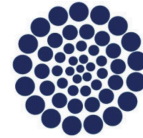




# ICSU

International Council for Science  
Regional Office for  
Latin America and the Caribbean



## CONACYT

CONSEJO NACIONAL DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGIA

## ICSU Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean Mexico City, Mexico - March 10-11, 2009

### Executive Report

The ICSU Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean gathered National Members to discuss Science Plans, prepared by distinguished scientists in defined priority areas, aiming at developing scientific research in Biodiversity, Natural Hazards and Disasters, Sustainable Energy and Mathematics Education.

The event was organized by the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICSU-LAC), and took place in Mexico City, March 10 and 11 2009, with the support of CONACYT Mexico.

The Regional Consultation gathered about 50 participants, national members for Latin America and the Caribbean, scientific unions, international organizations and regional government representatives, to formulate a set of detailed objectives and target areas of research to be developed in the next few years.

The aim of the ICSU Science Plans is to become a reference to the development of scientific research in these areas in the years to come, and to promote the active involvement of the countries of the region in their implementation.

The meeting was opened and first chaired by José Antonio de la Peña, Chair of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean and Deputy Director of CONACYT Mexico. The participants of the inaugural session were greeted by Reiko Kuroda, ICSU Vice President for External Relations; Jorge Grandi, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Science, Clovis Baptista, Director of Science and Technology of the Organization of American States, Flora Montealegre Painter, Chief of the Science and Technology Division of the Inter American Development Bank, and Luiz Davidovich, Director of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and representing the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World - TWAS.

The main activity of the Consultation consisted of the presentation of the ICSU-LAC Science Plans: *Biodiversity Knowledge, Research Scope and Priority Areas: an assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean* by Mary Kalin from Chile; *Understanding and Managing Risk Associated with Natural Hazards: An Integrated Scientific Approach in Latin America and the Caribbean* by Allan Lavell from Costa Rica; *Sustainable Energy in Latin America and the Caribbean: potentialities for the future* by Décio Gazzoni from Brazil and Claudio Estrada from Mexico, and *Mathematics Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: a reality to be transformed* by Carlos Bosch from Mexico.

In each case they were preceded by the presentation of relevant global or regional programs, aiming to put the ICSU-LAC program in context. Patricia Ocampo-Thomason, ICSU Science Officer, presented the *ICSU Biodiversity and Human Well being Programme*; John Millhone, President of Global Energy Metrics and Mosaics, presented the *IANAS' Report on Lighting*

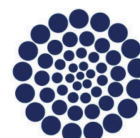


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*the Way*, and José Antonio de la Peña presented *The Activities of UMALCA (Unión Matemática para América Latina y el Caribe)* in the region.

The meeting had the active participation of all that were present, detailing the main proposals for each area in discussion groups.

In Biodiversity, the proposals emphasized were: development of a Database of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean; and definition of policies and collection and data distribution protocols. It was also suggested the establishment of a network of ecological observatories in the region.

Regarding Sustainable Energy the group emphasized the need to assess the energy resource profile in each country, to identify the best combination among traditional and renewable energy resources, with special attention on biomass, solar and eolic energy. It was also suggested that a network be created for information exchange among the various countries.

Related to the area of Natural Hazards and Disasters, the central proposal was to maintain the multidisciplinary perspective, integrating social and natural sciences, and focusing the research on the social and human dimension of ecosystem services and conservation of biodiversity, and on the process of climate change adaptation and mitigation

In the area of Mathematics Education, the meeting reiterated the importance of intensifying the relationship of professional mathematicians with teachers of mathematics, both at the initial teacher training and on the job training. The OBMEP experience, the Brazilian Mathematics Olympiad of Public Schools, was also mentioned as a good example to be followed.

Finally, it is important to underline that the quality of the work presented resulted in the proposal for publication of it in the three main languages of the region, English, Spanish and Portuguese.

All documents related to the Regional Consultation can be found at the site: <http://www.icsu-lac.org/icsuzone/icsuzone.html>.

Rio de Janeiro, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2009

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