



# Natural Resources in Latin America and the Caribbean



ECLAC



Natural Resources Division

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## Biodiversity as a driver of sustainable transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean



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### Editorial

On 19 December 2022, a potentially landmark agreement for multilateral environmental aspirations was reached with the adoption, under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Kunming-Montreal Framework or Global Biodiversity Framework) and other accords as a transformative roadmap for the current decade to curb biodiversity loss and environmental

degradation.

The new Kunming-Montreal Framework to align global, regional, national and subnational commitments and efforts is of the utmost importance for Latin America and the Caribbean, one of the world's most biologically and culturally rich regions, which face enormous social, economic and environmental challenges. The biodiversity crisis is one of today's greatest planetary crises and is interrelated with other cascading crises and challenges, including climate change, worsening poverty and inequality, social and geopolitical conflicts and health-related risks. The disconnect between economic growth and social and environmental well-being also requires structural changes that integrate the three interdependent pillars of sustainable development, whose transformative potential lies in combining the economic, social and environmental dimensions (Harris and others, 2023).

For this reason, we devote this bulletin to a review of the contributions of biodiversity to the region's development and well-being and to the new multilateral biodiversity Framework recently adopted; it is estimated, for example, that "environmental income" from forest and non-forest extraction in rural households in the region accounts for 31% of total income, a higher proportion than in any other region of the world. The bulletin reviews the context of the negotiations, the main strengths and challenges of the new Global Biodiversity Framework, the rights-based approach, synergy between the Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the potential contribution of the United Nations economic regions in promoting the cross-sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity and the potential contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to addressing the main biodiversity challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Main article

### Biodiversity as a driver of sustainable transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean

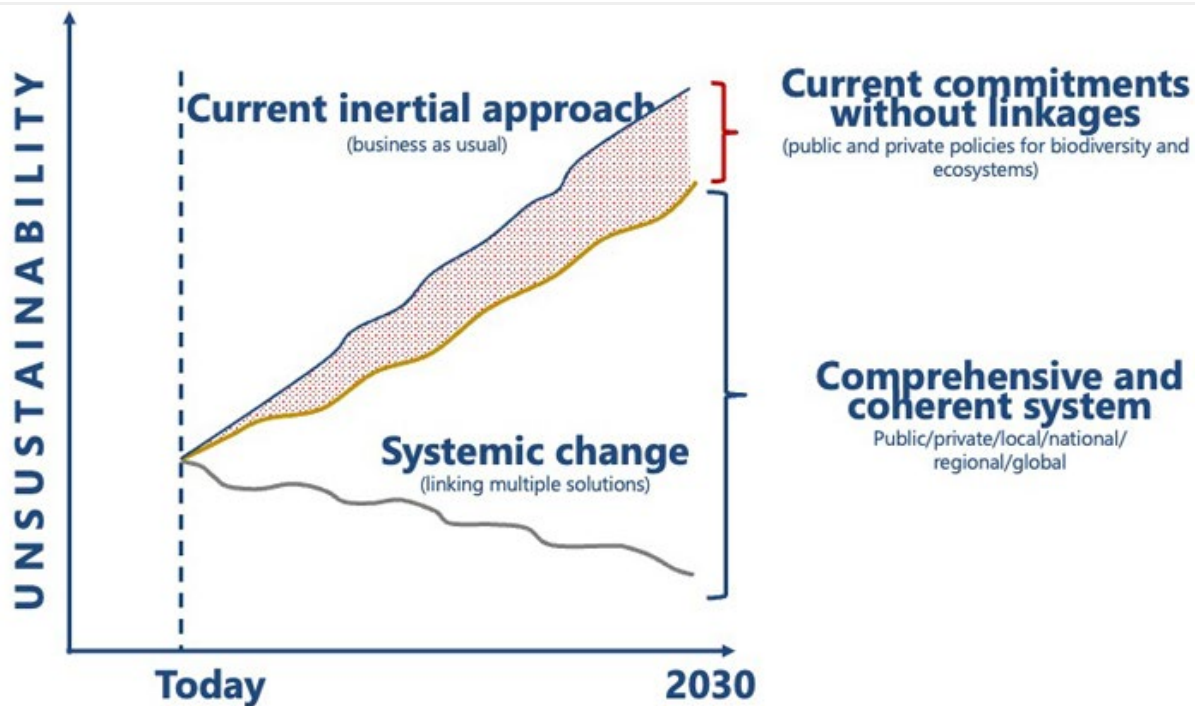
#### Biodiversity "silently" sustains humanity's well-being

Human well-being depends to a large extent on the goods and services provided by biodiversity and its ecosystems, a concept known as "nature's contributions to people" and also as "ecosystem services" (IPBES, 2019). However, biodiversity processes are in many ways "silent" and "invisible" (hard to see), difficult to quantify at different levels (genes, species and ecosystems) and widely variable through time. This partly explains why modern human societies have not included nature as a strategic component in development planning, institutions and the market (Dasgupta, 2021).

Unlike other processes, such as ozone thinning or climate change, which may yet be reversible, the biodiversity crisis in certain places is of such a magnitude that the accumulating changes in ecosystem richness, structure and function are at potentially irreversible levels or have already reached irreversibility (IPBES, 2018 and 2019). Scientists, civil society organizations and governments have issued numerous warnings about the delay in prioritizing addressing the crisis of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and have underscored the seriousness of its potential consequences. Inaction or insufficient action is due in part to the difficulty of implementing cross-cutting responses in a systemic manner. Although there are multiple policy instruments that address different areas of production and consumption individually, there has been a delay in the full implementation of those policies in the region (UNEP, 2020). Image 1 compares the impact of a coherent interlinked system of change to the current inertial or business-as-usual approach.

#### Image 1

Model of the impact of a system of coherent and interlinked changes



Source: Prepared by the authors, on the basis of PEW Charitable Trusts/SYSTEMIQ, *Breaking the Plastic Wave: A comprehensive assessment of pathways towards stopping ocean plastic pollution, 2020*. The business-as-usual trajectory reflects the current inertial approach.

[Full text](#)

## Events, featured publications and news

### Water

#### Briefing notes

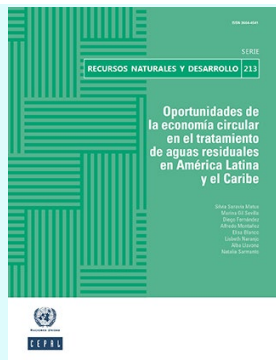
Action commitments to face the water challenges in LAC by the high-level authorities that participated in the Regional Water Dialogues 2023

ECLAC participates in the course "National Regulatory Frameworks and Transboundary Agreements for Water Management"

#### Events

Great success: the 2023 Regional Water Dialogues organized by ECLAC had a high turnout and managed to establish a Water Action Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1-3 february 2023

ECLAC's participation in the event "Mainstreaming multiple values of water for better informed decision making" held during the United Nations Conference on Water, 22-24 March 2023



### Oportunidades de la economía circular en el tratamiento de aguas residuales en América Latina y el Caribe

100 p. | December 2022



### Brechas, desafíos y oportunidades en materia de agua y género en América Latina y el Caribe

65 p. | December 2022



## Energy

### Briefing notes

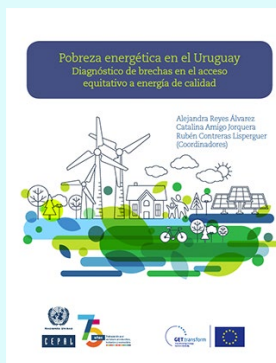
La CEPAL participa en curso sobre Diplomacia Energética: La energía como asunto de Estado, 4 de julio 2023

Authorities and Experts Call for Accelerating the Energy Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean, 16 March 2023

### Events

Con gran éxito finalizó la Primera Conferencia Latinoamericana de Mujeres y Energía: Capacidades de cambio, Empoderamiento, Género y Energía (CEGEN 2023), 10 de mayo, 2023

Seminario web de expertos sobre "Impulsar el ODS7: Perspectivas regionales de África, América Latina y el Caribe, países en desarrollo sin litoral y los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo", 20 junio 2023



### Pobreza energética en el Uruguay: diagnóstico de brechas en el acceso equitativo a energía de calidad

82 p. | March 2023



### Estudio sobre políticas energéticas para la promoción de las energías renovables en apoyo a la electromovilidad

63 p. | December 2022



# Non-renewable resources

## Briefing notes

July 2023

ECLAC Stresses the Importance of a Productive Development Agenda Centered on Lithium Exploitation

April 2023

CEPAL analizó los desafíos de la extracción de minerales críticos para la transición energética durante el Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe sobre Desarrollo Sostenible 2023

## Events

June 2023

Autoridades y especialistas de los países del triángulo del litio y de México participaron en la gira técnica “Segundo intercambio de experiencias y conocimiento, Salar de Atacama, Chile”, organizada por la CEPAL y la CORFO

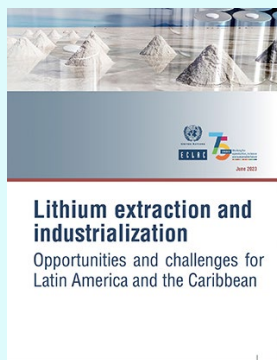
June 2023

Expertos analizan las oportunidades y desafíos de la adhesión de Chile a la Iniciativa para la Transparencia de las Industrias Extractivas (EITI)

## Online resources

January 2023

Base de datos “Precios de los combustibles” de América Latina en CEPALSTAT



**Lithium extraction and industrialization:  
opportunities and challenges for  
Latin America and the Caribbean**

44 p. | July 2023

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**La institucionalidad y la regulación minera en  
los países andinos: Bolivia (Estado  
Plurinacional de), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador y  
Perú**

77 p. | December 2022

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# Agricultural development

## Briefing notes

April 2023

Contar con agendas de desarrollo productivo con enfoque territorial es decisivo para el futuro de América Latina y el Caribe

November 2022

La División de Recursos Naturales de la CEPAL moderó el panel “Agritech en LATAM: agendas digitales

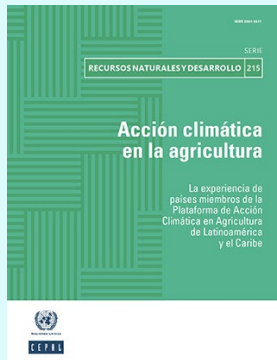
## Events

June 2023

Lanzamiento Hub Territorial Arica y Parinacota

April 2023

Seminario internacional: “Políticas productivas territoriales, digitalización y productividad”



**Acción climática en la agricultura: la experiencia de países miembros de la Plataforma de Acción Climática en Agricultura de Latinoamérica y el Caribe**

111 p. | February 2023

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**Cuenta satélite de bioeconomía para Costa Rica: Propuesta metodológica y aplicación práctica**

69 p. | December 2022

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## Biodiversity

### Briefing notes

December 2022

COP 15 del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica: Declaración conjunta de los secretarios ejecutivos de las cinco comisiones regionales de las Naciones Unidas en apoyo al nuevo Marco Mundial de Biodiversidad

December 2022

CEPAL con el apoyo de la Cooperación Francesa presenta dos publicaciones sobre casos regionales destacados en integración de la biodiversidad y en la gobernanza transformativa

### Events

July 2023

La CEPAL y la UE organizan diálogos virtuales multiactor para la implementación temprana del Marco Mundial de Kunming-Montreal en la región

December 2022

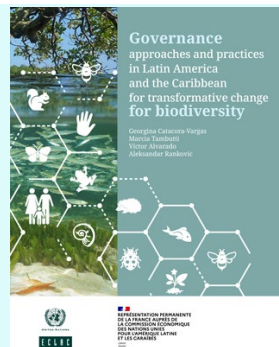
La CEPAL y la SEMARNAT invitaron a reflexionar sobre los primeros hallazgos del diagnóstico del vínculo entre los incentivos públicos del agua y la biodiversidad



### Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean with mainstreaming biodiversity in the productive, economic and financial sectors

79 p. | December 2022

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### Governance approaches and practices in Latin America and the Caribbean for transformative change for biodiversity

86 p. | December 2022

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