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Summary of the implementation

Decisions of the Meetings of the Forum

Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

This report covers the period November 2023 – August 2025

Decision 1/2023 - Pollution

BRIEF summary of the general progress of the Decision

Within the framework of the **Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste** for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), chaired by Peru and Panama, more than thirty (30) cooperation activities were registered that contributed to the implementation of the actions proposed in the Network's 2023-2024 Work Programme. Eighty one percent (81%) of the actions were completed or partially completed, and more than 1,800 participants from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector benefited from these activities. In addition, information on the progress and updates of the regional and international agenda on chemicals and waste has been disseminated on a regular basis through eight (8) quarterly newsletters. During 2025, the Network also developed the new **Action Plan 2026-2029 for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management**.

On the other hand, according to the objectives proposed in the Work Plan 2024-2025 of the **Voluntary Coalition for the progressive closure of dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean**, chaired by Dominican Republic, different actions were carried out to strengthen capacities and exchange knowledge on priority topics related with integrated waste management, which were joined by more than 1,000 participants. Also, the Coalition led the development of a new **Regional Cooperation Programme: Reducing methane emissions from organic waste and closing dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean**.

In relation to plastics, several countries in LAC adopted new regulatory, technical and awareness-raising measures, and the region actively engaged in supporting global action and international cooperation. During this period, the **Working Group on Plastic and Microplastic pollution**, co-led by Ecuador and Guatemala, achieved significant milestones through the implementation of its approved Annual Programmes of Work 2024 and 2025. A total of 20 virtual meetings were organized, fostering the exchange of technical, scientific, and regulatory information, as well as best practices and success stories, engaging over 1,000 participants in 2025.

Finally, the **Intergovernmental Air Pollution Network**, chaired by Peru, facilitated the strengthening of regional capacities on air quality, including through knowledge exchange sessions organized along with PAHO/WHO (with more than 650 participants), and technical in-person workshops on priority topics like air quality monitoring and regulatory development. Technical and legal assistance was also provided to countries to develop or update their air quality regulations, as well as develop national strategies to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. During 2025, the Network also developed the new **Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2026-2029**, which includes a set of cooperation activities reflecting emerging priorities in the LAC region.

Main results achieved

Result 1. Strengthening capacities for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

More than **1,800 participants** from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector benefited from different information-sharing activities and training sessions. This included a total of eight **(8) regional workshops/trainings**, eight **(8) meetings and exchange sessions** and nine **(9) webinars** on various topics identified as priorities for the countries of the region, such as: existing policies and regulations for the sound management of chemical substances, illicit trade of chemicals and waste, registry and inventory of chemicals, application of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), chemicals in plastics, plastic waste, and gender and chemicals.

Result 2. Development of the new Action Plan 2026-2029 for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management.

Following the mandate of Decision 1, the Steering Committee, with the support of the Secretariat and all focal points, developed the new Action Plan 2026-2029 for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management. To this end, the regional priorities and emerging issues were identified through a survey to all countries and a regional consultation process. The document defines twenty-four **(24) priority sub-topics and thirty-eight (38) cooperation activities** for the biennium 2026-2027. The Network also developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy, which will be the basis for the new action plan.

Result 3. Capacity building and training on waste management and closure of dumpsites.

As part of the Work Plan 2024-2025 of the Voluntary Coalition for the closure of dumpsites, and in order to promote capacity building, and the exchange of information, experiences and good practices on waste management and closure of dumpsites, **10 webinars** were developed with the support of the focal points and partners of the Coalition for the progressive closure of dumpsites, with an estimated number of **600 participants**, addressing topics related to organic waste management and methane emissions, design of sanitary landfills, regionalization strategies, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes in LAC, and practical experiences for the closure of dumpsites in the region.

Similarly, and with the support of the University Consortium for sustainable waste management, a member of the Coalition, **five (5) academic activities** have been developed; two (2) certificate course from ISALUD, Argentina, one (1) Congress on municipal waste management with support of UDCA, Colombia, one (1) workshop on sustainable waste management from UAEM, Mexico, and one (1) webinar on circular economy and plastics.

From these initiatives, approximately **400 participants** from the public, private and academic sectors in the region have been trained.

Also, UNEP and the Government of Uruguay organized a workshop on practices and lessons learned for the design and implementation of EPR systems in LAC, which was held in Montevideo, with participation of government officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Result 4. Development of a new Regional Cooperation Programme: Reducing methane emissions from organic waste and closing dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean

In response to the call made by ministers at the Special Session of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for LAC (Rio de Janeiro, September 2024), a **Regional Cooperation Programme: Reducing methane emissions from organic waste and closing dumpsites in LAC** has been developed, with the support of the focal points and partners of the Coalition for the closure of dumpsites. The goal of the programme is to urgently and significantly reduce methane emissions from the solid waste sector in LAC through the promotion of integrated solutions focused on avoidance, diversion, valorization, and the development of adequate infrastructure, as well as through improving disposal site operations and progressively closing dumpsites.

Result 5. Measures adopted by countries to address plastic pollution.

With regards to regulatory, technical, and awareness-raising measures, countries in the region have adopted at least four (4) new regulations to reduce plastic use (including Trinidad and Tobago, El Salvador, and Peru), as well as more than nine (9) action plans and roadmaps aimed at transitioning to a circular economy and reducing plastic use (including Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru). LAC countries have also actively engaged and committed in supporting support global action and international cooperation, with 12 countries being part of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC).

Result 6. Enhanced cooperation, knowledge and capacity on plastic pollution.

During the 2024–2025 period, the Working Group on Plastic and Microplastic Pollution, including in the marine environment, in Latin America and the Caribbean, —comprising 22 Member States and 34 non-governmental entities—achieved significant milestones through the implementation of its approved Annual Programmes of Work 2024 and 2025. A total of **20 virtual meetings** were organized, fostering the exchange of technical, scientific, and regulatory information, as well as best practices and success stories. These sessions engaged over **1,000 participants** in 2025 (53% women, 30% men, 17% not identified),

reflecting a strong commitment to inclusive participation. Priority topics addressed included regulatory harmonization, EPR, management of fishing gears, microplastics and health, among others. An example of these activities was the [Regional Workshop on Tackling Plastic Pollution: Cooperation, Best Practices and Sustainable Solutions](#), organized with Canada and Chile, which facilitated bilateral dialogue and knowledge transfer.

Strategic coordination was further strengthened through three meetings with governmental focal points to align national priorities, five Steering Committee sessions to support decision-making, and a roundtable with non-governmental actors to ensure diverse perspectives. The Group also formalized its operational framework and developed a cohesive visual identity, including a dedicated webpage and logo, reinforcing its institutional presence and outreach.

Result 7. Technical assistance and strengthening of the region's capacities in air quality.

As part of the initiatives to implement the **Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2022-2025**, the [UNEP-PAHO webinar series was developed in 2024](#) aimed at articulating efforts to address the challenges of air quality and improve the health of the population. Three sessions were held during the period August - November 2024. During this webinar series, 655 participants attended the sessions from 45 countries (29 countries of the Americas).

Moreover, UNEP, PAHO, CCAC and Clean Air Institute, together with environment and health entities of the Central America Integration System (CCAD and COMISCA), joined efforts in the organization of a workshop on air quality and health (Medellin, March 2024), including air quality monitoring and legislation. Representatives from environment and health ministries of the 8 SICA countries joined this event. [Repository of information about the project in Central America.](#)

In relation to technical and legal assistance, UNEP and PAHO have provided support to update and strengthen air quality legal frameworks related to the ambient air quality standards, including Guatemala and Argentina. Also, at least three (3) countries in LAC (including Costa Rica, Panama and Paraguay) have developed national strategies to reduce short-lived climate pollutants emissions.

Result 8. Development of the Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2026-2029.

During 2025, the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution developed the new Regional Action Plan on Air Quality 2026-2029, guided by the Steering Committee and with the technical assistance of the Clean Air Institute. To this end, several interactive sessions were organized with all focal points, in order to define the emergent priorities and persistent challenges in advancing air quality management in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Plan includes a new set of cooperation activities, and a resource mobilization strategy to facilitate its implementation.

In this context, in March 2025, UNEP supported a delegation of LAC countries to participate in the **WHO 2nd Conference on Air Quality and Health** held in Cartagena, where substantive dialogues were held to identify priority areas and promote regional and global cooperation, including through the **Global Network on Air Pollution** recently established.

Next Steps

1. Develop **resource mobilization** actions and **strategic partnerships** to support the implementation of the different pollution related action plans and programmes, as well as the operation of the related networks and groups.
2. Promote the implementation of the **2026-2027 Work Programme of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste**, which reflects a new set of priority cooperation actions for the countries of the region.
3. Disseminate and promote the implementation of the **Regional Cooperation Programme for reducing methane emissions from organic waste and the closure of dumpsites**, and align the Work Plan of the Coalition for the closure of dumpsites accordingly.
4. Within the framework of the **Working Group on Plastic and Microplastic Pollution**, continue supporting the implementation of its **Annual Programme of Work 2025**, information-sharing sessions are taking place on (i) regulatory frameworks and policy advocacy; (ii) monitoring and research; (iii) education, training and awareness-raising; iv) guidelines towards the circularity of plastics, and v) financing and resource mobilization. Develop the Annual **Programme of Work 2026** and support its implementation.
5. Promote the implementation the **Regional Air Quality Action Plan 2026-2029 and its resource mobilization strategy**, and the establishment of new alliances with partners that can contribute with their experience and knowledge to strengthen the air quality agenda in the region.
6. Support countries in their efforts to **strengthen regulatory schemes for the adoption of air quality standards and control of sources of pollutant emissions** in close collaboration with the Montevideo Programme.

Decision 2/2023 - Sustainable Consumption and Production and circular economy

Transforming the finance, the customs, and economy-wide drivers of unsustainable consumption and production

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE DECISION

From November 2023 to August 2025, the workstreams under “Decision 2: Sustainable Consumption and Production and circular economy: Transforming the finance and economy-wide drivers of unsustainable consumption and production” advanced from design to coordinated implementation, with the Regional Strategy on SCP 2024–2030 and its Implementation Plan developed and approved by the SCP Regional Council, setting a unified policy path for LAC.

Spearheaded by UNEP (10YFP/One Planet, IRP, PAGE, GO4SDGs) and working with regional and international organizations, these efforts strengthened countries’ technical capacity to develop and execute SCP frameworks and resource-efficiency approaches, including circular economy, finance, procurement, and Digital Product Information Systems (DPIS).

A standout achievement has been the consolidation of the LAC Circular Economy Coalition as the regional platform for cooperation and financing: membership, 18 events were delivered—including the 2024 Latin American Circular Economy Festival (>2,700 participants; 10 countries) adopting the “Bogotá 2024” Declaration For a circular, biodiverse, fair and inclusive economy in Latin America and the Caribbean’—and leadership was showcased at WCEF 2024 (Brussels), UNEA-6, and WCEF 2025 (Brazil).

Additionally, first-mover steps on market instruments were realized through the Environmental Alliance of the Americas (AAA)—the region’s government-backed eco-labelling programme—formally established in July 2024 and reaffirmed by a Brasilia declaration (July 2025) linking eco-labels with Digital Product Information Systems (DPIS) and Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP). Seven priority product categories were set, governance was reinforced, a >50-milestone workplan approved, InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation - IAAC membership secured, and engagement with Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) initiated toward mutual recognition.

Financial enablers progressed in parallel: 3 circular-ecosystem diagnostics (CL, UY, CR) and 4 national categorization systems (CR, UY, CL, DO) were delivered; 3 training programmes upskilled 38 financial institutions and 119 professionals. Panama and Costa Rica published sustainable finance taxonomies (2024); Brazil’s taxonomy is planned for September 2025; pilots are underway in PA, CR, BR, CL. The LAC Common Framework of Sustainable Finance

Taxonomies (2023, mitigation/adaptation) is informing work in 10+ countries and is moving toward a biodiversity edition by end-2025.

Other noteworthy developments include strengthened national capacities on eco-labelling and SPP (support to 15 countries; 1,200+ participants across 11+ regional activities), expansion of green jobs and skills via ARIUSA (engaging 442 universities and targeted country support), and new evidence and tools—e.g., the Guide for Circular Economy Roadmaps and the Consumer Engagement in Circular Economy report (1,100 respondents across five countries).

The monitoring of Decision 2 shows delivery of expected outcomes, with several indicators surpassing targets (e.g., 170% execution for Coalition dissemination meetings). Special mention goes to GO4SDGs Initiative and the LAC Circular Economy Coalition for their outsized contributions to regional implementation and momentum.

Main results achieved

Result 1: A Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2024-2030 developed, approved and endorsed by the Regional Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean

A [Regional Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2024-2030](#) was developed and approved by the SCP Regional Council on 29 May 2024.

Result 2: The Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan approved by the Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean.

An [Implementation Plan for the Regional Strategy](#) on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2024-2030 was developed and approved by the SCP Regional Council and is being implemented.

Result 3. The Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition established as a dynamic platform, fostering cooperation, research, and the development of knowledge, innovation, and financing for Circular Economy and Sustainable Consumption practices across LAC.

Active participation of six (6) countries and six strategic partners that make up the Steering Committee providing strategic guidance and leadership to the Coalition.

The Coalition welcomed the [participation of one \(1\) new member country](#) and sixteen (17) non-governmental members, bringing the total membership to sixty-six (66), comprising organizations from diverse sectors, including academia, the private sector, civil society organizations, as well as international and multilateral entities.

A total of [eighteen \(18\) events](#) were organized and supported by the Coalition, including the Latin American Circular Economy Festival 2024, which brought together representatives of ten (10) countries and more than 2,700 participants in person and [online](#). The event also resulted in the adoption of Declaration 'Bogota 2024: [For a circular, biodiverse, fair and inclusive economy in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)'.

The Coalition advanced regional awareness and leadership by participating in three (3) high-level global fora: the [World Circular Economy Forum 2024](#) in Brussels, where innovative cases from the Global South were presented; UNEA-6, where the role of financial institutions in enabling circular economies was highlighted; and the World Circular [Economy Forum 2025 in Brazil](#), which served as a key platform to showcase Latin America and the Caribbean's progress and reinforce South-South perspectives, needs and cooperation in the transition to circular models. Among the different activities carried out at WCEF25, the collaboration included working with The Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), the African Circular Economy Alliance and the European Union's Switch to Green program through an accelerator session "[Circular economy policies: Connecting regions, sharing solutions](#)", Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) through the session "[Empowering informal workers: Pathways for inclusive circularity](#)", and the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) at the session called "[Perspectives on circular water from the Global South](#)".

Finally, the Coalition's visibility and strategic collaboration were strengthened through participation in [six \(6\) regional](#) and international initiatives, including the Regional Roundtable on Sustainable Finance in Bogotá, the AI-Invest Verde 2024 meeting in Guatemala, the Zero Waste and Circular Caribbean workshops, and the Brazilian Circular Hotspot 2024.

Result 4 - Capacities developed in Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic, aimed at enhancing the ability of public and private banks and financial institutions to integrate circular economy principles into their sustainability strategies.

In **partnership with UNEP-FI and CTCN**, the LAC Circular Economy Coalition successfully developed The Circular Economy [project to support four \(4\) countries](#) – **Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic** to expand investments in circular economy projects aligned with national climate goals. The project delivered governance tools, training, and standards that enabled institutions to move from intention to effective implementation, and a categorization system that will allow financial actors to identify circular activities already

present in their investment portfolios, making their existing contributions to circularity visible.

Development of **3 Circular Ecosystem Diagnoses in Chile, Uruguay and Costa Rica** to better understand the circular ecosystem in each country as a starting point and to generate inputs for the Circular Economy Categorization System and content for the training program according to identified needs.

Development of **4 national Categorization Systems for Costa Rica, Uruguay, Chile and the Dominican Republic** to help establish a harmonized framework of definitions that allows financial institutions to better understand the Circular Economy and related investment and financing opportunities, and to better support the identification of Circular Economy initiatives with financing potential and avoiding “greenwashing”.

Design and delivery of **3 capacity building programs in Costa Rica, Chile and Uruguay**, training 38 financial institutions and 119 financial professionals to adopt the categorization systems methodology and to successfully identify and evaluate circular economy projects, facilitating their involvement in circularity financing.

Result 5: Country's technical capacity enhanced to develop and implement Green Economy policy frameworks and approaches

Seven (7) technical activities were conducted for countries, focusing on mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production policy frameworks, strengthening coherent product policy frameworks in the region, and promoting resource efficiency approaches such as circular economy and life-cycle assessments. These activities were grounded in the work of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP), the International Resource Panel (IRP), the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), and the GO4SDGs initiative

Under PAGE, *A Trade Assessment of the Barbados Environment Goods and Services Sector* was developed, and a report with Sustainability Criteria Integration for prioritized products in Sustainable Public Procurement was developed for Guatemala. In Peru, a series of assessments were developing to create an enabling environment for systems of waste Management in Saint Martin Region.

Result 6: Government-backed regional eco-label developed and approved to promote a standard certification within the Region.

In **July 2024**, the **Environmental Alliance of America (AAA)** was formally established as the **first regional eco-labelling programme**, bringing together ministries, standardization, accreditation and metrology bodies from six countries to regionally harmonize sustainability information, **empowering a potential 450 million consumers, businesses, and public**

procurement actors to make informed, sustainable choices, and facilitating intra-regional trade in sustainable products.

A **regional declaration, signed in Brasilia** on July 2025, on sustainable consumption and production reaffirmed AAA as the instrument to provide credible sustainability information for the region, directly linking ecolabelling with **Digital Product Information Systems (DPIS)** and **Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)**.

Seven product categories were prioritized in line with public procurement needs, and technical working groups were convened to develop criteria for them, focusing on high-impact products such as **plastics and electronics**.

Governance and ownership of the Alliance were reinforced with **Ministries of Environment formally joining as members in 2025**, starting with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador. This was complemented by the approval of a detailed workplan with over 50 milestones, and the adoption of structural adjustments enabling wider participation. The Alliance gained **regional recognition** by becoming a member of IAAC, the regional accreditation body, and is now **advancing towards global recognition** through its engagement with the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN).

Result 7: Countries' technical capacity enhanced to develop and implement SCP policy frameworks for ecolabelling and Sustainable Public Procurement.

Fifteen countries were supported to strengthen national ecolabelling infrastructures through the **EcoAdvance project**; more than 70 institutions from standardization, accreditation, certification, metrology, and private companies, **specially SMEs**, were trained.

UNEP, through **One Planet Network**, and partners organized **at least 11 regional training and knowledge-sharing activities**, with **over 1,200 participants** (average 55–60% women).

- Six multilingual webinars (Spanish, English, Portuguese) on good practices for ecolabels and SPP, reaching 636 participants from 50+ countries, majority from LAC.
- Three follow-up webinars in 2025 (construction, ICT, electronics sectors), with 474 participants from 70 countries, including strong LAC participation.
- Developed and shared guidance on integrating ecolabels, certifications and SPP into NBSAPs, highlighting their role in biodiversity protection.
- Two targeted webinars for Mexican procurers (80 participants, organized with GIZ).
- Training sessions for public procurement entities:
 - School for Public Procurement of Ecuador (SERCOP) (with GIZ).
 - Regional ICAP training for the 5 EcoAdvance countries, with UNEP/GEN ecolabel material.

- ITCILO Certification Programme on SPP, reaching 40 procurers from 18 countries, including LAC.

Result 8: Enhanced capacity of countries to develop and implement policies and initiatives that promote the creation of green jobs and the development of skills for youth.

Regional Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing

Through collaboration with ARIUSA, 442 universities were mobilized and 30 best practices on green nudges were identified, many replicated in campuses and linked to policies such as Costa Rica's food loss and waste guidelines. In total, 264 universities from 21 countries actively engaged, expanding regional cooperation and aligning higher education with green jobs objectives.

Three years after the initial implementation in 2021, the impact of the capacity-building efforts became evident as more than six universities that participated in the initiative developed and adopted their own institutional sustainability policies. These policies were directly inspired by the behavioral insights and nudging strategies introduced during the program. The success of this approach demonstrated the long-term potential of integrating behavioral science into sustainability practices in higher education, helping to institutionalize change and foster a culture of sustainability.

Latin America and the Caribbean has become the leading region in advancing the **Green Jobs for Youth Pact**, serving as a pilot of effective coordination among ILO, UNEP, and UNICEF through joint projects and shared initiatives. ARIUSA has been an important partner in strengthening academic engagement, while Pact activities in countries such as Peru, Colombia, and Cuba demonstrate how the region is driving progress. These experiences underscore the importance of LAC as the most advanced region in the Pact, showcasing the value of collaborative action and integrated approaches across agencies.

Under the Green Jobs for Youth Pact (the Pact), the following initiatives were developed and implemented:

Support provided to **Cuba** in strengthening policies and institutions for youth employment in the green sugarcane sector.

Support provided to **Peru** to update the National Employment Policy, through developing a methodology to measure green jobs.

Support provided to **Colombia** (Huila) to design a roadmap for youth employability and green entrepreneurship as a subnational pilot.

Launched the first Green Jobs for Youth Academy in LAC with ITC-ILO, Global Skills Institute, and Tecnológico de Monterrey. Taking place in **Mexico**, the Academy for Latin America and the Caribbean is part of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact is structure in 2 phases: 1 online and 1 in person. The Academy will train around 40 young leaders from 14 countries across the region, with support from local partners in Guanajuato, including business chambers,

innovative companies, and local authorities, who joined the press launch and are actively backing this initiative

Result 9: LAC financial regulators and supervisors, central banks and financial institutions build a conducive environment for sustainable finance inspired by international practices to contribute to global interoperability and help redirecting capital flows towards sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economy and strengthen financial stability.

The [Common Framework of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies for LAC](#), a guidance document that can serve as a voluntary reference to guide LAC countries that are in the process of or intend to develop sustainable finance taxonomies, has been developed.

The Framework establishes a set of guiding principles that will improve comparability and ensure interoperability of taxonomies in LAC and internationally. **As a first phase, it focuses on climate change objectives**; prioritizing economic sectors that are important to these objectives for the LAC region.

It was developed by the [Working Group on Sustainable Finance Taxonomies in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), part of the Interagency Technical Committee of the Forum, led by UNEP and constituted by IDB, UNDP, IFC, CAF, ECLAC, FAO, IMF and the World Bank, WWF, GIZ, and the European Commission, as an external technical advisor.

The first edition, focused on climate change objectives, specifically mitigation and adaptation, was published in 2023. Its practical value has led to widespread adoption in more than ten countries within and beyond the LAC region, such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Costa Rica.

Building on this foundation, and recognizing the increasing focus on biodiversity-related taxonomies, the Working Group is progressing towards a second edition of the Framework, focused on biodiversity objectives, with publication anticipated by end-2025.

UNEP supported Panama's and Costa Rica's financial authorities in their development of their national sustainable finance taxonomies with a focus on climate change objectives. Both published in 2024. Panama's and Costa Rica's authorities will start the development of their second phase of the sustainable finance taxonomies focusing on biodiversity-related objective.

UNEP is currently supporting Brazil's Ministry of Finance in the development of its sustainable finance taxonomy that is planned to be published in September 2025.

UNEP is currently supporting Panama's, Costa Rica's, Brazil's and Chile's financial authorities in the **piloting of their sustainable finance taxonomies in the financial sector**.

UNEP participated in the [Green Transition Taxonomy Workshop](#) organized by the Coalition of Ministers of Finance for Climate Action. More than 70 representatives from the Ministries of Finance participated.

UNEP also delivered an in-person training programme on sustainable finance taxonomies for central banks and financial supervisors and regulators in December 2023 at CEMLA. More than 60 representatives from LAC central banks and supervisors participated.

The [LAC Climate Financial Risk Center](#) was launched in December 2022 as a joint initiative of UNEP, the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), the Association of Banking Supervisors of the Americas (ASBA), and the Association of Insurance Supervisors of Latin America (ASSAL) **to identify, assess, and manage climate-related and nature-related financial risks**. The Center will implement high-level forums, regional technical dialogues, capacity building, knowledge generation, development of tools such as climate stress testing, recommendations for financial regulation, among others.

Result 10: Country's technical capacity enhanced to develop and implement Sustainable Consumption and Production policy frameworks and resource efficiency approaches.

Eighteen (18) countries benefited from capacity building and technical exchange activities carried out through the Coalition's work, and by technical meetings of the SCP Regional Council, which provided additional opportunities to share knowledge, discuss key thematic priorities, and strengthen regional cooperation.

A total of [eight \(8\) technical meetings](#) with regional experts of the SCP Council were convened to strengthen capacities and foster dialogue on key thematic areas for advancing sustainable consumption and production in Latin America and the Caribbean. These sessions provided governments and stakeholders with access to the latest global knowledge and tools, including the findings of flagship reports such as the Global Waste Management Outlook 2024, the Global Resources Outlook 2024 and the International Resource Panel study "Intentionally Designing Policies and Practices for Sustainable Consumption and Production to Reduce Inequalities". The meetings also facilitated discussions on cross-cutting regional priorities, including gender and environment, digital product information systems, and monitoring progress towards SDG 12.1.1. In addition, practical instruments such as the UNEP–UNDP–UNFCCC project "Building Circularity into NDCs- A Practical Toolbox" were presented, enabling countries to better integrate SCP and circularity into climate strategies. Together, these exchanges created a space for peer learning and positioned the SCP Council as a key platform to align regional action with global agendas.

The Coalition's **Working Group on National Circular Economy Strategies** was launched as a training dialogue and implemented [four \(4\) key webinars](#) to facilitate the exchange of experiences on governance, roadmaps, indicators and financing. Among these activities was an in-person capacity-building session on the implementation of public policies in Circular Economy, as well as strategies to strengthen them beyond their initial launch. This session was held during the Latin American Circular Economy Festival 2024 in Bogotá, Colombia.

The Working Group on Plastics implemented [seven \(7\) key activities](#) to deepen regional understanding of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), financing mechanisms for plastic circularity, and pathways for a just transition, highlighting successful cases from across the region. Together, these initiatives strengthened regional cooperation and equipped countries with practical knowledge on innovation, reuse, product design, and the challenges of integrating SMEs and consumers into the circular value chain.

The Coalition launched the [Guide for the Development of Roadmaps in Circular Economy](#), as part of **the strategic collaboration with the European Union's Switch to Green program**, a practical tool designed to support governments and stakeholders in the region to strengthen their national circular economy instruments and accelerate the transition towards more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies. This practical tool is designed to support governments and stakeholders in strengthening national circular economy instruments and accelerating the transition towards more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies.

The Report: [Latin American Consumer Engagement in the Circular Economy](#) was launched, analyzing the commitment of Latin American consumers to the circular economy based on surveys with 1,100 people **across five (5) countries Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, México y Perú**, and providing a policy-oriented perspective regarding the environmental beliefs, attitudes towards reparability and durability of products, and the influence of social norms. Together, these studies provide governments with evidence-based resources to guide decision-making and enhance policy coherence in the region.

Next Steps

1. Provide support to the **Regional Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production for Latin America and the Caribbean** and countries to implement the LAC **Regional Strategy on SCP 2024-2030**.
2. Launch the first **pilot certifications** for two product categories under the AAA, ensuring criteria are tested and validated in national markets before scaling to additional categories.
3. Advance partnerships with international organizations and develop a roadmap for self-financing mechanisms by 2029, while consolidating international recognition through membership in the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN), which will **enable mutual recognition agreements** with the EU Ecolabel and other regional ecolabels.
4. Provide **technical assistance to integrate ecolabels and SPP into NBSAPs, NDCs and national procurement policies**.
5. Develop a **toolkit to support SMEs** and procurers in applying ecolabels and sustainability criteria in procurement processes.

6. A **second phase of the LAC Taxonomy Common Framework** is being drafted together with the Working Group on Sustainable Finance Taxonomies in Latin America and the Caribbean. This second phase is focused on other environmental objectives, starting with **biodiversity**. It is planned to publish this second phase by December 2025.
7. The publication of the Brazil's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy is expected by September 2025

Decision 3/2023 – Climate Change

Brief summary of the general progress of the Decision

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to promote and strengthen regional and South-South cooperation on climate change, including capacity building and the exchange of information and experiences in the field of adaptation, resilience, vulnerability, ecosystem approaches and in the sectors prioritized by the countries of the region for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; all of them aimed at and aligned with the fulfillment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

It is important to note that the activities established for the Work Plan of this Decision were **completed at 100%**, in some cases exceeding expectations.

Support has been provided for the **strengthening of national capacities** regarding the **formulation, updating, financing and implementation of NDCs**, as well as in the formulation of **Long-Term Climate Strategies** to encourage countries to set higher climate ambitions.

Similarly, several countries were supported to implement **systems that allow transparency and monitoring of the progress of NDCs, adaptation measures, mitigation, and support in terms of financing, capacity and technology**.

In addition, UNEP is strategically supporting the design of **National Adaptation Plans** and the **structuring of resilient development and investment strategies** at national, sectoral, and territorial levels. Through key projects, support is provided to strengthen climate change resilience and adaptation capacities at the urban and community levels, including through the **ecosystems-based adaptation approach**.

Another key action was the **strengthening of regional capacities for the recovery of the region after the COVID-19 pandemic**, which focused on the economic evaluations carried out in different countries that aimed to show how GDP, employment and GHG reduction could be addressed jointly through environmentally sustainable investments as well as the development of policy instruments, such as **sustainable finance taxonomies**, which serve as a guide for countries to direct their investments towards compliance with the Paris Agreement.

Main results achieved

Result 1: Institutional Capacities strengthened to develop and comply with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Successful technical completion of GCF Readiness Project NDC-5 to support the **formulation and implementation of NDC in 5 Central American countries** and ongoing

implementation of **NDC Action Projects in 3 countries** to increase their climate ambition prepare them for the next NDC implementation cycle starting in 2025.

Result 2: Improved and enhanced capacities in the Region for the implementation of Art.13 of the Paris Agreement.

Current **Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)** projects in Paraguay, Ecuador, Brazil, Belize and Panama (CBIT 2), and the completion of CBIT Chile, Argentina, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Honduras and Costa Rica projects have improved the knowledge and transparency management platforms, and consequently the climate change data that helps in monitoring the implementation of NDC, mitigation and adaptation actions and climate finance mobilized, as well as supporting the decision-making process. This has also helped countries in meeting the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. At the regional level, GEF in the frame of CBIT has mobilized USD 54.8 million (39 million by UNEP) across 28 projects (23 implemented by UNEP) throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

As several projects in the region have concluded their implementation phase, a period of review and learning has begun to support progressive improvement. This is reflected in the design of new projects with a comprehensive approach across the dimensions of mitigation, adaptation, and financing, as well as in the development of robust systems, not as an end in themselves, but as instruments to strengthen climate governance and evidence-based decision-making.

Similarly, the **CBIT Global Support Programme** has supported **South-South cooperation** spaces on relevant topics focusing on the Enhanced Transparency Framework, Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and 31 countries in the region have benefited from it.

Result 3 -Strengthen Regional capacities on Article 6 to catalyze climate financing for the implementation of NDC's.

UNEP Latin American and Caribbean Office is currently implementing two projects for this objective: (1) **GCF Readiness Project on Article 6 and Carbon Markets for 7 countries** in Latin America and the Caribbean to support their capacity-building and (2) the Regional Carbon Markets Observatory, which is implemented to support the capacity building in the region and strengthening the efforts for carbon markets implementation

The GCF Readiness Project has delivered until now to the participating countries the first analysis, which correspond to a detailed baseline and recommendations for institutional arrangements, policies, safeguards and eligibility criteria to enhance the carbon markets

and Art.6 implementation. Additionally, the project has supported the creation of articulation bodies in the countries as well as the inclusion of the instrument on national laws and policies.

The Regional Carbon Markets Observatory is a joint effort between UNEP, UNFCCC and CCAP to support the deployment of carbon markets in the region and support the regional collaboration. For the design and first implementation phase, it has been supported by the Euroclima program.

Result 4: Technical support for the implementation of ecosystem-based Approaches in key ecosystems and urban centers.

UNEP is carrying out two **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) projects in urban areas in 16 cities in the region** through the **Nature4Cities** projects, implemented in Camagüey and Manzanillo (Cuba); Santo Domingo, Ecuador, Guatemala City, Guatemala; La Lima and El Progreso (Honduras); Arraiján, Colón, Bocas del Toro and the Metropolitan Area of Chiriquí (Panama); Santiago de los Caballeros (Dominican Republic), Durazno and Rivera (Uruguay); and **CityAdapt**, implemented in San Salvador (El Salvador), Kingston (Jamaica) and Xalapa (Mexico).

The **Nature4Cities** project includes climate risk analysis, policy analysis and financial mechanisms, resulting in adaptation plans for the 10 participating cities. This technical support is accompanied by capacity building activities, private sector engagement and identification of scaling opportunities through project proposals to the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund.

The **CityAdapt** project included investment activities in pilot EbA measures in the 3 cities, support for the revision of regulations for the integration of adaptation to climate change in urban and territorial planning, and knowledge management at the regional level to increase the climate resilience of urban communities.

Both initiatives **are being extended** through project proposals to multilateral funds, including the resilient cities proposal for El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The **Resilient Watersheds** Project, formerly "**Fostering climate change adaptation in Panama through ecosystem approach for water security at the water basin level** – Resilient watersheds" is being implemented in ten watersheds, funded by EUROCLIMA, aims to strengthen climate resilience and water security by integrating ecosystem-based approaches into watershed-level planning and management. It enhances access to climate data, builds technical capacity for adaptation using downscaled climate projections, and implements **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)** measures. The project also promotes community participation, conducts climate risk assessments, and supports national and local institutions through capacity building and policy development. Complementary efforts include stakeholder engagement, knowledge management, and the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure long-term resilience to climate change.

UNEP is supporting Argentina and Brazil to implement GEF sustainable city projects. In Argentina, the USD 23 million project is supporting the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Mar del Plata, Mendoza, Salta and Ushuaia to undertake integrated low-emission and nature-positive urban planning. It is also supporting these cities to demonstrate the viability of ecosystem-based approaches as well as low-carbon solutions.

In Brazil, a USD 12 million project is supporting the metropolitan regions of Belem, Florianopolis and Teresina to strengthen integrated urban development planning, as well as demonstrate viability of ecosystem-based approaches and low-carbon solutions. The project also supports the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches nationally by strengthening institutional capacity, planning tools, financial mechanisms and knowledge platforms, which enables municipalities and regional governments to identify and prioritize sustainable urban solutions aligned with biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation goals.

Result 5. Capacities development so COVID-19 recovery in the region is aligned with the Paris Agreement.

Five country-based economic assessments were developed, showing how GDP, jobs and GHG emissions reduction, and resilience can be fostered by focusing economic recovery on environmentally sustainable investments (Panama, Costa Rica, Argentina, Grenada, and Honduras). A regional report named [“Green economic recovery: Mobilizing investments towards a low-emission, climate-resilient economy in Latin America and the Caribbean”](#) was published in April 2024.

The economic assessment for Panama contributed to set the new GHG emissions reduction goal under the energy sector in the updated NDC submitted by Panama to UNFCCC. It also contributed to allocate public budget for the implementation of the National Energy Transition Agenda.

Honduras’ economic assessment contributed to the design of the National Strategy on Resilient Recovery, which is expected to be adopted and published by Honduras’ government in 2023.

In addition, two **economic assessments on the job potential of transport electrification** were developed. One in Brazil named [“The transition of the Brazilian industry to electric vehicles and its effects on employment and income”](#); and one in Chile named [“The impact of electric mobility on employment in the mining sector in Chile”](#).

Result 6. LAC public and private financial institutions and Central Banks build capacities to align their finance flows with the Paris Agreement

UNEP is supporting Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, México and Costa Rica in the implementation of a GEF-funded Net-Zero Nature-Positive projects, with a total allocation of **US\$28 million**. These initiatives include targeted capacity-building efforts to equip financial actors with the tools and knowledge necessary to integrate climate into their operations, develop sustainable taxonomies, and mobilize investments aligned with net-zero, nature-positive development goals. The projects foster institutional coordination, support the creation of long-term financial strategies, and promote the adoption of climate-aligned fiscal instruments, including carbon pricing mechanisms and reforms to national green funds. They also provide tools for finance institutions to include nature and climate impacts into investment appraisal methodologies and de-risking tools.

Result 7. LAC regulatory framework and capacities strengthened to ease the adoption of Electric Mobility.

UNEP is implementing six GEF electric mobility projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite being at different stages of implementation, the projects in Costa Rica and Chile have successfully implemented taxi pilot programs, helping to develop a national regulatory framework focused on promoting electric mobility and the reuse and recycling of technological components. Additionally, the Caribbean region is advancing electric mobility regulation in three countries with a subregional view, supporting the common vision of low-emission transport. UNEP also implements an Electric Mobility Regional Support and Investment Platform which provides technical support services for countries and cities implementing electric mobility programs in the region. Although these projects significantly support electric mobility in the countries, there remains a need for further national and regional regulations to ensure complementary benefits to the energy sector and the circular economy of technological assets.

Likewise, UNEP is supporting Colombia in developing an efficiency standard for light-duty vehicles that aims to set gradual CO2 emission reduction targets, which requires speeding up the adoption of electric vehicles. Specifically, it is aiding in creating an energy efficiency compliance monitoring system, conducting a cost-benefit analysis, and assessing the market impact of the regulatory measure.

Furthermore, UNEP, in coordination with the Central American Integration System, is assisting the countries within the system in strengthening regulatory frameworks related to fuel quality, emissions standards, and energy efficiency to lower emissions from internal combustion new and used vehicles. As a supplementary measure, UNEP is supporting the creation of a Central American electric mobility strategy, building on the previous results of the GCF project implemented in the region.

Additionally, UNEP is implementing projects that support electric mobility with a more inclusive and transformative gender approach. Specifically, projects have been carried out in Colombia and Ecuador, where an analysis of the electric mobility value chain and women's

participation in this sector was conducted. In the second phase of the project, training courses are being offered to groups of women to help them enter the labor market in public transportation and last-mile urban logistics systems.

Finally, in response to the new challenges facing sustainable mobility regarding digitalization, UNEP is developing the ACCESS project, funded by IKI, which supports Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil in implementing mitigation actions based on data monitoring and analytics.

Next Steps

1. Implement **capacity-building actions on the operation and implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**, through a regional approach, to support countries to meet the objectives established in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), promote increased ambition and cooperation between the Parties.
2. Identify gaps and needs of the countries of the region to comply with the **transparency provisions of the Paris Agreement** and channel their requirements for the formulation of proposals.
3. Support the construction of collective knowledge to reinforce climate action and transparency among countries in the region by facilitating **south-south exchanges and consolidating communities of practice** to disseminate experiences, lessons learned and good practices.
4. Formulate concept notes for the **phasing of climate investment in Ecosystem-based Adaptation in urban areas of** the region. Three project proposals are expected to be developed next year for multilateral funds such as the Adaptation Fund or the Green Climate Fund.
5. Strengthen capacities in adaptation through new knowledge tools such as a **massive virtual course and communities of practice** for professionals and technicians from intermediary cities. The online platform will also be a space for the engagement of different type of audiences, including **youth** and civil society, as well as different actors from the **private sector**.
6. UNEP, in coordination with country representatives and focal points, will continue the implementation of its sustainable mobility portfolio in LAC, which includes technical and regulatory framework support, as well as capacity building actions on electric mobility, clean fuels and vehicles, and digitalization of transport with a focus on GHG and pollutant emissions reductions

Decision 4/2023 – Biodiversity

Brief summary of the general progress of the Decision

In the framework of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the role of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States agreed to the adoption of the Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean and for this purpose UNEP was requested to develop project proposals for its implementation, focused on innovative financial mechanisms, capacity building and transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation.

Initial progress was made in the implementation of the first actions of the Plan, among them, gathering more information regarding the current state of the region related to the restoration actions undertaken; the identification of strategic partners to support the implementation of the plan; and the development and transfer of capacities through communicational and educational materials on ecosystem restoration, including seminars in the region. An initial analysis of financial mechanisms was also started, including efforts for the development of several flagship project proposals.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the actions on implementation of the Restoration Action Plan came to a stop in 2023. As a result, during the Special Session of the Forum held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September 2024, Member States established the updating of the Plan as one of the six priorities of work of the Forum. Since then, the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States and with organizations active in the biodiversity agenda in the region, has developed a proposal that will be presented at the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC for their consideration and adoption. This proposal has been consulted through a Task Force on Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience.

The proposal for an updated Restoration Action Plan covers the proposed approaches to be followed to ensure a holistic view in the implementation of restoration activities, taking also into full consideration the strengthening of the water agenda, another of the priorities established by the Forum at its Special Session of 2024, seeking to ensure that water is considered as a cross-cutting element in the plan.

On another point, the Oceans Working Group of the Forum was established in the Biodiversity decision of the XXIII Meeting of the Forum. The Working Group was established following the call for focal points from Member States. The group held 4 meetings in the period 2024-2025, and agreed to a workplan for that period.

Furthermore, the flagship initiatives on jaguars and the Central American Dry Corridor continue implementation. The Jaguar 2030 Conservation Roadmap, has continued the implementation of its strategy, together with partners such as UNDP, WWF, WCS, and

Panthera, focusing on strengthening the jaguar corridor from Mexico to Argentina and mitigating human-jaguar conflict through sustainable development and community involvement. UNEP's role includes supporting the conservation activities of this strategy and its underlying ecosystems, promoting the multiple co-benefits of restoration and conservation of the involved habitats.

The Central American Dry Corridor programme has also continued implementation of its strategy, in coordinating with beneficiary Member States and multiple partners in the region, including FAO and IUCN.

Main results achieved

Result 1. Updating of the Regional Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration in LAC

In consultation with Member States through the Task Force for Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience, and through virtual and in-person dialogues with multiple partners, the action plan has been updated and a proposal developed for next steps, which will be presented for adoption at the XXIV Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC in October 2025.

The extensive consultation process has produced a document that, in a practical and direct manner, explains the background of the plan, the proposed approach, and the next practical steps.

Result 2. Launch of the Oceans Working Group and initial activities

The newly established Oceans Working Group adopted its terms of reference and a work plan for the period 2025 – 2027. The group decided to limit its activities, at least initially, to areas within national jurisdiction, pending the entry into force of the “BBNJ” agreement.

Among the main achievements, a survey of potential sources of financing for capacity building and related activities was done and shared with members of the group. In addition, a mapping of existing agreements and initiatives on oceans and marine coastal areas was conducted.

In the virtual meetings, exchanges were held with the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, the ecosystems and water units on UNEP, to start an exchange of information.

The group also served as a channel to invite expressions of interest to support to Member States on preparatory activities for ratification and initial implementation of the BBNJ agreement, through GEF funding.

Result 3. Advancing flagship initiatives

The flagship initiatives on jaguars and the Central American Dry Corridor continued implementation. The Jaguar 2030 Conservation Roadmap continued the implementation of its strategy, together with partners such as UNDP, WWF, WCS, and Panthera, focusing on strengthening the jaguar corridor from Mexico to Argentina and mitigating human-jaguar conflict through sustainable development and community involvement. UNEP's role included supporting the conservation activities of this strategy and its underlying ecosystems, promoting the multiple co-benefits of restoration and conservation of the involved habitats.

The Central American Dry Corridor programme has also continued implementation of its strategy, in coordinating with beneficiary Member States and multiple partners in the region, including FAO and IUCN.

Next Steps

1. Adoption of the proposed updated Regional Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration and Water Resilience.
2. Development of practical proposals for implementation of the Action Plan, in consultation with Member States.
3. Continue implementation of the flagship initiatives on biodiversity, including exploring innovative finance strategies.
4. Develop a 2025-2027 work plan for the Oceans Working group, subject to consultation with Member States on the relevance of continuing the work of the group, as requested in the Decision of the XXIV Meeting of the Forum, to be adopted in October 2025.

Decision 5/2023 - Environmental Education

Brief summary of the general progress of the Decision

The Environmental Training Network brings together 17 active countries in the region, represented by directors of environmental education within the ministries of the environment. In accordance with Decision 5, the Work Plan 2024-2025 prioritizes the following areas: training, exchange of experiences, advocacy, strengthening of national policies and strategies in environmental education, increasing cooperation between higher education institutions and national and municipal governments, promote research, innovation, and knowledge development, as well as increasing funding and partnerships around environmental education.

These efforts have created clearer pathways for action, enhanced technical capacities, access to information and south-south cooperation on programs and public policies, and supported the development of plans that contribute more effectively to the achievement of SDG 4.7, while fostering joint initiatives in several countries.

Main results achieved

Result 1. Increase environmental education capacity building, and exchange of experiences, facilitate cooperation between countries and regions to effectively implement environmental education, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ongoing professional training opportunities sent to the list of focal points. A total of twelve (12) focal point virtual meetings including a short 20-minute training course, three (3) regional in person workshops/trainings and more than twenty (20) webinars on various topics identified as priorities of the region, such as: environmental education, national strategies and policy, training tools, indicators, higher education cooperation, sustainable lifestyles, nudges and Green Jobs.

A total of four thousand (4,000) participants from governments, civil society, academia, and youth sector benefited from different information-sharing activities and training sessions.

During 2023 and 2024 [two focal point technical meetings](#) were celebrated implementing the Decision 5/23 and its Work Plan 2024-2025. In addition, the Secretariat supported four in person National Environmental Education congress,

i) The Lima Environmental Training Network Focal Point Meeting hosted by the Ministry of Environment Peru and part of the [2023 Peru National Education Conference](#) gathered 15 directors of environmental education from the region's Ministries of the Environment or officials assigned by them from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Ecuador also participated virtually.

ii) October 13th and 14th Cali, Colombia- Environmental Training Network Focal point meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, working group of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The event was organized by the UNEP's Latin America and the Caribbean Office and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, it gathered directors of environmental education directors in the ministries of environment from 17 countries. The strategic agenda worked to strengthen methodological, political and conceptual approaches to environmental education and concluded with the publication of a message that includes eight key principles to involve governments and institutions in the construction of a transformative, inclusive and accessible environmental education.

iii) October 16th and 18th VIII Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education. Organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia and gathered more than 3,000 people from 22 countries and was developed under the axes of environmental challenges, environmental citizenship and sustainability, framing key reflections on environmental education and its integration with public policies. UNEP supported the participation of the Environmental Training Network focal points to the congress where representatives from Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Brazil, and Ecuador delivered seminars. During the three days, 438 papers were presented, 69 workshops were offered.

The event culminated with a **Declaration** that stressed the importance of articulating the biocultural diversity of the territories, strengthening the dialogue between public policies and communities, and promoting an environmental ethic based on justice and respect for traditional knowledge. The final declaration of the Congress was presented at COP16, reaffirming the commitment to generate policies and strategies that promote peace with nature and strengthen environmental education as a fundamental pillar for global sustainability.

iv) The 8th National Meeting and 3rd Latin American Roundtable on Environmental Education, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 2024. "Building Transformative Environmental Education" was organized by the Ministry of Environment Uruguay addressing pressing environmental issues and promoting sustainable development through a multifaceted approach.

v) The National Environmental Education Meeting in Argentina featured a message of the Environmental Training Network (5 December 2024). A pre-recorded message, prepared by the UNEP Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, was presented on behalf of the Environmental Education Network. This message emphasized the significance of the network, the importance of cooperation in education across Latin America, and the necessity of environmental education for achieving a just and sustainable future.

Result 2. Increase policy advocacy and promote environmental education at all levels.

Supporting environmental education units in the region, to mobilize environmental education processes differentiated and contextualized to the territories with the active engagement of local communities affected or at risk, that significantly impact the realities of the countries. The Secretariat provided technical support, south- south cooperation on the following national processes:

Technical review of the Panamá National Policy for Environmental Citizenship and the Ecuador's National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development 2025-2030, yet to be launched.

Capacity building and south-south public policy workshops:

- Assistance at the Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic in developing a National Educators Network. Participants were presented with insights from national education networks in Chile and Peru, highlighting differences in their structures, formalization processes, and maintenance strategies. This exchange enabled the technical team to explore various modalities and potential opportunities. [More here.](#)
- Colombia New National Environmental Education Policy. Indicators workshop ideation for the Ministry of Environment of Colombia team, the event gathered the national experiences of Argentina's National Education Policy and the Brazilian System for Monitoring and Evaluating Projects and Public Policies on Environmental Education. [More here.](#)
- Supported Honduras (INJUVE) National Workshop for Draft Public Policy on Youth.

Strengthen the Network's working links with the rest of the countries. An exploration meeting was designed and disseminated at Caribbean countries to collaborate for Environmental Education Day; the call was answered by two countries. Based on a subsequent analysis, the Environmental Training Network will continue its linkages and work with the Caribbean English-speaking countries.

UNEP has provided technical support to strengthen training and cooperation on measuring impact indicators, particularly targets 4.7, 12.8, and 13.3, through the **Environmental Education Indicator Working Group** with the participation of 14 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Four virtual meetings were held to present the proposal, methodology, tool demonstration, and a final workshop. The indicator serves as a baseline or complement to measure environmental education at local and national levels, offering an adaptable, efficient, and clear tool, while also enhancing technical skills and fostering knowledge sharing to advance environmental education. [More here.](#)

Result 3. Increase the cooperation of higher education institutions with government to promote research, innovation and knowledge development of environmental education.

Elaboration and publication of the following tools for environmental education mainstreaming in environmental initiatives:

The report **Building a Sustainable Future: Integrating the Environment and Climate Change into Education Policies and Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean** provides a regional overview of how education systems in 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are incorporating the environment and climate change into their regulatory frameworks, programs, and educational practices, both formal and non-formal. The report maps **30 variables per country and highlights 32 relevant experiences**, offering valuable inputs for the formulation of more integrated public policies based on SDGs 4, 12, and 13, especially targets 4.7, 12.8, and 13.3. Study was conducted in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of understanding the integration between education and the environment in public policies. The publication is available [here](#).

The **Environmental Education Resources Guide** for teachers and environmental educators, it includes a pedagogical methodology of interdisciplinary approaches that enables the exchange of environmental knowledge based on reflection and action, with 10 thematic chapters on: water, soil, air, biodiversity, climate change, environmental education,

sustainable consumption, solid waste, energy, and ecosystem restoration. Available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

Environmental Education Messages from the Environmental Training Network in anticipation of the VIII Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education. These ten messages highlighted the formal, non-formal, and informal nature of environmental education; its inclusion at the core of public policies, advocating for continuous training and access to information for citizens; and proposed progress in strengthening the capacities of teachers and trainers as environmental educators, recognizing the need for funding within the framework of international cooperation. [Find it here](#).

Report on the Integration of the 2030 Agenda in higher education institutions. Results of cooperation with the Alliance of Ibero-American University Networks for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA) to facilitate the measurement of the integration of sustainable development goals in higher education institutions through the Observatory of Sustainability in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. A report on 50 universities in the region was presented. [See here](#).

Mapping exercise of training opportunities in environmental education identified 51 programs across the region, 48 provide certification upon completion, and 35 are free of charge or offer scholarships. Regarding delivery formats, 43 are available in virtual or hybrid modalities, while 8 are conducted in person. In terms of language and accessibility, 46 opportunities are offered in Spanish and 5 in English. Most of these programs are open access or offered at low cost, facilitating broader participation and capacity-building in environmental education. Here

Engagement of the Network at eight (8) webinars for higher education exchanges and presentations, including the III Ibero-American Congress on Education for Sustainability in Higher Education, held in Santiago, Chile.

Result 4. Increase opportunities and partnerships on environmental education

UNEP will continue its action toward technical support to enhance capacity in government institutions, such as Ministries of Environment and cooperation with Ministries of Education and other partners, for the production and dissemination of reliable and relevant information for decision and policy making. Highlight the necessity to provide adequate financing and comply with the Fiduciary Fund commitments to enhance the Environmental Training Network.

Pilot project for knowledge exchange between environment ministries and education ministries. The aim of this space was to facilitate meetings to highlight successful cases of programs, initiatives, and public policies developed jointly by ministries of education and ministries of environment in various countries. This platform will enable both entities to promote inspiring examples within their networks and facilitate the replication of practices related to environmental education.

In addition, efforts are underway to strengthen the capacity to access funding and elevate the profile of environmental education. Academic research and analyses are being developed to better understand investment flows and financing mechanisms, with the aim of mobilizing and increasing funding for environmental education. Key questions include: How much is currently invested in environmental education through public and international funds? What funding opportunities are available to further support these initiatives?

- i. Creation of a **minisiters on environmental education, featuring** information on the Network, newsletters, publications, and tools for the Latin America and the Caribbean region ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- ii. Development of communication and training materials were developed in line with the "Environmental Education Guide for Ecosystem Restoration".
- iii. Support provided for three activities to commemorate Environmental Education Day.
- iv. Proposal for an Environmental Education Podcast, coordinated with the Network's Presidency.

Next Steps

1. **Participate in the International Course 'Capacity Building in Community Environmental Education to Address the Triple Environmental Crisis**, cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment of Chile, AGCID, and JICA (JCPP 2030), UNEP and UNESCO for three years. Start in October 2025 until November 2027.
2. **Launch of the Environmental Education Checklist** for application and mainstream in any type of environmental initiative.
3. Present the results of the analysis of **sources of financing for environmental education activities in LAC**, and determine next steps to seek additional sources of funding of the activities of the network in the region.

Decision 6/2023 – Advancing the implementation of Gender Equality in Environmental Management in Latin America and the Caribbean

Brief summary of the general progress of the Decision

In 2023, the Group designed its second work plan until 2025, which consists of five focus areas: (1) Dissemination, knowledge, and generation of information; (2) Capacity building and strengthening; (3) Implementation and mainstreaming of the gender perspective in environmental policies and projects; (4) Participation and empowerment of women; and (5) Group management, monitoring and follow-up. The evaluation of the Group's first Work Plan (2023 - 2025) **showed a compliance of 82%**.

Main results achieved

Result 1: The established LAC Gender and Environment Working Group is implementing a work plan.

The group dedicated most of its work plan to the development of new materials and knowledge resources, including:

1. Elaboration of the study '**Gender Gaps and the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean**'. The text analyses the following dimensions: (i) Impact of environmental crises on women in all their diversity in LAC; (ii) Governance of multiple environmental crises and gender in LAC (climate change, biodiversity lost; pollution and disaster management); and (iii) Women in environmental decision-making in LAC (Ministries and country delegations to MEA Conventions). [Document here](#).
2. Elaboration of the Analysis Document "**Gender and environment: a preliminary analysis of gaps and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean**", the first text of its kind in the region, which presents and analyses 10 gaps in the relationship between gender and environment: (i) Land rights and women's role in agriculture; (ii) Women in small-scale mining; (iii) Women in fishing; (iv) Women's role in the defence of environmental rights; (v) Disaster risk and climate change impacts; (vi) Sustainable production and consumption: waste management; (vii) Women in environmental decision-making; (viii) Access to water and sanitation; (ix) Access to clean energy for cooking; and (x) Access to energy. **Available at:** <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/34929>
3. **Development of a regional Mapping**, the first text of its kind in the region, which produced two products: (i) **54 LAC experiences on the effective use of an integrated**

approach to gender and women's participation in environmental issues and (ii) **247 important actors** with actions on gender and environment identified for the 33 LAC countries and for the region.

4. Launched report '**Just Transition, Just Energy Transition and Green Job Creation, for women in 14 LAC countries**', in cooperation with FIAP Euroclima. Gender equality, employment, and green transition analysis of public policies in 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean was launched during the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2025. [Check here](#).

5. **Development and publication of the following tools** for gender mainstreaming in environmental initiatives:

- a. A **Gender integration checklist** for application in any type of environmental initiative.
- b. A **Policy note** for decision-makers with recommendations and a compilation of 93 tools and knowledge platforms for gender mainstreaming in environmental initiatives.
- c. A **List of indicators** to measure the situation of women in relation to natural resources/environmental degradation (applied in a pilot in 6 countries).
- d. A **Guide to gender mainstreaming in climate finance**.
- e. A **Practical community guide for rainwater sowing and harvesting**.

6. Development of a UNEP-hosted website on gender and environment for LAC (Information available in English and [Spanish](#))

2. Strengthening capacities and training in gender equity

The Working Group also implemented multiple capacity building activities, inter alia:

1. Creation of a **virtual library for the Group, with more than 300 specialised texts** on gender and 52 environmental issues. [Here](#).
2. Ongoing professional training opportunities sent to the list of focal points. A total of **fifty-one (51) focal point virtual meetings** since the creation of the group, and **twelve (12) webinars** on the following topics:
3. **Webinar 'Gender equity and chemicals management: challenges and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean'** (17 December 2024) 337 registered participants from 33 countries, and the participation of 104 people.
4. Webinar "**Launching of the regional summary: Integration of the Gender Approach to Climate Change, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction in LAC**" (25 June 2024) registration of 255 persons.

5. **Webinar "Rainwater sowing and harvesting, an empowerment technique for women in LAC"** (26 September 2023) registration of 634 people from 45 countries (80% women).
6. Training **"Tools for the integration of the gender approach in environmental policy in Latin America and the Caribbean"** (03 May 2023) registration of 300 people from 17 LAC countries.
7. Training: **"Guide for gender mainstreaming in climate finance, a space for dialogue with the author"** (19 April 2023) registration of 81 people from 16 LAC countries.
8. Webinar **"Challenges for the integration of the gender approach in environmental policy in LAC"** (15 March 2023) registration of 577 people from 39 countries (85% women; 514 people from 24 LAC countries; 63 people from 15 countries outside LAC).
9. Training **"Gender financing"** for 55 officials from the Ministries of Environment and from some of the Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women of 14 LAC countries in December 2022.
10. **Webinar "Indigenous women: agents of change in socio-environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean"**, on 31 August 2021, with the registration of 815 people from 38 countries and 1,556 views on YouTube.
11. **Webinar "the role of women in private environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean"** (24 May 2022) registration of 777 people, from 57 countries and 794 views on YouTube.
12. **Webinar "Promoting gender equality in environmental management in Latin America and the Caribbean"**, on 12 March 2021, with the attendance of 345 people (45% from the public sector), from 29 countries and 33 NGOs working on the issue.
13. **Webinar Gender Equality and Chemicals Management: Challenges and Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean**, on 17 December 2024 presented the perspectives from various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 337 people registered, 104 participants, from 33 countries (21 from LAC).
14. **Webinar: "Creators of the Future: Women at the Center of the Circular Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean."** In partnership with the Latin American and Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition. Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

The recordings of these events are available in the **"Events"** section of the UNEP LAC [gender and environment website](#).

3. Cooperation and alliances for gender and environmental issues

In the framework of the Group's Work Plan, UN Women held the **'Regional Workshop "Towards the construction of gender, environment and climate change indicators"**, 5-6 September 2024, at INEGI in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Within the framework of the Global Gender Alliance and AILAC. Between 2023 and 2024, focal points from some of the countries of the Group have been supported by UN Women, UNDP, UNEP, ECLAC, the Kaschak Institute of Binghamton University (USA) and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in the development of a series of face-to-face and virtual meetings and workshops, with a view to the **renewal of the Third UNFCCC Gender Plan of Action (GAP-3)**.

Materialisation of a **strategic alliance with the FIIAPP** - International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Administration and Policy to:

- (i) the financing and co-organisation in May 2024 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, of the **Second face-to-face meeting of the LAC Gender and Environment Group**, aimed at strengthening the Group's capacities, in which 28 people from 17 Latin American countries participated in person. In addition to the in-person accompaniment of 3 of the Group's partner organisations.
- (ii) Funding of the study '**Just Transition, Just Energy Transition and Green Job Creation, for women in 14 LAC countries**', to be developed in 2025. Gender equality, employment, and green transition analysis of public policies in 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- (iii) Side event **Climate Change and Care: Towards a Green and Just Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean** and Group representation at the 16th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean 2025, held in Mexico.

Next Steps

1. Establish a roadmap in conjunction with the Working Group and the Presidency, defining the resources and capacities to prioritize the Work Plan 2026-2027.
2. Joint review of the Working Group reports and tools developed, prioritized and disseminated.
3. Continue the process of identifying strategic partners in the region to support the implementation of the Work Plan 2025-2027.

Decision 5/2021 – Strengthening Environmental Information and Data Capacities in Latin America and the Caribbean

Brief summary of the general progress of the Decision

In March 2023, a Technical Cooperation Agreement was finalized between UNEP and the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) with the aim of implementing Decision 5/21. Through this agreement, significant resources were mobilized to design and produce the Biennial Report on the state of the Environment in LAC and the Regional Data and Information Platform.

In parallel, and in full accordance with the Decision, UNEP has provided technical and financial support to countries of the region to enhance their capacity to collect, validate and publish policy-relevant environmental data and statistics, including SDGs indicators.

This support was channeled through the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) with targeted webinars and technical trainings covering SDG indicators for goals 6, 12, 14 and 15, plus specialized geospatial trainings in collaboration with MapBiomass and the European Space Agency (Copernicus LAC Hub).

Main results achieved

Result 1. Integrated Environmental Information System

The Regional Environmental Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean, mandated by the Forum in 2021 and funded by CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, has been fully developed and is pending migration to UNEP servers.

- Built with open-source technology, fully interoperable with UNEP’s architecture.
- Structured around the triple planetary crises (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and GEO components).
- Integrates validated official data from governments and international organizations (e.g., ECLAC), geospatial layers (MAP-X), and statistical datasets aligned with GEO reporting.
- Includes a centralized knowledge hub with UNEP training materials, presentations, and webinars.

- Open-source code allows countries to adapt national platforms without licensing costs. Belize operationalized its national platform in 2023; while Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados have expressed strong interest.

Result 2. Biennial Report on the State of the Environment of LAC

The Biennial Report on the State and Outlook of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean has been finalized with CAF funding and UNEP contributions.

- Draws on scientific literature, official publications, and policy documents.
- Structured in two parts:
 1. **State and trends** – analysis of environment under the triple planetary crises.
 2. **Transformation pathways** – energy, food systems, materials and waste, finance, and nature.
- Serves as a tool for dialogue between science and policy, fostering integration of environmental priorities into economic and social decision-making.
- Planned presentation at the Forum as a strategic moment to position environment at the center of regional policy.

Result 3. Strengthening technical capacity of government institutions

The Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) has consolidated its role as the Forum’s scientific advisory mechanism and central platform for advancing reliable, policy-relevant environmental information.

- **Governance:** Executive Committee established (co-chaired by Belize and Mexico) with balanced regional representation.
- **Working Groups:** on environmental statistics and indicators, geospatial data, and Caribbean issues.
- **Capacity-building:**
 - 20+ webinars and trainings since late 2023, with more than 15 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean participating.
 - Focus on SDG indicators (Goals 6, 12, 14 and 15).
 - Specialized training on geospatial applications in collaboration with ESA, Copernicus LAC Hub, and MapBiomass.

- Eutrophication – causes and effects on biodiversity and fishing.
- **Support to countries:** direct assistance to seven national State of the Environment (SoE) reports and GEO assessments: Barbados, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Paraguay.

Result 4. Policy briefs and technical notes to inform decision-makers

As part of the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN) acting as a Scientific Advisory Body to the Forum, two series of policy briefs and technical policy briefs have been prepared to inform decision-makers across LAC

Series A: Ecosystem restoration (in collaboration with UNIANDES)

- Ecosystem services – role in the region’s sustainable development.
- Restoration economics – costs and benefits.
- Synergies among the three Rio Conventions – policy opportunities.

Series B: Ocean pollution (in collaboration with REMARCO)

- Microplastics – regional situation and perspectives.
- Ocean acidification – impacts on regional economies.
- Eutrophication – causes and effects on biodiversity and fishing.

Next Steps

1. Migration of the Regional Environmental Information System to UNEP servers and expansion of functionalities.
2. Confirmation of REIN membership, Renewal of its Executive Committee.
3. Identification of priority themes for the 2026–2027 REIN work plan.
4. Strengthening of government institutional capacity for statistics and information production and dissemination.

Decision 6/2021 The Environmental Dimension of Emergencies and Crises

The following actions are strongly aligned with Action Plan 2, point 2: "Mainstream environment into humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors and activities at regional and national levels", as well as with point 3: "Demonstrate and disseminate solutions for enhancing the resilience of communities at national and subnational levels, from preparedness and DRR to early warning, response, recovery, and integrated peace, security and development planning".

Brief summary of the general progress of the Decision

In early May 2024, severe flooding occurred in southern Brazil. In response, OHCHR was called upon to act in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship (MDHC) and the Office of the Ombudsman (DPU). During this joint engagement, several initiatives were developed, in addition to the emergence of new post-flood actions.

In June 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed between OHCHR and the MDHC. Initial work focused on the technical support requested by the MDHC regarding the implementation of Ordinance 218 of 2023, which establishes the Action Protocol of the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship in Situations of Risk and Disasters. A joint work plan was developed, of which several actions have already been carried out.

At the regional level, OHCHR has worked to strengthen the capacities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction, especially in the context of climate emergencies and other crises. The Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas (RINDHCA), which brings together 18 NHRIs across the Americas, has served as a key platform for advancing this agenda, with OHCHR proposing a technical cooperation initiative to strengthen institutional capacity and promote responses that protect vulnerable populations and respect international human rights standards.

In March 2025, OHCHR developed a methodology to collect information on experiences, good practices, and challenges faced by NHRIs in emergency contexts. A data collection template, available in Spanish and English, was shared with RINDHCA. Preliminary findings were presented in April 2025 during the network's general assembly. These inputs are guiding the development of a regional protocol for action and coordination by NHRIs in humanitarian responses. This protocol will provide practical guidance, standardize actions, and facilitate the documentation of alleged human rights violations in these contexts.

Main results achieved

Result 1. Increase policy advocacy and promote environmental education at all levels.

Technical support to include an environmental component in the National Human Rights Education Plan and training on environmental emergencies, protection, the environment, and human rights for directors and technicians from all areas of the MDHC. Thirty directors from the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship were trained during a two-and-a-half-day training program.

Result 2. Document and elevate the climate, peace and security dialogue at regional and national levels

Activities have included:

1. Supporting dissemination of knowledge, solutions and policies on climate, peace and security and nurture dialogue at sub-regional and regional levels.
2. Mainstreaming environment into humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors and activities at regional and national levels.
3. Organizing and facilitating online and in-person trainings, webinars, workshops and plenary meetings for humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors (at regional, subregional and national level) and implementing partners.

Result 3. Demonstrate and disseminate solutions for enhancing resilience of communities at national and subnational levels, from preparedness and DRR to early warning, response, recovery and integrated peace, security and development planning

Main activities have been:

1. Developing and demonstrating initiatives, methods, and tools for community-based resilience building.
2. Developing and delivering training packages on building community resilience.
3. Disseminating community-based models and experiences to nurture national-level dialogue and policy making on resilience.

Next Steps

1. A second training session, planned for 2025, is currently underway, specifically targeting MDHC focal points on environmental emergencies. Technical support is also being provided for the development of the protocol and other joint actions.
2. Consolidating this work through concrete tools, knowledge sharing, and strengthening the role of NHRIs as actors in humanitarian coordination and climate justice.
3. Delivering a regional protocol for the action and coordination of NHRIs in humanitarian and environmental responses.