

Post Event Press Release



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



In collaboration with
The University of the West Indies
and
The Cropper Foundation

**GEO and CARSEA Consultation for
Latin America and the Caribbean
12-17 February 2006
Cascadia Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**

The Global Environment Outlook 4 (GEO-4) and Caribbean Sea Assessment (CARSEA) Consultation was sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), The Cropper Foundation and the University of the West Indies. The GEO component of the consultation started on Wednesday 15th February 2006 and the participants were honoured by a cocktail reception hosted by the the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment. At the event the Honourable Minister Penelope Beckles formally welcomed the 75 delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean and posed several policy relevant questions for them to consider during their discussions. Other speakers were Mrs. Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida, Programme Director UNEP ROLAC; Dr. John Agard, Chairman of the Environmental Management Authority and Dr. David Rampersad, Director Business Development Centre.

The Objectives of the Consultation were:

- To inform the GEO stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean of the on-going GEO-4 process and receive necessary technical contributions and political backing in order to make it a better tool for policy-making.
- To review the scientific findings of the Caribbean Sea Assessment
- To review response options for the integrated management of the Caribbean Sea
- Discuss follow-up to the Caribbean Sea Assessment
- To develop regional contribution to the GEO-4 scenarios.
- To improve the quality of statistics used in environmental assessments in LAC by providing the GEO and CARSEA stakeholders with a training session on the GEO Global and LAC Data Portals

The Consultation was working towards accomplishing the following outcomes:

- Recommendations from the Latin America and Caribbean Region (LAC) to input into the draft of the Global Ecosystem Outlook 4 (GEO-4) chapters
- Improved understanding of the on-going GEO-4 process.
- Identification of and commitments to follow-up actions to the Caribbean Sea Assessment (a Sub-global assessment of the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)
- Regional scenario narratives as contribution to the GEO-4 Scenarios
- GEO and CARSEA stakeholders aware and capable of accessing and using statistics through a database, the GEO Global and LAC Data Portals