



Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Uruguay
UNIDOS EN LA ACCIÓN

URUGUAY ONE UN COHERENCE FUND

Annual Progress Report

Reporting period: July 2008 – December 2008

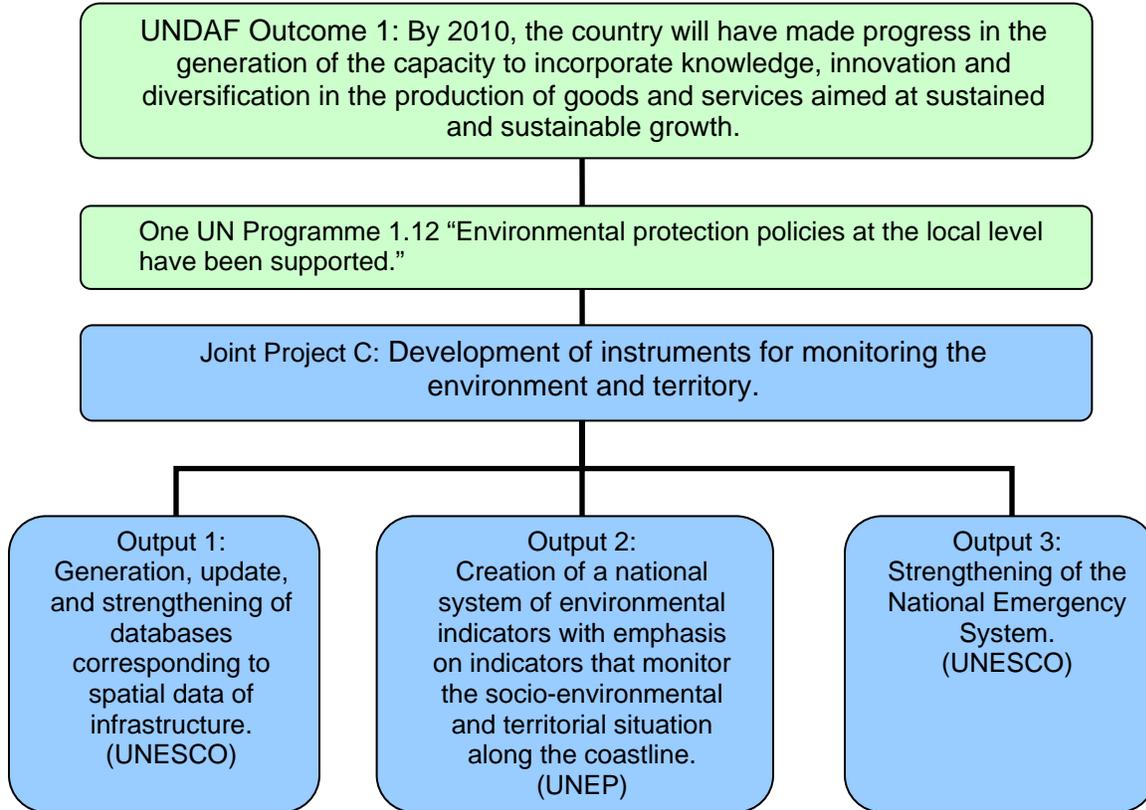
Joint Programme Number:	66243 (Other: C)		
Joint Programme Title:	Development of instruments for monitoring the environment and territory.		
Participating UN Organization(s):	UNEP and UNESCO	Cluster / Priority Area:	Environment and climate change response
Implementing Partner(s):	Office of Planning and Budget (OPP) Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (MTO) Ministry of Housing, Land Use Planning, and Environment (MVOTMA) National Emergency System (SNE)		

I. PURPOSE

Programme Description:	<p>This project was developed as one of the objectives of the One UN Programme 2007-2010 “Building Capacities for Development” in Uruguay.</p> <p>This project supports the policies for environmental protection through the development of monitoring instruments that incorporate socio-economic, environmental, and territorial indicators at the national scale along with a strong component on the Uruguayan coast. It also strengthens the National Emergency System with information and data to improve its operations, decision making ability, and management.</p>
Development Goal:	UNDAF 1. By 2010, the country will have made progress in the generation of the capacity to incorporate knowledge, innovation and diversification in the production of goods and services aimed at sustained and sustainable growth.
Outcome:	One UN Programme 1.12 “Environmental protection policies at the local level have been supported.”
Outputs and Key Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generation, update, and strengthening of databases corresponding to spatial data of infrastructure. 2. Creation of a national system of environmental indicators with emphasis on indicators that monitor the socio-environmental and territorial situation along the coastline. 3. Strengthening of the National Emergency System.



Outputs for the Joint Project C and their relation to the One UN Programme and the UNDAF



II. RESOURCES

Participating UN Organization(s)	Approved Joint Programme Budget	Approved Disbursements (2008)
UNEP	220,099	73,766
UNESCO	401,571	144,022
Total:	US\$ 621,670	US\$ 217,788



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III. RESULTS

Major progress was made in relation to the goals set for the first semester of work. All indicated activities were performed. Moreover, the project's "side effects" were extremely positive; particularly, cooperation increased among United Nations System (UNS) Agencies (UNEP and UNESCO for this Project) as well as government institutions, and the needed information for indicators was shared. This cooperation needs to be taken a step further and formalized at higher levels of government in order to secure the sustainability of the process, but a good foundation was established.

A workshop was done in cooperation between (UNEP and UNESCO) on coastal indicators for integrated coastal management, and included the participation of two experts from UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) whose participation was partially funded by UNEP with funds from this project.

Regular meetings with government officials acting as focal points for this project were essential to the achievement of good coordination and synergies. These types of meetings should also be held during the construction of the annual work plans.

The involvement of high level government officials (or possibility of communicating key issues to them through their representatives) was important in order to overcome the obstacles that emerged through the coordination. Particularly, cooperative work between the government institutions increased and effectively functioned to address the issues brought to them.

As the project progressed, a common realization among the Governmental institutions was reached. It was recognized that Government institutions needed to jointly decide how their organizations should share environmental data (what information, what platform, how often, who is responsible within each institution) in order to give sustainability to the joint project's efforts (geo-maps linked to roads and land use maps as well as to a system of environmental indicators).

The geographical or geo-spatial information and the possibility to index the different data gathered represent a very useful tool in planning the social, economic and environmental development of the country. Their application can be extended to territorial planning, environment, natural disasters, social emergencies, economic development. In the private sector, their use can become very important for decision making and policy-making decisions.

Output 1: Generation, update, and strengthening of databases corresponding to spatial data of infrastructure. (UNESCO)

All planned activities were conducted to achieve the outputs and outcomes of the Joint Project as programmed. Advances were made in the study of national and Departmental roads; the information was gathered by the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (MTO, for its acronym in Spanish); however, it will be used by the Ministry of Housing, Land Use Planning, and Environment (MVOTMA for its acronym in Spanish) depicting the different levels of cooperation that are generated by this Joint Project. Progress in the coverage and classification of land use was also made; this work was also done in collaboration with several government



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agencies. Finally, capacity building as well as institutional and infrastructure strengthening were major outputs for 2008.

Different activities were undertaken during this semester:

- Experts to help with data gathering and analysis were recruited.
- Foreign experts collaborated with the project providing technical know how; specialists came from the UNESCO's IOC; and experts from the region came to in part a course on Remote Sensing.
- Workshops for capacity building were held; they were open to different stakeholders such as: a Remote Sensing Course (32 hours, 15 participants; MGAP (RENAR)-MVOTMA (DINAMA, DINOT, ECOPLATA)). The objectives of these courses were fulfilled, mostly strengthening capacities at the national and Departmental levels, and new networks among Departmental staff and national staff were built during this process.

Output 2: Creation of a national system of environmental indicators with emphasis on indicators that monitor the socio-environmental and territorial situation along the coastline. (PNUMA)

All the planned workshops and courses were conducted. The topic of the first workshop (October 14) was “environmental, socioeconomic and land use planning indicators”. More than 70 experts and staff from 27 governmental and non governmental institutions attended. The workshops discussed the main constraints that institutions have, comments were gathered from participants on the national indicators system, and agreements were reached.

The second workshop (October 22 and 23) was organized in coordination with UNESCO, and included the participation of 2 experts from UNESCO's IOC whose participation was partially funded by UNEP with funds from this project. About 70 experts and government staff from 22 institutions from the municipal and national levels attended the workshop.

A workshop/course on “the design of sustainable development indicators and its use in decision making” was conducted in November (24 and 25) outside the capital city with the participation of 40 people from 17 institutions from local municipalities and the national government. An expert from Costa Rica, with a long lasting relationship as a consultant for UNEP, designed and conducted the workshop/course. The networks generated at these workshops are essential to strengthening municipal institutions in the topic of this project.

Progress was made in the construction of methodological sheets (metadata) in a participatory manner, consulting with all government institutions involved or with interest in the outcomes of this project. Several meetings were carried forward with the divisions that hold the information necessary for the construction of the National Environmental Indicators System. A shortlist of methodological sheets was presented for discussion. This list is the result of contacts with multiple government institutions that hold the information, a desk review of methodological sheets used regionally and internationally, the discussion of information needs in the country, and conclusions drawn from workshops and courses conducted during the semester. The shortlist constitutes the backbone of the definite list of indicators that will be measured for the National System of Environmental Indicators.



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Workshops, particularly those with international experts, are an important part of the strengthening institutional capacities component of this project. A lesson learned from the workshop conducted with IOC experts, and in participation with the expert in charge of the workshop/course, is that early contacts, consultations, planning and engagement by the consultant with the process are essential for the success of the workshop. The success of the workshop/course conducted by the Costa Rican expert was based on a detailed planning and tailoring of the course to the needs of the project and the profiles of the participants.

Output 3: Strengthening of the National Emergency System. (UNESCO)

A course was held on the explanation and elaboration of emergency plans and inter-institutional protocols (National Emergency System [SNE for its acronym in Spanish], 22 participants from the rest of the country). The objectives of this course were fulfilled, strengthening capacities at the national and municipal levels, and new networks among municipal staff and national staff were built during this process.

A constraint encountered was the short time in which the governmental agencies have to implement their objectives; this becomes even more so pronounced when they do not have too much experience in working together. An important lesson learned refers to the fact that, although meetings are time consuming and people do not like them, it is through holding meetings that the different agencies can coordinate the gathering of the information, how they are going to use it, and which are the outputs needed to attain an efficient spatial data infrastructure that is useful for all the governmental agencies involved.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

The work plan for the next two semesters has had no significant changes from the one signed in joint project document.

Continue efforts on building partnerships with the institutions that hold data on the national and coastal indicators system. Closer coordination with institutions working under this project is seen as key for the next two semesters and actions have been taking towards improving this issue.