

# Sustainability in Latin America

November 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

Scope

The Environmental Sustainability Index

The six core pillars of environmental sustainability

Key findings (1)

Key findings (2)

The pandemic has hampered progress in reaching sustainability goals

Renewables capacity and strong agriculture lead to better ranks

Exposure to adverse weather events worsen sustainability stance

## ENERGY PILLAR

Expanded renewables capacity helps Uruguay to become regional leader

Strong energy sustainability, but availability remains insufficient

Old vehicle fleet contributes to transport consuming the most energy

Renewables are the leading source of electricity in Latin America

## POLLUTION PILLAR

Colombia significantly improves its pollution ranking over 2016-2020

Water pollution has worsened across Latin America

CO2 emissions on the rise, due to expanding transport sector

Livestock agriculture in need of emissions reduction techniques

## FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY PILLAR

Mexico remains at the bottom of the Forest and Biodiversity pillar

High forest availability, but nature preservation remains in peril

Fish species in Latin America are at risk of fastest loss

Wildfires threaten vast Latin American woodlands

## WATER PILLAR

Guatemala at the bottom of Water pillar, due to limited water availability

Large renewable water reserves in Latin America

Higher risks of disease, due to lack of access to proper sanitation

A lot of water is lost due to inefficiency and poor infrastructure

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PILLAR

Mexico drops in the Food and Agriculture ranking

High food security, due to large agriculture sector

COVID-19 reduced food availability in Latin America

Due to growing support, organic farming is anticipated to increase

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE PILLAR

Environmental Resilience ranking has significantly worsened for Uruguay

Latin America increasingly at risk of natural disasters

Susceptibility to extreme weather events is rising in Latin America

Latin America particularly prone to hydro-meteorological disasters

## COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

Paraguay: High pollution, but strong environmental resilience

High renewables capacity in energy generation

Panama: Lower pollution levels and strong position in energy sector

Growing susceptibility and exposure to natural disasters

Colombia: Strong agriculture, but lower environmental resilience

Alarming deforestation rate and intensifying natural disasters

Brazil: Biodiversity threatened by rapid deforestation and wildfires  
Low resilience to adverse weather intensified by global warming  
Bolivia: High environmental resilience, but low renewables capacity  
Rising CO2 pollution levels  
Honduras: High pollution and low food availability  
Rapidly increasing number of threatened species  
Costa Rica: Weak environmental resilience and high pollution levels  
High renewable capacity in electricity generation  
Dominican Republic: Increasing risk of natural disasters  
Low renewables capacity and high expenditure on food  
El Salvador: Low food availability and problems with municipal waste  
Minuscule percentage of protected areas  
Guatemala: Increasing exposure to adverse weather events  
Low food availability due to elevated poverty levels

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