



# **CIRCULAR ECONOMY COALITION**

Latin America & the Caribbean

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

# 2023



An aerial photograph of a dense, vibrant green forest. A winding river flows through the center of the forest, its blue water contrasting with the surrounding greenery. The forest appears to be a tropical or subtropical rainforest, with a thick canopy of trees. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall scene is one of natural beauty and ecological richness.

# Context

In February 2021, the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Its objective is to **accelerate the transition towards a circular economy in the region, providing a regional platform to foster and strengthen inter-ministerial, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder cooperation.** The Coalition seeks to increase knowledge and understanding of the circular economy, offer capacity development and technical assistance for project implementation, and develop public policies.



The Coalition brings together 9 strategic partners (Inter-American Development Bank (IDB & IDB Invest), Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE), World Economic Forum (WEF)).

Additionally, the Coalition is led by the aforementioned strategic partners and representatives from six governments: Peru, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador. Peru holds the presidency, while Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic serve as vice-presidents. UNEP, through its Latin America and the Caribbean Office, acts as the coordinating entity. Currently, 17 countries are part of the Coalition, along with 23 members from academic institutions, the private sector, and NGOs.

To respond to the region's priorities and needs, the Coalition has established six areas of work and six priority themes for working groups.



1.

Promotion, dialogue, and leadership to increase understanding of the circular economy.



2.

Promotion of capacity development.



3.

Promotion of research and development of knowledge and innovation.



4.

Dissemination, promotion, and development of policies and enabling frameworks for the circular economy (Legislative, administrative, and executive measures.)



5.

Support for the development of tools and indicators to promote and measure the circular economy at the national, regional, or sectoral level.



6.

Creating favorable conditions to mobilize financing and investment for the circular economy in the region.

## Main working areas:



1.

Plastics



2.

Circular Economy Roadmaps

## Key developments and projects in 2023

1.

From June to August, as part of the Coalition's commitment to support and promote more responsible economic models, a series of regional workshops were conducted in collaboration with the **European Union's Switch to Green program**. The main objectives included facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences on these topics to strengthen cooperation, foster strategic alliances, and create a common long-term action framework. This initiative promoted ongoing exchange among countries and cities in the region, such as Argentina, Buenos Aires City, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Turrialba, Dominican Republic, Peru, and Uruguay, while fostering an atmosphere of trust and regional cooperation.



More information here: <https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/events/una-alianza-para-acelerar-la-economia-circular-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>  
<https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/events/encuentros-entre-pares-costa-rica-y-peru/>  
<https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/events/encuentros-entre-pares-ciudades-y-regiones/>

## Main working areas:



1.

Plastics



2.

Circular Economy Roadmaps

## Key developments and projects in 2023

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On October 9 and 10, the Circular Economy Coalition of Latin America and the Caribbean, under the leadership of **KAS**<sup>1</sup>, hosted the **fourth edition of the "Circular Economy Festival"**. This annual event aims to enhance regional discussion and exchange of experiences to promote the development of the circular economy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2.

This year, the event took place in San Jose, Costa Rica, in a hybrid format. It brought together 150 participants in-person and over 900 participants virtually from various countries in the region. It served as a platform to strengthen relationships with the Coalition's strategic partners and members, fostering connections with a variety of stakeholders to jointly advance concrete activities.



More information here: <https://www.festivaleconomiacircular.com>

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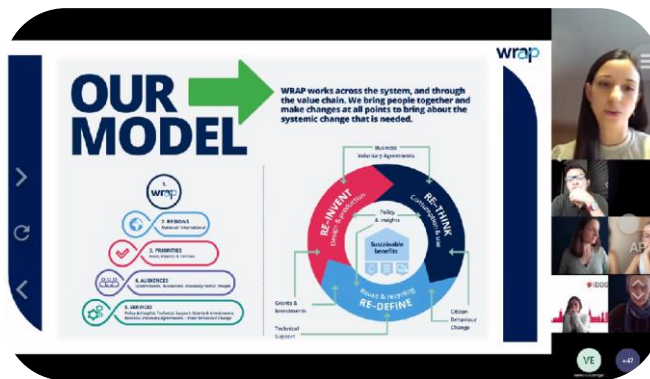
1. Foundation Konrad Adenauer

## Working area 1



# Promotion, Dialogue, and Leadership to Increase Understanding of the Circular Economy.

3. In March, the Coalition, in cooperation with the **Prevent Waste Alliance**, led a webinar on how to promote **Reuse, Repair, and Renew**. The webinar allowed more than 50 attendees to learn about reuse, repair, and refurbishment programs with the aim of promoting a change in behavior among citizens.



More information here: <https://coalicioneconomicircular.org/events/webinar-sobre-el-cambio-de-comportamiento-para-la-economia-circular/>

## Working area 2



# Promoting Capacity Development.

4. In January 2023, the Coalition, with the support of **ENEL** as a private sector partner and in collaboration with **ECLAC**, **IDB**, and **PACE** as strategic partners, held two workshops on circular economy metrics in Latin America and the Caribbean for **public and private sector** actors. The aim was to support the development of tools and indicators to understand, promote, and measure the circular economy in the region.

More information here: <https://coalicioneconomicircular.org/events/4ta-mesa-sobre-metricas-de-economia-circular-para-el-sector-publico/>  
<https://coalicioneconomicircular.org/events/4ta-mesa-sobre-metricas-de-economia-circular/>

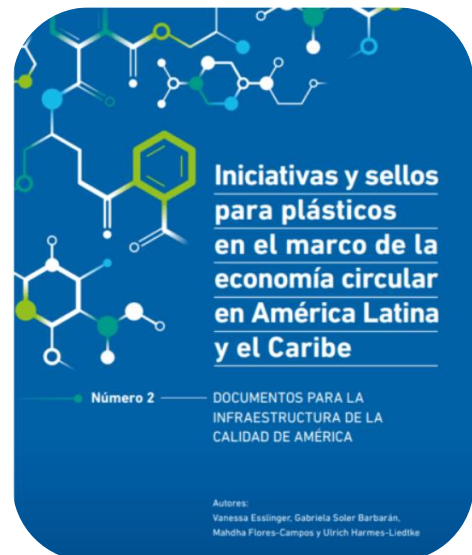


## Promotion of Research and Development of Knowledge and Innovation.

5.

In a collaboration between the Coalition and the Quality Infrastructure for the Circular Economy Project (**QI4CE/IAAC**), a webinar was organized to serve as the official launch of the publication "**Initiatives and Seals for Plastics in the Framework of the Circular Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean.**" This important document represents the first regional mapping of initiatives and certifications to promote plastic circularity, offering a comprehensive overview of the diverse initiatives undertaken in the region.

The webinar had the participation of more than 400 online participants, who had the opportunity to interact and learn directly from experts about these important regional initiatives.



More information here: <https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/events/webinar-sobre-normas-sellos-y-certificaciones-para-la-economia-circular-de-los-plasticos-copy/>  
<https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/sellos-y-certificaciones-para-plasticos-en-el-contexto-de-la-economia-circular-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>



## Dissemination, Promotion, and Development of Enabling Policies and Frameworks for the Circular Economy (Legislative, Administrative, and Executive Measures).

6.

In May, the Coalition, in collaboration with its member **ParlAmericas**, organized the virtual event "**Historic Opportunity: The Role of Parliaments in Reducing Plastic Pollution.**" This gathering brought together over 60 participants and focused on highlighting the critical importance of legislation in combating plastic pollution. Parliamentarians from various countries shared their valuable experiences, emphasizing the essential role they play in drafting laws to eradicate and minimize plastic use.

The event delved into the urgent need for parliaments to continue developing legislation that promotes the elimination of plastic pollution. Special attention was given to the situation and role of women from diverse racial and ethnic groups, both as workers and as agents of change to reduce plastic consumption. Additionally, discussions centered on policies that promote female participation in the circular economy and seek to eliminate barriers that limit their access to opportunities in this sector.

#ParlAmericasCC #GlobalPlasticsTreaty

**THEMES:** Circular economy, plastic pollution

**DATE:** May 24, 2023

**LOCATION:** Virtual

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 100 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, women's organizations, youth leaders, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organizations

**CO-ORGANIZERS:** The Latin American and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition, EMF, UNEP, WRAP, and the WWF

3 5 8 11 12 13 14 15

...ity aligned with SDGs 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

**ParlAmericas**

### Historic Opportunity: The Role of Parliaments in Ending Plastic Pollution

The adoption of the United Nations [resolution](#) in 2022 to create a legally binding international agreement to end plastic pollution by 2024 created positive momentum across the globe. To sustain this momentum and advance regional cooperation on ending plastic pollution, parliamentarians and specialists from the hemisphere were convened to examine how parliaments can address the unsustainable production and consumption of plastics and promote the transition to a circular economy. The discussions held also acknowledged that through the revision and redesign of current take-make-waste practices there is also a renewed opportunity to better-address the systemic inequalities faced by women and historically marginalized communities.

More information here: <https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/events/oportunidad-historica-el-rol-de-los-parlamentos-en-la-reduccion-de-la-contaminacion-por-plasticos/>



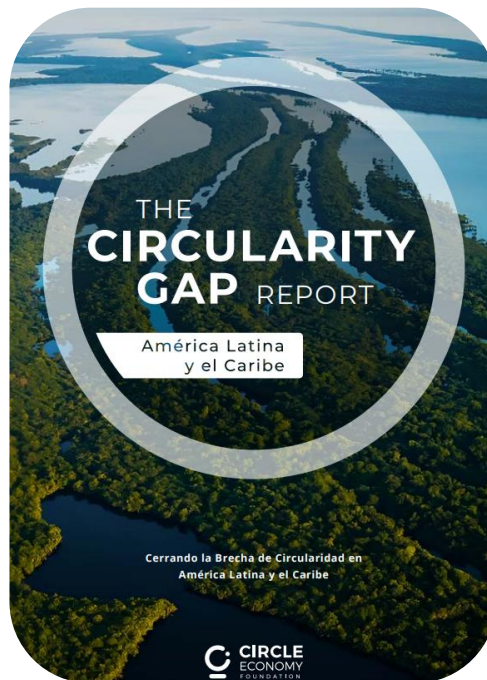


## Support for the development of tools and indicators to promote and measure the circular economy at the national, regional, or sectoral level.

7.

Within the framework of the Circular Economy Festival, held in Costa Rica, the regional **Circularity Gap Report** was launched, which will help governments, organizations and stakeholders to evaluate their progress in the circular economy and identify areas for improvement. This publication is made with the leadership and collaboration of the Coalition and its strategic partners: the **IDB** and **IDB Invest**, **ECLAC** and **UNIDO**. Likewise, the collaboration of the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (**GOFSDGs**) accelerator was counted on.

It is the first circularity gap report in the region with key and relevant data on material extraction, global material use, as well as the priority areas for intervention that are required in the territory for a just and inclusive transition.



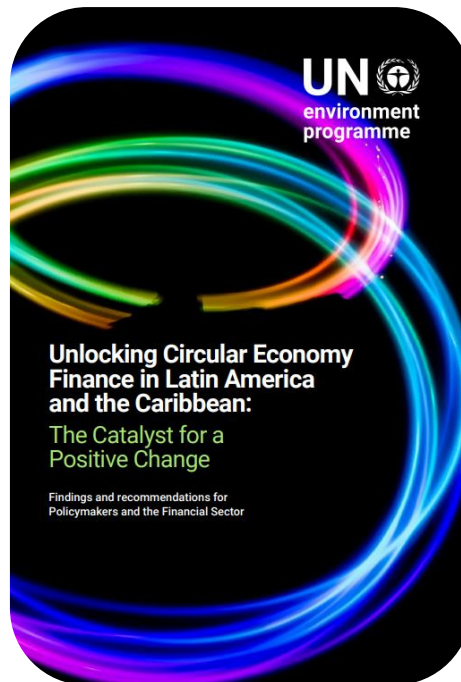
More information here: <https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/informe-sobre-la-brecha-de-circularidad-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>



## Creating Enabling Conditions to Mobilize Financing and Investment for the Circular Economy in the Region.

8.

In March, through a webinar and in strategic collaboration with **UNEP**, the Opportunities for Sustainable Development (**GO4SDGs**) initiative and the IDB, the report "**Unlocking financing for the Circular Economy in LAC: a catalyst for positive change**" was presented. This study highlights circular economy initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru. The document provides strategic recommendations to financial institutions, regulators and policymakers, in order to promote the proper mobilization of resources and effectively finance the transition to a circular economy in the region.



More information here: <https://coalicioneconomiacircular.org/desbloquear-la-financiacion-para-la-economia-circular-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe-el-catalizador-para-un-cambio-positivo/>



## Cross-cutting and Collaborative Activities to Raise Visibility for the Coalition and its Work in the Region.

As part of the efforts to make the Coalition's work visible and promote synergies and alliances in the region, the Coalition participated in the following events:

9.

**Regional Perspectives to Unlock Financing and Promote Investment in Plastic Circularity in Emerging Economies: Latin America.** With the aim of analyzing the opportunities and challenges in investing in the circular economy for plastics, focusing on successful cases and favorable regulations, the Circular Initiative and the Global Partnership on Plastics led the virtual event that brought together public and private actors. The objective was to improve understanding of the interaction between sectors, the role of policies, and the promotion of investment in a circular economy for plastics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

More information here: <https://coalicioneconomicircular.org/events/perspectivas-regionales-para-desbloquear-la-financiacion-y-fomentar-la-inversion-en-circularidad-de-plasticos-en-economias-emergentes-america-latina/>

10.

**Action on Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean: Key Priorities and Good Practices.** The Coalition participated in a virtual event led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (**OECD**) to discuss the implementation of climate action priorities for countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Experts discussed the identification of best practices that contribute to progress towards a green and just transition, based on the findings and policy recommendations of the **OECD's** latest work, also addressing the Latin America Economic Outlook 'Towards a Just and Green Transition' and the **OECD** Environmental Outlook for the region.



More information here: <https://coalicioneconomicircular.org/events/accion-frente-al-cambio-climatico-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe-prioridades-clave-y-buenas-practicas/>

# 11.

## **Climate Week, Circular Economy Opportunities for the Climate Challenge.**

The Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with some members of the Steering Committee: **Circle Economy Foundation, Inter-American Development Bank - IDB, World Economic Forum - WEF, ECLAC, Government of Costa Rica and Ellen MacArthur Foundation**, held a parallel event within the framework of Climate Week held from October 23 to 27, 2023, in Panama.

The event aimed to highlight circular economy-based strategies and solutions to address climate change challenges, with a special focus on the key findings of the regional Circularity Gap Report.



More information here: <https://coalicioneconomicircular.org/events/oportunidades-de-economia-circular-para-el-desafio-climatico/>

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