

THE CASE FOR CLIMATE EDUCATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)

There is an urgent need to provide all students with the knowledge and skills they need to support climate justice and well being and thrive in the green economy.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAC

- Comprehensive climate education will expand a student's understanding of climate justice and equity, allowing younger generations to more appropriately address climate change related issues.
- The effects of climate change can yield economic losses up to 2% of annual GDP across Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Heavy rains, increased flooding and landslides due to Andean glacier melt, and large-scale loss of biodiversity are only a few of the potential impacts of climate change in LAC.

THE CURRENT STATE OF CLIMATE EDUCATION IN LAC

- 24 countries in LAC specifically mention some form of environmental education in pre-primary curricula (2023 UNICEF REPORT, p. 42).
- Of those 24 countries, only Chile, El Salvador and Honduras explicitly mention specific climate change education in their early childhood curricula (2023 UNICEF REPORT, p. 42).
- Chile is the country that goes most deeply into the topic of climate change at the initial level and is the only country identified that has a conceptualized guide under Education for Sustainable Development (2023 UNICEF REPORT, p. 43).

87%

OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS IN COLOMBIA AGREE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FAILING THEM IF THEY DO NOT ENACT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES NOW

48%

OF LAC CAPITAL CITIES ARE AT EXTREME RISK DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED IMPACTS

CLIMATE EDUCATION NDCs

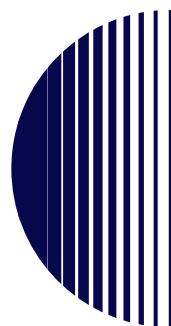
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outline efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, often including climate education programs.
- Most NDC's of LAC countries recognize education as an integral sector when it comes to combating climate change.
- Colombia's NDC particularly focuses on formal climate change education across all levels of schooling, mentioning education 32 times. Their NDC highlights the benefits of climate education in regards to gender equality, human rights, and the economy.
- Climate education in NDCs will help to build momentum to integrate climate education into legislation.

THE GREEN ECONOMY IN LAC

- The transition to the green economy has the potential to create **more than 15 million jobs** in Latin America.
- Every million dollars invested into the green energy sector can generate between seven and 49 jobs in Latin America depending on the country, according to the **Inter-American Development Bank**.
- Every dollar invested into early climate education programs in LAC has the potential to generate an average return of up to \$13.7 (**2023 UNICEF REPORT, p.14**).
- Economic growth in Central America could reach 3.7%, a direct result of developments in the energy sector, according to the **World Bank**.
- Expanding climate education programs across all grade levels and disciplines will prepare younger generations for professions in the growing green economy of LAC.

IF LAC INVESTMENTS IN THE GREEN SECTOR INCREASED BY 3%, **JOB CREATION IS PROJECTED TO GROW BY 10.5% BY 2030**

+10.5%



NEARLY HALF OF YOUNG PEOPLE FELT THEY DID NOT HAVE THE RIGHT SKILLS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

COLLABORATION LEADS TO SUCCESS

- Harnessing the power and experiences of multiple governments and organizations allows more informed policies to be enacted, ultimately benefiting youth.
- Intergovernmental collaboration and partnerships with NGO's and foundations can ensure success in implementing these policies
- The **Environmental Training Network of Latin America and the Caribbean** is an intergovernmental organization bringing together 20 LAC governments with the goal of empowering climate education policies. This organization launched a guide with the aim of integrating the environment into both formal and informal education settings, primarily through teacher resources and materials.

POWER OF YOUTH IN PUSHING CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

- Although youth are not the only target of climate education policies, youth will be most impacted by the growing threats of climate change and will be critical in solving this crisis.
- Despite this, 65% of youth activists in LAC have expressed a **lack of involvement** in environmental policy planning and decision making.
- Ensuring youth are properly educated on all things climate change will direct youth to participate in climate activism.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT **EDUCATION@EARTHDAY.ORG**

Educating for the environment is a task of this century. Without this, we will continue to believe that it is possible to live in opposition to ecology.

— **Marina Silva**, Brazil's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

