



Nature
based
Solutions for
for agriculture



Webinar - 5 August 2021 Towards a Nature-based recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, with 16% of terrestrial plants and 40% of global biological diversity. But the regional natural capital has deteriorated considerably. Agriculture suffers the consequences of environmental deterioration and at the same time contributes to causing it. Therefore, there is currently a debate on how higher sustainability in food production, processing, transportation, marketing, preservation, and consumption can contribute to conserving natural capital and productivity.

Nature-Based Solutions (NBSs) are a set of strategies for the sustainable management of ecosystems, recovering or increasing the benefits that nature provides to people, and which allow addressing various social challenges effectively. NBS, in turn, bring together several ecosystem-based approaches, and are related to the new paradigms of sustainable production, such as the bioeconomy and agroecology, as they address the sustainable use of biological resources to provide goods and services for the well-being of society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had broad economic, social, and health impacts, evidencing and deepening social gaps and pre-existing productivity challenges. Regional GDP contracted by 7.7%, and public debt grew to 56.3% on average in 2020 (ECLAC, 2021). Governments are trying to reactivate the economy and create jobs, but with more debt and fewer resources. NBSs are low-investment options with the potential to generate jobs while recovering or maintaining natural capital and productivity in agriculture. Unfortunately, these investments for recovery have not been produced in the dimension or scale required (UN Environment, 2021).

The concept of NBS is particularly relevant for breaking institutional silos in the development of policies to jointly address global environmental challenges and the commitments of countries to the three main UN multilateral environmental agreements (The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, known as the Rio Conventions). NBSs are also relevant to move towards a new development model that allows the regional natural heritage to be conserved and used sustainably.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in collaboration with the Republic of Korea, is developing a project intended to improve national capacities to develop Nature-based Solutions (NBS) related to the bioeconomy for a sustainable post-Covid-19 recovery, focusing on the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biological resources in agriculture. This meeting is taking place within the framework of this collaboration, seeking to promote a regional discussion on the opportunities for NBS in agriculture for recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. Objectives

- Present the scope of the NBS and their actions in agriculture.
- Identify relevant synergies for climate action, reverse biodiversity loss, and avoid land degradation in agriculture, with potential for post-Covid-19 recovery.
- Identify ongoing investments in favor of NBS, implementation barriers, and strategies to overcome them in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. Program

Time (Santiago, Chile)	Activities
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome remarks Ms. Jeannette Sánchez – Director, Division of Natural Resources, ECLAC. Mr. Yang Ho In, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea.
11:10 – 12:10	Nature-based solutions in agriculture: experiences for Latin America and the Caribbean Moderation: Marcia Tambutti, biodiversity specialist, DNR/ECLAC
11:10 – 11:25	– Ms. Laura Meza (Consultant, ECLAC): <i>Scope of NBS in agriculture: enhancing synergies between the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification.</i>
11:25 – 11:40	– Mr. Mauricio Luna (Advisor Programme Euroclima+ GIZ): <i>NBS in climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean.</i>
11:40 – 11:55	– Sra. Karen Udaeta (Consultant, CEPAL): <i>The experience of the Republic of Korea in policy development and implementation of NBS.</i>
11:55 – 12:10	– Sr. Manuel Winograd (Senior Research at Wageningen University and Research- WUR): <i>experiences of NBS in urban and rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.</i>
12:10 – 12:15	Virtual survey
12:15 – 12:45	Discussion: Moderation: Laura Meza, consultant ECLAC. i) Identification of NBS initiatives in agriculture with national or regional scaling-up potential and investments required. ii) Identification of gaps to promote NBS in agriculture
12:45 – 12:50	Synthesis and closure Adrián Rodríguez, Chief, Agricultural Development and Biodiversity Unit, DNR/ECLAC.