



Bringing **20 million**
hectares of degraded land in
Latin America & the Caribbean
into restoration by **2020**

AGENDA

Nature for Climate Action: Latin American Perspectives on Implementing and Enhancing NDCs

A webinar on Natural Climate Solutions for NDC Enhancement

February 26th, 2019 | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM EST | Registration link to [Zoom Meeting](#)

Context

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, all countries have set Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in an effort to communicate their commitments and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation. However, as emphasized by the recent IPCC report, existing commitments are far below the level needed to avoid a 2° C increase in global temperatures, let alone 1.5 ° C. Given the shortfall in aggregate action required, negative emission pathways must be pursued vigorously along with decarbonization in order to meet the 2C limit. Countries need to take a hard look at viable options, scale up their climate ambitions, and achieve results.

Natural solutions already exist. A suite of mitigation strategies is available in the land use sector, sequestering atmospheric carbon through restoration, reduced deforestation, mixed agricultural systems, and improved land-management. These land use interventions, also known as natural climate solutions (NCS), are often reliable interventions if managed well, their effects rooted in robust science. Compared to alternatives such as carbon capture and storage, many land use interventions are cost-effective and potentially profitable. Furthermore, restoration and other land use strategies are also linked to other social and other ecosystem benefits.

Initiative 20x20 hence proposes that land use policies in NDCs are considered and defined by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to advance on climate action and deliver on its climate action targets.

Objective

The virtual gathering is designed to communicate the opportunity that restoration and other *natural climate solutions* offer as a cost-effective, scalable solution to help attain NDC goals in the region. Country representatives will discuss the importance of land use interventions, how their governments have incorporated land use into their existing NDCs, and their perspectives on the importance of NDC enhancement in 2020. Furthermore, other experts will help provide participants with a clear understanding of how NDCs can be used to communicate enhanced climate ambition and coordinate climate action.

The virtual meeting will focus on providing answers to the following questions:

- Why should land use policies be pursued, and how have various Latin American countries incorporated restoration and other land use interventions into their NDCs?
- What are some NDC enhancement options for land use that countries are well-positioned to pursue for 2020?
- What are existing best practices for NDC implementation, and what supporting tools and resources do countries have access to?

About NCS and Initiative 20x20

NCS, or natural climate solutions, are land-use interventions – such as restoration, agroforestry, and sustainable forest management – that have immense potential as a solution for mitigating climate change, while furthering a range of developmental goals. NCS can potentially deliver 37% of the cost-effective climate change mitigation needed by 2030, while delivering co-benefits such as job creation, improved food security, improved water and air quality, and more.

Restoration, one of several land use interventions, is the process that enables the recovery of the ecological and productive functionality of degraded land in a sustainable way.

Initiative 20x20 is a country-led effort that aims to bring 20 million hectares of land into restoration by 2020 and change the dynamics of land degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean. 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries and three regional programs have committed to begin restoring 50 million hectares of degraded land by 2020 through Initiative 20x20. The initiative is supported by more than 40 technical organizations and institutions and an acting secretariat within the World Resources Institute (WRI).



Bringing **20 million**
hectares of degraded land in
Latin America & the Caribbean
into restoration by **2020**

AGENDA

AGENDA

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:00 AM | Bienvenida e introducciones
Introductions
Walter Vergara, Senior Fellow, WRI |
| 10:05 AM | El estado de los NDCs asociados a NCS y restauración en LAC
The State of NCS in NDCs for Latin American Countries
Walter Vergara, Senior Fellow, WRI |
| 10:15 AM | Caso México
Mexico's approach to Land Use Solutions in NDCs
Juan Carlos Arrendondo, SEMARNAT |
| 10:30 AM | Caso Colombia
Colombia's approach to Land Use Solutions in NDCs: Perspectives from Ecosystem Based Adaptation
Adriana Lizette Gutierrez Bayona, Asesora, Dirección de Cambio Climático y Gestión de Riesgo, MinAmbiente |
| 10:45 AM | Caso Honduras
Honduras's approach to Land Use Solutions in NDCs
Dr. Marlon Escoto, Delegado Presidencial de Cambio Climático |
| 11:00 AM | Oportunidades para la determinación de NDCs en LAC
Opportunities for NDC enhancement through NCS
Andrés Flores, Director de Clima y Energía, WRI México |
| 11:15 AM | NDCP y recursos de apoyo para la implementación de NDC
NDCP and Supporting Resources for NDC Implementation
Estefania Ardila, Country Engagement Consultant, NDC Partnership |
| 11:30 AM | Discusión del público y preguntas a presentadores
Public Discussion with Q&A
Walter Vergara, Senior Fellow, WRI |

Speakers' Biographies

Juan Carlos Arrendondo – Former Director General for Climate Change Policies for SEMARNAT, Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Over the last 15 years, Juan Carlos collaborated with the Mexican government as policy and technical advisor in the design and implementation of climate change policy, with a focus in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions inventories, nationally appropriate mitigation actions, MRV, and adaptation to climate change.

As Former Director General for Climate Change Policies at Mexico's Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), Juan Carlos was responsible for climate change policy design, implementation and monitoring, including design and regulation of Mexico's carbon market, the management of Mexico's Climate Change Fund, and the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

Juan Carlos is a Chemical and Systems Engineer from Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM), and holds graduate degrees in environmental engineering (ITESM), urban studies and planning (MIT), and geography and the environment (University of Oxford).

Dr. Marlon Escoto – Presidential Delegate for Climate Change in CLIMA+, the Presidential Office for Climate Change

Dr. Escoto is the Presidential Delegate for Climate Change in CLIMA+. CLIMA+ is in charge of the Water, Forest and Soil Master Plan (PMABS), the physical-territorial support instrument of the Honduras 2020 National Economic Development Program, in addition to the responsibility of articulating the Public Policies and the investments in the matter of Climate Change in Honduras.

Between 2010-2016, Dr. Escoto served as Secretary of State in the Office of Education in Honduras.

Dr. Escoto tiene un Doctorado de la Universidad de Granada España, en Ciencias y Tecnología del Ambiente, y un Master en Asentamientos Humanos y Ambiente de la Universidad Católica de Chile

Dr. Andrés Flores Montalvo – Director of Climate and Energy, WRI Mexico

Andrés is Director of Climate and Energy at WRI Mexico. His focus topics include mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency, and clean energy. He has previous professional experience in government and academia. He is an economist from UNAM and has a PhD in Energy and Environment from MIT.

Estefania Ardila – Country Engagement Consultant, NDC Partnership Support Unit

Estefania is a Country Engagement Consultant at the NDC Partnership Support Unit. Estefania previously worked as an advisor to the Colombian government primarily on bilateral instruments for REDD+ and MRV planning. She has over 5 years of experience working as a UNFCCC expert in the area of GHG emissions reporting. She is also the co-founder of Kimsa, a young environmental consultancy firm in Colombia.