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Pollutant Release and Transfer Register in Central America



**Central American Commission on
Environment and Development
(CCAD)**

**United Nations for Training and Research
(UNITAR)**

PRTR-MOPP-1

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Background

At regional level, the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) is the entity of the Central American Integration System (SICA) in charge of the environmental agenda.

The CCAD, conformed by the Ministers of Environment of Central America and the Dominican Republic, has a unit of Environmental Quality Management, under which it implements actions for the sound management of chemicals. For example, under this Commission, the region has agreed on a Central American Policy on Health and the Environment (2002), a Regional Agro-Environmental and Health Strategy (for the period 2009-2024), and a Sub-Regional Plan for the Comprehensive Management of Potentially Hazardous Chemicals.



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The Central American Environmental Plan 2010-2014, approved by CCAD Council of Ministers, has 4 Strategic Areas:

1. Environmental Governance: the incidence and transversal nature of regional policies.
2. **Strengthening national institutionalism and quality environmental management.**
3. Natural resource and priority eco-system management.
4. Adaptation and mitigation for climate change and comprehensive risk management.



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In the 1st area, there is a strategic objective: *1.3 Promote citizen participation and public/private partnerships*; that includes as an area of action: *Promote a regional agreement on accessing information, equal and fair public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental issues.*

In the 2nd area, there is another strategic objective: *2.4 Promote efforts to reduce contamination*; that it has, as an area of action: *Implement a **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register** in the region.*



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The CCAD Council of Ministers in the XLI Ordinary Meeting in January, 2007 in Belize, agreed:

- Reaffirm the central american commitment to achieve chemical security (2020 objective) acquired in Johannesburg Summit and reaffirm in the Dubai Declaration.
- Request CCAD coordination with UNITAR to get support for strengthening national and regionals capacities for implementing HGS and PRTR.



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Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic have carried out assessments of existing infrastructure for PRTR implementation and have begun designing national PRTR systems, with support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Agency for Environmental Protection (USEPA), CCAD and UNITAR.

Belize and Panama plan to initiate a national PRTR design project this year. Additionally, the eight countries of the region are making efforts this year to design and implement a regional PRTR system with technical support of UNITAR.



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Thank you very much!

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