



United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER Office for the Latin America and the Caribbean

Context and Objectives:

An **UN-SPIDER Latin America & Caribbean Office** would empower the region with space-based information for disaster and emergency response, through vital capacity-building and training on activating emergency response mechanisms (e.g., the International Disaster Charter) and integrating satellite data into national strategies. Its institutional strengthening missions ensure a “whole-of-government” approach, enhancing resilience to climate and natural hazards. UNOOSA’s current reach only covers Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.

In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly established UN-SPIDER as a programme of UNOOSA. The General Assembly indicated that the programme would have offices in Bonn and in Beijing, and would be implemented through voluntary contributions. Voluntary resources provided by the Federal Republic of Germany and by the People’s Republic of China have allowed UN-SPIDER to provide advisory support to developing countries in Africa and in Asia and Asia Pacific respectively.

Since 2009, UNOOSA has signed several cooperation agreements with institutions in the LATAM region (The Argentinian National Space Activities Commission (CONAE), Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil, The Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC) of Colombia, the Mexican Space Agency (AEM), University of the West Indies (UWI) of Jamaica, and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) of Panama) to engage these institutions as UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices (RSO). Since then, experts from these RSOs have contributed to the provision of advisory support, on a voluntary basis and with no funds exchanged. This project would strengthen this network and build resilience for UNOOSA and LATAM.

This four-year long project proposes the establishment of a dedicated and resourced UN-SPIDER Regional Office in Latin America. While a handful of Member States have expressed an interest in hosting the Office, no firm commitment has been made. The total project budget is \$949,000 per year.

Objective - All LATAM nations are equipped with the necessary capabilities and strategies to leverage space-based information to predict, mitigate, and respond to disasters.

Deliverables:

Outcome 1 – Target nations have the necessary skills, networks, and level of coordination to address regional and national challenges and disasters

- Organise three international conferences in LATAM and Caribbean countries; and organise two or three regional workshops or expert meetings in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance the capabilities of experts to use and analyse space-based information.
- Facilitate links between national disaster management agencies and the International Charter Space and Major Disasters, as well as the Copernicus Emergency Management Service and other services established by the space community.

Outcome 2 – Increased access to space-based information, strengthened national expertise ensures that nations can prepare for all phases of the disaster-management cycle

- Carry out six to seven annual Technical Advisory Missions (TAMs) to mentor developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance the use of space-based solutions (interested States include: Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Uruguay, and many Caribbean developing countries).
- Carry out six to seven Institutional Strengthening Missions (ISMs) and Expert Missions to developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean where the programme is already active (Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, and Peru).

Outcome 3 – The use of regional languages ensures the broadest possible involvement of relevant stakeholders

- Awareness raising efforts carried out through the elaboration of printed and online material in Spanish and Portuguese languages.
- Translation of content in the English version of the Knowledge Portal into Spanish, and elaboration of additional content in Spanish for the Spanish version of the Knowledge Portal.

Outcome 4 – Enhanced synergies among UN Entities ensures a One-UN system approach to supporting the LATAM region and Spanish and Portuguese-speaking nations globally

- Contribute to the efforts of the Bonn Office in the provision of advisory support to African countries where Portuguese is the official language.
- Contribute to the organisation of annual meetings of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices.
- Contribute to represent UN-SPIDER in other networks established by the programme (GP-STAR, IN-MHEWS), as well as in events organised by other agencies of the United Nations including UNDRR, OCHA, WMO, etc.

Project Budget

The estimated budget for the project over four years is approximately USD 948,635 per year. This budget includes:

- **Personnel Costs:** Approximately USD 533,250 for a project team per year, including one P4 programme officer, one junior programme officer at P3-level, and two short term consultant for 3 months per year).
- **Non-Personnel Cost (Operational Costs):** Around USD 192,500 per year use if premises, office costs, IT, translation, and outreach materials, etc.
- **Implementation of activities (participant travel, expert missions and representational requirements):** An estimated USD 63,750 per year for travel, organizing expert events and capacity-building activities, and travel for participants from UNOOSA and developing countries.
- **UN Programme Support Costs (13%):** Approximately USD 109,135 per year.