

WEATHERING RISK

PRACTICAL NOTE

Harmonising biodiversity and climate action with a peace lens in Latin America and the Caribbean

Héctor Camilo Morales Muñoz
Laís Clemente Pereira

December 2024



AUTHORS

Héctor Morales Muñoz,
Laís Clemente Pereira

PROOFREADING

Maria Heloisa Alves de Moraes

LAYOUT

Odile Stabon

SUGGESTED CITATION

Morales Muñoz, Héctor; Clemente Pereira, Laís (2024) Harmonising biodiversity and climate action with a peace lens in Latin America and the Caribbean. Berlin: adelphi global (gGmbH).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the distinguished participants from diverse countries in the region and sectors representing biodiversity, climate, peace, and security. These participants include representatives from grassroots communities, civil society, academia, national governments, international, multilateral, financial, and development organisations, whose invaluable contributions have significantly enriched this document. The insights presented reflect the collective wisdom shared during the Berlin Climate and Security Conference in Cali (BCSC-Cali). Contributions include: Carlos Gabriel Ruiz Massieu Aguirre, UN Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, on lessons from the Mission; Mónica Amador-Jimenez, Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Colombia, on multilateral initiatives for “peace with nature”; Joseph Ronald Toussaint, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Environment, Haiti, on climate security and conservation for stabilization; Johanna Durán Gómez, Director of Fundación Mujer y Futuro, on recognizing women’s role in caring for nature and people; Giovanna Kuele, Programme Manager, Igarapé Institute, on Brazil as a key stakeholder in climate security; and Julia Gorricho, Programme Coordinator, Blue Action Fund, on development partners as drivers of biodiversity conservation through a peace lens. We extend our deepest thanks to all contributors for their dedication and commitment to advancing dialogue and action in these critical areas.

SUPPORTED BY



THIS REPORT IS AN OUTCOME OF



PUBLISHED BY

adelphi global gemeinnützige GmbH
Alt-Moabit 91
10559 Berlin
+49 (030) 8900068-0
office@adelphi-global.de
www.adelphi-global.de

DISCLAIMER

For the texts in this publication, adelphi global grants a license under the terms of Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 4.0 International. You may reproduce and share the licensed material if you name adelphi global as follows: ‘© adelphi global gGmbH, CC BY ND 4.0’. Photographs and graphics are not covered by this license. In case of doubt please contact adelphi global prior to reusing the material.

Table of Contents

Context	4	Latin American priorities for action on CPS and biodiversity conservation	8
Key takeaways	5		
Multilateral initiatives for a shared understanding of “peace with nature”	5	Environmental crimes and deforestation	8
The importance of regionally coordinated approaches	6	Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness, and resilience	9
Lessons from the UN Verification Mission in Colombia	6	Peace potential of conservation	10
Brazil: a key stakeholder in climate security	7	Peaceful and inclusive economic transition	10
Climate security and conservation interventions as tools for stabilisation in Haiti	7	Migration and climate security in cities	10
Recognising women’s role in caring for nature and people	7	Next steps	11
Development partners (donors) as drivers of biodiversity conservation with a peace lens	8		



Amazon river dolphin in Novo Airão, Brazil. Source: © Lucia Barreiros Silva/pexels

Context

Climate change and environmental degradation create serious challenges to human security and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These act through interconnected [environmental, social, and economic pathways](#). Infrastructure damage and economic disruption from intensifying climate impacts, such as hurricanes, droughts and floods, deepen social tensions across the region. In the Amazon, deforestation and organised crime create a cycle of [vulnerability, maladaptation, and criminality](#). Rising temperatures and ecosystem degradation disrupt the Amazon's humidity production and the Andes' water cycle, exacerbating water insecurity in urban centres. Climate-driven migration strains resources in already overburdened cities, fuelling urban violence. Additionally, competition over land, water, and royalties in traditional and new extractive industries, such as [critical minerals](#), intensifies conflicts. These dynamics underscore the urgent need for strategies addressing LAC's climate security challenges.

Biodiversity conservation has a crucial role in facing these challenges. LAC is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, having in its territory ecosystems like the Amazon rainforest, Andean mountain ranges, *páramos*¹ and the Pantanal wetlands, which provide critical services like carbon sequestration, water production and health benefits. Nevertheless, these ecosystems face mounting threats from deforestation, illegal mining, and drug trafficking. Such crimes accelerate biodiversity loss and undermine these ecosystems' role as global carbon sinks. Addressing these threats demands robust transnational cooperation, significant investment in conservation, and coordination between the environment, climate and security sectors. By integrating biodiversity conservation with climate security efforts through a peace-focused lens, LAC can help tackle these intertwined challenges for the benefit of the region and the planet.

To develop local-driven solutions, a regional edition of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference (BCSC) was organised by adelphi and the German Federal Foreign Office on the 24th of October 2024 in the city of Cali, Colombia. BCSC is the annual gathering of the climate and security community. Since its inauguration in 2019, BCSC has become the global forum connecting governments, international organisations, experts and practitioners. The conference helps set the agenda in the lead up to important international fora like the Conference of the Parties (COPs) on climate, land degradation and desertification, and on biodiversity. BCSC-Cali was strategically organised on the sidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s COP 16 in Colombia to inform the discussions on the integration of the climate security and biodiversity agendas.

BCSC-Cali brought together over 50 representatives and experts from LAC governments, including 41 different civil society, academia and donor organisations to discuss how regional climate risks can be tackled through a peacebuilding approach that aligns with biodiversity and climate goals, addressing issues like disaster reduction, nature-based urban security, water and food security, and environmental crime prevention. This Practical Note summarises the discussions held at BCSC-Cali, including key highlights and priority action areas for various stakeholders. It also outlines the next actionable steps needed to advance these efforts.

1 Páramos are high-altitude ecosystems found primarily in the northern Andes of South America, characterised by unique flora and fauna adapted to cold, wet conditions. These biodiverse regions play a critical role in water regulation and carbon storage.



Launch of the World Coalition for Peace with Nature during CBD's COP16 in Cali, Colombia.
Source: © Héctor Camilo Morales Muñoz (adelphi global)

Key takeaways

Multilateral initiatives for a shared understanding of “peace with nature”

To tackle biodiversity conservation and climate security challenges, a shared understanding of the issues at hand and an exchange of best practices and lessons learnt on a global scale are necessary. The [World Coalition for Peace with Nature](#) and the [Climate for Peace \(C4P\) Initiative](#) are key initiatives in that direction. The former is a declaration of principles in which signatory countries recognise the role of the political stage in advancing peace through nature-based solutions. Launched at COP 16, the coalition highlights the role of biodiversity safeguards in peace negotiations and the multilateral measures needed to combat environmental crimes. Additionally, it recognises that socio-environmental relationships vary across populations and that respecting the cosmologies, biocultural practices, and lifestyles of indigenous peoples, communities of African descent, and rural population is key for an equitable, peaceful, and sustainable future.

The [World Coalition for Peace with Nature](#) aligns closely with the values of existing initiatives such as the C4P Initiative. Spearheaded by Germany and the Group of Seven (G7), and supported by adelphi in its capacity as secretariat, C4P emphasises the integration of climate security, environmental sustainability, and peacebuilding, focusing on practical implementation. Launched in 2022, during that year's Berlin Climate and Security Conference, the initiative builds on the “The Hague Declaration on Planetary Security,” the “Berlin Call for Action on Climate and Security,” and the work of the UN Group of Friends on Climate and Security. C4P facilitates the exchange of best practices and insights gained from international, regional, and local projects headed by its 25+ member countries. Together, these multilateral initiatives reflect a growing global consensus among governments that addressing environmental challenges is crucial for achieving lasting peace.

The importance of regionally coordinated approaches

Regional cooperation plays a pivotal role in addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, socioeconomic disparities, and conflict. Climate security risks and ecosystem degradation know no boundaries: therefore, a cooperative approach among the region is vital not only to respond to ongoing crises but also to promote investment in prevention to deliver peace and economic co-benefits. Integrating climate, security, and peace policies that transcend national boundaries can enable the sharing of resources, knowledge, and best practices.

The region is undertaking multilateral efforts that bolster governance and tackle transnational environmental challenges head-on. Key institutions like the [Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization \(ACTO\)](#) play a crucial role in fostering collaboration among member countries; however, it must move beyond its traditional convening role to deploy actionable and impactful measures on the ground. For example, Amazonian cities, which are at the frontline of environmental degradation, social vulnerabilities, and transnational crime, require a robust response that combines security, ecosystem preservation, and sustainable development that reduces dependence on unsustainable practices. It requires political will and budget compromises from international development partners from other regions.

Similarly, the [Escazú agreement](#), the first legally binding environmental treaty in Latin America and the Caribbean, ensures public access to environmental information, promotes participatory decision-making, and provides crucial protections for environmental defenders, but it requires more integrated programming on the ground. At the same time, investments in technology, such as real-time monitoring systems, and the scaling of initiatives, such as the [Nature Crime Alliance](#), with the backing of entities like UNODC, WRI, Amazon Conservation and Interpol, is a way to foster collaborative action in combating illegal logging, mining, and wildlife trafficking through increased political will and technical capacity. Finally, platforms like the [UNFCCC Regional Forums](#) have a great potential to demonstrate how regional coordination can align national commitments with global climate goals, with a focus on emission reduction, biodiversity integration, and adaptation strategies. For instance, integrated [foresight](#) and harmonised climate adaptation plans are vital tools to combat shared threats such as ecosystem degradation and migration pressures.

Lessons from the UN Verification Mission in Colombia

Since 2017, the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVIC) has accumulated important lessons on the intersection between climate security, biodiversity and conflict, which show the potential of the region to implement biodiversity and climate action for fostering stability, even in conflict-affected contexts:

- **The integration of environmental focus in peace agreements**

The Colombian peace agreement encompasses a set of measures for equitable access to land, sustainable rural development mechanisms and national environmental zoning plans, which foster the use of each territory according to its ecologic characteristics. By recognising nature as a victim of the conflict, the Colombian peace agreement offers valuable lessons for embedding environmental considerations in the transformation of territories affected by conflict. The implementation of the agreement includes components for repairing environmental damage caused by conflict within its transitional justice mechanism, which in turn enable reconciliation processes and socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable populations. These elements demonstrate the relevance that environmental considerations have to building social cohesion and economic prosperity in post-conflict settings and beyond.

- **Strengthening local governance and the involvement of affected communities**

Empowering local actors, particularly indigenous, Afro and farmer communities, is fundamental to sustainable peacebuilding. These groups play a crucial role in natural resource management and resolving land and water-related conflicts. Inclusive and participatory approaches can not only foster equity but also recognise the importance of traditional knowledge in environmental conservation and strengthen the legitimacy of interventions. Many low-intensity environmental conflicts present in the region could find a way out by fostering local governance structures and supporting the resilience of local communities.

Brazil: A key stakeholder in climate security

Brazil is a key stakeholder in climate security and environmental protection due to its biodiversity, the service its ecosystems provide in climate regulation and the country's important role in international climate negotiations. Brazilian foreign policy has traditionally avoided engaging with climate security to avoid securitising environmental issues. The country rather looks at environmental issues through a sustainable development lens. This focus has its merits, as it is intended to guarantee sovereignty over Brazil's national territory, especially considering the strategic importance of the Amazon for many developed nations. However, biodiversity loss, climate change, and their cascading effects are increasingly recognised as security threats, both domestically and regionally, requiring integrated approaches. South America's largest nation is dealing with land and water conflicts, which are exacerbated by climate change and connected with broader violence, often driven by illegal deforestation, mining, land grabbing, and logging. These crimes threaten biodiversity conservation and endanger Indigenous, Afro-Brazilian (quilombola) communities and environmental defenders. To address these challenges and improve the effectiveness of current interventions, it is in the best interest of both Brazil and the LAC region to integrate approaches on climate, peace, security and environmental protection. Therefore, it is essential to integrate climate action into peace and security policies. As host of COP30, Brazil has a unique opportunity to lead global efforts in combating deforestation, promoting ecosystem restoration through a peace lens, and fostering sustainable and climate resilient economic activities that support the livelihoods of the most marginalised populations.

Climate security and conservation interventions as tools for stabilisation in Haiti

Haiti is a critical example of a country struggling to access crucial climate finance in the LAC region, perpetuating a cycle of vulnerability and underdevelopment. Climate change and environmental degradation currently contribute to worsening the security challenges faced by Haitians. Climate-induced hazards in Haiti threaten lives and exacerbate governance challenges, undermining effective disaster response and long-term resilience. Environmental degradation and climate change drive harmful adaptation practices, intensify resource competition, and fuel internal and external migration, weakening social cohesion and traditional coping mechanisms. These pressures disproportionately impact vulnerable groups, especially youth and children, exposing them to heightened risks of violence and exploitation by the gangs, who profit from the management of natural resources. Institutional fragility and pervasive violence further compound these challenges, limiting the country's capacity to implement effective climate strategies.

As a response to this, Haiti's Ministry of Environment, with support from UNEP, UNDP, and others, is working to mainstream climate security in the country. This includes protecting Haiti's remaining forests, which are the starting point of many rivers and play an important role in refilling aquifers. adelphi facilitated a broad, consultative process across Haitian society to develop a [shared analysis and advocacy framework](#) addressing the nexus of Climate, Peace, and Security (CPS). The study emphasises placing climate security and environmental restoration at the core of economic, political, and social decisions while empowering local communities to lead crisis responses. Rebuilding the relationship between Haitians and their natural environment is a vital strategy to address insecurity, with a call for increased, targeted funding to tackle these intertwined challenges.

Recognising women's role in caring for nature and people

The inclusion of women and traditional communities in decision-making processes is still a challenge in the region in both the fields of biodiversity conservation and peacebuilding. By centring women in decision-making processes, their issues and needs can be made visible. One example of this is the recognition of women's role in care work for communities and nature and the need for more co-responsibility. The importance of shedding light on this topic and bringing it to decision-making processes was one of the conclusions of a project by the Colombian foundation Women and Future ([Fundación Mujer & Futuro](#)). Through a partnership with UN Women and the German Embassy in Colombia, the organisation seeks to

challenge male-dominated municipal and community councils by fostering feminist agendas that highlight inequality and prioritise care for life, territories, and nature. Women in the project emphasise collective responsibility for environmental stewardship and advocate for policies that focus on well-being and sustainable living, as opposed to harmful development models.

Development partners (donors) as drivers of biodiversity conservation with a peace lens

An evaluation by the [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) revealed that nearly half of its projects operate in conflict-affected regions; nevertheless, projects on biodiversity conservation often lack investment in the necessary tools to navigate these contexts, which can lead to heightened tensions, human rights violations and unmet conservation goals. Social safeguards are an important tool for preventing this but can often become a challenge for conservation organisations, as they are used to solely fulfilling conservation targets, e.g. number of species or forest area preserved. To make biodiversity conservation a tool for peacebuilding, funders play an essential role in ensuring conflict sensitivity in all funding streams. Strategies therefore must prioritise inclusivity, participation, and respect for human rights. Conservation efforts should ensure a “do no harm” approach while advancing agendas such as gender equality and human rights. Furthermore, implementing agencies should foster partnerships with peacebuilding organisations and actively embed peacebuilding activities to improve their performance. By focusing not only on conservation outcomes but also on the methods and processes used, clients can help foster equitable, democratic, and peaceful interventions.

Latin American priorities for action on CPS and biodiversity conservation

Environmental crimes and deforestation

The Amazon Basin is a crucial battleground where environmental degradation meets organised crime. Illegal deforestation accounts for [over 90% of tree loss](#) driven by illicit activities like extensive cattle ranching, land grabbing, gold mining and logging. This accelerates climate change and destabilises local communities, particularly affecting indigenous populations. The violence stemming from illegal activities that these communities and other environmental defenders face is stark. Between 2012 and 2023, Latin America accounted for two-thirds of the [2,106 murders of environmental defenders](#) worldwide, disproportionately affecting indigenous people and women activists.

To combat this crisis, it is essential to strengthen institutions to tackle environmental crime and fight corruption. Supporting environmental defenders, indigenous territories and implementing frameworks like the Escazú Agreement, which enhances citizen rights to a healthy environment, are vital steps. Currently, Brazil and Colombia, under their leadership at global climate forums (i.e., UNFCCC’s COP 30 and CBD’s COP 16), play pivotal roles in aligning anti-crime efforts with sustainable deforestation reduction strategies. These actors can push for a more locally based implementation approach from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) in the Amazon basin. For example, integrating nature-based solutions and restoring Amazonian landscapes can enhance social cohesion in areas plagued by criminality, offering spaces that foster community interaction, capacity development, and alternative livelihoods to integrate gang members into society. Additionally, Brazil and Colombia should advocate for security cooperations such as the ones stemming from the newly created Centre for [International Police Cooperation in the Amazon \(CCPI-Amazon\)](#) to be complemented by other approaches. While sharing police intelligence in the region to combat environmental crimes is a remarkable achievement, this development should include the identification of the entire crime chain and be paired with long-term strategies that address the root causes that drive individuals to join illegal economies. Additionally, fostering sustainable livelihood options, coordinating with civilian authorities and local organisations, and [ongoing support for affected communities](#) is crucial.



Aerial view of the Pantanal region, Brazil. Source: © Jose Sabino/Pixabay

Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness, and resilience

In Latin America, inadequate planning and exclusionary decision-making leave populations vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricanes, flash floods, and drought. Indigenous and local communities, with their invaluable knowledge of nature-based solutions, are often excluded from disaster strategies, risking ineffective outcomes and biodiversity loss.

Effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) requires inclusive consultations and context-sensitive solutions tailored to diverse territorial needs. The region requires differentiated strategies to address its varied socio-ecological landscapes. Strategies that account for human insecurity dynamics, some exacerbated by armed conflict, in contexts like Haiti and Colombia. Different examples that integrate biodiversity and climate action offer rays of hope. For instance, nature-based solutions, such as mangrove restoration, mitigate climate impacts such as desertification and strengthen social and territorial ecosystems. However, funding remains scarce, particularly for marginalised communities most at risk.

A critical factor for building resilience is ensuring robust water governance mechanisms. [Water insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) is a growing source of tension, especially in sub-regions and border areas, exacerbated by climate pressures like rainfall variability and glacial melt. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) has been promoted to address these challenges, fostering technical solutions and multi-actor cooperation, but with mixed results: while some regions have seen economic benefits, others face inequalities and conflicts. Recent approaches, like Water Funds and Payments for Ecosystem Services, emphasise grassroots participation and ecological restoration, improving local capacities for sustainable water governance.

A paradigm shift is needed to integrate local voices, holistic Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) approaches, and dedicated financing mechanisms. Empowering local actors with universal income or livelihood support can enable resilience, while development partners must adopt flexible frameworks to invest and address challenges in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Peace potential of conservation

Latin America's unparalleled biodiversity holds immense potential for conservation-driven peacebuilding. The Amazon's critical role as a carbon sink and regulator of weather patterns underscores its global importance. Yet, indigenous, Afro and farmer communities, often stewards of these lands, face encroachment and weak implementation of environmental laws. In opposition to militarised-only conservation approaches, [inclusive conservation](#), where local communities can conduct eco-friendly activities such as nature-based solutions and ecotourism offers a platform for dialogue in conflict-prone areas, transforming biodiversity conservation into a tool for peace. Innovative conservation efforts, such as [cocoa agroforestry in buffer zones](#), exemplify how biodiversity preservation can intersect with climate mitigation via carbon sequestration, economic development, and conflict resolution. Such initiatives build trust and social cohesion while promoting sustainable livelihoods by involving local communities in decision-making and conservation agreements. Sustainable practices must prioritise inclusivity and transparency to ensure lasting impacts on both ecosystems and communities. Moreover, [landscape restoration](#) can play a critical role in long-term post-conflict strategies to reincorporate former combatants and criminals, fostering communities of practice that integrate crime and violence victims, thereby restoring both ecosystems and the social fabric.

Peaceful and inclusive economic transition

Latin America is [one of the world's most unequal regions](#). Transitioning to a low-carbon economy presents a unique opportunity to reduce inequality. However, this shift must embed equity in order to avoid exacerbating existing disparities. Women, crucial to rural economies, are under-represented in [land ownership](#) (up to 30%) and [credit access](#) (14-13%), underscoring systemic gender imbalances. Embedding peace and conflict sensitivity into economic transition plans, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), is crucial. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s [11 elements of a just transition](#) offer a framework for ensuring equitable resource management. Natural resources are at the centre of these challenges. However, as [demand for critical minerals](#) rises in the green transition, historical tensions over land, water, and forests could worsen. Furthermore, corruption and elite capture risk alienating marginalised communities from massive renewable energy plans, fuelling social unrest.

Looking forward, the renewable energy transition offers [opportunities and co-benefits](#) in the LAC region, particularly for vulnerable and off-grid communities, if they are provided with reliable energy access that enables productive activities and livelihoods development. Beyond mitigating climate change, it can spur broader resilience through job creation and energy-community-led projects that foster collective investment and risk-sharing with the private sector. Strengthening community engagement and ensuring inclusive, transparent decision-making is essential to maximizing these benefits. Coordinating [energy communities](#) with landscape restoration initiatives can further aid in developing inclusive economies by providing sustainable livelihoods and integrating former criminals into peaceful, productive roles.

Migration and climate security in cities

[Climate-induced migration](#) is reshaping urban centres in Latin America and the Caribbean, intensifying existing socio-economic challenges. Migrants often settle in areas marked by high crime, inadequate infrastructure, and exposure to climate risks, creating hotspots of fragility. Organised crime exploits these vulnerabilities, fuelling human trafficking and extortion. Addressing this requires multi-hazard early warning systems for planned migration, integrating mobility considerations into climate adaptation strategies, and improving service delivery in urban centres. [Promoting resilient livelihoods in at-risk communities](#) in both rural areas and cities, can reduce push factors driving migration.

Incorporating gender-sensitive adaptation programming and anticipatory actions to prevent violence, particularly gender-based violence, is essential. A holistic approach that combines climate, migration, and security interventions can transform migration from a source of instability into an opportunity for inclusive urban development. Targeting green jobs toward youth and women in vulnerable areas while raising awareness about the benefits of human mobility can foster social cohesion. Additionally, [nature-based solutions](#) can serve as entry points to enhance social cohesion in problematic neighbourhoods affected by criminality and marginalisation by offering spaces for community engagement and eco-entrepreneurial development.

Next steps

To continue harmonising biodiversity and climate action through a peace lens, it is essential to **raise awareness of the links between climate security, peace, and biodiversity conservation**. The LAC region, with its vast biodiversity and distinct climate security challenges, serves as a prominent example of how these agendas are interconnected. CBD's COP 16 highlights the region's active engagement with these issues and its leadership in integrating these agendas. One of the key outcomes under the UNCDB COP16 include the establishment of a [permanent advisory body for Indigenous and local communities](#), recognizing their pivotal role as stewards of biodiversity. Additionally, Afro-descendants have been formally acknowledged for their contributions to natural resource management. Looking ahead, these bodies should have proper core funding and actual decision-making power to implement peace-positive biodiversity and climate actions in their territories, recognising that their efforts entail global dividends for all.

It is important to **ensure that LAC voices and priorities for action are better represented in the Climate, Peace, and Security fora** to bring attention to the region's unique dynamics, challenges, and opportunities on the global stage. Such representation can not only foster a deeper understanding of the region's context but also attract much-needed financial support for initiatives operating at the intersection of biodiversity conservation and climate security.

Furthermore, **LAC voices and priorities for action should be featured in relevant climate, biodiversity, and security discussions**. A key opportunity for this is COP30, which will be hosted in the Brazilian city of Belém. To effectively engage Brazil on this topic, it will be crucial to focus on the intersection with agendas that are already national priorities, such as tackling environmental crimes, sustainable development, and poverty eradication.

The current governmental approaches of Colombia and Brazil present a unique opportunity to synergise their approaches to biodiversity and climate action, positioning themselves as regional drivers of transformative change in the LAC region. Nevertheless, **the LAC region should establish robust institutional frameworks that promote the integration of biodiversity and climate security as a flagship strategy in the long term**, beyond the current political agendas. This shift not only fosters long-term environmental resilience but also creates pathways to move beyond extractive economic models, showcasing the potential for a thriving, inclusive, and nature-based development paradigm across Latin America. This strategy can be implemented by strengthening partnerships with organisations already working with the region in matters related to climate security, such as ACTO, to promote implementations.

Advance on innovative financial mechanisms that support peace-positive biodiversity and climate resilience. A key milestone from UNCDB COP16 was the creation of the [Cali Fund](#), a transformative model for sharing benefits derived from Digital Sequence Information (DSI) of biodiversity with origin countries and communities. This initiative marks a historic step toward advancing environmental justice and peace dividends by integrating equity into global biodiversity governance. The model also sets a precedent for engaging market-based mechanisms and the private sector in biodiversity and climate finance, complementing initiatives like Brazil's [Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform \(BIP\)](#). The BIP seeks to mobilise \$10.8 billion in international investments to drive Brazil's climate transition plans, emphasising the need to redefine development models. Aligning these efforts with the [Baku Finance Goal](#), which targets the mobilisation of at least \$300 billion annually for developing countries, should be a priority in the COP30 agenda.

Prioritising synergistic and complimentary approaches of finance to address climate and ecological vulnerabilities in conflict-affected regions should play a key role in Belém's COP30. Since much of the current climate finance is still designed in the form of loans, which jeopardises most at-risk countries' resilience capacities, grant-based funding and loss and damage are pending tasks. **Therefore, the LAC region can lead by innovating and advocating for grant-based finance mechanisms. By demonstrating effective implementations, the region can showcase the co-benefits of integrating climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and peacebuilding. When done well, these implementations can also contribute to mitigating cascading risks to international communities in more stable regions.**



WEATHERING RISK

