan.org.br
6	BRAZIL	BOSCO SENRA JOAO	SECRETARIA DE RECURSOS HIDRICOS DO MINISTERIO DO MEDIO AMBIENTE	(5561) 3171291	joao.senra@mma.gov.br
7	CHILE	PIZARRO ROBERTO	UNIVERSIDAD DE TALCA	56 - 71 - 200375	mpizarro@utalca.cl
8	CHILE	SOTO GUIDO	CAZALAC	(56-51) 204493	gsoto@cazalac.org
9	CHILE	ALFARO CATALAN WILFREDO	MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA DE CHILE (CONAF)	(56-2-) 3900247	walfaro@conaf.cl
10	CHILE	CASTRO S. VIVIANE	EARTH ACTION NETWORK / ACCION POR LA TIERRA	(562) 7374280	santiago@earthaction.org
11	CHILE	VAN WAMBEKE JAN	FAO / OFICINA REGIONAL PARA RLAC	(562) 2372221	jan.vanwambeke@fao.org
12	COSTA RICA	ESPINOZA CAMACHO, MARIANO	MINISTERIO AMBIENTE - SINAC	(0506) 283-80-04	marianoe@costarricense.cr



	PAIS	APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES	INSTITUCION	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO
13	CUBA	DIAZ ERNESTO	CITMA	5323-481990	officecauto@citma.granma.inf
14	EL SALVADOR	AGUILAR MOLINA CARLOS	MARN DEL SALVADOR	(503) - 2246926	caguilar@marn.gob.su
15	GUATEMALA	LEIVA P. JOSE MIGUEL	MARN - GUATEMALA	(502) 66300400	jmleivap@yahoo.com
16	GUYANA	ISHMAEL ODEEN	EMBAJADA DE GUYANA	(0212) 977-11-58	embguy@cantv.net
17	MEXICO	APARICIO M. JAVIER	INSTITUTO MEXICANO DE TEGNOLOGIA DEL AGUA	52-777-3208671	japaricio@tlaloc.imta.mx
18	MEXICO	ANAYA MANUEL	COLEGIO DE POSTGRADUADOS - CIDECALL	525959510323	anayan@colpos.mx
19	NICARAGUA	MARTINEZ SILVIA ELENOR	MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES DE NICARAGUA	(505) 244-00-55	smartinez@marena.gob.ve
20	PANAMA	HORTA ZARATI CARTIN	AUTORIDAD NACIONAL DEL AMBIENTE ANAM PANAMA	(507) 3150152	zcartin@anam.gob.pa
21	PANAMA	CALDERON JULIO	PNUMA	(5255) 52024841	julio_calderon@pnuma.org
22	PARAGUAY	SILVERO A. JOSE ESTEBAN	SECRETARIA DEL AMBIENTE	(595) 21615811	sibero@latinmail.com
23	PERU	MENDOZA DIAZ NATHALY	INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE RECURSOS NATURALES - INRENA	97356851	nmendoza@irena.gob.pe
24	TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO	STEVE G. FLETCHER	WATER RESOURCES AGENCY	(868) 662-83-84	fletch8888@wasa.gov.tt
25	URUGUAY	BEJA VALENT GISELLE	MINISTERIO E VIVIENDA, ORDENAMIENTO TERRITORIAL Y MEDIO ABIENTE	59829110710	gbeja@dinama.gob.uy



	PAIS	APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES	INSTITUCION	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO
26	URUGUAY	WALTER REGUEIRO	DIRECCION NACIONAL DE MEDIO AMBIENTE	(598) 917-17-10	wregueiro@dinama.gob.uy
27	VENEZUELA	ESTEVEZ ERNESTO	FUDENA	(0212) 238-17-61	estevez@fudena.org.ve
28	VENEZUELA	LOPEZ FERNANDEZ RUBEN DARIO	CADAFE	(0212) 280-85-02	ruben_lopez@cadafe.com.ve
29	VENEZUELA	GIL LIGIA	PNUD	(0212) 208 - 43-21	lila_gil@undp.org
30	VENEZUELA	AMARAL CESAR	MARN	(0212) 408 - 16-35	
31	VENEZUELA	RIERA PIRELA CARLOS JOSE	HIDROPAEZ	(0246) 431-30-65	
32	VENEZUELA	MACHADO JOSE RAFAEL	HIDROCAPITAL	(0212) 709-84-30	jose.machado@hidrocapital.com.ve
33	VENEZUELA	GOTOPO CUARTE ENILDETH	INFALCOSTA - CIEZA UENEFM	(0268) 251-34-04	egotopo@unetm.edu.ve
34	VENEZUELA	SAAVEDRA JESUS	SISTEMA HIDRAULICO YACAMBU - QUIBOR	(0251) 252 - 87 - 82	jsaavedra@yacambu-quirbor.com
35	VENEZUELA	ESPINOZA RAFAEL	CIARA - PROSALAFA	(0251) 237-26-53	ingrare@hotmail.com
36	VENEZUELA	ASCANIO ALCIRA	FUNDAARBOL	(0212) 577-50-46	fundarbol2@cant.net
37	VENEZUELA	ROA RODOLFO	MARN	(0212) 408-21-76	roa@marn.gov.ve
38	VENEZUELA	PEREZ REINA ISABEL	MARN	(0212) 408-47-35	rperez@marn.gov.ve
39	VENEZUELA	FARIAS CARMEN	IMPARQUES	(0212) 273-27-01	carmenfarias@cantv.net



	PAIS	APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES	INSTITUCION	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO
40	VENEZUELA	OJEDA CARMEN	MARN	(0212) 408 - 47-44	carjoj@hotmail.com
41	VENEZUELA	GRATEROL XIOMARA	MARN	(0212) 408 - 21 - 76	xiomaragraterol@hotmail.com
42	VENEZUELA	DIAZ MIRIAM	CIEZA - UNEFM	(0268) 251-37-76	mdiaz54@cantv.net
43	VENEZUELA	ARENAS ALEXIS	INFALCOSTA	(0268) 253-28-82	aarenas48@cantv.net
44	VENEZUELA	BERRIZBEITIA ALBERTO	FAO	(0212) 577-56-80	fao-ve@fao.org
45	VENEZUELA	BARROSO FEDERICO	MARN	(0212) 408-21-30	fbarroso@marn.gov.ve
46	VENEZUELA	VARELA ANA	MARN	4084806	avarela@marn.gov.ve
47	VENEZUELA	HERNANDEZ RAFAEL	MARN	(0212) 408-20-05	rhernandez@marn.gov.ve
48	VENEZUELA	ALZURU V. ANGEL IGNACIO	CENTRO PARA LA GESTION TEGNOLOGICA POPULAR (CETEP)	(0251) 231-33-72	cetep@cantv.net
49	VENEZUELA	AREVALO CORALIS	MARN	(0212) 408-2043	acoralis@marn.gov.ve
50	VENEZUELA	ALFONZO RORAIMA	COALCO ESTUDIOS HIDROLOGICOS C.A	(0212) 6935384	coalcoestudios@catv-net
51	VENEZUELA	ARTEAGA V. MARIA	MARN	(0212) 408-19-87	
52	VENEZUELA	ESCALONA DANIEL	MARN	(0212) 4082181	descalona@marn.gov.ve
53	VENEZUELA	SALCEDO ABRAHAM	UCV	(0212) 605-30-40	asalcedo@cantv.net
54	VENEZUELA	LEON LESTTER	MARN	(0212) 408-21-98	lleon@marn.gov.ve



	PAIS	APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES	INSTITUCION	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO
55	VENEZUELA	LUY ALEJANDRO	FUNDACION TIERRA VIVA	(0212) 576-31-29	comunicaciontv@cantv.net
56	VENEZUELA	SANCHEZ GISELLE	FUNDACION TIERRA VIVA	(0212) 576-31-29	giselle@tierra.org
57	VENEZUELA	LUGO MARIA	MARN	(0212) 4081297	mlugo@marn.gov.ve
58	VENEZUELA	RIVERO SAIDA	MARN	(0212) 408-4715	srivero@marn.gov.ve
59	VENEZUELA	REY A. GUILLERMO A.	ULA	(0274) 244-75-45	reyguillermo_a@hotmail.com
60	VENEZUELA	ALFARO LUIS	MARN - VENEHMET	(0212) 4081943	ljalfaro@marn.gov.ve
61	VENEZUELA	GALIZ LIGIA	MARN	(0212) 408-4725	lgaliz@marn.gov.ve
62	VENEZUELA	ROJAS ARGENIS	MARN - REGION CAPITAL	(0212) 451 - 48 - 84	arojas@marn.gov.ve
63	VENEZUELA	DIAZ JOSE	MARN	(0212) 4084732	jdiaz@marn.gov.ve
64	VENEZUELA	MEZA A. RONNY A.	MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA Y TEGNOLOGIA	(0212) 2103826	rmeza@mct.gov.ve
65	VENEZUELA	BRICEÑO FRANCISCO	MARN	(0212) 4084711	fbriceno@marn.gov.ve
66	VENEZUELA	HIDALGO ROBERTO	MARN	(0212) 4082177	rhidalgo@marn.gov.ve
67	VENEZUELA	SCHUSLLER XIOMARA	MARN	(0212) 4082176	xschusller@marn.gov.ve
68	VENEZUELA	RUIZ EDUAD	MARN	(0212) 4082197	eruiz@marn.gov.ve



	PAIS	APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES	INSTITUCION	TELEFONO	CORREO ELECTRONICO
69	VENEZUELA	RIVERA BONELL DANIEL	C.A.F	(0212) 2092311	drivera@caf.com
70	VENEZUELA	MARCANO M. ELVIS	MARN	(0212) 408 4714	emarcano@marn.gov.ve
71	VENEZUELA	PANADIS ELISA	FAO		elisa.panadis@fao.org
72	VENEZUELA	JEGAT NICOLO HERVE	CIDIAT - ULA	(0274) 244 - 22 -24	hjegat@ula.ve
73	VENEZUELA	PEREZ NELLY	MARN	(0212) 408 - 47 - 11	nperez@marn.gov.ve
74	SECRETARIAT CCD	PROFETA LOREDANA	SECRETARIA CONVENCION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS (UNCCD)	(49)-(228) 8152831	lprofeta@unccd.int
75	SECRETARIAT CCD	ZELAYA B. SERGIO A.	SECRETARIA CONVENCION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS (UNCCD)	(0099) 2288152825	szelaya@unccd.int
76	SECRETARIAT CCD	MATALLO HECTOR	SECRETARIA CONVENCION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS (UNCCD)	(5259) 52639677	hmatallo@un.org.mx

ANNEX V

**Presentations in the Workshop for launching the TPN 3 Integrated Management
of Water Resources**
(In separate document)

UNCCD Secretariat

Venezuela,

El Salvador (Mesoamerica)

RIOD

Guatemala

Brazil

Cuba

Inter-American Network of Water Resources,

CIDECALL

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