

Green Economy in South America (building up from MDG7)

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Quick Snapshot

- Economies dependent on commodities: mining, fisheries, forests, agriculture
- High urbanization level, 75% (80%, 2020); slums 25% of population
- Associated environmental and social problems



1990-2009: ADVANCES MADE IN REACHING MDG 7

- The consumption of ozone depleting substances has decreased significantly.
- The total coverage of protected areas has grown steadily over the last decade.
- The region has made progress in expanding the coverage of drinking water and sanitation services.



1990-2009: CHALLENGES

- The area covered by forests is decreasing in LAC. The deforestation rate is double the global rate (-6.97% v. -3.07% respectively).
- CO2 emissions from fossil fuel burning and cement production increased steadily. The bulk of CO2 emissions in the region are generated by land-use change.
- There is a lack of reliable information on specific issues essential to the region, such as water resources management, fisheries and endangered species. A systematic survey of information is needed.
- While the number of people living in slums declined in the period under analysis, the region is still home to more than 100 million people living in unacceptable conditions.



THE NEW CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO

- The region has contributed little to greenhouse gas emissions, but suffers - and will suffer in the future - disproportionately the effects of climate change. Already, evidence of the phenomenon is manifesting itself in the region: shrinkage of glaciers, coral reef bleaching, increased frequency of extreme events and changes in productivity of some crops are being recorded.
- Climate change reinforces the importance of the institutional challenge already set by Target 7.A -the integration of development principles into sector policies-, through the mainstreaming of its effects and its close relationship with the energy base of regional economies. It is evident that the climate issue, like other environmental problems, cannot be treated exclusively within environmental institutions, but needs to be considered on the productive development, social and infrastructure agendas.



GUIDELINES FOR ACTION TO REACH MDG 7:

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ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR THE ADAPTATION OF RELATIVE PRICES



<p>1. Internalize costs and promote green enterprises.</p>	<p>This can significantly contribute to Targets 7.A and 7.B, to reduce pressure on ecosystems and their resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and eliminate subsidies for activities that degrade the environment. • Adopt regulatory measures and instruments (fiscal, economic, etc.) to stimulate the efficient use of resources. • Strengthening, through financial, human and technological resources, control activities and monitoring. • Ensuring that mechanisms for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) are part of the market mechanisms of the climate regime. • Implement mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services. • Promote effective access and benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources, and from the technologies derived from their research. • The measures recommended by the Global Green New Deal (GGND).
<p>2. Using energy efficiently and developing alternative energy</p>	<p>Through its relation to climate change, energy issues directly and indirectly affect the indicators for Targets 7.A, B and C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide incentives to advance energy efficiency. • Develop and implement technologies that contribute to energy efficiency. • Implement permanent sustainable procurement procedures, aimed at energy efficiency. • Develop policies for energy efficiency in industries and buildings (housing). • Develop a regulatory framework to promote lower carbon intensity through energy efficiency and renewable energy development. • Taking steps on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. • Exploitation of methane from landfills.

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GUIDELINES FOR ACTION TO REACH MDG 7: ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR THE ADAPTATION OF RELATIVE PRICES

<p>1. Ensuring financial sustainability of services provision (water, sanitation and housing)</p>	<p>This is a fundamental issue, especially for the management of water services and sanitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving towards self-financing of service providers (be they public, private or mixed). • Implement effective subsidy systems that ensure low-income sectors of a basic minimum consumption of drinking water. • Link the solutions to the problems of potable water and sanitation with water management, including wastewater treatment. • Develop innovative funding mechanisms that allow public access to the housing market (microcredit, materials bank, collection of land by the state, housing cooperatives for mutual aid, etc.).
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Main Messages



- The currently prevailing development model has failed to overcome the problems of poverty and social exclusion in the region, and that it has neither managed to halt environmental degradation processes. This reality calls for making advances toward creating a different development model, one that ensures both the long-term welfare of the region's population and a local and global ecological balance.
- The international community's reaction to the twin challenges of the contemporary capitalism crisis and climate change points in that direction; the concept of "green growth" is gaining foothold. The region should adopt a proactive vision in this process and move towards new frontiers of growth that is less natural resources intensive, and brings more value-added and innovation.
- While the adjustment of the development model depends on the perseverance of the various stakeholders, whether they be from the public, private or civil society sectors, the State plays an important and unique role in creating the conditions that allow for and promote this adjustment.
- To more accurately assess the regional situation, thus allowing for appropriate public policy formulation, a systematic effort to collect relevant information, taking into account the internalization of environmental cost, is needed.

Dialogues on GE

- Coming up in Brazil, Chile and other countries
- Coordination with GEC and UN agencies
- Similar format to Taragram Yatra 2010
- Towards Rio + 20 and beyond