PAN AMERICAN NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
WASTE MANAGEMENT

REPAMAR

PROYECT No. 98.2073.9-002.00

FINAL REPORT
THIRD PHASE

December, 2002
I  INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the activities developed by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (PAHO/CEPIS) during the third and last phase of the Pan American Network for Environmental Waste Management (REPAMAR) (PN 98.2073.9), sponsored by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). It covers the period from 2000 to 2002.

Eight countries participated in the Network: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, México, Panama, and Peru. Regional coordination was made by the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC), composed of the national networks, GTZ, and PAHO/CEPIS. The main advisor was the GTZ Representative, who works in Peru and accompanied the Network since October 1999 until December 2002.

The development of REPAMAR activities has had the cooperation of many actors, the set up of institutional arrangements with different sectors, and the implementation of multidisciplinary approaches to reach local solutions that meet local needs and interests. This way of working was oriented towards knowledge exchange, learning and self-analysis processes, and conditioning to local situations.

During the last phase, REPAMAR has consolidated its own identity and has gained valuable experiences in network methodologies and mechanisms.

The Grant Agreement between GTZ and PAHO/CEPIS for the third and last phase was signed almost when it was about to conclude. For this reason, funds required to support the activities planned by the national networks were not available.

II  OBJECTIVE AND RESULTS

The REPAMAR objective for the third phase (2000 - 2002) was:

"Networks have been strengthened and they contribute to reduce waste generation and make environmentally final disposal of wastes".

The results to be achieved were:

1. The sustainability of national networks has been strengthened and they have the capability to implement alliances and cooperation agreements on waste management.
2. The Regional Coordinating Committee coordinates decision-making processes among networks and the implementation of pilot projects according to technical cooperation procedures.
3. National networks have access to updated and relevant information on waste management through PAHO/CEPIS and receive support according to their information needs.
4. The national and regional pilot projects are developed and have wide dissemination, improving environmentally sound management of wastes.

Responsibility for results 1, 2, and 4 was assigned to the national networks, under the coordination of the GTZ main advisor, who was in a long term mission in Peru.
Responsibility for the result 3 was assigned to PAHO/CEPIS, which prepared an operative plan and implemented a monitoring and evaluation system.

III ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY PAHO/CEPIS

RESULT 3:

National networks have access to updated and relevant information on waste management through PAHO/CEPIS and receive support according to their information needs.

For this result, the following activities were carried out:

1. Coordination, preparation and distribution of two CD-ROMs with information on hazardous wastes and products, and pesticides used in households.

   a. Virtual Library on Hazardous Wastes and Products

   The target audiences of the CD-ROM are public and private institutions, universities, professionals, and civil organizations interested in hazardous waste management. It contains basic full text documents, cards and guidelines about hazardous products, national and regional diagnoses and inventories on hazardous and toxic wastes, legal aspects, hazardous waste generators, contamination effects, health impact, management issues, and glossaries. A directory of institutions related to the topic is also included.

   b. Virtual Library on Pesticides Used in Households

   This CD-ROM was prepared to facilitate wide dissemination of information related to toxics, advocating the right to know. It compiles a collection of full texts on active ingredients, safety sheets, pest control, and alternative use of domestic pesticides. It also includes a directory of toxicological centers, journal collections, and legal aspects on pesticides used in households.

Both CD-ROMs have been distributed among members of the national networks participating in REPAMAR.

2. Information management system based on REPIDISCA and development of tools for REPAMAR national networks.
The REPAMAR Virtual Library has been implemented to promote the Network and the activities of the participating actors.

There are approximately 2,000 full text documents on wastes available in the REPAMAR Virtual Library.

The number of users has increased gradually. From January 2000 to December 2002, the REPAMAR Virtual Library has been visited by more than 46,000 users.

The REPAMAR Virtual Library is dynamic and is updated regularly.

About 320 professionals of the Region participate in the REPAMAR discussion list.

Six member countries of REPAMAR have a homepage, through which their activities are disseminated periodically.

A WebBoard has been implemented to strengthen national networks and facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge, creating conference rooms, virtual lectures, chat, and electronic bulletins among others.

3. Technical assistance for the development of activities.

The following tasks were supported:

a) Strategic alliance with the National Electrical Manufacturing Association (NEMA) for the regional project on environmentally sound management of cells and batteries.

b) Collection of results of the activities and projects developed by the national networks and financed directly by the GTZ.

c) Support the different activities carried out by the national networks.

d) Disseminate the experiences of the national networks.

e) Facilitate, at the regional level, the debate to harmonize standards and regulations related to the environment.

f) Support the planning and organization of national and regional seminars.

g) Organize the contest for the REPAMAR logo.

h) Prepare the procedure manual.

i) Prepare the operating manual for the national and regional sites.

j) Prepare the WebBoard operating manual.

k) Prepare the REPAMAR final report (1990 – 2002)

l) Prepare the REPAMAR brochure.

m) Participate and support the meetings of the Regional Coordinating Committee held in Quito (Ecuador), Lima (Peru), Buenos Aires (Argentina), and Gramado (Brazil).
The report describes the activities carried out by REPAMAR during 1990 to 2002. It contains 32 pages and is being distributed to the participating countries of the Network and international agencies.

IV MAIN LIMITATIONS

a) Delay in signing the Grant Agreement between GTZ and PAHO/CEPIS. For this reason, funds required to support the activities planned by the national networks were not available.
b) Financial sustainability is the critical issue among national networks. Cooperation agreements with other institutions are still pending.
c) Most of the national networks have a centralized management approach in the capital city of the countries.
d) National network continuation and stability is insecure because the leadership is in the hands of governmental and municipal institutions (Ecuador, México, Panama, and Peru), which has a negative impact on the National Coordinating Centers because they have to wait for the ratification of authorities or the responsible for the network.
e) There was not income generation or funds from other donor agencies; REPAMAR depended on GTZ finance only.

V CONCLUSIONS

a) The result and activities assigned to PAHO/CEPIS in REPAMAR have been achieved successfully.
b) REPAMAR has consolidated its own identity.
c) National networks mobilize the potential of the institutions that form part of them.
d) Limited resources available were used efficiently.
e) The REPAMAR Virtual Library is updated regularly and it is an important tool to promote and disseminate the activities of the Network.
f) Technical documents have had wide dissemination.

VI RECOMMENDATIONS

a) After the GTZ financial support, PAHO/CEPIS should continue the support to strengthen REPAMAR objective in the Region, especially communication among member countries should be reinforced.
b) Contact among institutions and information exchange should increase.
c) National networks should identify finance mechanisms to mobilize internal and external resources to implement further activities.