Promoting Innovation in the Green Economy by including Quality Infrastructure
Objective

The project aims to improve the conditions for the development of the Green Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean by supporting the development of new and improved Quality Infrastructure (QI) services relevant for the Green Economy, defined as an economy which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.

Approach

In order to support the transition process towards a Green Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean, the project focuses on three key areas: Based on a primary assessment of the needs of Green Economy stakeholders for QI services, project activities promote cooperation between actors of the Green Economy and QI Institutions so as to eventually support the improvement and development of QI for the Green Economy. The methodical approach encompasses technical and organizational consultancy, capacity building and the organization of national and regional awareness raising and cooperation processes.

Relevant QI services may include measurement and testing services to support the development of new technologies, innovative products and monitoring systems. Also, the project promotes the elaboration of new standards and certifications for management systems, persons, products and services, and accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories, as well as for certification, inspection or verification bodies. Possible intervention areas vary from waste management and recycling, sustainable cities and mobility, clean production, global value chains, to green buildings and green tourism.

An Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the regional organizations of metrology (Inter-American Metrology System, SIM), standardization (Pan American Standards Commission, COPANT) and accreditation (Inter American Accreditation Cooperation, IAAC) as well as representatives of relevant organizations in the field of the Green Economy such as United Nations Agencies and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ECLAC advises the planning and implementation process.

Impact

The promotion of the Green Economy is highly relevant for the rapidly growing economies in Latin America and the Caribbean, both in order to orient their growth in a sustainable way and to stay competitive in a dynamic international environment. Moreover, the region stands out for its exceptional biodiversity, its importance for the global climate as its forests play a significant role in the global carbon budget, but also because of its increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

By improving and developing new QI services, the project fosters the technical foundation for the development of the Green Economy in the region. It strengthens the partner institutions and the relevant regional networks. In addition, it furthers the inclusion of quality-related aspects in the relevant initiatives of the Green Economy and, thus, contributes to its development. By systematically passing on experiences and entertaining continuous relations with the stakeholders of the Green Economy such as international organizations, regional and national political initiatives and small and medium enterprises, QI institutions (national metrology institutes, standardization institutes and accreditation bodies as well as their regional technical organizations) can extend and improve their service offer in a targeted manner according to the Green Economy’s requirements. Finally, QI allows to increase the quality of products and services of the Green Economy and to develop innovative solutions with the support of quality assuring services.

Cooperation

The project aims to coordinate its activities closely with other donors active in the region in the area of Green Economy and Quality Infrastructure.

Financing

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Duration

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