



Science, Education, and Policy
for People



www.cathalac.org

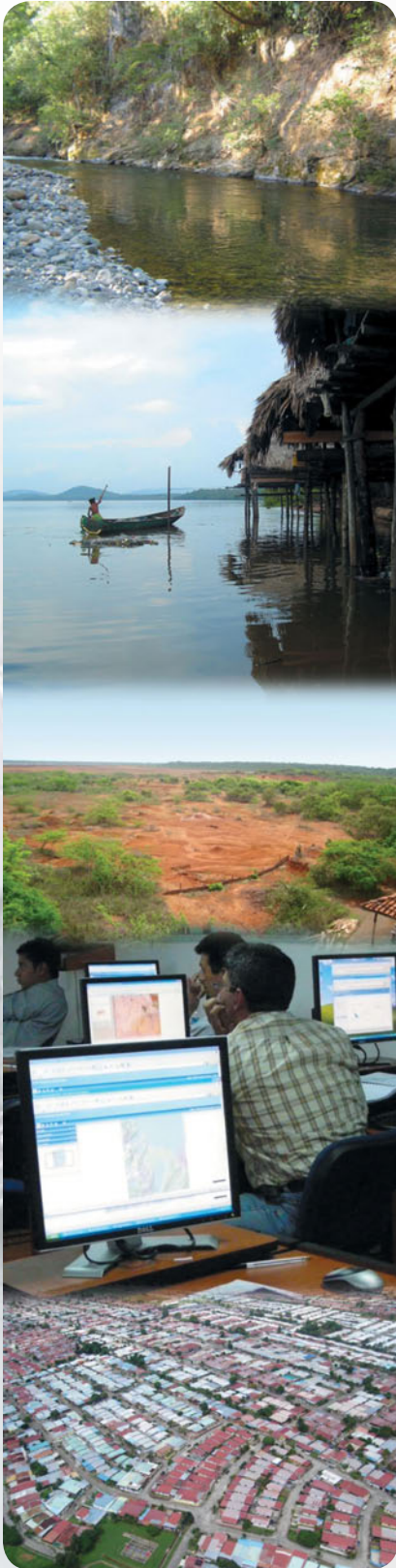
Mission

To promote integrated watershed management in Latin America and the Caribbean through applied research, education and technology transfer.



Vision

A prosperous Latin American and the Caribbean region with a sustainable environmental heritage.



Established in 1992, CATHALAC is an international organization at the service of the humid tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean. Its objective is to promote sustainable development through applied research and development, education and technology transfer on water resources and the environment, facilitating the means to improve the quality of life in countries of the humid tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean.

CATHALAC is recognized as a center of excellence for its scientific, technical and educational agenda which is comprised of four thematic areas of work:

- A. Integrated Watershed Management
- B. Climate Change
- C. Environmental Modeling and Analysis
- D. Risk Management

Participation in CATHALAC's projects, programs and activities is open to all countries of the humid tropics in Latin America and the Caribbean; as well as all nations outside of the region, intergovernmental, non governmental, private and philanthropic organizations, including individuals interested in supporting the scientific, technical and educational agenda or the programmatic activities of the Center.

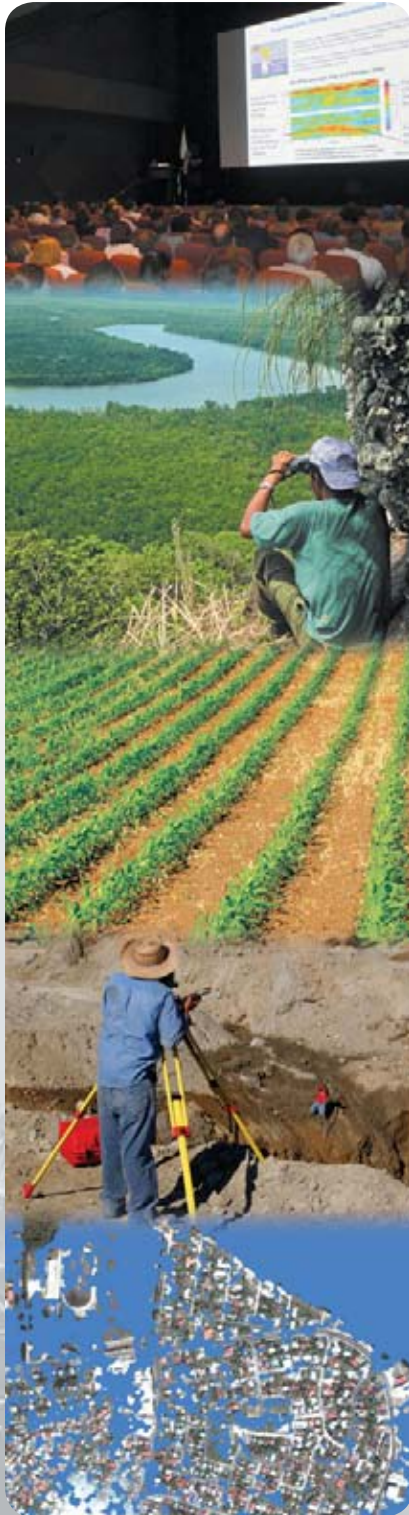
CATHALAC is made up of the following decision making bodies

- Executive Council
- the Directorate General
- the Scientific, Technical, and Educational Advisory Committee
- the Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee

CATHALAC's functional structure is comprised of five Divisions

- Applied Research and Development Division
- Education Division
- Information Technology & Communication Division
- Development and International Cooperation Division
- Administration and Finance Division

Specialized Services that CATHALAC Provides



Natural Resources Management

- Integrated watershed management
- Water resources management
- Geographic information systems applications and landscape analysis
- Land use planning

Environmental Monitoring

- Environmental teledetection
- Monitoring ecosystem health
- Crops monitoring
- Forestry inventories
- Coastal zones monitoring
- Environmental impact analyses and monitoring
- Fishing resources monitoring
- Climate monitoring and creating scenarios
- Environmental risks identification, analysis and assessment
- Infrastructure monitoring
- Risks status visualization

Information and Communication Networks Management

- Information systems design and development
- Technical assistance and advisory service for online mapping applications
- Technical assistance and advisory service on environmental monitoring systems implementation
- Regional Visualization and Monitoring System (SERVIR) Operation and Maintenance

Education

- Regional Master's degree in Earth Observation and Geographic Information Systems
- Regional Master's degree in Watershed Management
- Regional Master's degree in Climate Change
- Regional Specialized Courses and Diplomas in themes related to Environmental Management

Technological Platform

Our Center is served by the most modern system of communications and information technologies. These include fiber optic connectivity of 10 Megabits per second (Mbps); online and redundant servers with 20 Terabytes (TB) capacity; a modern system for information management, support, and protection; a suite of geographic information systems (GIS) software, as well as a management information system; a centralized telephone system with more than 100 direct virtual lines; voice and fax communications which automatically are forwarded to the electronic mail of the addressed person, and remote retrieval of voice messages from any place in the world.



With support from NASA, CATHALAC operates the Regional Visualization and Monitoring System (SERVIR)

CATHALAC's International Educational Programs

Empowerment
Knowledge
Excellence
Leadership

CATHALAC's professional career development programs are exceptionally relevant to today's needs. CATHALAC is committed to form professionals capable of responding with academic excellence which takes into account different multidisciplinary approaches resulting in an integrative vision, to both the regional challenges and the opportunities related to Integrated Watershed Management; Climate Change; Environmental Modeling and Analysis; and Risk Management.

Professional Capacity Building Program

Courses for Career Success!

Throughout the year, CATHALAC offers regional and international specialized courses and diplomas in themes related to our organization's four thematic areas of work. CATHALAC's Regional Training Center and its ongoing training process, promote institutional strengthening in the region, and reinforce the capacities of technicians, specialists, decision makers, private companies, governmental, and non-governmental organizations in order to achieve sustainable development in the region.

Regional Postgraduate School

Preparing Professionals for Changes we can not ignore! Postgraduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

CATHALAC and the United Nations University International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU- INWEH) are launching a UN Water Virtual Learning

Center (WVLC) that will offer a postgraduate diploma on IWRM. The main purpose of the WVLC is to improve the water resource management and water services of the Latin America and the Caribbean region to improve training and education in the water sector.

Regional Master's degree in Climate Change. This postgraduate program is designed from the perspective of the Latin American reality, in order to train professionals capable of developing solutions to reduce vulnerability, propose adaptation measures and mitigation strategies customized to the local context.

Regional Master's degree in Earth Observation and Geographic Information Systems.

The primary objective of this postgraduate program is to strengthen current regional professional capacity for natural resources assessment and management to better support decision-making processes within the national agendas, for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Regional Master's degree in Integrated Watershed Management. This postgraduate program is an interdisciplinary area of study that is designed to provide both professional training in watershed science and management as well as to understand watershed processes and their interrelationships at a landscape level.

Internship Program

Professional experience in an international setting!

CATHALAC receives interns from all over the world. Traditional interns have carried out their professional experience by putting into practice the knowledge they have acquired in the classroom in order to develop real solutions and products. The Internship Program offers students the opportunity to contribute to CATHALAC's mission and vision, while developing professional experience through cultural immersion in an international setting.

All postgraduate programs are taught in Spanish and in a virtual platform via Internet with minimum on campus presence. The platform is designed to facilitate the exchange of applied knowledge and to promote collaborative learning among participants from different countries. The skills and knowledge gained in the offered programs make the participants competitive professionals for leadership positions in government agencies, private companies, international organizations, NGOs, consulting firms, and also educational and research institutions. CATHALAC takes pride in its students' pursuit of personal growth, professional career development and excellence. CATHALAC's education programs translate into success through the energy and enthusiasm that students, along with our staff, bring to their individual and community endeavors.

www.cathalac.org/educacion



Milestones in CATHALAC's International Performance

CATHALAC has acquired a series of long term responsibilities, related to its climate change, environmental and water resources management, which have been taken on in the context of Summits, Conferences, Forums and regional, bilateral and multilateral initiatives, for the benefit of the Latin American and the Caribbean, constituting itself as the:

- Ibero-American Center for the Analysis of Emerging Environmental Problems and Climate Change for the Mesoamerican and the Caribbean Region, designated by the Ibero-American Forum of Environmental Ministers;
- United Nations Water Virtual Learning Centre (WVLC) for the Latin American and the Caribbean region;
- Resources Center of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- Participating organization in the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observation (GEO);
- Implementer of the Regional Visualization and Monitoring System (SERVIR);
- Regional Project Manager for the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters;
- Coordinator of the regional Latin America and Caribbean Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems (EOS), designated by the Latin America and Caribbean Ministers of the Environment during the XV UNEP Ministerial Forum;
- Regional Node for the Mesoamerican Environmental Information System (SIAM);
- Implementer of the regional Environmental Information System in the participating countries of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR)
- Regional Hub of data servers for the following:
 - Emergency Operation Center - Developed by Office of Humanitarian Assistance of the Southern Command of the United States;
 - The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - Interamerican Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN).
- Associated Center of the Interamerican Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).
- Manager for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) GEONETCast satellite receiver.
- Manager for the NASA MODIS satellite receiver
- Implementer for the Natural Disasters Risk Management Territorial Information System, as agree upon in the Tenth Presidential Summit on the Tuxtla Dialogue and Agreements Mechanisms, held on June 28, 2008 at Campeche, Mexico.



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