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Building more resilient livelihoods through healthy ecosystems



UNEP in LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Latin American and the Caribbean are home to an astonishing amount of biodiversity and natural wealth, resources that constitute the foundations of many of the region's economies. But the region is facing some significant environmental challenges: More than 80% of the population lives in cities where air pollution and inefficient transport cause health problems and productivity losses. And while the region contributes relatively little (around 10%) to global greenhouse gas emissions, it is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which incurred costs of around \$100 billion in 2015.

Through our regional office in Panama City, UNEP supports the region's 33 countries by promoting policy dialogue, networking and partnerships; encouraging science-based decision-making; leveraging capacities and resources to tackle environmental challenges; and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNEP's work in Latin America and the Caribbean directly supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. We also do cross-cutting work on environmental science, law and governance.

Mobilized **\$6 million** in private investment to help farmers in Peru and Colombia adapt to climate change

Supported **10 countries** to conserve biodiversity and manage their ecosystems

Trained **1,700+** experts, officials and students on climate change adaptation

Delivering on the SDGs



Implementing an intergovernmental network to strengthen the management of chemicals and waste; supporting the implementation of chemicals- and waste-related environmental agreements.



Supporting the region in the implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; promoting education and training to support resource efficiency and green economy policies.



Supporting countries through the UN-REDD Programme to implement re-forestation strategies that preserve options for carbon sequestration, healthy livelihoods and sustainable development.



Promoting sound ecosystem management, including the sustainable management of natural capital, national biodiversity strategies and the implementation of relevant international agreements; and,



Reducing countries' vulnerabilities to disaster.



Helping countries tackle air pollution through the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution.



Supporting countries to implement their climate change strategies (NDCs); promoting energy efficiency, clean transport, access to climate finance, increase resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change; implementing a regional climate cooperation platform that promotes technology transfer and capacity building.

Snapshot: Micro-finance for climate change

UNEP is harnessing the power of the private sector to boost the climate resilience of small farmers in Colombia and Peru. Using an innovative micro-financing approach, we are enabling more than 4,000 farmers to adopt ecosystem-based adaptation techniques that will protect their livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities to climate change. If expanded, this approach could benefit nearly 12 million small farms in the region; across the world, the potential is enormous. For more information, see www.pnuma.org/meba

Our Plan

- Monitor the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda (\$500,000)
- Implement a regional cooperation platform on climate change (\$550,000)
- Support the regional network on chemicals and waste, reinforcing cooperation and exchange of experiences (\$350,000)
- Develop technical guidelines for national action plans on air pollution and support 2 countries in the development of their plans (\$600,000)
- Support ecosystem-based disaster risk management (\$350,000)
- Strengthen the capacities of parliamentarians, enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges to fight the illegal trade of wildlife, chemicals and other environmental crimes (\$500,000)
- Design the first Land Use Change green bond to generate emission reductions in the order of 10 million tCO_{2e} and develop a model to be replicated (\$750,000)
- Catalyse large-scale investment by the private sector in forest and landscape restoration, targeting between 1 million and 4 million hectares by 2022 (\$5.7 million)
- TEEB for the Amazon to support policy reforms that mainstreams biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into land use decisions (\$1.5 million)

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