

# **Regenerative and Sustainable Futures for Latin America and the Caribbean**

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# **Regenerative and Sustainable Futures for Latin America and the Caribbean: Collective Action for a Region with a Better Tomorrow**

EDITED BY

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*We're completing the journey. Ten thousand years ago as hunter gatherers,  
we lived a sustainable life because that was the only option.  
All these years later it's once again the only option.*

–David Attenborough

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# Foreword

It would be a lie to say that things were rosy before the pandemic. Some countries barely managed to overcome the disastrous impacts of the 2008 financial crisis. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), we already had deep problems in terms of inequality, environmental degradation and dysfunctional political systems even before that.

Without a doubt, the bets are for a better future. For a nature positive and climate positive economy. For this reason, it is necessary to clarify that it is not a process of recovery but a process of regeneration and adaptation and reprioritisation of what is truly important. We are behind in identifying the factors that inhibit progress, defining what progress is and searching for mechanisms to nurture hope, sustain perennial solidarity and become aware that we need global collective action today more than ever.

The third decade of the twenty-first century will be a decade in which managers, policymakers, rulers, citizens and consumers will have to make seemingly contradictory decisions and prepare to balance loads ‘on the fly’, accelerate demand and promote savings. We need to nurture hope and simultaneously control expectations with the principle of reality, expand our radar for risks and threats, focus on maximising the materialisation of potential opportunities and strengthen cooperation between nations and protect the national product.

We began the third decade of the twenty-first century faced with an assortment of sustainability challenges. As defined in 1987 in the Our Common Future report (also known as the Brundtland Report), sustainability relates to the concept of sustainable development, which is ‘development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. Additionally, sustainability is understood as the contribution of people, organisations, communities and countries to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the durability of corporate relevance and extracted/created value over time, or as sustainable development conditioned to environmental integrity, economic prosperity and social equity.

In 2021, the decade of action commences, which means we have less than 10 years to transform the world and achieve the goals we set for ourselves by 2030. We must act now!

This edited volume has contributions from researchers in seven different LAC countries, reflecting with primary data perspectives from government, business, academe and civil society leaders in each specific country.

This book offers reviews of past efforts to recover from global crises with post-COVID-19 recovery lessons. Furthermore, it provides an analysis of the sustainable development challenges of LAC. Moreover, the book summarises fields for future studies and introduces the methodology for the volume fieldwork. The book also answers how to build sustainable futures for LAC. It renders recommendations for policymakers and decision-makers to thrive sustainable futures for LAC. Finally, it reflects on the value of collective action for a region that deserves a better tomorrow.

# Acknowledgements

Anything that we can't do forever is by definition, unsustainable.

–David Attenborough

At the beginning of 2020, the Center for Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America (*Centro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible*) (CODS) at Universidad de los Andes opened the fourth call for tenders to research sustainable development. That specific tender focused on SDG 13: Climate Action. CODS received proposals from 15 countries; a total of 50 higher education institutions sent project proposals. Our project 'Post-COVID-19 stakeholder recovery: How to rebuild society and business in Latin America to avoid the climate crisis' won the tender. The project was led by Maria Alejandra Gonzalez-Perez (and her research team Manuela Gomez-Valencia and Camila Vargas) from Universidad EAFIT, with the participation of Freddy Coronado from the Universidad de Chile (and Bruce Lezana, Javiera García and Yanniré Cid), Fabiola Monje-Cueto from the Universidad Privada Boliviana (and Johnny Davy Ruiz-Ayala), Karla Maria Nava-Aguirre from the University of Monterrey (and Itzel Zarate-Solis and Jose Luis Rojas-Vazquez), Cyntia Calixto from Leeds University and the Fundação Getulio Vargas (and Larissa Marchioni, Pablo Leão and Ana Julia Santiago), Miguel Cordova from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú (and Fátima Huamán, Thais Liñan and Ruth Powosino) and Indianna Minto-Coy from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica (and Aaron Hoi-lett, Tameka Claudious and Latoya Lambert).

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