



Latin American Based Solutions: Fundaeco's Conservation Coast REDD+ & Agroforestry Programme, a lighthouse for the world.

Latin American Based Solutions

The next 16th Biodiversity COP must carry a Latin American message of hope & action, inspired by our natural and cultural heritage.



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Lima/London.- The 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity is scheduled to be held from October 21 to November 1, 2024, in Cali, Colombia.

Countries from around the world will gather to make operational the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - the Biodiversity Plan.

Decision makers will work during this COP to achieve 3 main objectives:

- a) translate the Biodiversity Plan into resolute national action, something similar to the effort made in the climate agenda with the National Determined Contributions, NDCs.
- b) Mobilise financing to finance the "conservation NDCs", particularly in favour of developing and least developing countries.
- c) Secure a fair benefit-sharing of the global financial resources mobilised, as per the previous point.

For this, to gather, meet, listen, understand, and act, global decision makers have chosen a perfect place: Colombia, one of the beating hearts of Latin America and the developing world. Bravo guys, on the spot. More interestingly, global decision makers have chosen to meet in Cali, a land of cultural *métissage*, open to the continent and the ocean, a place where colours, races, and human flavours mimic with the outstanding natural scenery. Anyone can feel like a local in Cali, whether you are from Marseille, Maputo or New York. That's why Cali is a place of hope. And the world needs that.

It's true, we should not lie to ourselves: Latin America is suffering from many chronic issues, from political instability in almost all the countries to regional geopolitical tensions (Venezuela's dictatorship and its Tiran Nicolas Maduro have created a humanitarian crisis of global proportions), passing through the raising criminal activity in urban and now also rural areas.

Worse of all, we suffer from a narcotraffic industry that has become a multinational corporation of crime and corruption of global proportions.

However, Latin America is also a region of exceptionally talented people, countless natural resources, educated work force, with a consolidating middle class, living in democracy in almost all the countries from Mexico to Chili, with very rare and sad exceptions like Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

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Colombia represents what Latin America has best to offer: an outstanding natural and cultural heritage which can bring us all hope, and remind us that we, humans, working together, we can do exceptional things. I'm convinced that Cali & Colombia will remind us that we can't trade the beauty of our world for some excessive (and sometimes useless) comfort. That we need to protect wild nature, our biggest treasure, and that we can pool all our resources into that end and feel great about it.

However, despite all its attributes, Colombian COP-16 Presidency has a difficult task. Most important of all, is to differentiate itself from the Paris Agreement architecture. With all its attributes, good intentions and ambitious targets, despite being nationally determined, they are never respected. Worse, the money promised to developing countries never flows. It never rains. Plenty of announcements, recycled in countless new announcements which equals to double/triple/quadruple counting on the same penies, is what we get. I call on the Colombian Presidency to change that, to bring a Latin American message of hope but also action.