

Mesoamerican Environmental Sustainability Strategy



The **Mesoamerican Environmental Sustainability Strategy** (EMSA) is an initiative promoted within the Mesoamerican Development and Integration Project in coordination with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) with the purpose of increasing and strengthening the cooperation capacities in sustainable development in pursuit of improving the quality of life in the region.

Sustained by the leaders of the region, the Strategy represents a space of high-level political dialogue which has its own governance and Action Plan where the Mesoamerican countries have decided to work on three priorities:

- ✓ Biodiversity and forestry
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Sustainable competitiveness

The Strategy has been successful in attracting international cooperation agencies for the implementation of projects, working on a scheme of triangular cooperation. Specifically, agreements have been signed with the **German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)**, the **Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)**, the **government of Norway** and the **UN-REDD Programme**. Additionally, collaboration is under development with the **US Forest Service**, as well as the **Fish and Wildlife Service**.

EMSA was validated by the Ministers of Environment of the region in 2008, through the "Declaration of Campeche on the Mesoamerican Environmental Sustainability Strategy"; and finally endorsed by the Presidents of Mesoamerica in the X Tuxtla Summit, held in Villahermosa, Mexico, on 27 and 28 June of that year.



The Strategy pursues a calendar of activities for which it is constantly in search of new strategic partners and agencies that can contribute to the work in the region by promoting technical and scientific cooperation.

PM provides EMSA a unique mechanism where high level political decisions actually translates to technical efforts and therefore generates regional public goods.

EMSA has a Technical Secretariat which is composed of the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Executive Director of the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project (PM).

Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project (PM)

PM is a dialogue and coordination mechanism that articulates cooperation, development and integration efforts amongst the Mesoamerican region in order to improve the quality of life of its citizens. The Mesoamerican region is formed by 10 countries (Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic).

It was officially launched by Presidents and Heads of State and Government at Tenth Tuxtla Dialogue and Agreement Mechanism summit, celebrated in Tabasco, México, on June 27th and 28th, 2008.

WORK AREAS

Social Development

- Health
- Housing
- Environment
- Risk Management

Economic Development

- Energy
- Transport
- Telecommunications
- Competitiveness and trade facilitation

Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)

The Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) was created in 1989 by the Presidents of Central America and is composed of the heads of the ministries and agencies most directly responsible for environmental policy in each of the eight Central American countries.

The organization seeks to influence regional decision-makers by facilitating the exchange of information and by providing a forum in which different interest groups can address specific regional issues.

CCAD's principal mission is to promote policy coordination, develop new funding, build institutional capacities, make information available, and foster citizen participation in addressing the region's pressing environmental and development problems.