



Report on the Stockholm+50 National Consultation in Cuba

May 31st, 2022

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1. National Consultation at a Glance

Please enter the basic information about the consultation.

In-person or hybrid national consultation

Consultation dates (list the dates of all individual events if more than one event was conducted)	In-person national consultations on: 29 April ; 5,6 11 and 12 May + territorial consultations at the provinces (May)
Lead national partner(s) / focal point(s): title and institution	Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA)
Type(s) of consultation (in-person, virtual, hybrid)	Hybrid process. In person as previously referred, with a virtual process through the Sparkblue platform
Geographic focus (national, provincial, local)	National, provincial, municipal, local
Total number of hours in live sessions (provide one cumulative number in case of several events)	25-30 hours
Live streaming (Yes/No)	No
Link to the recording(s)	N/A

Total number of participants	1629 (in-person events + data from 5 territories, so far)
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Number of participants by age range											
0-18	319	19-30	348	31-50	432	51-65	357	66-80	136	80+	37

Number of participants by gender				
Male	803	Female	826	Other/prefer not to say

Number of participants from each stakeholder group			
Government – National	35	Science, Academia	150
Government – Local	335	Foundation, philanthropy	
United Nations	8	Women and Women Groups	123
International Financial Institution		Youth	570
Bilateral / Foreign Governments	2	Local Community	223
NGO – International		Faith-based groups	2
NGO / CSO – national	69	Indigenous Peoples	
Private sector (large)		People with disabilities	5
Small and Medium Business	19	Other	88
Consumer Group			

Number of participants from each sector					
Agriculture & Food	20	Forestry	2	Media	12

Cities	6	Government	113	Tourism	17
Education	618	Green energy	2	Traditional Energy	18
Environment	298	ICT	20	Trade & Commerce	13
Extractives	21	Industry	1	Transport	1
Finance & Investment	4	Infrastructure	48	Utilities	0
Fisheries & Aquaculture		Health	52	Other	363

Government participation			
Office of President / Prime Minister		Ministry of Planning / Economy / Finance	2
Parliament		Ministry of Environ-t / Nature Resources	126
Cabinet of Ministers		Ministry of Energy	2
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1	Ministry of Agriculture & Food	4
Local Governments	143	Line Ministries (other)	7

SparkBlue On-line Consultations

Launch date	April 19th, 2022
Consultation length (total number of weeks)	6
Total number of participants	91
Number of thematic discussions supported	3 leadership dialogues + 1 local context
Total number of comments in the online discussion	+80
Link to consultation page	https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-cuba

2. Consultation Process including Gender Responsiveness and Inclusivity

Please provide a description of the consultation process and timeline that reflects the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach used including:

- What preparatory meetings were organized over what time period and when was the main consultation; were they in-person, virtual or a combination, where did they take place?
- Who were the main national and international stakeholders and speakers invited and what sectors/themes/institutions were represented?
- What other national and sector policy consultation processes were involved or referenced including NDCs, NBSAPs, INFFs, SDG Strategies, Green/Blue Economy and Green Recovery Plans, etc.?
- How was the consultation promoted in advance, during and afterward through communications and media?

A baseline document with the key topics to be discussed, based on the policies and institutional and legal framework of the country was prepared for the national process.

Consultation began on April 19 with a notification sent by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment to all provinces. An online meeting was held on April 29 with the participation of the provinces of Pinar del Río, Havana, Mayabeque, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Ávila, Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo and the Special Municipality of the Isle of Youth. All territories, municipal and territorial governments were encouraged to organize and carry out their own activities and initiatives and several reports were received. For example, the Isle of Youth reported that meetings were held with different sectors in the territory, exchanging views with 217 students and 213 workers, making up a total of 430 persons from 17 institutions and municipal labor commissions.

This was facilitated by the virtual platform created for this purpose (SparkBlue). Four areas of consultation, following the three lines of the Leadership Dialogues were developed and an integrated line focused on the national context was added. The virtual process was carried out with 91 participants and over 80 comments were made.

Face-to-face consultations nationwide were held on May 5 (civil society), May 6 (state institutions), May 11 (economic stakeholders) and May 12 (all the previously mentioned stakeholders, as well as provincial representatives). Consultations held promoted the implementation of the existing legal framework, particularly the Constitution (2019), which establishes the civil right to a healthy and balanced environment. Discussions included the National Environmental Strategy; the State Action Plan on Climate Change; the Nationally Determined Contribution (updated in 2020), the National Circular Economy Strategy of the country, as well as actions for the implementation of the SDGs. Different guiding documents of the national policy were taken into consideration.

Organizations of the following sectors participated: agriculture, renewable energies, natural and medical sciences, social communication and community-based care, as well as youth, religious, student, trade union, and caring for the elderly organizations. Representatives of the following sectors were also present: energy, water resources, industry, food security, land and urban planning, transportation, construction, and tourism, among others.

The process enjoyed wide coverage by the press and social networks. A press conference was held on May 10 (for national and foreign media) on the progress of the consultation process both at the local and national levels.

Please summarize how various stakeholder groups that are not traditionally involved in these processes and may be under vulnerable conditions or marginalized, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and others, were engaged in and contributed to the consultation.

What efforts were made to invite, engage, and ensure effective participation of various marginalized stakeholder groups in the national consultation process (i.e., meetings/settings, materials in local languages, accommodation for people with disabilities, childcare, safe and affordable transportation, connectivity, targeted communications, etc.).

Although there are no marginalized groups in Cuba, a call was made since the very beginning to hold an inclusive dialogue that guaranteed the widest participation and involvement of the population, particularly of the sectors and social groups prioritized under the national policies (adolescents and youth, women, the elderly, and risk and vulnerable groups), as well as governmental and civil society organizations representing these groups.

Exchanges combining face-to-face and virtual participation were scheduled both at the local and national levels, with different tools to facilitate access and widest contribution to the consultation process.

A wide range of stakeholders took part in the working sessions at the national level, namely: organizations representing the youth, elderly, workers and religious conglomerates, local representatives as well as representatives of local scientific societies, among others. All consultations were gender responsive and the participation of women was not only significant but, in many cases, predominant.

Among the participants at different moments of the consultation process attended representatives of the following organizations (with their acronyms in Spanish): The Chair of the Elderly, Young Communist League (UJC), Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), Federation of University Students (FEU), Federation of Middle School Students (FEEM), Technical Youth Brigades (BTJ), the Caribbean Youth Climate Change Network and the Cuban Youth Environment Network, the Youth Study Center (CESJ), the Community Initiative Exchange and Reference Center (CIERIC), National Union of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC), Cuban Society of Botany, Cuban Society for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and Environmental Respect (Cubasolar), Martian Youth Movement, Workers' Central Union of Cuba (CTC), Félix Varela Center; Research Center for International Studies (CIEI), Council of Churches of Cuba, among others.

The Sparkblue website was a timely and positive space that facilitated a fluid exchange and ensured wide access by the society as a whole. During the consultations, the abovementioned groups and institutions made valuable contributions and put forward new proposals to improve policies and initiatives aimed at a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature, green recovery and the sustainable economic and social development of the country, which will also guarantee their participation and benefit.

3. Main Consultation Inputs, Insights and Innovations

This is the core of the report, which summarizes the main takeaways of the consultation.

An overview of the main themes, challenges, opportunities, solutions and recommendations

This is a summary of Section 3. Please respond to this question after addressing the other questions under this section.

Key themes and sectors discussed

- Human activities and their relationship with nature. Challenges, actions and good practices to improve this relationship.
- Realization of the right to a healthy and balanced environment as envisaged in the Constitution of Cuba.
- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery trends, with emphasis on key sectors such as agriculture, energy, food security, water, infrastructure and tourism. The “Green” recovery approach.
- Conceptualization of a resilient development with low emissions. Challenges in integrating all the sustainable development dimensions (economic, social, environmental, cultural.)

Challenges discussed

The most significant challenges are:

- Gap between scientific knowledge and its practical application;
- Limited impact of environmental education. Lack of environmental risk perception;
- Limited civic responsibility. Social indiscipline;
- Lack of knowledge of and non-compliance with the environmental legislation;
- Inadequate control by institutions in charge;
- Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of the state of the environment;
- Different environmental problems related to natural resources and waste management, etc.
- **IMPACT OF THE US BLOCKADE. ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES.**

Opportunities discussed

They were discussed in all spaces, providing concrete examples and pointing out the opportunities to overcome the main challenges and limitations:

- Political will of the Government;
- Public policies regulating the main topics adopted by the highest governmental levels;
- An updated legal framework in place and new legal norms proposed;
- Use and/or strengthening of existing capacities;
- Policies based on scientific knowledge;
- Radio and TV specialized communication;
- Mobilization of resources and financing (existing and new.)

Solutions discussed

Following is a summary of solutions proposed:

- Institutional capacity building from the national to the municipal and local levels;
- Design and implementation of more holistic environmental policies;
- Greater ownership and strengthening of the different environmental sectors.
- Strengthening of inspection, regulation and control systems through impact indicators and training of inspectors;
- Introduction of sustainable and environmentally-friendly technologies;
- More community actions
- Increasing spaces for citizen engagement, especially for the new generations (boys, girls and young people)

Recommendations suggested

The main recommendations were the following:

- Promote corporate social and environmental responsibility;
- Design environmental financing policies. Provide economic and financial incentives for environment protection. Improve management of material and financial cooperation resources;
- Improve performance mechanisms (flows, permits, good information management);
- Accountability for environmental management by each entity, as well as the rigorous control by the competent authorities
- Implement circular economy and social and solidarity economy systems or processes (at all levels.)

Summary of the discussions under each Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue theme and their guiding questions.

Leadership Dialogue 1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

1. How can we restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature? List 2 or 3 good practices and pathways that your partners would like to see scaled up to enable a move to a healthy planet?

- Strengthen the local approach in environmental management given the priority and emphasis that the country is giving to decentralization and the role of local governments.
- Promote circular economy as an element of response to pollution, particularly associated with solid waste.
- Consider the role of the new economic actors and the need to reinforce their social and environmental responsibility so that their inclusion in the economic and social development plans of the country is with a sustainable approach.
- Develop new economic-financial incentives and/or defining new mechanisms for access to financing to respond to the different environmental problems.
- Increase spaces for citizen participation and community action to solve environmental problems.
- Take into account the findings and opinions received during the consultation process in the preparation and fine-tuning of the complementary legislation, regulations and standards associated with the new Law approved by Parliament.
- Consider the contribution of technologies and innovation for environmental monitoring that is essential for planning the development of the sectors of the territory.

2. What are the actions that your country/partners would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet? What policies/structures need to be in place for you to take such action?

Some of the actions recommended by the different stakeholders consulted are listed below:

- Strengthen articulation of the Task Life with the Natural Resources and Environment Macro-Program.
- Take into consideration the results of the consultation in the implementation of the National Environmental Strategy and in the environmental strategy of the different sectors; Integrated exercises to define the lines of action in the environmental strategies, with emphasis on reducing contaminants to acceptable levels.
- Strengthen working mechanisms (check-up meetings, reporting to board of directors on environmental issues, SDG-related process management by indicators and goals all the way down to the municipal level and by watersheds.)
- Mainstreaming of gender issues.
- Policies should take into consideration the positioning of large religious conglomerates on this matter both at national and world levels.
- Promote wider participation of the population, especially among the new generations, in environmental care actions.
- Increase interrelationship between these actions and the State Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba, through workshops and training activities.
- Improve inter-institutional coordination mechanisms. Coordination between municipalities.
- Increase relationship between agencies and civil society with participatory methodologies.
- Strengthen municipal structures and community work for proactive environmental and biodiversity protection, care and control. Widespread public consultations as spaces for participation.

3. How could marginalized and vulnerable groups benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature (that mitigates nature risks)?

According to existing policies and the proposals made during the consultations, actions and benefits resulting from the mentioned policies and initiatives were identified and classified by category (territory, age group and social role) and vulnerable groups. The main aspects pointed out are the following:

- Strengthen health care, quality and living conditions;
- Promote greater resilience;
- Increase efforts in terms of food and water security;
- Obtain social and economic benefits (with emphasis on those linked to the coastal zone);
- Generate new jobs, which will include the new economic actors (SMEs);
- Proximity to services and work centers;
- Greater peacefulness, enjoyment of the landscape and entertainment;
- Greater opportunities for sustainable economic entrepreneurship;
- Training strategies for decision-makers through courses or schools for cadres of different management levels, where they can receive training on environmental policies and issues (if they are part of the curriculum);
- Greater visibility, communication, articulation and implementation of good practices;
- Effective and real identification of stakeholders, as well as their roles and responsibilities in the evaluation, implementation, monitoring and follow-up processes;
- Diversification and inclusion of social groups (boys/girls, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly) in the policies.

4. How can we safeguard the rights of people and nature, including among others, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental defenders, women, youth, future generations?

The proposals identified, disaggregated by social groups and areas are as follows:

Local communities

Autonomy to decide on local matters. Ensure the active involvement of the communities in the decisions regarding the appropriation of funds for local development.

Environmental defenders

The right to be heard, by the competent authorities at different instances, with timely and adequate responses. The right to reply whenever they feel the answer was not acceptable. Opportunities for association, so that whenever a community of common interests is established, they may have access to funds and carry out actions as a group. Real opportunity of expressing themselves and receiving answers.

Women

The right to be remunerated as caregivers with a balanced distribution of housework and family responsibilities. Equal right to become entrepreneurs; that woman may run environmentally healthy businesses.

Humanization of work; encourage women to work. Recognize the work of women within the households. Build awareness within the household of the need to share domestic chores (sharing domestic chores.)

Youth, boys and girls

The right to enjoy a healthy environment. Build capacity for the rational use of resources, allowing for its correct use and providing for the future generations. Involvement in decision-making in a responsible manner. Involvement in actions to protect the environment.

5. What are the new or prioritized set of metrics and indicators needed for tracking our progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet?

Among the metrics proposed to track progress to a healthier and more prosperous planet, the following were proposed:

Priority should be given to:

- Gender-related indicators;
- Determination of the ecological footprint;
- Strengthening collective participation and attention;
- Waste recovery percentage.

New indicators proposed:

- Corporate social responsibility of new economic actors;
- Percentage of recycled raw material (what percent of each product is recycled)
- Percentage of green cities, settlements, towns, municipalities, provinces.

Other proposals:

- Water consumption per product unit, energy consumed and source of energy used in the production of said product;
- Estimation of GHG emissions, resilience of the initiative to climate change impacts that ensure its sustainability throughout time, measures to mitigate impacts on ecosystems and how the benefit neighboring communities;
- Integration of all those indicators with a holistic approach to contribute to the characterization of any initiative that is to be undertaken;
- Integrate variables and design an integrated method to measure communities' and cities' resilience and/or CC adaptation;
- Comprehensive indicator to measure the level of awareness, knowledge and ownership of the overall society on environmental issues and climate change.

Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

1. What are the most promising sustainable and inclusive recovery practices currently being applied by public, private and civil society groups at individual, community, city, regional, country level? And how could we scale them up?

Among recovery practices and proposals to be scaled up, the following were highlighted during debates:

- Make a better use of nature's bounties;
- Greater renewable energy transition at macro, middle and micro scale (local energy self-sufficiency);
- Development of vaccines as model of articulation between science and decision-making.

Other issues were also discussed, including:

- Respect and control of the implementation of effective laws (Ex.: investment location);
- Corporate social responsibility to the community (commitment to engage in the improvement of its surroundings);
- Comprehensive reassessment of the distribution of tax revenues for local development to minimize vulnerabilities;
- Education and training;
- Promotion and dissemination;
- Access to information;
- Strengthening and improving the efficiency of grievances redress mechanisms for the population;
- Local entrepreneurship (in vulnerable areas);
- Strengthening of mass organizations' management.

2. What recovery and pre-existing practises need to be changed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery?

Among negative practices for recovery, the following were listed:

- Some may have emerged in the context of the pandemic, in connection with the excessive use of chemicals for the washing and disinfection of common use areas or surfaces;
- Inadequate management of wastes or disposal of protection means like gloves, masks, swabs, etc.
- Reduction of financing to solve environmental issues;
- Increase of wastes as a result of the increased use of protection means;
- Slackening of control measures;

It was suggested to promote practices conducive to green recovery by means of:

- Commitment with education, training and dissemination of knowledge. Incorporating to that knowledge the guidelines for a healthy recovery in post COVID scenarios.
- Define the critical points of a production system to innovate in the environmental transformation. Take into account experiences and practices of the period of the pandemic and turn those problems into opportunities for improved environmental management.
- Green Banking System, scale up and clarity on how to access. Drawing on lessons learned in the context of the pandemic and global economic issues that shall remain in the coming years, ensure a more efficient administration of limited financial resources allocated to environmental management;
- Incorporate more efficient water-saving technologies

3. How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition?

Among the benefits countries and communities may get from a sustainable transition process, the following were mentioned:

- For the case of Cuba, continue with effective protocols, including booster doses of existing vaccines. The incorporation into syllabi/curricula of the One Health approach to minimize health risks, develop public health screening policies and technologies. Ongoing update of treatment protocols.
- Definition and internationalization of the concept Green Entrepreneurship and the conditions that should be created to become “green”;
- Raise awareness on these issues in the overall society;
- Acknowledge that all sectors may create green jobs. They just have to be linked to certain attitudes, become a livelihood and contribute to wellbeing and to the development of new skills (knowledge on the legal framework and technologies);
- Create work environments that are sensitive to the environmental issue;
- Strengthen the government- academia relation/partnership (Responsibility): creation and strengthening of learning mechanisms, assistance and scale up;
- Distribution of benefits (locals should benefit from actions);
- Enhanced resilience;
- Affordable food;
- Improved health, living conditions and quality of life;
- Water security;
- Healthy environment;
- Diversification and inclusion of vulnerable social groups in policies (boys/girls, women, persons with disabilities and elders men and women).

4. How can we create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies? which sectors are most critical?

The following proposals were highlighted:

- Provide greater visibility to the responsibility of Central Government Bodies (OACEs) in the pursuit of more sustainable alternatives. Have more clarity on which should have a greater impact in development and therefore need to strengthen the environmental dimension, namely: energy, agriculture, industry, construction, mining, water, tourism;
- Constant promotion of science and innovation in the dialogue with industries and enterprises;
- Gradual change of mindset concerning telework and telecommuting. Increased use of ICTs;
- Greater integration with the national industry and increased participation of the national industry to allow for the production of key elements for environmental protection, countering pollution and improved natural resource management;
- Grant greater autonomy to the entrepreneurial system and expand their corporate purpose;
- Steer industrial efforts towards cleaner and greener development areas, promote the use of renewable energy sources and greater energy efficiency in each business;
- Give greater consideration to categories like the carbon and water footprints and several certification systems that foster the development of cleaner industries;
- In the agricultural sector, there is need to move to a circular scheme in which wastes are incorporated to create value;
- Articulation of new stakeholders. Define for the big industry and smaller economic actors what is their interrelation with the environment and natural resources.

5. What are some of the commitments and “responsible” principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions?

The various stakeholders identified the following commitments and principles:

- Respect the right to a healthy and balanced environment, ensuring environmental sustainability is not compromised by their actions;
- Duty to protect the environment: Comply with existing rules and regulations for the protection of the environment, particularly those related to environmental health and hygiene, natural resources and the Natural Heritage of the nation;
- Prevention: Prioritize actions that prevent or minimize environmental harm through the implementation of measures based in science and in the results of technical, economic, social and community studies, as appropriate;
- Polluter pays: Those who perform an activity that due to its nature pollutes the environment, shall have the required means and funds to ensure the rehabilitation or restoration of those environments to their original state before their intervention or until a new balance is achieved;
- Introduction of environmental certification and recognition systems;
- Sustainable production and consumption plans;
- Corporate social responsibility;
- Commitment to education, training, and dissemination of knowledge;
- Define the critical points of a production system to innovate in the environmental transformation;
- Define in which area and sector the country may meet a production need or not, and make the relevant decisions.

6. What are the decent green jobs of the future? What are the new skills needed, what is needed from business? from government? from academia?

During consultations the following aspects were discussed:

- Raise awareness on these issues among the overall society;
- All sectors may create green jobs. They just have to be associated with certain attitudes and the possibility of becoming a livelihood;
- Turn it into an approach that may contribute to the development of new skills and wellbeing;
- Create work environments that are sensitive to the environmental issue;
- Government-Academia partnership (Responsibility): creation and strengthening of learning mechanisms, assistance and scale-up;
- Energy Sector. More energy transition at macro, middle and micro scale (local energy self-sufficiency), as significant source of green jobs;
- Waste management. Incorporation of the culture of recycling. Development of value-added options;
- Implementation of nature, ecosystem and community-based solutions, as basis for the creation of new jobs. Training needs in this area of expertise.

Business: understand these activities and identify options that make it possible to develop economic activities on that basis, that are interesting and valid as businesses, while remaining consistent to environmental and climate policies;

Government: promote a conducive environment for the creation of green jobs, including the implementation of economic instruments that incentivize them and contribute to overcome initial costs, which may be high;

Academia: contribute to the development of the “green jobs” concept, tailored to the Cuban reality, including fostering studies and research in this field.

Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

1. What are the biggest challenges we are facing in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other environmental commitments (MEAs)? How do we create an enabling environment for delivery on the ground?

Acknowledging that all aspects described above pointed out challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the following issues were raised on the debate focused on the international context:

- Creation of anticapitalistic alternatives for the social and economic development of our nations;
- Need for a comprehensive transformation, to change the mindset and structures that generate oppression and inequalities in the world;
- Richest countries shall take on the responsibility for all the harm they have caused to the planet and partner up with government and various stakeholders.
- A new international order is required, as well as renewed financial commitments by developed countries. Said commitments shall consider new and additional funds, to be granted under more flexible terms, without discrimination or bias of any kind.
- Consideration shall be given to debt cancellation mechanisms, and others, that allow developing countries like Cuba to overcome adversities brought about by the current international juncture, marked by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other serious issues, including climate change impacts.
- Citizen training, with a decolonizing view on nature.
- Mainstreaming the environmental dimension in decision-making.
- Getting funds for the implementation of actions.
- Socialize and replicate good practices from projects and initiatives.
- Deadlines to solve identified problems. Need for immediacy.

2. What are the good practices and pathways that you would like to see scaled up to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context, of the Decade of Action?

Recommended practices include:

- Better tools to environmentally assess policies, plans and programs since their design, in addition to ongoing environmental impact assessments;
- Find tools/instruments that would foster change, social responsibility and benefits, while creating incentives (applicable for the state-run and non-state sectors)
- Retrieval of good practices. Promote discussions at national government level on corporate social and environmental responsibility;
- Rules should not be limited to mere legislation, but should be translated into practices and mechanisms that facilitate their implementation;
- Environmental issues, including its legal system, should be effectively considered (environmental priority)
- Include and strengthen environmental education at all educational levels;
- Engage students, and people in general, in various processes that contribute to the protection of the environment, bring the law closer to communities, take into account the views of communities;
- Identify and use influencers/opinion leaders (artists, athletes) to promote environmental values;
- Use scientific data in the economic assessment of ecosystems to promote the environmental dimension;
- Strengthen communication actions;
- Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation components in the design of Local Development Strategies.

3. How to transform governance and legal systems that maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all?

Some of the following elements, were highlighted during the discussions:

- The capacity to foresee to improve governance;
- Qualified human resources;
- Organizational capacity and intersectoral approach to provide solutions;
- Need to distinguish between what is strategic and emerging;
- Less sectoral management (decentralization of actions by bodies, granting more powers to the local level. Construction of “bottom-up” management models;
- Greater participation is needed, consultation at grassroots level, to go from formal participation to actual and proactive participation;
- Take into account approved and validated experiences (“*Ventanilla única*” one-stop shop experience) for the approval of new projects and implementation of actions, where environmental impacts are evaluated;
- Legal frameworks that facilitate the creation of economic growth and avoid limiting creative activity. Seek “win-win” alternatives that promote environmental action while improving the economic and social conditions of the people;
- Simplify mechanisms and cut red tape and unnecessary obstacles that undermine or delay economic undertakings. Align undertakings with environmental rules and policies;
- To be consistent with and accountable for regulation and control mechanisms and laws;
- Train stakeholders and people in general. The issue of the environment should be crosscutting to all sectors and formations;.
- Prevent staff turnover to the extent possible;
- Adapt to the new international context.

4. What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities?

Measures proposed by consulted stakeholders include:

- The creation of common lines of work among various sectors (foster an intersectoral approach);
- Give greater visibility and prioritize new economic players so they can “walk at the same level”. Articulate public-private sectors. Give greater prominence to the private sector, which is currently playing a very important role in our society;
- Create mechanisms that contribute to materialize the obligation of allocating resources to the environmental area, at the national and international levels;
- Improved and expanded environmental management planning;
- Identify and disseminate existing climate and environmental financing sources. Need for prioritization considering impacts and emergencies;
- Increased training on environmental issues for private and public stakeholders. Private stakeholders are aware of the environmental impacts of their businesses and the benefits of a positive interaction with nature. Public stakeholders has more knowledge about these matters;
- Promote that the state and non-state sector are on an equal footing (in every aspect);
- When training new stakeholders, emphasize and strengthen not only economic, legal, budget, tariff and tax-related issues, but environmental issues as well;
- Disseminate tools and methodologies;
- Raise environmental awareness;
- Incorporate and implement environmental accounting;
- Raise awareness on and foster a culture of waste recycling and garbage classification at its source.

5. What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind?

Partnerships described and proposed include the following:

- Partnerships among public, private institutions and the civil society;
- Creating synergies for local capacity-building in technology-related issues (territorializing and downscaling);
- Articulation with private economic actors that use reusable materials (for example, VeloCuba bicycle spare parts);
- Articulation with schools to work with boys and girls (trades, environmental values, circular economy);
- Foster new partnerships among social institutions to promote circular economy;
- Strengthened partnership between government and community management;
- Partnerships that ensure greater knowledge-sharing between the production sector and the academia;
- Strengthen regional partnerships and South-South cooperation; by similar conditions.
- Strengthen work and cooperation relations with United Nations multilateral organizations, as well as existing bilateral agreements.

6. What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature, including digital technologies?

About the required capacities and technologies, the following aspects were highlighted:

- Need to combine traditional knowledge with state-of-the-art technology. There is a significant local and community repository of environmentally-friendly practices; water management; land management and construction. All that knowledge and capacities should be rescued and systematized;
- At the same time, said traditional practices should be combined with current knowledge. For example, the use of mobile apps, as part of early warning systems on environmental and climate-related issues that are relevant for the population. The use of renewable energy sources, including other energy sources that haven't been studied in depth, would lead to a genuinely sustainable development;
- Introduction to more environmentally-friendly and sustainable technologies;
- Promote a circular economy (reusing wastes), closing full cycles to encourage responsible production and consumption patterns;
- Design and use of georeferencing platforms and Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
- Implementation of nature-based solutions, taking into consideration the peoples' development and quality of life. Preferred use of green solutions over gray ones;
- More environmentally-friendly transport technologies linked to mobility; as well as for the management of contamination processes, recycling, wastes and residues.

Country-specific agenda of the national consultation

A summary of the discussions relevant to country-specific themes including links to NDCs, NAPS, NBSAPS, and other national/sectoral frameworks: challenges, opportunities, solutions, recommendations.

- Consultation results are relevant for several policy instruments. Particularly, the consultation addressed key elements of the NDC (updated in 2020), and will serve as input for the First Transparency Report and the Fourth National Communication on Climate Change, which shall be presented in 2024;
- It shall also contribute to the development of the new National Biodiversity Program and to the alignment of national actions to the new global goals that are currently being discussed in this area;
- Generally speaking, as stated above, these results shall be considered in the implementation process of the National Environmental Strategy and the State Plan to Address Climate Change (Tarea Vida).

What were the priorities, needs, key messages and solutions raised by women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and other stakeholder groups under vulnerable conditions or marginalized?

Aspects related to priorities, needs, key messages and solutions raised by various stakeholder groups have already been described in previous sections of this Report. Below, some issues raised by several groups on which there was certain consensus are either reiterated and/or elaborated on:

- Observance and control of the implementation of effective laws (Ex: investment location);
- Corporate social responsibility to the community (commitment to engage in the improvement of its surroundings);
- Strengthening education, training, capacity-building and dissemination. Strengthening the environmental culture and the knowledge on the regulation and program framework;
- Promote an educational model that mainstreams environmental values (Ex.: syllabi and curricula)
- Develop research and innovation programs that contribute to the design of information and communication policies and strategies. Application in decision-making;
- Improved access to information;
- Strengthen and improve the efficiency of grievances redress mechanisms;
- Foster local undertakings in vulnerable areas;
- Strengthening mass organization's management;
- Expanding participation and contact with nature opportunities;
- TV and radio broadcast linked and in articulation with to spaces for citizen's voices;
- Differentiated public good campaigns. Emphasizing in the relation among consumption, life styles and the environment;
- Enhanced inter-institutional consultation mechanisms. Inter-municipal coordination;
- Strengthen the municipal and community work structures. Generalizing public consultations as fora for participation.

How did various stakeholder groups in your country express their expectations from the Stockholm+50 international meeting? What changes do they expect in the international environmental cooperation, policies, and investment frameworks as a follow up to the Stockholm+50? How do they think that Stockholm+50 can help your country better position itself for advancing integrated solutions across national climate, biodiversity, green recovery, sectoral, and SDG policy frameworks?

The Consultation generated a high interest and many expectations. Participation was broad and the need and urgency for governments to apply actions based on the results of science, was evident.

At the same time, it reflected a clear interest in continuing to promote these spaces for dialogue to strengthen governance mechanisms and environmental management instruments under a focus on inclusiveness, equity and transparency.

Concerning international cooperation, it was highlighted that it was necessary to apply to major funds, as well as to facilitate and diversify the access to Funds and Programs that can be more feasible for several groups of stakeholders, like the Small Grants Program (SGP/GEF Cuba). Explore other funds that incentivize payments for environmental services (PES). Strengthen the system of incentives (contests, awards). Seek innovation in financing. Broader dissemination of calls for proposals.

Highlights from the on-line SparkBlue Consultations

Summarize the key types of comments, recommendations and findings relevant to the Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues themes.

Leadership Dialogue 1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

Through the online dialogue, several national initiatives and good practices were presented, which serve as basis for national and local scale-up. Some of the presented initiatives and feedback are the following:

- Role of Ecosystem and Community Based Adaptation as climate change adaptation measure. Several initiatives in Cuba have implemented or are implementing these practices, like: the UNDP/AF Manglar Vivo (Living Mangrove) Project, UNDP/EU Coastal Resilience Project, UNDP/GFC Mi Costa Project. These projects are an example for Cuba and other Small Island Developing States that face similar climate change challenges, therefore, they could be scaled up to other regions in the country.
- Need for indicators. Especially an indicator that allows for the integrated assessment of the level of awareness, knowledge and ownership of the society on environmental issues and climate change. Other relevant metrics would be the consumption of water per product unit, energy consumption and source used to produce said product, GHG emissions generated, the resilience of this initiative to CC impacts to make it sustainable throughout time. A holistic integration of all those indicators could contribute to the characterization of any initiative to be undertaken.
- “Connecting Landscapes” (short name), is an ongoing Project in the province of Sancti Spiritus. It is an experience that has allowed for the creation of biological corridors between several conserved natural areas for the previously described purposes. Moreover it also places landscapes at the center and within landscapes, human beings as modifying elements that also benefit from project actions, like all other elements.
- Increase the relation among nature, the production sector and human settlements to ensure a sustainable social and economic development;
- Reforestation is a very important task for a healthy planet. Many countries, including Cuba, have proposed reforestation actions in their NDCs;
- The implementation of sustainable land management benefits all ecosystems and prevents land degradation;
- The role of conservation agriculture. Importance of HVR studies;
- The role of Education for Sustainable Development. The Cuban National Education System is undertaking significant efforts to incorporate Education for Sustainable Development in the curricula of the 3rd Improvement of the Cuban education system. The Ministries of Education and of Higher Education (MINED-MES) guide, advise and control the process.
- The most cost-effective and effective solution is the creation of an environmental culture on all individuals, thus enabling them to act in a more environmentally-friendly manner in all areas of life and with an understanding of the integrated approach that shall prevail at all times.

Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

This dialogue gave rise to the following comments:

- Science and technology and their relation with the environment give rise to a broad discussion and political debate. The environmental crisis, combined with poverty and climate change are the most serious challenges humankind faces. In light of that reality, science and technology emerge, with their huge potential, as a source of knowledge and environmental transformation. Cuba, is no stranger to those efforts, in which the scientific and technical potential developed by the Revolution is engaged. In this regard, the integration of the human potential, replacing disciplinary approaches with interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in the framework of R+D+I projects and in addressing complex environmental and development problems, in general, are aspects that have made a significant contribution to the Cuban strategy against COVID 19, and that should be further extended in our research and innovation practices;
- As a society we must continue to reevaluate and change the notion and practices of uncontrolled exploitation of nature for a more harmonious and responsible nature-humankind relation. The pandemic we are still facing, has reminded us how nature overexploitation and habitat degradation increase the likelihood of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19 infecting humans. Need to implement the "One Health" paradigm.
- Today's situation is a consequence of past mistakes, science plays an essential role in the full recovery from the pandemic. Responsible actions by all sectors in their surroundings and circular economy strategies, will ensure sustainable economies;
- UNDP initiatives, in collaboration with national counterparts, have been extended to the development of sustainable recovery practices in the local production of construction materials, using local resources and responding to local government strategies. UNDP has supported the National Program for the Local Production of Construction Materials for more than 12 years, which responds to the National Housing Strategy. The housing stock is gradually being recovered and jobs are created in lower-income areas severely impacted by COVID-19. Experiences, lessons learned and good practices have been shared and transferred to several other provinces in the country;
- Concerning the One Health approach, work on animal wellbeing is ongoing, an important step has been the new Decree Law that governs all the work in favor of animal wellbeing, which is very important as lately, zoonotic diseases are the ones that have affected human health the most, particularly those of viral origin, as zoonotic viruses like H1N1, H1N4 and Covid-19 have evolved and jumped to humans.

Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

Feedback to this dialogue is summed up below:

- Mobilization of exogenous resources is part of the 2030 National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES), but is also specified in Task 11 of the State Plan to Address Climate Change. Therefore, strengthening work and cooperation relations with United Nations multilateral organizations, as well as existing bilateral agreements can contribute to undertaking capacity-building actions, to bridge gaps in the field of climate change sciences and meet other preparedness needs of the society in these processes.
- Environmental accounting should be implemented as part of the national accounting system, to reduce the environmental impact of economic activities. Environmental economy is crucial.
- One technology that human beings should prioritize to live in harmony with nature are energy sources. The use of renewable energy sources and other energies that have not been studied in depth because it could be free for all, would lead to a genuinely sustainable development.
- A good practice that could be extended to expedite the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development, is to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in Local Development Strategies. UNDP led, in conjunction with the National Civil Defense Staff and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, leading DRR and CCA institutions in Cuba, the adaptation of a strategic tool to mainstream those components to the Cuban context.
- It is essential to create learning, awareness-raising, training and update opportunities in legal systems for the implementation in local decision making. Thus, governments interact with institutions in concrete actions to maintain economic and social stability in the long term. Supporting groups led by women, youth, and community sectors is fundamental in actions designed to ensure the sustainability of community resources, not only environment; but also economic, cultural, all those that drive the economy on the basis of government decisions.
- It is urgent to develop an environmental culture in all society stakeholders, implement in daily praxis the knowledge acquired in educational processes, to translate them into behavior changes, strengthen community structures and engage communities so they become a collective force that propels change to a positive relation with the environment and contribute to the effectiveness of public policies;
- Cuba is working to transition to a circular economy model and implements several projects in this regard. It is also advisable that our leading enterprises begin preparing and publishing sustainability reports.

4. Consultation Follow-up, Next Steps and Links to National Policies

Possible follow-up and next steps including the design and implementation of socially inclusive and gender-responsive national and sectoral policies, NDCs, NBSAPs, INFFs, SDG Strategies, Green/Blue Economy and Green Recovery Plans, etc..

The following follow-up actions are being considered:

- Including Consultation results in the upcoming Cuban Voluntary National Review Report, on the implementation of SDGs;
- Incorporate consultation results in formulation processes of environmental projects and projects that address climate change. Indications for that shall be drawn up;
- Consultation results shall be taken into account in the NDC update.

How has coordination with other national/subnational processes benefited/been improved?

- The Consultation was explained and announced in the main institutional coordination fora. The Consultation was held last May 6 with governmental institutions in the framework of a meeting of the Macroprogram of Natural Resources and Environment, which is the main environmental policy management instrument in the country;
- Consultation results shall be reviewed in this scenario, and on that basis, coordination actions shall be planned to strengthen the implementation of national efforts;
- Several issues and consultation results shall be mainstreamed under the Programs and Projects of the Macroprogram of Natural Resources and Environment.

How will stakeholder dialogue on these topics be maintained and continued? What platforms or mechanisms are in place for stakeholders to provide their feedback and follow up recommendations, including the use of virtual dialogues and digital technologies?

- Intention of making these consultation processes a regular event;
- Dissemination of results to sectors and territories;
- Continuity to consultation processes will be ensured through institutional web pages.

What other initiatives have been triggered/inspired/informed by the National Consultation?

- Monitoring specific issues through institutional mechanisms;
- Publication and reproduction of Consultation results as work material at national level;
- Consideration of Consultation results in the finalization of the complementary legislation to the newly approved Law of the System of Natural Resources and Environment.

5. Annexes

Please attach here:

- Agenda(s) of the national consultation
- List of participants disaggregated by stakeholder group, public/private/civil society, national/international
- More detailed minutes/transcripts of the consultation(s)
- Power point presentations, flowcharts, or any other graphics
- Consultation photos, video(s)
- Summary of traditional and social media coverage with links
- Any other communication materials or assets you prepared in support of the consultations which can include:
 - materials/assets that were used to promote the consultations in advance;
 - materials/assets that communicated the event and progress of the consultations themselves such as recordings or summaries;
 - materials/assets that share the findings, conclusions, insights from the consultations.

SparkBlue page for National Consultations in Cuba

The SparkBlue page for Cuba contains a lot of material about the National Consultation process. From the beginning of the process, this page was maintained and updated regularly. Furthermore, great care was put into its design, to make it more attractive, easy to navigate, and with easily visible links to relevant material, videos, etc. The SparkBlue webpage was promoted by the national and regional press, national counterparts as well as UNDP Cuba social media. Moreover, the platform was promoted during the live consultation sessions.

<https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-cuba>

Transcripts, findings, photos, agendas, participants and photos of the Consultations

Details about the different consultation sessions are available in the following pages, belonging to the SparkBlue page for National Consultations in Cuba:

Civil Society Consultation Session

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/relatoria-consulta-sociedad-civil-05-de-mayo>

Institutional Consultation Session

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/relatoria-consulta-institucional-06-de-mayo>

SMEs, entrepreneurs, new economic actors Consultation Session

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/relatoria-consulta-emprendimientos-privados-y-proyectos-ciudadanos-11-de-mayo-0>

National Worskop Consultation Session

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/relatoria-taller-nacional-de-consulta-12-de-mayo>

Regional Consultations

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/consultas-territoriales>

PPT synthesis of national consultations

Leadership Dialogue 1

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/sintesis-resultados-consultas-dialogo-de-liderazgo-1-presentados-en-taller-nacional-del-12>

Leadership Dialogue 2

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/sintesis-resultados-consultas-dialogo-de-liderazgo-2-presentados-en-taller-nacional-del-12>

Leadership Dialogue 3

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/sintesis-resultados-consultas-dialogo-de-liderazgo-3-presentados-en-taller-nacional-del-12>

All the consultation photos have also been uploaded to the Teams space created by the UNDP Stockholm+50 global team:

https://undp.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Stockholm50/Shared%20Documents/General/National%20Consultation%20Resources/National%20Consultations%20Communications/MATERIALS_Please%20Upload%20Materials%20HERE/CUBA/Photos?csf=1&web=1&e=Cgs6LG

Videos of the National Consultations

Videos that summarize the consultation process are available in the UNDP Cuba YouTube channel:

Short Version

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNL-Fe3pyUM&list=PLZA8ttJTYPsBl1n0VZqW3hQVPQh_G2AzH

Long Version

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPz0MfEN9DI&list=PLZA8ttJTYPsBl1n0VZqW3hQVPQh_G2AzH&index=4

Consultation dialogues - highlights

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyBqctFjYrc&list=PLZA8ttJTYPsBI1n0VZqW3hQVPQh_G2AzH&index=2

National Context Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wky7kRxVAo4>

Moreover, some videos showing *voices from participants* of the consultations can be found in a separate page, belonging to the SparkBlue page for National Consultations in Cuba:

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/algunas-voces-participantes-en-las-consultas-nacionales-estocolmo50>

All the videos showing voices from participants of the consultations can also be found in as a playlist in the UNDP Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeL457Bqfel&list=PLZA8ttJTYPsAUBx6UXupO43HR6BSVfykH>

Social Media posts and other evidence of the consultations

A collection of posts in chronological order, which shows a glimpse of the national consultation process is available on the following pages, belonging to the SparkBlue page for National Consultations in Cuba

<https://www.sparkblue.org/content/vistazo-proceso-consultas-nacionales-en-cuba-redes-sociales>

A complete list of all the social media posts by different stakeholders (for example: national counterpart, press, UNDP, etc) is found on the Trello space for national consultations in Cuba created by the UNDP Stockholm+50 global team:

<https://trello.com/c/zZL4ZvUj/93-cuba>

Press coverage

Media Clips National TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxGAw3jYbSI>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=998110414061774>

Below some links of *online news* published by national, regional and international press. A complete list can be found on the aforementioned Trello space for national consultations in Cuba.

<https://www.prensa-latina.cu/2022/05/20/cuba-en-estocolmo50-reconocimiento-a-lucha-por-desarrollo-inclusivo>

<https://www.prensa-latina.cu/2022/05/12/alaban-en-cuba-aporte-ciudadano-en-consultas-previas-a-estocolmo50>

<https://www.prensa-latina.cu/2022/05/12/prosiguen-en-cuba-consultas-nacionales-previo-a-evento-estocolmo50>

<http://www.acn.cu/medio-ambiente/94203-sesionara-este-jueves-taller-nacional-sobre-medio-ambiente>

<https://www.prensa-latina.cu/2022/05/10/ejecuta-cuba-consultas-nacionales-como-antecedente-de-estocolmo50>

<https://www.juventudrebelde.cu/cuba/2022-05-11/tendra-lugar-este-jueves-taller-nacional-estocolmo-50>

<http://www.cubadebate.cu/noticias/2022/05/03/estocolmo50-cuba-inicia-consultas-nacionales-sobre-medio-ambiente/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ipscuba/photos/5637312559630667>

<https://www.granma.cu/mundo/2022-05-02/inicio-cuba-proceso-de-consulta-nacional-estocolmo50>

<http://www.periodicovictoria.cu/los-pineros-estaran-en-estocolmo50/>