



Global Environment Facility



UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme



OAS

Organization of American States

**DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF MECHANISMS TO DISSEMINATE
LESSONS LEARNED AND EXPERIENCES IN
INTEGRATED TRANSBOUNDARY
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
DELTAMERICA PROJECT**

**Common Strategy
for Water Management
among the Countries of
Latin America and
the Caribbean**

(PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL)



Foreword

This Common Strategy for Water Management in Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is the result of efforts coordinated by the Secretariat of Water Resources of Brazil's Ministry of Environment (SRH/MMA) within the scope of the Project for Development and Implementation of Mechanisms to Disseminate Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in Latin America and the Caribbean (DeltAmerica Project). A number of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed interest in the Project by means of their Focal Points at the Inter-American Water Resources Network. Grant funding was received from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). By agreement of the participating countries, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) performed the role of implementing agency, whereas the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (DSD/OAS) acted as regional executing agency for the Project.

The aim of the DeltAmerica Project was to compile and disseminate best practices and lessons learned from the execution of projects in the field of integrated transboundary water resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to provide support for the development of sustainable management policies in each country and throughout the region.

These experiences highlight shared objectives of countries with transboundary river basins in the hemisphere. Their inspiration comes from Chapter 18 of Agenda 21, and from worldwide events that have resulted in commitments for ensuring universal access to high quality drinking water, in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Action announced in Johannesburg, and with principles and ideas expressed during Inter-American Dialogs on Water Management, such as the one held in Jamaica in 2005, and the IV World Water Forum, held in Mexico in March 2006.

All this activity is evidence of a common interest in advancing with mutual solidarity toward fulfillment of national and international commitments assumed by countries of the hemisphere. This present proposal aims to consubstantiate these efforts, and to encounter ways of smoothing the path toward sustainable development, while resolving common difficulties and conserving and equitably sharing water, as a vital resource, bearing in mind its importance for society, the economy, and the environment, while respecting cultural and legal characteristics of each of the countries of the Americas.

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Common Strategy for Water Management among the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

(Preliminary Proposal)

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Introduction

Over the past few years, the Latin American and Caribbean countries concluded agreements stating that sustainable development, poverty reduction, income and wealth generation to populations depended - among other factors - on the access to water resources from all segments of the population.

Many measures to be implemented in each country were broadly and repeatedly addressed by the international agreements signed, being the outcome of thorough discussions and consensus. However, the issues connected with water management are still insufficiently addressed, and ensuring water supply for productive activity and ecosystems maintenance is still one of the greatest challenges to meet today.

Essentially, the objective of providing underprivileged populations with the water they are entitled to in adequate quantity and quality for household use and production activity was not met, especially as far as populations in extreme poverty are concerned.

In the agreements, the countries established shared objectives designed to provide a prospect for water integrated management, to decentralize the decision-making process of ecosystems protection, to prevent pollution, to make users take part in the management process, to allow international cooperation for development, among others.

Despite all the efforts made, adequate systems of water management have not been implemented in many Latin American and Caribbean countries yet.

However, water is a specific topic keeps being included on the discussion agenda of the countries. Many countries have neither sustainable nor long-term programs.

The agreement herein proposed is based on the 2001 InterAmerican Democratic Charter, which reiterates the principles of democracy, essential for the stability, peace and social, political and economic development of the region. Through said Charter the States also agree to periodically analyze actions designed to foster dialogue and cooperation to achieve total development, to struggle against poverty in the Hemisphere, and to take timely measures in order to promote these objectives.

Especially under Clause 15, the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that the exercise of democracy facilitates protection and the proper management of the environment. It also states that it is essential for the countries of the Southern Hemisphere to implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, abiding by the several treaties and conventions, to reach sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

This document is designed to provide support to define and adopt operational procedures in order to reach the objectives and targets already discussed and approved by the various agreements signed. The Common Strategy for Water Management Among the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean herein proposed is designed to support the adoption of shared strategies in order to fight poverty and development restrictions stemming from insufficient access to water in the Hemisphere.

1 Background

The involvement of Latin American and Caribbean countries in establishing policies and actions designed to universalize water access for the most different uses is not something new. Said policies and actions are being gradually discussed and implemented, even though efforts should be duplicated to overcome the great difficulties of underdevelopment.

Essentially, what is being discussed and should be strongly faced is the fact of establishing permanent political and institutional processes of articulation, and of involving governments and societies to define joint actions within the framework of water management.

1.1 Agreements Concluded

The various International Treaties and Agreements signed since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – Rio 92 – permitted to reach important consensus on water management. However, actions effectively implemented to achieve these agreements were insufficient to reach the expected results. The new views on water management already widely disseminated, as well as the consensus reached, are still far away from the practices effectively developed. However, it is undeniable to acknowledge the evolution that took place, especially as regards the awareness of many countries in connection with the importance of water.

In this sense, it is important to identify the headway made and the difficulties faced, as well as the existing opportunities to accomplish the necessary actions.

Obviously, it is not an easy task to define a common agenda for water in Latin American and Caribbean countries, since it requires a great effort of understanding, of overcoming internal difficulties, and also due to the situations that differ from one country to another.

After the Agenda 21, fostering sustainable development has become part of the concerns of Latin American and Caribbean countries. In this context, at the time the Conferences of the Americas were held last decade, the countries of the continent started to adopt a common action agenda.

The very first measure of the Agenda is the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, signed in 1996 during the Summit of the Americas for Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, and known as the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz. At a certain moment, this document, because of its complexity and pro-activity, placed the American countries at the forefront of the agreements determined by Rio 92 in terms of accomplishment and establishment of priorities regarding the wide range of topics of the Agenda 21.

Various subsequent conferences approved the 1996 Plan of Action. At the 1998 Summit of Santiago, Chile, the governments committed to redouble their efforts to implement actions aiming at protecting the environment as a basis for a sustainable development, and requested cooperation actions to be strengthened in order to implement the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz.

More recently, at the 2001 Quebec Summit, governments restated their commitment regarding protection of the environment, even though the concept of sustainable development was less explicit.

At the meeting of Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas, held in Ottawa, Canada, in 2002, it was observed that despite the headway made in solving problems, environmental degradation kept affecting the health of populations, especially of those underprivileged. Nonetheless, economic and social challenges were still there to be solved. The meeting acknowledged the need for concentrating efforts to reach both global and regional common objectives within the scope of a sustainable development.

At a global level, the World Water Forums provided important statements from a conceptual standpoint, without any intention of going more thoroughly into details with respect to topics connected with the implementation of established guidelines and targets. The Declaration of the III World Forum, held in Japan in 2003, reiterates previous recommendations on various topics related to water, such as integrated management of water, need for technical skills, contribution in funds and governability.

The commitment of the countries to the Millennium Development Objectives should be mentioned, and especially item number 7, among others, whose targets are the following:

- To integrate the principles of sustainable development in the domestic policies and programs and reverse loss of environmental resources,
- To reduce by half the population ratio with no permanent and sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015,
- To reach a significant life improvement of at least 100 million people living in degraded areas by 2020.

Like the Agenda 21, this global agreement has generic targets. Even with some indicators to follow its implementation, the agreement has not yet defined the tools and strategies that shall effectively lead to actions to be performed.

At the Conference held in Johannesburg in 2002, the intent was to give continuity to, to assess the outcome of, and to propose headway made in connection with, the Rio-92 Conference, a great milestone. An important effort was made then, in order to define specific targets for water management. That represented an opportunity to make a significant headway towards the recommendations of the Rio 92 Conference in terms of identifying targets and procedures designed to ensure implementing the Agenda 21 concepts.

Thus, despite all the global discussion, the efforts to achieve results are concentrated in cooperation bilateral agreements or in cooperation regional agreements that should be appreciated in value and strengthened.

Some of the most significant regional agreements are the following:

- the Action Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources in Central America, whose proposal was made in 1997, with the support of the American State Organization and updated in 1998. Many regional institutions supported the preparation of the plan, especially the Central American Parliament that provided a political support. That lent legitimacy to the plan. Besides including the principles established in the Declaration of Dublin and in the Agenda 21, this plan is a milestone in the integrated management of water in Central America as it establishes clear objectives, procedures and strategies to achieve actions and the institutional organization necessary to reach the objectives.
- In 1994, the First Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States - SIDS was held, and at that opportunity the Barbados Program of Action was prepared. The Program is designed to address the issues regarding sustainable development, a common topic for small islands developing states.

The main priority areas were: waste, sea resources, water resources and energy.

These countries experience particular problems that require defining very specific programs. Since the Program was approved it was only partially implemented because of reduced foreign aid, among other reasons. The Program of Action shall be reviewed in 2005 at an international meeting to be held in Mauritius.

- Another initiative to be commented on is the document “Vision on Water, Life and the Environment for the 21st Century” is another initiative prepared under the coordination of the World Water Council, with the objective of identifying challenges to be faced for the guaranteeing of sustainable use of water on the long term.

As regards the agreements and projects for the management of cross-border watersheds, there are many important and successful learning experiences. Among others, the following should be underscored:

- the agreement signed between Argentina and Bolivia that is financed by Global Environment Facility-GEF and coordinated by a Binational Commission to develop the Basin of the High Bermejo River and that of the Rio Grande de Tarija.

The Commission was established by means of a special agreement, signed in 1995.

The general purpose consists of boosting the sustainable socio-economic development of its zone of influence, of optimizing the use of natural resources, and of allowing a fair and rational management of water resources.

The Strategic Program of Action is being implemented with the support of the American State Organization that acts as a regional enforcement agency, being the PNUMA/UNEP the agency that implements the funds stemming from the World Fund for the Environment.

The specific purposes consist of including the topic “environment” in the development policies, plans and programs of both countries; of managing in an integrated fashion the natural resources and the planning per basin; of establishing mechanisms of articulation and regional coordination, as well as of participation and public consultation.

- The Intergovernmental Coordinator Committee of the La Plata River Basin Countries is integrated by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It was established in 1969, when the La Plata Basin Treaty was signed.

Agreements, partially implemented, were already concluded for monitoring the La Plata basin water quality. That shows the difficulty experienced by these countries to undertake the tasks required for such management. In the context of the La Plata Treaty, the Treaty of Itaipu and the project Producing Good Water were established. The latter is very successful and is dealing with the environmental recovery of the tributary basins of the Itaipu reservoir.

The recent injection of funds from Global Environmental Facility-GEF shall permit to make some interesting headway after the elaboration of the Framework Program for the Sustainable Water Resources Management of the La Plata Basin, considering hydrological consequences of the climate change and variability.

- The TRIFINIO Region Development Plan is designed to assist the Central American integration through a joint action between El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras with the purpose of achieving a total, harmonic, and balanced development of the three countries’ border area.

Being discussed since the seventies, the Plan is based on the 1986 Agreement of Technical Cooperation between Governments, with the participation of the American State Organization Secretariat General and the American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture. It is designed to formulate a Development Plan for the Border Area of the Three Countries financed by the five signatories and the European Economic Union (current European Union).

- The Binational Agreement for the Titicaca Lake Management, between Peru and Bolivia, which was signed in 1986. Said agreement is designed to conduct studies on the water resources shared by both countries.

In 1995, a plan called Binational Global Steering Plan was presented with the purpose of using the water of the Titicaca Lake and of the rivers Desaguadero, Poopó and Salar de Coipasa (TDPS System). To execute the plan both governments established the Binational Autonomous Authority of the TDPS System and in 1996 prepared the Environmental Diagnostic of the Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopo-Salar de Coipasa System with the support of the PNUMA/UNEP and the OAS/OEA.

- The Agreement for the Sanitation and Contamination Control of the Carchi-Guáytara Water basin, between Colombia and Ecuador, was signed in 1990. For this Agreement a Binational Committee was established.
- The Integrated Management Project of Water Resources and Sustainable Development of the San Juan Water basin and its Coastal Zone carried out by the governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. This project is being implemented with the support of the PNUMA/UNEP and the OAS/OEA.
- The Fonseca Gulf Project, involving El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, is designed to facilitate the process of planning and organizing said Gulf and to develop coordination mechanisms to reach the

required consensus to achieve a territorial organization and a program of sustainable development.

- The Environmental Protection Project of the Sustainable Development of the Guarani Aquifer System, the purpose of which is to support Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to prepare the coordinated implementation of a common proposal of institutional, legal and technical model designed for the conservation and management of the Guarani Aquifer.

1.2. Existing Regional Organizations

As far as the political, institutional and technical structure existing in Latin America and the Caribbean are concerned, it is interesting to mention some initiatives that can help establishing a new level of agreement and organization for a common action between countries.

- Sub-Regional Organizations.
 - Central America and The Caribbean
 - Central American Integration System – SICA
 - Common Community and market of the Caribbean - CARICOM
 - South America
 - South American Community of Nations
 - The Andean Community of Nations - CAN
 - The Southern Common Market - MERCOSUL.
 - The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization - OTCA.

It is important to mention some volunteer organizations with a lower level of formalization but with a strong potential to support common interest actions to be implemented:

- Inter-American Water Resources Network - IWRN.

This network articulates “focal points” (representatives indicated by the national government of each country represented at the OEA), representatives of the academy, of the private sector and of NGO’s to act in a permanent process of understanding with the purpose of fostering the environmentally correct and sustainable use of water resources in the Americas.

Its activities are deployed by encouraging and strengthening partnerships and cooperation projects, especially those related to the management of cross-border watersheds, by assisting the preparation of strategic plans and action plans for the integrated management of water and soil resources, and by fostering education, exchange of information and technical knowledge between water resources managers, and between those and civil society.

The IWRN has a Technical Secretariat fulfilled by the Unit for Sustainable Development and the Environment connected with the OEA General Secretariat.

2 The water management situation in Latin America and the Caribbean

Establishing common and sustainable procedures for water resources management - both of domestic and cross-border interest - involves a long and systematic process of negotiations, articulation and consensus building. The diversity of Latin American and Caribbean countries does not allow simplifying generalizations. Relationships between communities and governments in terms of water management are being built over the years based on national history.

Some aspects stand out and help identify common issues, needs for articulated solutions between the countries and conditions of mutual support required to allow each country to establish the best water governance policy:

- Usually, we observe an institutional system and a legislation where a sector-based view with a low level of participation prevails, and relatively frail managing institutions lacking total financial autonomy.
- When both public and private sectors are defining their strategies and development plans they underestimate and even ignore the need for water management as one of the basic factors for building sustainable future scenarios.
- No integration can be observed between water management and national development plans.
- The countries signed declarations, agreements and other international documents with comprehensive political definitions on water management. Despite that, the measures to implement said agreements have not been totally adopted yet.
- Matters like pollution control, urban drainage, irrigation control, and others, were historically deemed as not very profitable politically speaking, and therefore were given little importance in practice.
- The wealth of water in some regions of Latin America and the Caribbean should be understood as a unique opportunity of generating wealth and of assuring biodiversity and life quality.
- Implementing sustainable systems of water management involves decentralizing the decision-making process of water basins at a global level. This technically consensual concept goes against strong political restrictions.
- There is a need for adjusting attributions and responsibilities due to the decision-making decentralization, especially at a public level. This strongly hinders the creation of more autonomous and representative management watershed bodies.
- The participation of both user sectors and society in the decision-making process is a quite complex task in terms of implementation since it requires defining new transparent, stable and reliable procedures. It also requires that sectors with decision power relinquish part of this power. Since the procedures are eminently political, far from technocratic decisions, these sectors frequently view decentralization as unreliable and discredited and even associate them with further risks.
- The required multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary factors in order to achieve a sustainable management also conflict with institutional cultures and powers that have been occupying public bodies for a long time. Most of the time, the educational background of technicians involved is segmented and tends to specialization. This is not favorable to the transversal and comprehensive outlook the matter requires.
- The existence of various institutions with sector-based responsibility of water management (the environment, health, river transportation, coastal management, hydroelectric production, irrigation, etc.) frequently acting in a disarticulated way results in conflicting functions between authorities and institutions.
- There is a lack of a specialized and stable functional body with information bases to support decisions.
- The use of water is frequently understood as bodies in good ecological conditions is the sole guarantee to achieve good conditions for necessary to meet societies' current needs. Thus, planners tend to ignore that keeping water is the future.
- Necessary institutional and political reforms obviously involve political will, but also fund raising, and funds are extremely scarce in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- The limits of water availability are deeply connected with privileges. Planning to expand access to water involves reducing the culture of irresponsibility in using water, the impunity in wasting it, the exclusive appropriation of water by minority sectors of society.
- Many international agreements are neither informed to the countries' populations nor publicly discussed.
- A kind of fragmentation can be observed as regards projects with international financing.
- Muitos dos acordos internacionais são pouco conhecidos nos países.
- Há desarticulação entre os projetos com financiamento internacional.

3 Economic, political and institutional context

When analyzing the current political, institutional and technical structure in the Americas one can observe that some bases necessary to implement measures designed to a sustainable water management already exist.

As mentioned previously, the motivation expressed by signing the agreements, the positive experiences of projects being developed in cross-border watersheds, the institutional and financial effort of several countries in modernizing their management system and in implementing an infrastructure.

In addition there are clear indications that Latin America and the Caribbean are starting a new economic cycle of growth, after almost twenty years of stagnation. Despite information not sufficiently systematized regarding the new economic boost in the countries of the region, one can observe that many countries show economic index pointing to job creation, export growth, internal consumption, etc.

This situation will undoubtedly foster environmental changes in urban areas and in the use of natural resources as far as these countries are concerned. A higher demand of natural resources and a tendency to explore new territories and ecosystems are expected.

A challenge consists of preparing the region in such a way that this new stage of growth causes no environmental degradation, especially of water resources, avoiding repeating mistakes historically observed and resulting from various economic cycles occurred in the region.

This is a unique historical situation, since the nations are before a real possibility of economic growth that is expected to occur according to the paradigms of sustainability set forth under the Rio 92 Conference. The situation is extremely positive to implement water management in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a basis for a sustainable development.

The key matter consists of building mechanisms that allow including – especially in the policies related to countries' growth – the topic of water as one of the structural elements of development.

As far as the environmental matters are concerned this topic strongly addresses the need for establishing norms, goals and common procedures between the several countries. so as to allow that less restrictive legislations be used as a justification to attract investments.

Internal differences between social segments are another important hindrance to the sustainable development in these countries. For this purpose, proposals and plans for Latin America and the Caribbean should include actions – even addressing particularly water – to reduce internal inequalities as the strategic goal of all national and international policies

Perceptible changes in the pattern of the North-South relations in the hemisphere can contribute in a way to guarantee greater investment of financial resources and access to technology.

3.1. Opportunities for a technical, political and institutional discussion

The discussion to define goals for the Strategy herein as well as the procedures to achieve them should be the focus of understanding.

We are before a series of significantly favorable opportunities to achieve the goals:

- Governments involved with the matter and prepared for innovation in terms of water management.
- 2005: the Water Decade (UN) is starting and will generate opportunities and demand to define national priorities and a joint action.
- A stage in which governments are participating in a new way an attempting to overcome the centennial heritage of poverty and exploitation.
- Internationally focusing on what can bring the discussion and innovation of water management in the Americas, especially as regards the 4th WWF to be held in Mexico in 2006, after having been held in Africa (Morocco, 1997), Europe (Holland, 2000) and Asia (Kyoto, 2003).

Through intermediary agreements, resulting from a series of meetings, it will be possible to define a common strategy of work.

3.2 Technical and Governmental Meetings

Technical meetings as well as meetings are opportunities for a process of debating and maturing. At the same time the discussion through the countries' chancelleries will enable to define a great number of measures.

As an example, it is interesting to note that the XIII Meeting of the UN Sustainable Development Commission (CDS 13) was held in April 2005. The agenda of this meeting covered the follow-up of what each country and region are doing to accomplish the Millennium Goals, especially in relation with water resources, drinking and waste water services, and human settlements.

It should also be mentioned that in May 2005, the National Water Focal Points met in Lima, Peru, by invitation of OAS, when the present proposal was presented for preliminary discussion.

In the near future, other meetings are planned such as :

- September, 2005 – Meeting of Ministers and Authorities of Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.
- October, 2005 – The V American Dialog in Jamaica (IWRN) with the participation of non-governmental segments will be a perfect occasion for checking and accepting the text and even including contributions.
- November 2005 – Summit Meeting of the Presidents and Heads of State of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina.
- March 2006 – Mexico – 4th World Water Forum (WWF). A significant event that leads the way in terms of world water management. Thus, it will be an opportunity for the Heads of State to present the commitments undertaken by the Americas.

4 The construction of the Strategy

4.1. The Strategy

The “Common Strategy for Water Management among the Countries in Latin America And the Caribbean” will provide grounds for a permanent discussion, implementation of actions and a follow up process of water management in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In the first place, it is necessary to emphasize that based on the will expressed by the Latin American and Caribbean countries the Common Strategy to be outlined will seek to promote water management sustainability and to define procedures to materialize the goals set forth under a number of international agreements already concluded.

Said Common Strategy shall create mechanisms to reduce differences existing among the various socioeconomic development stages of the countries of the region in terms of water management.

The document will take into account socio-cultural and environmental specific natures of each country as well as experiences carried out and efforts made already in the management of water resources, in order to achieve new mutual integration and performance levels.

Thus, respecting the specificity of the participating countries, the Common Strategy will provide guidance to establish shared parameters for water resource management, without interfering with each country's sovereignty in terms of defining internal matters.

By identifying problems that prevent implementing the agreements in progress in order to enable concrete results to be achieved, the Strategy will allow to establish new and more specific agreements, leading in the long term and on a progressive basis to the establishment of a Water Management Policy in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

To be able to create this water policy, the Common Strategy will organize permanent means for exchanging

information and experience between the countries of the region, regional and international bodies and a continuous and permanent work dynamics addressing water management.

The Common Strategy will further the establishment of National Policies for water management, coherent and articulated among themselves, which presume as principles:

- that water is a basic condition for life, and the management thereof is a duty of the State, in order to ensure equitable use.
- that priority should be given to human consumption of water over all other utilizations, the availability thereof being a condition for reducing poverty, ensuring improvement of health and life quality indexes in populations.
- that the adoption of aggressive policies for education, income generation, job creation, health and access to decision are an integral part of the water policies.
- that investments in the environment, sanitation, water supply and water management are growth inducers; they speed up economy, and reduce social inequalities.

To prepare and implement the Common Strategy, it will be essential to have the engagement of the various countries and regional organizations, such as the Andean Community, Mercosur/Mercosul, the Central American Council, under the OAS/OEA coordination, in debates and in the search for alternatives to implement a water sustainable management in the region. The experiences of other regions, including those provided by the European Community, can prove useful.

4.2. The mainstream of ideas to build the Strategy

The major objective of the Common Strategy is to develop a shared policy in the long run, in order to solve major problems related to water resource management in domestic water and cross-border watersheds.

The specific objectives of the Common Strategy are:

- To cause the national policies to converge, so that the shared targets for sustainable utilization of water are achieved, taking into account human consumption, production and ecosystem protection requirements.
- To identify problems that prevent implementing agreements concluded for cross-border watersheds management and propose ways of overcoming them.
- To strengthen the national structures, so that they organize and mobilize themselves in order to achieve the Millennium Development Targets.
- To promote articulation between countries to guarantee of water access for the populations.
- To propose and implement a permanent discussion, support and follow up process designed to implement the regional commitments in each country.
- To propose the conciliation of national legal structures with agreements already signed.
- To promote South/South cooperation processes to overcome mutual difficulties.
- To strengthen the articulation and understanding between Latin American and Caribbean countries in order to allow better business positions vis-à-vis the developed countries, including regarding the need for more funds for countries of the south.

4.3. Objectives to be pursued

- To propose minimum standards of quality of the bodies of water which receive the effluents of Latin America and of the Caribbean.
- To identify the different interests about the use of cross-border waters and establish coordinated management procedures of cross-border waters.
- To promote educational activities oriented for social participation in water management.
- To establish mechanisms for management financing, of access and of the protection of water.
- To promote actions aiming at developing a new water culture;
- To propose forms of integrating the technical advances with the traditional knowledge of the populations;

- To articulate water management with the remaining public policies, especially with the policies of: (i) combating poverty and inclusive policies in general; (ii) education; (iii) health.
- To propose protection policies for springs for urban use.
- To identify mechanisms for financing management, access, and protection of water.
- To create and develop alliances which support the different countries in the process of discussion of their needs and forms to fulfill them;
- To construct coordinated management structures between countries;
- To share the best successful practices contributing to their perfection and common knowledge;
- To map on going cooperation initiatives in such a way as to support them and strengthen them;

5 Conditioning elements for the reaching of the objectives

5.1 Elements to consider

During the next ten years, coordinated actions should be developed on the internal and external plane of the countries.

The items below can orient the definition of the methodology for the achieving of the objectives proposed:

- A National and Legal Framework for water management;
- Development of national institutional frameworks for water management, establishing national goals, practices and commitments for management;
- Policies and plans by basins ensuring planning procedures and tools for implementing actions;
- Sustainable models for management financing, indicating the permanence of institutionalized planning actions.
- National policies for universalizing access to water and sanitation, indicating the origin of resources, investment priorities.
- Sustainable models for investment financing of water and sanitation services, in order to ensure a huge contribution of financial resources that are necessary both for increasing the access and for practicing more equitable fees to users.
- Direct involvement of national governments' financial areas in defining investment targets to ensure water and sanitation for everyone;
- Involvement of national and international financial institutions both public and private;
- In defining financing tools of access targets of populations to water and sanitation;
- Definition of proper conditions for private participation in investments, both as refers to their responsibilities and to the guarantees that are necessary for them;
- Strengthening public structures for management and control to guarantee safety in public-private partnerships;
- Characterization of the required subsidy sources to guarantee access to lower income populations.
- Management information availability:
 - Access to information by the group of users and managers
 - Users' reference files.
- Guarantee of information availability for social participation in management, with sufficient transparency, clearness and dissemination.
- Strict and transparent rules regarding water allocation for various uses, allowing sector-based planning, productive investments and guidance for access enhancement.
- Development and of a new water culture:
 - technological development for supporting rationalization for the use, re-use and pollution reduction,
 - policies for rationalizing water use, with support of economic, financial and tax instruments.

5.2. Methodology for elaboration of the Strategy

One proposes the constitution of a Coordinating Group of the type of the OEA with, at least, one representative of the Chancelleries of the Countries. The fundamental attribution of this Coordinating Group will be that of constituting the orienting an Executive Subgroup integrated by well-known specialists on the theme of water resources management, representative of Governments and Chancelleries for the elaborating of the sketch of the Strategy with a basis on the principles, objectives and methodology related in this document.

The executive sub-group will also have the attributions:

- To make a detailed analysis of the various treaties, agreements, declarations, convenia, plans, programs, projects and actions cited in this document and others judged necessary with a view to involvement in the works.
- Relate the on-going programs and projects and evaluate the successful experiences, which can serve as models.
- Make contacts with the regional and international organizations and with the various work groups or persons responsible for the agreements cited in this document, who can be used for the elaboration of the Strategy.
- Elaborate a draft of the Strategy that will be approved by the Coordinating Group.
- Propose the forms of organization and define the responsibilities for the articulation necessary for the fulfillment of the Strategy.
- The Coordinating Group and the Executive Sub-Group will have as objectives:
 - To discuss the questions and directives here defined;
 - Define indicators, activities and deadlines;
 - Propose strategies for the achieving of the objectives and targets established.

6 Proposal of a preliminary schedule (for discussion)

2007 – Survey of legislations existing in the countries.

– Systematization of activities developed and in development for management of cross-border water.

2008 – Analysis of legislations and evaluation of what is missing so that they are conciliated with agreements already signed.

– Establishment of measures to meet water quality targets and limit values for pollutant emissions in cross-border water and national water.

– Establishment of National Management Policies, agreeing on National management targets, practices and commitments.

– Pacts for sharing cross-border rivers/basins.

– Development of agreements on shared quality and quantity targets for water of cross-border interest and for that of national interest

2010 – Definition of National Legal Frameworks, specific to the reality of each country, but complying with requirements that are shared by the group of countries.

– Strict and transparent rules regarding water allocation for a number of uses, allowing sector-based planning, productive investments and guidance for access enhancement in each country.

– Development of national Institutional Frameworks for water management, establishing systems proper to the water resource management, providing conditions to render the relevant legislation operational.

– Creation of a Mutual Water Development Fund.



DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF MECHANISMS TO DISSEMINATE
LESSONS LEARNED AND EXPERIENCES
IN INTEGRATED TRANSBOUNDARY
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN
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DELTAMERICA PROJECT

**Common Strategy
for Water Management
among the Countries of
Latin America and
the Caribbean**



Global Environment Facility



United Nations Environment
Programme



OAS

Organization of American States