



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



TUNZA First Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean

Panama City, Panama, 8-9 October 2010

Meeting Report





UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Introduction

TUNZA first regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Panama City, Panama, 8 and 9 October 2010. Within the framework of UNEP's TUNZA Youth Strategy Program of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and with the support and facilitation of the UNEP Secretariat, young people from the entire region met in Panama, including regional representatives of the Youth Advisory Council (TYACs) and TUNZA Junior Board, as well as from the four sub-regions (Andean, Caribbean, Southern Cone, Central America and Hispanic Caribbean Islands) of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The "TUNZA Youth Strategy" was adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in February 2003, as a long-term strategy to support youth engagement in environmental activities, and their involvement in the work of UNEP. TUNZA is a Kiswahili word meaning "to treat with care" and the program of work is built upon this main concept.

The strategy aims to increase youth participation in environmental issues, through activities in the areas of capacity building, environmental awareness and information exchange. The initiative's mission is to promote a generation of environmentally conscious citizens, capable of developing options for positive action.

TUNZA, also constitutes a Youth Environmental Network which consists in a global database containing youth organizations and youth activists working for environmental development around the world. This network provides a space for dialogue and an increased access to information, promoting the active communication between UNEP and young people.

Item 1. Welcome to participants by representatives of UNEP Youth Advisory Council and Junior Board.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



The meeting was initiated by Mara Murillo, Deputy Regional Director of the Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP / ROLAC), in its responsibility for coordinating the "TUNZA Youth Strategy " in the region.

Opening remarks were made by Mara Murillo, who welcomed the participants of the four subregions, the Youth Advisory Council and the Junior Board. In her remarks, Ms. Murillo stressed several points. She recognized the importance of the Youth Environmental Network and the commitment of young people to give it continuity, as well as to major environmental issues. She highlighted UNEP's role as a facilitator and technical support and for the dialogue, but she noted that the young people with their ideas, their work and their messages are the pillar of TUNZA . In that regard, she stressed the importance that participating organizations on the Network promote the mobilization of resources at different levels, to strengthen activities in the framework of the Network. Reference was made to 2010 as International Year of Biodiversity and the undeniable relationship between Biodiversity and Climate Change. In this regard, she stressed the importance of messages from the young people to the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), the last two weeks of October in Nagoya.

After the opening, Alonso Lizaraz and Florencia Caminos were invited, as the regional representatives to the TUNZA Advisory Council to lead the meeting.

Item 2. Introduction of participants

The participants introduced themselves and explained the work they perform in their respective organizations and the way they will provide continuity and follow up the TUNZA agreements. The list of participants appears as Annex 1 in this report.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Item 3. TUNZA presentation and GEO-TUNZA Network

UNEP/ROLAC's Deputy Regional Director presented an overview of the work of United Nations as harmonizing international efforts to solve the problems facing all humanity, and from UNEP in this case as the lead agency in protecting the Environment. She also explained what TUNZA is and its 4 main lines of action, including the role of the Advisory Council and the Junior Board, as well as the work being developed in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In addition, she provided an overview of the work done by the youth of the region as part of the GEO Global Environment Outlook, a process of comprehensive assessments of the state of the environment, from a global, regional, national, subnational and local perspective.

After the presentation there was a period for discussion and presentation of concerns and questions from the young people.

It was mentioned that the TUNZA strategy is global and the region can promote activities in the framework of this network, according to its general guidelines. To implement the global strategy, the regions have been working on regional action plans that allow the consideration of the particularities of each region.

The Advisory Council stated its role of channeling information between the TUNZA network and UNEP, and also the importance of young people's active participation since their opinions are required to have representation in the different processes and feed the network itself.

Alonso Lizaraz acknowledged the extensive work that young people are doing throughout the entire region, but he stressed the importance of receiving feedback from all subregions on the issues that are examined through the Youth Advisory Council. He also noted the importance of sharing information and added that the network should be considered as a support platform for dissemination.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



There were questions raised about how to carry out a GEO Youth process, and it was noted that the manual, which has been under development over the past two years, could be ready by the end of this year. The manual will explain step by step all the stages of the GEO Youth. After the manual is ready, UNEP could provide technical assistance for some GEO Youth processes. In this regard it will be important that the interested organizations contact UNEP and mobilize resources for its elaboration.

The youth participants expressed concern about the influence of the GEO Youth in policy decision-making. Following these comments, it was noted that it is important for the process to be as participatory as possible, with updated information and for the young people themselves to be the ones who report the results and recommendations of these evaluations.

Finally, Florencia Caminos explained the purpose of ensuring that there is synergy between GEO Youth and TUNZA. The representative of UNEP noted the importance of promoting synergies, stressing that there are differences between both of them, while GEO Youth is a process with a product, TUNZA is a network that can promote or facilitate processes such as GEO, among many other activities.

Item 4. Summary of the Children and Youth Conference in Korea

Florencia Caminos spoke about the results of the Conference of TUNZA children and youth in Daejeon, Korea, held from 17 to 23 August 2009. Her presentation was focused on the following points:

- Children: She described the activities carried out at the meeting such as project presentations, regional workshops, field trips. She highlighted about how you learn about other people's problems by talking to delegates from different countries.
- Together: Matching youth and children. They discussed with UNEP authorities about "Seal the deal." The winners of the International



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Painting Competition were awarded and the Declaration of Children and Youth on Climate Change was formulated.

- Youth: Regional Meetings. Discussion of the Action Plan and Presentation of the work carried out. The Work days were an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences, youth participation in regional meetings of LAC was very active and it increased networking and strengthened the task at hand.
- The Advisory Board explained the election process and the consultations that the current regional representatives on the Advisory Council and the Junior Board made to the regional participants in the TUNZA network. For example: Constant communication and dissemination of activities, the Latin American and Caribbean Children and Youth Declaration for the GC 2010, and the synthesis and consultations for the documents to discuss at the Civil Society Forum and the Forum of Ministers.

Young people discussed their role in the network and pledged to carry out the following actions:

- Send comments and opinions, in a timely manner, to the inquiries that the regional representatives to the Tunza Advisory Council made;
- Exchange information on the activities they carry out through their organizations;
- Provide feedback from the Advisory Council;
- Write articles for the TUNZA magazine;
- Invite others to join the network, and
- Disseminate the activities of the network.

Item 5. 350 as a parallel platform of youth action

Juan Ignacio Ordoñez, regional representative from the Junior Board, made a presentation on "350" as a parallel action platform to combat climate change. He explained how the movement was founded, its



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



purpose, its activities, its motivations and the methods used to promote the return to the 350 ppm concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Then a broad debate was generated and the following questions were set out:

How can 350 be applied to TUNZA? What can TUNZA learn from 350 and what can 350 learn from TUNZA?

It was agreed that 350 can be a tool for the youth involved in TUNZA. Using this tool, small actions can be undertaken in many parts of the world, things that may seem simple but have a big impact. It was noted that the strength of 350 lies in the synchronized actions and the commitment to spread things on the 350 internet webpage. Some commented on the possibility that under 350 framework the issue of biodiversity will be discussed, especially for the critical importance for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Item 6. Biodiversity: 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Alonso Lizaraz made an introduction on some Biodiversity issues, defining what it means and describing the wide variety of species in the Latin America and the Caribbean mega-diverse region. He stressed the importance of biodiversity for the region, and shared data on productivity which provides the natural heritage of their countries in economic and social terms. Finally, he referred to the problems of deforestation that threaten the biodiversity of the region.

Mr. Alex Pires, regional focal point for multilateral agreements on biodiversity, presented the topics that will be covered in the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), which include: 1) negotiations of a protocol about access to



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



genetic resources and fair and equitable participation on in the benefits arising from the use of these resources and associated traditional knowledge (ABS,), 2) the evaluation of the progress of the 2010 targets and review of the 2011-2022 strategic plan, and 3) main activities carried out during the International Year of Biodiversity and the proposal for the United Nations to declare the 2011-2020 period as the International Decade for Biological Diversity.

Regarding the protocol on ABS, he said that countries are expected to reach a final agreement, which is a difficult but possible task. He also mentioned that given the reality of not having met the targets set for 2010, countries decided to revise the Strategic Plan, goals for 2020, which should be ambitious but realistic, measurable and developed on the basis of scientific evidence. Finally, he informed that the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 celebration allowed for awareness raising about the vital role of biodiversity for human development and natural processes, the promotion of action to combat its loss and thus support the proposal of the Decade of Biodiversity (2011-2020). He also noted that 2011 will be the International Year of Forests.

The youth participants discussed the elements for drafting a document with key messages for young people in the region the COP 10.

During the discussion it was agreed that messages must be constructive, to acknowledge what is being done, to highlight the concerns and present proposals for action.

Ms. Mara Murillo commented about the work of UNEP in relation to the economy of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as the importance of valuing biodiversity, the ecosystems and services they offer, from the economic and social point of view.

The messages agreed to be submitted by the region during the TUNZA Global Conference to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, appear as Appendix 2 to this report.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Item 7. Key challenges faced by youth in addressing environmental issues

Dr. Guillermo Castro Herrera, a Panamanian researcher, humanist and Academic Associate Director of the City of Knowledge Foundation (FCDS for its initials in Spanish) since 2000, presented a motivational talk about the key challenges faced by youth in addressing environmental issues.

Dr. Castro spoke of the importance of social diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean, and added that the regions are different and have different ecosystems but although the region is extremely diverse, very similar phenomena occur that binds us together in common concerns. One example is that what remains of wilderness is already being submitted to natural capital and there are massive investments in infrastructure.

He also commented that the attitude of his generation was that nature was overwhelming; they were the “generation of cement”, in favor of technical progress. They are the generation that is leading this kind of growth to its ultimate consequences that has horrible costs. Economic growth is accompanied by social and environmental deterioration and that presents a vision for young people full of difficulties, but also of hope.

After the presentation, he said that our problems come from our past interventions as a result of interventions in the older ecosystems. Environmental history, the discipline of the work of Dr. Castro, teaches us how to resolve the conflict between conservation and development. Environmental history distinguishes the ecology from nature and environment. Ecology: the discipline that studies living beings and their environment. Nature: the environment where we live. Environment: the result of human intervention in nature. Ecological history is ecosystems history.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



The arrival of humans produces characteristic environments, the environment is a mirror that nature puts in front of us to show us what kind of society we are, Panama, for example, shows wealth and inequality. His generation was very optimistic, looking forward to development, ours is living in crisis. We have to face that the intellectual construction collapsed and understand what the crisis is and its scope

It is not the first environmental crisis of our species but what makes it unique is a set of 5 key features:

- General crisis, global chain resulting from human activities on a global scale.
- Crisis of increasing intensity.
- Mostly affects urban populations.
- Systems increasingly fragile in its ability to sustain our species.
- Today's crisis is not only environmental, it is an ecological crisis. We contribute to transform ecosystems in a way that differs from their natural dynamics.

If the environment is the product of interaction, if we want a different environment a different society must be created. This will not occur quickly and we don't know how it will be done but if we have a society in which young people are concerned about the environment we are already heading towards change.

It is important that we restore the sense of words. There is a conflict between conservation and wasting and not in development, we talk about another development. We are the only species able to think about themselves to develop skills, abilities and experience, if we want, in harmony.

Item 8. Climate Change: 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Jan Kappen, Regional Coordinator for Climate Change, presented the results of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) held in Copenhagen in 2009 and he gave an overview of the issues to be negotiated at the Climate Change COP16 in Mexico, with emphasis on the challenges and opportunities that exist in this negotiation.

The expectations for COP 16 are:

- Strengthening bilateral cooperation and partnerships with like-minded countries;
- Better coordination of efforts towards the creation of a "record UNFCCC"
- Efforts to improve private sector involvement;
- Efforts to better integrate the domestic and international financial sector (public and private).

After the presentation a broad debate was generated where the following topics were raised:

Developing countries, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, already suffer the problem of climate change, so an extensive work on adaptation and mitigation must be done.

Although the major responsibility of polluting emissions is currently in industrialized countries, the region cannot repeat the failed development models. Most of the population is located in developing countries and a change of mentality is necessary and very important to generate a change in habits and lifestyles.

There is a great potential in Latin America and the Caribbean to introduce new technologies and a lot of technological capabilities through the enterprises. Countries need to draft legislations in order to be recipients of new technologies.



Item 9. Strategy to promote TUNZA issues such as painting Competition.

The participants discussed the need to promote greater participation and promotion in the TUNZA network at regional level. They proposed the creation, with the support of UNEP, of an electronic TUNZA platform accessible to TUNZA participating organizations to share information about projects, experiences and knowledge.

Some ideas for the platform were:

- Create a space for each subregion
- Have space for images to accompany the project information (between 2 and 3).
- Online Chat
- Discussion Forum
- Events / Calls (invitations)
- Specific format to standardize data and facilitate regional reporting
- A home page with information on major activities of the TUNZA network at regional level for the general public.

In relation to the Children Painting Competition, it was agreed that in order to have broader participation, everyone will take the following actions:

- Promote more participation of the schools in each town, looking for a staged sending to facilitate selection
- Design of a flyer to send to TUNZA participants to facilitate the promotion
- Press release for distribution to media
- Search for spaces in schools to promote the painting competition.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Item 10. Debates and developments in the drafting of the Regional Action Plan

Young people formed working groups by sub-region and made progress in drafting the plan and its activities.

At the end of the meeting the essential role of the young participants and their performance during the meeting was acknowledged. Ms. Murillo gave thanks and expressed appreciation for the support and secretarial work of UNEP as well as the indispensable support of Bayer, without whom the first regional TUNZA meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean couldn't have been carried out.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Annex 1. List of Participants

Name	Country	Organization
Lautaro L. Porma F.	Argentina	Movimiento 350 / Programa de Medio Ambiente CEI San Ignacio
María Laura Massafara	Argentina	Agua y Juventud / varias organizaciones
Inez Quispe Tito	Bolivia	Organización Económica Campesina OECA
Victoria Bezerra	Brazil	CISV, AIESEC, British Council Global Changemakers
Yudi Yohana Rodríguez	Colombia	Azul Verde
Isadora Toledo	Chile	GEO Juvenil Chile
Diego P. Chamba C.	Ecuador	Fundación 180 grados
Erick E. Carrillo L.	Guatemala	Asociación Agropecuaria y Artesanal para el Desarrollo del Parque Ecológico Corazón del Bosque
Jean-Marc Excellent	Haiti	La Vi Timoun / Child Life
Pierre-Louis Gael	Haiti	Association Juvenile de l'Eglise Baptiste Bellevue Salem
Arturo E. Martínez R.	Mexico	Movimiento de Agua y Juventud, México
Edgard A. Palacios G.	Nicaragua	Asociación Alternativa Juvenil para el Medio Ambiente
Randy González	Panama	Juventud Organizada para vivir en equilibrio con Nana guadule



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Gabriela Villareal	Panama	Movimiento de Agua y Juventud, Panamá
Nolana E. Lynch	Trinidad and Tobago	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
Néstor E. Altuve A.	Venezuela	Organización venezolana de Jóvenes para Naciones Unidas

Representatives on the Advisory Board and Tunza Junior Board

Florencia Caminos	Argentina	Red TUNZA-GEO
Alonso J. Lizaraz S.	Venezuela	FEZU
Juan Ignacio Ordoñez	Argentina	Asociación Civil Red Ambiental (ACRA)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Mara A. Murillo	Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean
Montserrat Valeiras	Communication and Information
Idoia Aurrecoechea	Communication and Information
Alex Pires	Regional Focal Point for Biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Jan Kappen	Regional Climate Change Coordinator

Anexo 2. Messages from the regional TUNZA youth meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean for the COP 10 on Biodiversity



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



CURRENT SITUATION

As young leaders in our communities we want to express our concern about the non-compliance of the goals for 2010 with reference to the rate of biodiversity loss in our countries.

We want to stress the importance of biodiversity for Latin America and the Caribbean and how it is being affected by deforestation, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation, mining and oil activities, the lack of municipal solid waste management and the vulnerability of our ecosystems to climate change.

We commend the substantial increase in the number of protected areas; however we believe that in order to be more effective it is necessary that sustainable management plans are implemented.

The increase of government incentive policies for sustainable development in varying sectors such as agriculture and oil, means that there has been a notable change, however they require innovation, continuity and commitment from the community.

PROPOSALS FOR SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

1 Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Protocol: We request that by 2010 the international protocols be adopted, that they be effective and that they promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities associated with them.

1.1 Strategic Plan to 2050: Towards this end, we support the designation of the period 2011-2020 as the decade of Biodiversity to promote the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We want to see possible and achievable goals included in this, taking into account the new goals for children and youth with initiatives to act but few tools to do so.



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



2 Mechanisms for communication between platforms and youth: We need to link platforms that serve to exchange experiences and information. We suggest that IPBES (Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) provide relevant information, education and awareness about the ecosystem goods and services and their role in human wellbeing,

We urge governments to promote and ensure the effective participation of youth who will be the future decision-makers in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services and implement and enforce existing laws to ensure youth participation. **2.1 Environmental Education:** It is equally necessary to assess formal and informal education through new programmes and NGO activities. We suggest the adoption of word of mouth communication, changes in individual behavior in order to understand the importance of biodiversity and respect for nature, in protecting the interests of present and future generations.

3 Social-economic-political values of ecosystems

It is necessary to implement policies and economic mechanisms to understand the socio-economic value of ecosystems and the services they offer for the sustainable development of the region. We must conserve and restore these ecosystems, not repeat the patterns of development of first world countries, and support social stakeholders in achieving this.