



LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION:

Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) programme contributes to inclusive and sustainable industrial development

Context

In the past 30 years, domestic material consumption in countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region increased by almost 100%, while material productivity increased only marginally, by some 4%. With resources becoming increasingly scarce, there is an urgent need for a shift towards sustainable industrial production. Industries need to bolster their long-term resilience in the face of the resource challenge, and governments and societies must raise awareness of resource-related risks, as well as available opportunities in the field.

Main approach

The overall objective of UNIDO's Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) programme is to increase the productivity and competitiveness of industry in an environmentally sound and inclusive manner, preparing small and medium-sized enterprises for the challenges of competing on international markets. It is essential that the improved resource efficiency and environmental performance of enterprises are scaled-up and mainstreamed. The programme focuses on the expansion and further development of the network of service providers; mainstreaming RECP in government policy and enterprise financing; and, enabling RECP innovation in products and technologies.

UNIDO is helping countries in the region to improve resource efficiency through low-carbon production, sound management of chemicals and chemicals waste, integrated municipal waste management, e-waste, and through the launch of innovative business models and the initiation of eco-industrial parks.

The RECP regional programme was launched in Havana, Cuba, in March 2003. It now unites 15 countries that support local industries in adopting RECP methods, policies and techniques. The programme helps disseminate best practices, organize professional training, conduct in-plant assessments, and support policy change and technology

transfer. The National Cleaner Production Centres enhance industrial efficiency and sustainable production by applying preventive environmental techniques for the productive use of natural resources, the minimization of waste and emissions, and the development of human capital. The RECP regional programme is now part of the Global RECPnet, which is supported by UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Impact and results

More than 5,000 companies in the region have benefited from direct programme support and as a result have achieved considerable resource savings and waste reduction, e.g. some 61,463 million cubic-metres of water; over 856,000 MWh of electricity; 81,252 tons of waste; and 652,420 tons of CO₂ emissions saved. In addition, 54,000 people have been exposed to RECP training and information events, and national policies for cleaner production have been adopted in most of the 15 participating countries.

At a glance

Project title: The global resource efficient and cleaner production programme: Application in LAC region
Duration: 2003-2013
Countries involved: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru.
Budget: USD 8 million
Donors: Austria and Switzerland (SECO)

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