

4/28/2008

Greetings Task Force Members, Partners, National Focal Points and Civil Society Organizations! The PISLM Support Office will like to provide an update on decisions made at two important environmental meetings in the Region with respect to the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM).

### [The XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

The Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC), in emailed letter dated January 15 2008, invited the Coordinator of the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) for the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the SIDS Consultation at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. This meeting was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008 at the Hotel El Embajador. The Coordinator was invited with the view of presenting an update of the progress made in the implementation of the PISLM in the Caribbean SIDS and sponsored by UNEP.

The meeting with the Ministers of Environment of the Small Island Development States (SIDS) of the Caribbean took place to enable the exchange of points of views on environmental priority topics of the sub-region, particularly Partnership and Sustainable Land Management, vulnerability to climate change, the evaluation of Caribbean ecosystems, and in general, the progress made in the implementation of the SIDS Programme.

A presentation was made during the Caribbean SIDS session on the PISLM on the current ongoing activities, in an effort to build linkages with the relevant entities.

### Decisions pertaining to the PISLM

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Governments present at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the deliberations of this Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, adopted the following decisions:

#### Decision 5: Small Island Developing States

*Acknowledging also the contribution made by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and other regional and international organizations including inter alia, the GM/UNCCD, the UNCCD Secretariat, FAO and UNEP/ROLAC to the development of the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management as part of the Caribbean SIDS Programme;*

*9. The request to UNEP, GM/UNCCD, FAO and UNCCD Secretariat to continue supporting the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management as a main component of the Caribbean SIDS Programme as a vehicle for enhancing synergistic implementation of related MEAs.*

### Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)

The PISLM Coordinator was invited to the Twenty-Fifth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) [Environment], in Guyana from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. This meeting took place at the Guyana International Conference Centre, Greater Georgetown.

A joint presentation was made by UNEP and CNIRD during the 'Meeting of Officials' on the progress regarding the Caribbean SIDS Programme. A progress report on the implementation of the PISLM was presented by the PISLM Coordinator as part of the Caribbean SIDS Programme, where it was indicated that the PISLM will seek to involve rural communities and seek to address rural development and poverty alleviation. UNEP repeated the presentation during the Ministerial Session with technical assistance from the PISLM Coordinator.

Decisions pertaining to the PISLM from the Draft Summary of Recommendations and Conclusions:

The COTED:

Noted the relevant decisions of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular Decision 5 of the Sustainable Development of SIDS;

Acknowledged and thanked the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) Support Office through the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD), and encouraged their continued institutional and technical support;

Recommended the continued institutional and technical support from the International Community and UN entities such as UNEP, GM/UNCCD and FAO as well as other relevant regional and international organizations;

Agreed that the PISLM should be used as the framework for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Land Management components of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the MSI/BPOA in Caribbean SIDS, to the extent practicable, and also urged all Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to support and participate actively in this initiative, particularly as it seeks to address issues relating to rural development and poverty alleviation in the rural sector in Caribbean SIDS.

On a closing note, the PISLM Support Office will like to sincerely thank UNEP for its assistance and support at the COTED [Environment] meeting. We look forward to future PISLM successes and involvement from the various stakeholders. Thank you for taking the time to read this PISLM update!

Sincerely yours,

Leandra Sebastien  
PISLM Coordinator