



Cleaner Production Private Sector Partnerships Project (CPP) Costa Rica & Nicaragua

Purpose

By promoting cleaner production and energy efficiency practices and technologies, the CPP Project aims to reduce environmental and societal impact of business operations upon local communities and the global biosphere, as well as to improve their environmental, health and safety performance.

The project provides technical assistance to participating Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to develop and implement Cleaner Production (CP)/Energy Efficiency (EE) action plans, creates partnerships with a multinational company (MNC) and industrial sectors, and disseminates project results and CP/EE best practices.

Project Overview

As part of the CAFTA-DR's Private Sector Environmental Performance Program, the World Environment Center (WEC) signed a two-year Cooperative Agreement with the Department of State's Oceans, Environment and Science Bureau (OES) in October 2009. The project provides on-the-ground support to assist SMEs in Costa Rica and Nicaragua to save money and protect the environment. Following the initial success of the earlier CPP Project in El Salvador and Guatemala, WEC has established Private Sector Partnerships in both countries to improve the private sector's environmental performance, reduce costs, and improve efficiency and competitiveness through the adoption of Cleaner Production (CP) and Energy Efficiency (EE) practices and technologies.



In Costa Rica, WEC has partnered with its member corporations, Marriott International and Coca Cola/FEMSA, to work with their SME suppliers to minimize waste and gas emissions and enhance production efficiency- a strategy through WEC's program known as "Greening the Supply Chain."



In Nicaragua, these partnerships are distinguished instead by working with two national industry associations: the Nicaragua Association of Exporters and Producers and the Chamber of Industry. In Costa Rica, the team’s industrial partners also include the Costa Rican Union of Private Enterprise, the National Chamber of Industry, and the National Cleaner Production Center. In addition, the National Cleaner Production Centers are partners with WEC in each country. In each of these cases, the WEC team provides the local suppliers and members with technical assistance in:

- Energy and water conservation;
- Waste, raw material and emissions reductions;
- Environmental management systems; and
- Accessing financial resources required for adoption of the enhanced techniques.



Mid-term event for Marriott Suppliers – Costa Rica

WEC and partners also disseminate CP/ EE best practices through roundtables and public outreach activities. An Executive Steering Committee in each country facilitates consensus among key public and private stakeholders in coordination with the Central American Commission for the Environment and Development, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Ministries of Economy and Environment of each country.

Results As of January 2011

In addition to the 13 participating suppliers from the partnerships with Coca Cola/FEMSA and Marriott Hotels in Costa Rica, WEC recently included four more local companies to receive assistance, which belong to the food sector. A total of **17** companies from Costa Rica and **12** from Nicaragua are currently participating in the project.

The updated economic benefits achieved by the participating companies, as of December 2010 including both countries, are:

- Economic savings: **US\$ 77,700**
- Investments realized: **US\$ 237,200**

Companies are in the implementation stage where action plans and investments are mainly related to thermal energy, water, materials and electric energy.

Project activities also include coordinating with local partners to disseminate best practices on CP/EE. The first article is being published in January in the Chamber of Industry of Costa Rica magazine, and several more publications detailing the activities and successes of the project will follow in the next months in both countries.

