



## **Mainstreaming and innovative governance of biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and opportunities for sustainability in development planning and agriculture**

**Concept note for informal virtual dialogue with private sector**

**Tuesday, July 4, from 10:00 - 13:00 hours (UTC-4), via Zoom**

### **Background**

We are halfway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015. It is clear achieving this agenda requires structural changes in the functioning of our economies and production systems, such as food production, as well as in development planning that effectively integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development, recognizing their interdependence and the transformative potential that emerges from simultaneously addressing the social, environmental, and economic dimensions (Harris et al., 2023). It is worth noting that decades of global economic growth have failed to prevent the various types of cascading crises (*ibidem*).

During the progress review meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda held in May 2023 in Nairobi, it was highlighted that the dominant form of food production is unsustainable and a major driver of the numerous interconnected crises facing the world. It also accounts for up to one-third of greenhouse gas emissions, up to 80% of biodiversity loss, and up to 70% of freshwater usage (UNSDG, 2023). The continuous demand for more food products without environmentally and socially responsible production practices has led to the expansion of crop areas and monocultures, intensified use of agrochemicals, overexploitation of water resources, increased soil erosion, and the decline of pollinators and other native species, among other processes of loss and degradation (IPBES, 2019; SCDB, 2022; FAO, 2020; Yamaguchi et al., 2021). This is of vital importance in Latin America and the Caribbean, which possess one of the world's greatest biocultural heritages but also face significant threats to this heritage, along with high levels of inequality and social exclusion that are globally prominent (CEPAL, 2022). Territorial inequality is sharply expressed in the region, with many areas inhabited by indigenous, rural, or Afro-descendant populations exhibiting much higher levels of deprivation than national averages (Martínez, González, & Williner, 2023).

There is consensus in Latin America and the Caribbean that territorial asymmetries within each country should be corrected to improve the quality of life for the population and build more cohesive societies, preventing socioeconomic, political, and institutional fractures (Martínez, González and Williner, 2023). In 2022, the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) identified 225 policies in the region that can be explicitly or implicitly linked to reducing territorial gaps and promoting the improvement of inhabitants' quality of life, providing an important foundation for expanding the path of transformation. In this regard, based on 10 years of research on territorial development in the region, ILPES and CEPAL propose a framework for the design, implementation, and evaluation of planning and public policies focused on four pillars: intersectorality, participation of multiple actors, articulation between government levels (national, intermediate, and local), and intertemporality, ensuring that present goals, targets, and actions align with future ones (*ibidem*).



The new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted last December as a roadmap until 2030, is also committed to carrying out transformative changes that promote equality, peace, and the reintegration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, with special emphasis on the environmental aspect while not neglecting the social and economic dimensions. Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with extraordinary biological and cultural wealth that can play a key role in advancing the goals of the KM-GBF, although it has not yet been comprehensively addressed to drive development. Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, young people, and Afro-descendant individuals often face multiple inequalities and are frequently subjected to the most intense impacts of biodiversity degradation and loss. At the same time, they have less representation in decision-making spaces, including those related to environmental action and climate change. For example, indigenous peoples occupy approximately 1/5 of the surface area of Latin America and the Caribbean, predominantly in forested areas (80%), and often exhibit lower deforestation rates than official protected areas. However, they receive limited financial support for the protection of their territories (FAO and FILAC, 2021). The KM-GBF has attributed great importance to them, recognizing them as key agents of change.

Sustainable development planning and agriculture play a crucial role in the transformative changes committed to by the KM-GBF, steering us away from the multiple interconnected environmental, climate, social, and economic crises. These crises can be addressed through comprehensive tools that provide multidimensional benefits, such as trans-sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity and innovative governance for transformative change in favor of biodiversity (Alvarado, Tambutti, & Rankovic, 2022; Catacora-Vargas et al., 2022).

Addressing territorial inequalities, food security, individual and collective human development, conserving and restoring strategic ecosystems, recognizing the right to social, ethnic-cultural, and gender diversity are challenges that require profound changes in our societies. These changes must be carried out through just transitions that reduce inequalities across multiple dimensions, rather than exacerbating them. We are at a crucial moment for joint action by all of society, for which it is important to create neutral spaces for dialogue and debate among multiple actors.

## Objectives

The organization of three regional virtual multi-stakeholder dialogues on *Mainstreaming and innovative governance of biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development planning and agriculture* by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in collaboration with the Post2020 EU-Support Project aims to promote the coherent and systemic changes necessary to advance sustainable development in the region, strengthening its three dimensions.

The stakeholder groups are: i) social actors (indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia); ii) private sector actors (companies of different sizes, cooperatives, financial sector actors) and academia; iii) national and subnational governments and technical-scientific advisors to governments.

The dialogue on July 4th, focused on private sector actors, will involve the participation of actors from various countries in the region, related to agricultural, livestock and fishing production, cooperatives, financial institutions, larger food companies, academy, experts in agriculture, fisheries, planning, governance, biodiversity, and other relevant actors in the field of conservation and sustainable development.



## Specific objectives

- Engage new actors in the discussion and reflection process, creating an informal and neutral space for dialogue on the transformative changes and just transitions needed to reintegrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Reflect on and debate how the KM-GBF can contribute to the promotion of sustainable food systems, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the region and the key factors as well as key factors for promoting coherent and systemic changes.
- Enhance the catalytic role of development planning from the governance framework, policies and monitoring for the implementation of instruments and/or actions that drive the transformative changes proposed by the KM-GBF.
- Identify and debate the main challenges, needs, best practices and opportunities for broad multi-actor early implementation of the KM-GBF, including biodiversity mainstreaming and innovative governance as tools for sustainable management of terrestrial and marine resources.
- Collect and generate key data and information for the development of future tools on biodiversity mainstreaming in development policies and innovative governance, promoting a regional vision on key issues and processes for the implementation of the KM-GBF under a "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach.

## References

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**PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF THE INFORMAL VIRTUAL DIALOGUE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR**  
**On**  
***Mainstreaming and innovative governance***  
***of biodiversity in Latin American and the Caribbean: Challenges and opportunities for sustainability***  
***in development planning and agriculture***

**Tuesday, July 4, from 10:00 - 13:00 hours (UTC-4), via Zoom**

<http://eventcreate.com/e/PrivateSector-LACvirtualdialogue>

Time (Chile)	Session and speaker
10:00 -10:20	<p><b>1.- Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Marcia Tambutti</b> (plenary moderator), Biodiversity Specialist, Agricultural Development and Biodiversity Unit, Natural Resources Division (DRN), ECLAC - <i>Welcome and general objectives.</i></p> <p><b>Jeannette Sánchez</b>, Director of the DRN, ECLAC. - <i>Opening remarks.</i></p> <p><b>Nicolas Thomas</b>, Coordinator Knowledge &amp; Capacity-building of the Post2020 Biodiversity Biodiversity Framework EU Support project</p> <p><b>Alejandra Duarte</b>, Consultant of Expertise France. - <i>Methodology of the dialogue in working groups.</i></p>
10:20 - 11:20	<p><b>2.- The new global biodiversity framework and its link with the agricultural sector</b></p> <p><b>Víctor Alvarado</b>, Consultant of Expertise France and co-author of ECLAC studies on biodiversity mainstreaming and transformative governance. - <i>Key aspects of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, biodiversity mainstreaming and innovative governance as key tools.</i></p> <p><b>First round of dialogue in working groups.</b></p>
11:20 - 11:25	<b>Break time</b>
11:25 - 12:25	<p><b>3.- The challenges of integrated development planning and its linkages with biodiversity and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean</b></p> <p><b>Alicia Williner</b>, Planning, Foresight and Territorial Development Area, Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), ECLAC. - <i>Challenges for the design and implementation of integrated policies and plans.</i></p> <p><b>Second round of dialogue in working groups.</b></p>
12:25 - 13:00	<p><b>4.- Results and reflections of the working groups</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Marcia Tambutti</b></p> <p><b>Presentation by each working group</b>, Results of the discussions.</p> <p><b>Santiago Lorenzo</b>, Head of Unit Climate Change Economics (ECLAC).- <i>Closure.</i></p>