



Biodiversity as a Catalyst for a Green and Fair Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Organized by: CANNING HOUSE, ECLAC, UNEP, ILO and Dasgupta Review
Wednesday **MAY 26TH** 9:00-11:00 (Chi, Br, TyT)/8-10 am Mx/7-9 am CR

With negotiations being ramped up ahead of COP15 in China and COP26 in the UK at the end of this year, countries are increasingly aligning their commitments towards building back better, down the green and blue recovery routes. Nevertheless, a significant gap in the knowledge of the role biodiversity plays in human well-being, national security, jobs, and a fair, green and sustainable development remains.

We are seizing a unique and timely opportunity to take a holistic approach to biodiversity, drawing on all three inter-linked pillars of the global sustainable development agenda. Biodiversity is an economic issue, an environmental issue and a social issue. Our event will bring together the experts and organisations at the forefront of advancing this global agenda and specifically across Latin America and the Caribbean. By providing key insight into the regional experience through case studies of success, obstacles, and nature-based solutions and opportunities, and with your participation in this event, we aim to further reinforce the importance of the broader, deeper, transformative changes necessary for inclusive development.

Themes and Cutting-edge Research:

The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review

Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history, undermining the productivity, resilience and adaptability of nature. This is in turn posing a serious risk to our economies and livelihoods. In 2019, Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta was therefore commissioned by the UK Treasury to produce an independent and global Review on the [Economics of Biodiversity](#). The Review presents a new economic framework, grounded in ecology and the Earth Sciences, in order to understand the sustainability of our engagement with Nature and identify the options humanity has to enhance both our biodiversity and our prosperity.

ECLAC: Big Environmental Push and Good Practices of Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Latin America and the Caribbean:

ECLAC has proposed a progressive structural change based on a [Big Environmental Push](#), the product of a coordinated reorientation of policies, investments, regulations and tax regime for closing social, economic and environmental gaps. Additionally, the LAC region has seen some interesting experiences in attempts to mainstream biodiversity across policy and economic sectors. ECLAC is conducting a study of 10 existing experiences in countries of the LAC region in biodiversity mainstreaming (integration, coherence and coordination) in productive sectors, identifying obstacles and opportunities for the potential scaling up of the reviewed experiences.

UNEP: Integrating biodiversity into the Sustainable Development Agenda: An analysis of Voluntary National Reviews

As countries prepare their [Voluntary National Reviews](#) (VNRs) to be presented at the [High-Level Political Forum 2021](#), momentum is growing to put biodiversity at the heart of sustainable development. A recent [study](#) by UNEP and [Cepei](#) on the environmental dimensions of VNRs shows that almost all countries in the LAC region mention biodiversity protection in their national reviews. However, according to a global [analysis](#) conducted by UNEP-WCMC, only half of the sampled countries managed to mainstream biodiversity throughout their VNRs and only one of these countries is from the LAC region, demonstrating the clear challenge ahead.

ILO: Just Transition and Green Jobs as engines of Decent Work creation and biodiversity protection in Latin America and the Caribbean

The ILO [Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#) (ILO, 2016) provide a set of guidelines on the policies needed to protect employment and create new green job opportunities in decent working conditions, while preserving the environment. According to the Just Transition and green jobs concepts, as defined by the ILO, decent work creation and environmental protection should go hand in hand, without more ecologically responsible production, there can be no better future for workers, employers and their communities, and without decent jobs, there can be no sustainable society and production. In this framework, the ILO seeks to provide some recommendations to advance the just transition agenda in the region, within the framework of the protection of biodiversity and international negotiations under the framework of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD).