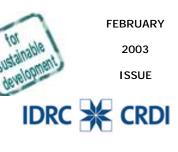




Bulletin of the Environmental Management Secretariat for Latin America and the Caribbean



FROM THE EMS

I he launching of this new edition of the INFO-EMS comes into existence at a time when the Secretariat is consolidating development strategies and lines of action learnt over the last couple of years. Recently, an unprecedented institutional decision positively surprised the region: the Brazilian Government created the Ministry of the Cities. We trust that this new Ministry will contribute to the sustainability of environmental policies and the decentralization process.

It is in this context that the EMS will continue playing the role of articulator and supporter of environmental initiatives geared to sustainable development at the local level. It will act both in terms of coordination, training, institutional capacity-building, dispute settlement and problem solving, as well as in the dissemination of solutions and alternatives for coordinated decision-making processes with most sectors involved. Above all, the attempt is to include research outcomes in decision-making processes so as to serve all sectors in the society, strengthening the frameworks of national policies and standing regional and international agreements. To this end it will contribute its knowledge networks and research capacity instruments, to governments and society in general in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thus, in the new section COMING PROJECTS we introduce the projects that EMS has launched over the last few months in Central America; these projects attempt to strengthen the support to community initiatives.

The EMS NEW FINDINGS FOR POLICY MAKERS Section will present a brief vision of the results of research conducted in cooperation with the MercoCities Network, to analyze environmental agendas in the cities of MERCOSUR, Chile and Bolivia. Also included is a case study funded by the EMS that allows for the generation of local public-private partnerships for the collection and re-use of waste in a municipality of Brazil. Finally, a summary of the EMS agenda of activities to be developed during this year is also included.

Apart from the well-known CITY PRESS section, where we publish information on activities related to the environment and through which we recommend assorted articles and websites, we have opened a section called ONGOING INITIATIVES, in an attempt to disseminate regional and international projects and initiatives to connect actors and provide results of studies and development of new technologies promoted by research centres, governments, NGOs, the private sector, banks and, above all, the local and national governments. In addition, to provide answers to the most concerning issues on pressing regional environmental problems, we inaugurate the section ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY where public concerns over local and regional environmental issues can be received and analyzed by teams of experts and, in turn, allow for negotiations and exchange among the different sectors involved.

All the aforementioned initiatives will respond to the Secretariat's strategic mission to provide scientific instruments that facilitate decision-making processes in environmental management through the use of participatory processes that facilitate the efficiency of decision-making and the transparency of public management.

It is the hope of the Secretariat to work in each country with national partners that act as focal points in the identification of priorities in the field of environmental management and sustainable development.

In order to accomplish its mission, the Secretariat will go on inviting and attracting funding partners from all over the world who agree with the equity principle that ensures sustainable development.



EMS AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Within the framework of the Program on Small Competitive Grants for Research, during the first quarter of the year, a public call will be open to fund research projects that set the practical and institutional bases to promote public-private negotiation roundtables. This new approach aims to create opportunities for agreements to solve local or regional environmental problems in the coordination of municipal and regional governments. Additionally, this new call will incorporate gender issue within the Funds Program, as an instrument to secure equitable sustainable development at the local and regional scale.

By midyear, forums will be organized to create international partnerships among the Latin American cities networks and their equivalents in other parts of the world, under the concept of cooperation and mutual benefit partnerships that allow both parties to solve problems.

By the end of the year, roundtables and technical workshops will be promoted at the regional and international levels to validate methodologies and guidelines on good environmental practices.

EMS, in turn, will reinforce its information services in the environmental management guidelines through the knowledge network that serves municipal governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, by strengthening its links at the regional and international levels. To this end, it will link this network to a network of international municipalities from Europe and North America.



In the scope of its regional activities and in order to support municipal associations, the EMS is coordinating in Central America, together with IADB (Inter-American Development Bank), a project that is being implemented by FEMICA (Federation of Municipalities in the Central American Isthmus): "Environmental Services Management for Vulnerable Populations in Central American Cities". This project provides assistance in environmental services management in vulnerable populations and sets out to strengthen the capacity of FEMICA in the provision of environmental services that might be useful to its members. The first phase benefits municipalities in Nicaragua and Honduras.

It is along this line of action that the EMS Executive Director, Dr. Walter Ubal Giordano, participated in the XII Ordinary General Meeting of Mayors and Authorities elected in Central America, on January 9 and 10 this year, at the Convento Las Capuchinas in the city of La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala. This meeting elected the members to the Board of Directors that will steer FEMICA (Federation of Municipalities in the Central American Isthmus) during the 2003-2004 period. It was during this meeting that the aforementioned Project on "Environmental Services Management for Vulnerable Populations in Central American Cities" was presented.

www.ems-sema.org/castellano/act/03 01 guatemala.html



Mrs. Ana María de Arango, Director of Projects - FEMICA; Mr. José Antonio Pérez, Principal Analyst - FEMICA; Mr. José Chibbaro, Coordinator Municipal Development Group - IADB; Mr. Walter Ubal, Executive Director – EMS.

The 1st International Meeting on Sustainable Management of Waste organized by the Municipality of Sao Paulo was held on November 6 and 7, 2002. During this event, Dr. Ubal made a presentation in the framework of the "International Agreements to Promote Sustainable Development and the Future of Local Agendas 21". www.ems-sema.org/eventos/1102sp/index.html In order to tackle local sustainable development, the EMS monitors a pilot project in Guatemala, together with two IDRC programs: CFP (Cities Feeding People) and Eco-Health. In this case, the role of the Secretariat is that of a multi-sectoral project coordinator involving the civil society and the productive sector to ensure the sustainability of Valle



Mayor of the Muncipality of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala Mr.Rigoberto Queme PHOTO: MUNICIPALITY OF QUETZALTENANGO

Palajunoj from the perspective of the Quetzaltenango city. This initiative responds to the request of the municipal government, led by Mayor Rigoberto Queme, who aims at the implementation of а comprehensive approach to develop his municipal policy. The agency executing the project in Guatemala is MUNI-K'AT.

WELCOME TO THE EMS

The EMS is pleased to announce that Alicia Iglesias has been selected for the position of research officer. Ms. Iglesias's selection followed a public call this summer. She will make a valuable contribution to our team as she brings experience working in urban environmental aspects in Latin America. Alicia holds a Master in Sciences on Urban Environmental Development in the Development Planning Unit of the University College of London, UK.

EMS NEW FINDINGS FOR POLICY MAKERS

PHOTO: FEMIC/

RESEARCH: "Diagnosis on Priority Aspects in Urban Environmental Management Policies in the MercoCities Network"

The research made by Carlos Fagetti outlines environmental policies used by a group of cities members of the MercoCities Network. This study was made within the framework of an agreement signed by the MercoCities Network and the EMS and with the support of the Municipality of Montevideo. It identifies the main environmental problems in the region and it also illustrates municipal environmental agenda within the region to propose guidelines to strengthen the Network vis-à-vis MERCOSUR.

In line with the conclusions the author proposes a set of recommendations to be taken in consideration by Merco-Cities authorities and national and international authorities. Those aim to strength the role of cities as scenarios of environmental management and social inclusion policies in the framework of Local Agenda 21. It also calls for coordination among Municipal Environmental Secretariats, the Municipal Environmental Councils and the Thematic Units of the Network and with the MERCOSUR Work Sub-groups. That initiaitive must be reinforced with communication tools (website, the Dialogue magazine, Forums and e-mail networks). Finally the study encourages efforts to generate a pilot experience for "Cities in a Coordinated Environmental Management", to compare processes, exchange information, disseminate experiences and develop coordinated urban environmental management policies, encourage inclusion and social participation among cities in the Network. Along with it a proposal is made to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to Monitor the Coordinated Environmental Management experiences. Additionally, a second proposal addresses the Work Subgroups (SGT) of MERCOSUR, such as the SGT6 for the Environment to develop projects on Competitiveness and Environment and Environmental Information Systems for MERCOSUR, to intensify the exchange of information within REMI (Specialized Meeting of Municipalities and Town Halls) and the Work Sub-groups.

CASE STUDY: "Integrated Management of Urban Solid Waste: Impact and Potentialities"

The objective of this work was to develop methodologies, reflections and good practices that would help understand the possibilities of establishing partnerships between public and private sectors and the civil society, on the basis of results and activities undertaken in the "Waste and Citizenship" Program of the Municipality of San Bernardo del Campo, in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In 1999, 90% of the Brazilian municipalities dump solid waste in open sky garbage sites. In Sao Bernardo do Campo at the core of the Sao Paulo car industry area, thousands of families livelihood depended on the irregular garbage collection, causing countless social and health problems in the population.

To mitigate these problems, the Municipality formulated a strategic plan organizing cooperatives of garbage collectors. The procedure consists in collecting the garbage and placing it in "caçambas" (containers). Later on, a lorry transports the garbage to the sanitary pit and people of the cooperatives are also responsible for sorting out recyclable material. To upgrade the above mentioned modality and formulate a sustainable development municipal policy involving the private sector, the POLIS Institute of Sao Paulo assessed the public-private partnership modalities by answering the following questions:

i) Why would the private sector be attracted in integrating such consortium?

ii) How could these participatory actions be integrated to the routine tasks of municipal governments?

A first experiment included industrial and commercial waste from the private business sector of Sao Bernardo. Thus, they shared the social responsibility with municipality and citizens. Local enterprises transported the waste to cooperative's operated treatment units built on Municipal lands. As an immediate result, for example, the monthly income of these workers experienced a real increase of 22% in just two months. Additionally, the plan foresees children education, training for adolescents and adults and public programmes to improve waste management (minimization, recycling, etc.).

ONGOING INITIATIVES

The Federation of Municipalities in the Central American Isthmus (FEMICA), has documented the experience of several municipalities in areas important to local development in the following fields:

- Mechanisms to Modernize Municipal Public Services.

- Local Power Decentralization
- Natural Resources
- Management
- Municipal Violence Prevention Management
- Participation of Citizens
- Local Economic Development
- Municipal Planning and

Implementation of a Municipal Development Plan and others Visit over 20 other experiences at:

www.femica.org

(in the Experiences section)

PROJECT

"Urban-social policies: a social integration proposal in central areas"

As part of the URB-AL program, the Municipality of Montevideo, Uruguay has been chosen to develop a social integration project for populations living in poor sectors of the historical area known as the Old City in the city of Montevideo. This project is geared to the economic development of the neighbourhood through the promotion of tourist and cultural activities. To this end, the population will be trained -with the help of grants/scholarships- to join the labor market. The plan includes the establishment of a Workshop-School to provide technical assistance to small and medium enterprises in the area. This initiative will allow for the rehabilitation and restoration of building facades and public areas that conform the historical and cultural heritage of the city. Due to the characteristics of the URB-AL network, the following cities also join the activities: Bilbao (Spain), Turin (Italy), Rosario (Argentina), Santo André (Sao Paulo, Brazil).

More information: <u>urbalmontevideo@deir.imm.gub.uy</u>

PROJECT

"Environmental improvement and urban development of the western area in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay"

The Municipality of Montevideo is currently undertaking a local development project in the ruralurban interfase, in order to improve the quality of life for the population living in Santiago Vázquez, in the western area of the Montevideo Department.

With this project the Municipality of Montevideo seeks to strengthen its environmental planning capacity in urban-rural areas, by promoting production development through the establishment of quality standards. 70% of funding is provided by the EC (URY/B7-3100/00/0007). More information:

cooprrii@prodo.imm.gub.uy



ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

This section will be used to publish concerns on local and regional environmental issues that could be analyzed in roundtables with experts and also allow for negotiations and exchange among the different sectors involved. Contact us: info@ems-sema.org



Clean Water at Risk

On September 12, 2002, the USA Today journal said that Canyon Resources' subsidiary, CR International Corporation, received a net payment of US\$1,328,250 from Minera El Desquite as a final payment on a contract to purchase an exploration property (cateo) in Chubut Province, Argentina. The property is adjacent to the 4 million ounce Esquel gold project currently being developed by Meridian Gold Inc., the parent company of Desquite. http://funds.usatoday.com/custom/usatoday-com/html-

story.asp?guid=%7B4C6C2D2E-31B3-4BA3-A28D-5D9C0E8F4433%7D This proposed gold mine known as the Esquel Cordon has local people in the Chubut Province very concerned of possible contamination problems of rivers and forest lands. The population of the Province of Chubut refutes the approval of the mining project for the Esquel Mountain Range.

http://ambienteyenergia.com/htms/notas/nota_1215.htm

Visit this new section: www.ems-sema.org/english/noticias/alerta.htm



PLEASE SEND US YOUR COMMENTS: info@ems-sema.org

CITY PRESS

OF INTEREST | WEBSITES | PUBLICATIONS | BULLETINS | EVENTS | COURSES | PROFESIONAL OPPORTUNITIES |

It is an open space dedicated to the publication of news in the field of environmental management in cities and municipalities of Latin America and the Caribbean, received through our Information and Knowledge Network. In this space you will find: professional opportunities, events, courses, articles and publications, newsletters and bulletins, electronic fora and news. Share your activities by filling out the form at:

www.ems-sema.org/english/noticias/city_press.htm or send an e-mail to: info@ems-sema.org

OF INTEREST

SAFE DRINKING WATER

January 31, 2003 - EPA announced an innovative and aggressive program to protect vulnerable community drinking water systems from contamination by atrazine, an herbicide used widely in the U.S. on a variety of crops and nonagricultural uses. The program announced by the Agency involves intensive, targeted monitoring of raw water entering certain community water systems in areas of atrazine use.

www.epa.gov



OF INTEREST

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FRESHWATER 2003

The International Year of Freshwater 2003 was officially launched on 12 December 2002, with simultaneous celebrations occurring at the United Nations in New York, and UNESCO in Paris.

Visit: <u>www.unesco.org/water/</u>

2nd February 2003 WORLD WETLANDS DAY No Wetlands, No Water! www.ramsar.org/wwd2003 index.htm

OF INTEREST

APPOINTMENTS IN MINISTRIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

Brazil

Mrs. Marina Silva was appointed Minister of the Environment. Mr. Claudio Langone, member of the Advisory Group of our Secretariat, was appointed Executive Secretary of the said Ministry.

www.mma.gov.br/

Mr. Olivio Dutra was appointed Minister of the Cities. Access an interview with Mr. Dutra on a recommended site: www.cidadesdobrasil.com.br/

WEBSITES

Official site: International Year of Freshwater 2003 www.wateryear2003.org/

Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation www.bpd-waterandsanitation.org/english/kyotoportal.htm

Information Society Portal - <u>www.sociedaddigital.org/esp/</u>

Sustainable Development Network Honduras - rds.org.hn

Cities of Brazil - <u>www.cidadesdobrasil.com.br/</u>

EnviroWindows – European Environment Agency www.ewindows.eu.org/

Ecuador

Dr. Edgar Efraín Isch López was appointed Minister of the Environment. www.ambiente.gov.ec/

Guatemala

Mr. Haroldo Quej Chen was appointed Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources.

Uruguay

Last December, the newly appointed National Director for the Environment in the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and the Environment, MSc Aramis Latchinian, took office. He held a very interesting interview with Dr. Walter Ubal Giordano, where they coincided in terms of how to approach local environmental issues and in the need to prepare indicators to serve as instruments in environmental prevention.

PUBLICATIONS

World Development Report 2003: Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World: Transforming Institutions, Growth, and Quality of Life www.worldbank.org/publications/

"Virtual Information Centre on Water resources in the Altiplano", CD Multimedia CIED - Document resulting from IDRC funding www.aqualtiplano.net/

BULLETINS

United Nations Bulletin – Electronic Version www.un.org

INFO-EMS on line: www.ems-sema.org/english/noticias/new.htm

EVENTS

CITY PRESS

GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM 3-7/02/2003 - Nairobi, Kenya.

FRESHWATER FORUM 18/02/2003 - Winnipeg, Canada

BUSINESS SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND WATER & SANITATION 20/02/2003, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm -Washington D.C., USA

INTERNATIONAL FAIR ON ENVIRONMENT – PROMA 2003 11-14/03/2003 - Bilbao, Spain I Latinamerican Meetings on Environment

3rd WORLD WATER FORUM 16/03/2003 - Kyoto, Japan

First International Conference ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION 23-27/03/2003 - Bucarest, Rumania Deadline for papers: 25/02/2003

EIGHT MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE 10-14/03/2003 - Montreal, Canada

UNEP CAPACITY BUILDING MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION 27-28/03/2003 - Mexico City, Mexico

CITY PRESS

Distance learning Master SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MANAGEMENT 24/02/2003

Post Graduate Course GOVERNANCE, PARTNERSHIPS AND POVERTY 24/02/2003 – 21/03/2003 - Birmingham, England

Master and Superior Certificate SOCIAL SCIENCES WITH MENTION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT 14/02/2003 - Cuzco, Peru

Course Workshop CATTLE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT 03/03/2003 - 2/03/2003 - Havana, Cuba

Please find detailed information on these events at: www.ems-sema.org/english/evts/conferencias.html

Iberamerican Congress DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT: LOCAL CHALLENGES TOWARDS GLOBALIZATION 11-12/04/2003 - Quito, Ecuador Deadline for papers: 9/02/2003

Launching conference RED 10 del PROGRMA URB-AL 14-16/04/2003 - San Pablo, Brazil

VI International Congress NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 21-25/04/2003 - Valdivia, Chile Deadline for papers: 15/02/2003

1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CARICOSTAS 2003 05-07/05/2003 - Havana, Cuba

WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE - SUSTAIN 2003 13-15/05/2003 - Amsterdam, the Netherlands

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO HUMAN HEALTH 18-23/05/2003 - Montreal, Canada

III INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON WATERSHEDS MANAGEMENT - GEOCUENCA III 20-24/05/2003 – Havana, Cuba

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 20-24/05/2003 - Espinho, Portugal

COURSES

Detailed information on these courses at: www.ems-sema.org/english/evts/cursos.html

> International Course TELEOBSERVATION AND GIS 06/03/2003 - 05/12/2003

Courses SPECIALIZATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIZATION IN GENDER APPROACH TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT 31/03/2003

Advanced course DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT IN IBEROAMERICA Organized by: FLACSO Ecuador 9-10/04/2003 - Quito, Ecuador

Course XV COURSE ON ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA 27/04/2003 - 10/05/2003

CITY PRESS

III LATINAMERICAN CONGRESS ON MANAGEMENT OF HYDROGRAPHIC BASINS 9-13/06/2003 - Arequipa, Peru

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ON CONTINENTAL AND COASTAL MARINE WATERS 16-18/07/2003 - Geneva, Switzerland

INTERNATIONAL FAIR AND CONGRESS OF CITIES – URBIS 2003 22-25/07/2003 Anhembi - São Paulo, Brazil

XVII CLAD COMPETITION ON STATE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 28-31/10/2003 - City of Panama, Panama Deadline for papers: 15/07/2003

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON WASTEWATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE 12/11/2003 - Mexico City, Mexico

Congress IULA - UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2-5/05/2004 - Paris, France

Find detailed information on these events at: www.ems-sema.org/english/evts/conferencias.html

CITY PRESS

CITY PRESS

Fellowships

IDRC – International Development Research Centre www.idrc.ca/awards/edevelop.htm

IDRC -AGROPOLIS International Graduate Research Awards in Urban Agriculture agropolis@idrc.ca

Internships

UN-Habitat Deadline: 01/03/2003

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

UNDP United Nations Development Program

Calls

PROBONA BOLIVIA

Call for the Co-funding of Competitive Funds. Native Forests and Andean Agri-ecosystems Program Deadline for submitting proposals: 28 /02/2003

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Detailed information on these opportunities: www.ems-sema.org/english/evts/oportunidades.html

Vacancies

IDRC

Senior Program Officer, Specialist in Rural Water Management Deadline: 07/03/2003

Executive Director, International Model Forest Network Secretariat Deadline: 07/03/2003

UNEP – United Nations Environmental Program

(Nairobi, Kenya) Senior Project Management Officer (Project Coordinator), Pilot Projects Unit, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation Deadline: 13/02/2003

Associate Project Administration Officer, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation Deadline: 17/02/2003 Vacancies

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Technical Officer (Water Resources Development and Conservation) Deadline: 03/03/2003

Agricultural Officer Deadline: 16/02/2003

CITY PRESS

Vacancies

IPC – International Potato Center Project Development Officer

IADB – Inter American Development Bank

Senior Specialist on Environment and Natural Resources Deadline: 17/02/2003

IMM- Municipality of Montevideo

Metropolitan Montevideo Sanitation Program (IADB) Specialist with experience in urban and industrial solid waste management (Biological orientation) Deadline: from 11/02/2003 to 28/02/2003

Detailed information on these opportunities: www.ems-sema.org/english/evts/oportunidades.html

DISSEMINATE YOUR ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE CITY PRESS: info@ems-sema.org

The mission of the Secretariat is to foster a correct environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean, by providing support in decision-making (policy formulation and implementation) in relation to the environmental effects of the different human activities, through a more dynamic relation between research, horizontal cooperation and a growing

availability of relevant information.

"The EMS-SEMA has the support of IDRC, IADB, Environment Canada, UNEP and the Ministry of Housing, Land Management and the Environment of Uruguay (MVOTMA).

It is an International Secretariat managed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada)"

Avda. Brasil 26 55 - 11300 Montevideo, Uruguay Tel: (598-2) 709-0042 Fax: (598-2) 708-6776 info@ems-sema.org

Visit our website: www.ems-sema.org The publication of INFO-EMS is under the responsibility of Walter Ubal and María Noel Estrada (<u>mestrada@idrc.org.uy</u>)





