

**ICSU Regional Committee for
Latinamerica and the Caribbean.
Activities and scientific programs.**



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The ICSU Regional Committee for
Latinamerica and the Caribbean (RCLAC)
was appointed in 2006 in conjunction with
the decision of the Board of ICSU to open
the Regional Office (ROLAC) in Rio de
Janeiro according with the generous offer of
the Academia Brasileira de Ciencias.

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First Meeting of RCLAC.

The RCLAC gathered for the first time in Panama in november of 2006. It decided on:

- the work of the ROLAC;
- priority areas with social relevance, visibility and possibilities of academical success: Biodiversity, Natural disasters, Sustainable energy and Mathematical education.

Alice Abreu was appointed as Director of ROLAC.

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The Committee supports the ICSU vision to engage the scientific communities of the countries in the Latinamerican and the Caribbean region in the persue of a world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and the scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy-making.

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2nd. Meeting of the RCLAC: Rio de Janeiro in conjunction with the opening of the ROLAC.



The Committee has reached the decision that **Mathematical Education** should be a priority area to be developed. The Committee decided also to develop the following areas:

Biodiversity: knowledge, preservation and utilization of biodiversity of all countries in the LAC region assuring that the scientific communities of the small countries are engaged in ICSU programs (DIVERSITAS).

Natural disasters: prevention and mitigation of risks specially of hydrometeorologic origin with special attention to the necessary social science research.

Sustainable energy: assessment of the potential capacities for development and implementation of novel technologies in the LAC region and evaluation of the social impact of the use and development of new energy resources.

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Work to be done.



For each of these four topics the Committee will nominate a Scientific Planning Group (SPG) which will follow the Terms of Reference –this ToR was written on the basis of documents of the RC for Africa.

The Committee should appoint, after consultation with the ICSU members, a panel of 5 scientists for each of the four SPG.

The first meeting of each SPG are to be organized during the second half of 2007.

Each SPG should present a report in at most one year.

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▪ On the work of ROLAC

The ROLAC should serve as source of information on science for the region and serve as link with the following entities:

- 1. International organizations.**
World Bank, UNESCO, OAS, OIE, IDB.
- 2. National ICSU members.**
- 3. Disciplinary unions.**
- 4. Networks of LAC region scientific societies.**

The 3rd. Meeting of the RCLAC is to take place in Mexico in september 2007.

Budget of ROLAC.

Sources:

- ICSU.
- Ministerium of Science and Technology of Brazil.
- CONACyT, México.

Look for other sources of financial support.