

# ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE  
EXTRACTIVE SECTOR OF THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE





**The Pacific Alliance Education for Employment Program** is financed by the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada), with a contribution of CAN\$16 million. Executed by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan), the program's scope is regional and has a duration of seven years (2016–2023).

[collegesinstitutes.ca/pacific](https://collegesinstitutes.ca/pacific)

@CICan\_EPE\_AP

The analysis of policies and best practices in environmental sustainability of the Pacific Alliance countries was written by Moisés Hernández, Participatory Documentation Consultant, and by Israel Ávila, the PA-EFE Program's Regional Environmental Consultant, in collaboration with CICan's Pacific Alliance Education for Employment Program's team.

# Summary

This document summarizes the experience in the design, implementation, and follow-up of 22 environmental best practices and policies in the four Pacific Alliance countries. The systematization process was performed in two phases (documentary review and participatory interviews), wherein the policies and best practices were identified together with the representatives consulted from the countries, in order to share them with each other, strengthen regional dialogue among authorities, experts, and beneficiaries, and communicate the progress being made in environmental sustainability.



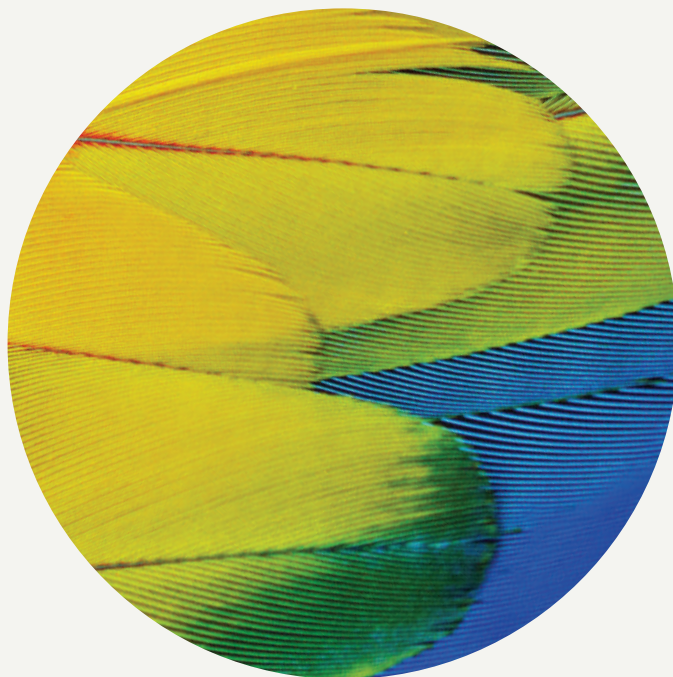
The policy analysis process described herein is the product of the two systematization phases; these are described in the following sections:

1. **Context:** describes the international backdrop for the efforts to protect the environment and highlights the congruence of the PA-EFE Program's objectives, as well as the content of this work, with the international and regional environmental efforts that are ongoing in the extractive sector.
2. **Documentary systematization:** presents the results of the desk-based research, which includes 22 information sheets on policies and best practices from the Pacific Alliance countries on environmental sustainability in the extractive sector.
3. **Participatory systematization:** includes the experiences, testimonials, and perceptions gathered through online questionnaires and virtual interviews of the stakeholders involved in the design, implementation, and results process for these policies and best practices.
4. **Recommendations:** these are directed to the countries for the implementation of policies; they are the result of the documentation phases, and they are based on the analysis and feedback from the participants in this process, who come from Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.
5. **Conclusions:** the primary findings from the work are described, with the aim of this report becoming a tool for exchange of experiences and a recognition of the progress made in the environmental sustainability policies of the Pacific Alliance members, while serving as encouragement for cooperation among authorities and experts from the region.

# ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES

## 1. Context



In 1987, the United Nations defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Currently, Agenda 2030 and its [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) are the umbrella framework for international efforts aimed at improving the lives of people around the world.

The United Nations has specified that the [Agenda](#) sets out 17 Goals with 169 targets that are integrated and indivisible in nature and cover economic, social, and environmental areas. Although the importance of the environment also appears partially in other SDGs, it has been captured specifically in five of them. [SDG 6](#), which deals with water and sanitation; the goal is to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, by 2030. [SDG 12](#): Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns by 2030; achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. [SDG 13: Climate Action](#) calls for the integration of measures to address the adverse effects of climate change into national development programs. [SDG 14: Life below water](#) and [SDG 15: Life in terrestrial ecosystems](#) also declare the importance of adopting more sustainable practices in the use of natural resources on the planet, as well as ending poverty.

In 2021, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published a report entitled [Making Peace With Nature](#), in which it sets out the urgent need to transform humans’ relationship with nature and to jointly address the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crises, in order to ensure a sustainable future.

Although there are already a great number of multilateral treaties on the environment, which are part of the United Nations’ action framework, it is vital to include the environment in regional efforts, as is the case with the Pacific Alliance, which is an integration initiative that was created on April 28, 2011, and whose members are Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

The PA-EFE program aims at contributing to strengthening the national policies that were addressed by the member countries of the Pacific Alliance during the Program’s 4<sup>th</sup> thematic forum focused on the environment, and building greater awareness, dialogue and exchange of ideas around the environmental challenges facing the extractive sector, by addressing collaborative processes with national stakeholders (civil servants), civil society, and the private sector. Different effective work methodologies were used, including virtual meetings with different stakeholders involved in environmental policy work; a documentation review process that addressed the policies presented at the environmental forum , in addition to capacity building and training workshops for government officials that were held in each country.

A set of strategic guidelines was established within the framework of this Program, including thematic forums in the following areas: gender equality, Indigenous communities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and environmental sustainability.

With respect to the environment, and with the objective of making progress towards the environment becoming a cross-cutting theme in the PA-EFE Program and of obtaining the immediate outcomes set within the Program’s Results-Based Management (RBM) approach, the 4th thematic forum, entitled “Intersectoral Forum on Environmental

Sustainability in the Pacific Alliance and Canada: Best Practices and Policies in the Extractive Sector,” was held virtually on October 28 and November 4, 11, and 18, 2021.

The primary outcome from the event was the identification of 17 environmental best practices and public policies (BPs and PPs) for the extractive sector, which were shared by the PA countries during the event and then subsequently summarized in a [report](#).

Some PPs and BPs will be laid out in detail in this report and can be used as a regional reference for decision makers, the industrial sector, academia, civil society, and more.

First, it was necessary to identify whether the existing best practices and policies, as well as those that were identified as a result of the forum, are in place and in line with each country’s current situation, and/or understand whether actions are already being carried out with respect to the BPs and PPs.

As a next step, a systematization process was carried out in two phases: documentary and participatory. In Step 1, a literature review process was performed around the programs, action plans, and laws related to the policies and best practices identified in the fourth PA-EFE thematic forum on Environmental Sustainability, and this was summarized in the report from the [Intersectoral Forum on Environmental Sustainability in the Pacific Alliance and Canada: Best Practices and Policies in the Extractive Sector](#). The information gathered was compiled in information sheets; this phase was carried out with experts, implementers, and beneficiaries/end users, in each PA country.

During the participatory phase, the information contained in the information sheets was validated, and additional information was gathered on progress, modifications, improvements, and results from the revised PPs and BPs. The final product of this process is the development and publication of this report, which will be shared with the countries in order to strengthen the regional dialogue process, wherein the experience and the results of the implementation of each policy, program, or revised best practice are disseminated so that environmental sustainability can become a cross-cutting theme in each country and this topic can gain more momentum.

ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES  
IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES

## 2. Documentary systematization



One of the immediate outcomes within the logical framework of the PA-EFE Program is the strengthening of the capacities of the stakeholders and government employees in the Pacific Alliance countries for the development and execution of policies and best practices in the extractive sector, wherein the systematization process plays an important role.

Subsequently, and as one of the intermediate outcomes, the goal is an increased long-term dialogue among the Pacific Alliance countries, with the support of Canada, on the sustainable practices, policies, and guidelines, and to provide training for men and women, in equality of conditions for training and employment.

For this, an environmental sustainability strategy was developed that addresses the expected results and the indicators from the Program's performance measurement framework (PMF), in the identification of the countries' actions around environmental sustainability in the extractive sector.

The Program's environmental sustainability strategy consisted of consulting with experts, beneficiaries/users, and implementers who provided information on policies, programs, or best practices on this subject from each country, which could be documented and shared among the countries. These consultations were made specifically with staff from the ministries/secretariats that are involved with the topic, individuals from the private sector, environmental experts, academics, and others. The link to the directory of participants can be found in the Acknowledgments section.

An extensive literature review was done as part of the systematization process, wherein 17 information sheets were compiled on the policies identified during the 4th Forum, and then questions or requests for key information were sent out to gain further information on the revised policy or best practice. The information sheets were then forwarded to the individuals consulted in each country, for their review and information. This provided an opportunity to present other policies that were of interest or relevant to each country. During the process, five extra policies were proposed (one from Chile, two from Colombia, two from Mexico; Peru did not propose any new PPs or BPs), based on suggestions from the experts or implementers consulted. This resulted in the systematization of 22 policies.

The process included an exchange between CICan and the individuals consulted; after this exercise, the policies and best practices were selected and the summaries documented in the information sheets. The information sheet settled on was organized into blocks of information based on area and sector, policy name, date of enactment, lead agency, and objective. The following sections identify the strategies, actions, and outcomes, as well as beneficiaries, sustainability measures, advantages identified around the implementation, and recommendations based on experience, and more.



An example of the information sheet used is shown below.

**TOOL #1: Information sheet for policies/best practices (country, number and name)**

SECTION 1

<b>Managed by</b>	
<b>Primary provider of information</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

SECTION 2<sup>1</sup>

<b>1.1 Identification of policies and best practices</b>	
Country:	
Public sector area:	
Document name:	
Document type:	
Date of enactment of policy or approval of best practice:	
Body in charge of the policy or best practice:	
Objective of the policy/best practice:	
Strategy for its development:	
Primary actions and outcomes:	
What is the geographic range of application of this policy/best practice?	
Who are the beneficiaries or the target group of the policy/best practice?	
Did the beneficiaries or the target group participate in the design of the policy or in the documentation of the best practice? How?	
What sustainability measures have been taken or what	

<sup>1</sup> The content of this table is mainly text-based, sourced from the documents forwarded by the countries; some information that was not deemed relevant was removed.

1.1 Identification of policies and best practices	
resources ensure its continuity?	
Does the implementation include documentation reports or a results assessment? Attach documents.	
List the recommendations for the application of the policy/best practice.	
Advantages identified:	
List the recommendations for risk management of the application of the policy/best practice.	
Copy the link to the official document here (if available).	

The following table summarizes the profiles of the best practices and policies that were documented in the information sheets from the four countries. It is important to note the variety of sectors that are involved, mainly partially, in the environmental sustainability of the extractive sector.

**Table 1. Best practices and policies by sector and country**

Sector/Countries	Chile	Colombia	Mexico	Peru	Pacific Alliance
Water	1	0	1	0	2
Environmental and climate policies and strategies	2	2	3	3	10
Energy efficiency	1	1	0	0	2
Mining policies and regulations	2	1	0	0	3
Sustainable plastics and waste management	0	1	0	2	3
Environmental education and research	0	0	1	1	2
Total per country	6	5	5	6	22

The information sheets can be found in the following links, for anyone who wishes to have greater detail on the information presented herein. [Chile](#), [Colombia](#) [Mexico](#), [Peru](#).

ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES  
IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES

## 3. Participatory Systematization



For the review and analysis of the design and implementation of the best practices and policies presented in the written documentation phase, it was necessary to explore the dynamics from recent processes in which different government stakeholders, experts, and beneficiaries were involved.

As such, the participatory phase consisted of gathering their perceptions and experiences, and some research was done on the challenges and positive factors that ensured the proper development of the public strategies for environmental sustainability, in order to then formulate recommendations that could be applied in the design and implementation phases of these types of policies.

Within this process, first of all, it was proposed to send the information sheets gathered from the experts, implementers, and users who participated in the program's 4th thematic forum on environmental sustainability and who had time available to respond to the questionnaire and participate in the interviews, if they felt it was necessary.

Seventeen information sheets were submitted by the PA countries, which then underwent a feedback stage, the result of which was the incorporation of five additional policies and best practices, for a grand total of 22.

Subsequently, the online questionnaires were sent to the same participants from the documentary systematization phase, as well as to the contacts provided by them and those existing in the forum participant database, who met the profile requirements. Three questionnaires were developed in total, for the following profiles:

- 1) **Designer and/or implementer:** this questionnaire was directed primarily to government officials whose knowledge on the processes, the stages of the design and construction of the policies or programs, and the existing challenges, made them experts in environmental sustainability in the ministry or public institution they work for.
- 2) **Expert/specialist:** this questionnaire is directed to people who are dedicated to the study, analysis, and reflexion on environmental sustainability as part of their daily work.
- 3) **Beneficiary:** this questionnaire is directed to groups of people who experience the results of a policy or best practice, so they are in a position to evaluate its level of success or failure.

Fifteen online questionnaires were submitted, and 11 interviews were conducted in August 2022 with the people who responded to the online questionnaire and expressed their interest in contributing more information and providing greater detail on their knowledge. People were interviewed from all four countries.

The interviews were conducted virtually, with the presence of the PA-EFE Program's Regional Environmental Consultant, Israel Ávila, and an external environmental consultant for the participatory systematization phase, Moisés Hernández.

The people who were interviewed, based on the area of their competency in their respective roles, complemented their written responses with experiences, practical examples, challenges, evaluations of the policy or program they implement and results obtained with a high level of detail, which enriched the dialogue, allowed for key elements

to be identified for the formulation of recommendations, and for learning about the obstacles and limitations in their work, in terms of environmental sustainability.

The participatory documentation phase, which included the online questionnaire and interviews, included the participation of five designers/implementers, four experts/specialists, and two beneficiaries, who addressed best practices and policies in the scope of their experience.

**Table 2. Best practices and environmental policies identified in the 4th Forum and documented**

Country	Topic	Best practice or policy
Chile	Water	Water Scenarios 2030
	Environmental and climate policies and strategies	Long-Term Climate Strategy
		National Climate Change Action Plan 2017–2022
	Energy efficiency	National Energy Efficiency Plan 2022–2026
	Mining policies and regulations	National Mining Policy 2050 <sup>1</sup>
Mining safety regulations		
Colombia	Environmental and climate policies and strategies	Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plan for the mining/energy sector*
		Colombia's Long-Term Climate Strategy*
	Energy efficiency	Indicative Action Plan for the development of the Rational and Efficient Energy Use Program
	Mining regulations and policies	Gender guidelines for the energy/mining sector
	Sustainable plastics and waste management	National Plan for the Sustainable Management of Single-Use Plastics
Mexico	Water	NOM-141-SEMARNAT-2003 (tailings ponds) *
	Environmental and climate policies and strategies	NMX-AA-162-SCFI-2012 (environmental auditing)
		National Ecology and Climate Change Institute Program 2020–2024
		Sectoral Environment and Natural Resources Program 2020–2024
	Environmental education and research	Bilingual, International, and Sustainable Technological Universities and Polytechnics *
Peru	Environmental and climate policies and strategies	Law governing climate change and its regulations
		National Environment Policy for 2030
		National Climate Change Adaptation Plan
	Sustainable plastics and waste management	Law governing single-use plastic and disposable containers
		National Integrated Waste Management Plan
Environmental education and research	National Observatory on Environmental Research	

\* This policy or best practice arose during the documentary systematization process conducted with the Pacific Alliance countries.

Most of the implementers, designers, or experts who took part in the participatory documentation process are career civil servants, ministry experts, and employees from private initiatives; some of them have been driving and leading the policies since their inception.

Some also belong to partner institutions that participated actively in the design or the implementation. Having the benefit of their contributions based on their roles and experience enriched the dialogue and the identification of the initial components of the policy, which either facilitate or hinder its development; this enabled the gathering of the recommendations around public policy management based on their experience, which was captured in the documentation sheets.

### **3.1 General Context**

The different policies, laws, programs, or plans from the Pacific Alliance member countries presented herein came about in the 4th Forum. The participants from this documentation phase highlighted the specific contributions they made, and the impacts of the policies identified.

The relevant government areas are:

- 1) the ministries of environment and their specialized agencies, by virtue of their capacities related to regulations, protection, and monitoring of the environment and natural resources;
- 2) the ministries of mines, energy and the economy, which focus on activities in the extractive sector and relationships with companies; and
- 3) in the specific case of Mexico, the educational sector also participated, through their Bilingual, International and Sustainable Technological Universities and Polytechnics (“BIS”).

### **3.3 Relationship with Non-Government Stakeholders**

The design and implementation of the policies and best practices relative to environmental sustainability in the extractive sector require the participation of all stakeholders, so the Pacific Alliance member countries have set up communication channels that have facilitated the inclusion of the analysis and opinions of representatives from the private sector, civil society, Indigenous peoples and local communities, and academia.

The growing use of virtual platforms and electronic media has driven the participation of non-government stakeholders that are located in remote areas or that have difficult access, since they no longer need to physically commute to the capital cities to have their voices heard in meetings with the government.

The participation of non-government stakeholders is key to the design and implementation of policies and best practices in environmental sustainability in the extractive sector. As such, one best practice that is executed in the Pacific Alliance countries is the creation and

institutionalization of round-table discussions among the governments and representatives of other sectors; these have a set cadence and allow for an ongoing, transparent dialogue.

As an example, Peru's ministry of environment (MINAM) uses a methodology called *Dialoguemos* ("let's talk"), which consists of the formation of working groups under the National Commission on Climate Change, which in turn is a governance space in which the different stakeholder groups can participate.

In the case of Chile, they have Advisory Boards that are established by law and include not only a national advisory board, but also 16 regional ones; in addition, the National Mining Strategy for 2050 talks refers to "128 open working groups"; i.e., 128 initiatives over the entire country that address the challenges raised over nine cross-cutting themes.

### 3.4 Transparency and Accountability

The official documents that were reviewed as part of the compilation of this report are available to the general public; this shows a solid commitment to access to information and transparency by the Pacific Alliance countries.

The assessments of the laws, policies, and programs, as well as the results reports, are fundamental for their implementation and follow-up, which provides an opportunity for continuous improvement for the governments and for them to showcase and communicate their actions to the entire population.

In general, the policies and best practices that are listed in the section on the Participatory Phase include assessments and reports from previous years. The links to the full texts and documents with the most up-to-date information are listed below.

#### 3.4.1 Chile

Water Scenarios 2030:

<https://escenarioshidricos.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/portafolio.pdf>

Water Transition. The Future of Water in Chile:

<https://escenarioshidricos.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/resumen-baja-1-1-1.pdf>

Long-Term Climate Strategy:

<https://cambioclimatico.mma.gob.cl/estrategia-climatica-de-largo-plazo-2050/descripcion-del-instrumento/>

National Climate Change Action Plan 2017–2022:

[https://mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/plan\\_nacional\\_climatico\\_2017\\_2.pdf](https://mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/plan_nacional_climatico_2017_2.pdf)

Supreme Decree no. 4 (approval of the National Energy Efficiency Plan):

[https://energia.gob.cl/sites/default/files/decreto\\_afecto\\_n\\_04\\_2022.pdf](https://energia.gob.cl/sites/default/files/decreto_afecto_n_04_2022.pdf)

National Energy Efficiency Plan 2022–2026:

[https://energia.gob.cl/sites/default/files/documentos/plan\\_nacional\\_de\\_eficiencia\\_energetica\\_2022-2026.pdf](https://energia.gob.cl/sites/default/files/documentos/plan_nacional_de_eficiencia_energetica_2022-2026.pdf)

Mining accident rates:

<https://www.sernageomin.cl/accidentabilidad-minera/>

Decree no. 132 (approval of the Mining Safety Regulations):

<https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=221064>

National Mining Safety Balance Sheet in Chile 2020:

<https://www.sernageomin.cl/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Balance-Nacional-de-Seguridad-Minera-en-Chile-2020.pdf>

Supreme Decree no. 2 (approval of the National Mining Policy 2050):

<http://www.politicanacionalminera.cl/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/DECRETO-SUPREMO-N%C2%B02-PNM-2050.pdf>

National Mining Policy 2050:

<https://www.politicanacionalminera.cl/>

### 3.4.2 Colombia

Long-Term Climate Strategy:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/COL\\_LTS\\_Nov2021.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/COL_LTS_Nov2021.pdf)

Colombia's Carbon Neutrality Strategy:

<https://carbononeutral.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FAQ-Estrategia-Pais-Colombia-Carbono-Neutralidad.pdf>

National Plan for the Sustainable Management of Single-Use Plastics:

<https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/plan-nacional-para-la-gestion-sostenible-de-plasticos-un-solo-uso-minambiente.pdf>

Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plan for the mining/energy sector (PIGCCme):

[https://pigccme.minenergia.gov.co/public/uploads/web\\_documentos/61ba091840593.pdf](https://pigccme.minenergia.gov.co/public/uploads/web_documentos/61ba091840593.pdf)

<https://pigccme.minenergia.gov.co/public/web/documentos/3?componente>

[https://pigccme.minenergia.gov.co/public/uploads/web\\_documentos/62ed9ac6df026.pdf](https://pigccme.minenergia.gov.co/public/uploads/web_documentos/62ed9ac6df026.pdf)

### 3.4.3 Mexico

Information on BIS universities:

<https://dgutyp.sep.gob.mx/index.php?pagina=InfoUB>

Official Mexican Standard - NOM-141-SEMARNAT-2003:

[https://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=661988&fecha=13/09/2004#gsc.tab=0](https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=661988&fecha=13/09/2004#gsc.tab=0)

National Ecology and Climate Change Institute Program 2020–2024:

[http://diariooficial.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5602730&fecha=14/10/2020#gsc.tab=0](http://diariooficial.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5602730&fecha=14/10/2020#gsc.tab=0)



Sectoral Environment and Natural Resources Program 2020–2024:

<https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/566832/PROMARNAT-2020-2024.pdf>  
[https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5596232&fecha=07/07/2020#gsc.tab=0](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5596232&fecha=07/07/2020#gsc.tab=0)  
[https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle\\_popup.php?codigo=5567745](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle_popup.php?codigo=5567745)

National Environmental Auditing Program:

<https://www.gob.mx/profepa/acciones-y-programas/resultados-obtenidos>  
[https://www.gob.mx/profepa/acciones-y-programas/programa-nacional-de-auditoria-ambiental-56432#:~:text=El%20Programa%20Nacional%20de%20Auditor%C3%ADa%20Ambiental%20\(PNAA\)%20se%20cre%C3%B3%20en,mayor%20riesgo%20en%20el%20pa%C3%A](https://www.gob.mx/profepa/acciones-y-programas/programa-nacional-de-auditoria-ambiental-56432#:~:text=El%20Programa%20Nacional%20de%20Auditor%C3%ADa%20Ambiental%20(PNAA)%20se%20cre%C3%B3%20en,mayor%20riesgo%20en%20el%20pa%C3%A)  
[Ds](https://www.gob.mx/profepa/acciones-y-programas/programa-nacional-de-auditoria-ambiental-56432#:~:text=El%20Programa%20Nacional%20de%20Auditor%C3%ADa%20Ambiental%20(PNAA)%20se%20cre%C3%B3%20en,mayor%20riesgo%20en%20el%20pa%C3%A)

### 3.4.4 Peru

Catalogue of adaptation measures:

<https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minam/informes-publicaciones/462585-catalogo-de-91-medidas-de-adaptacion>

Ministerial Resolution no. 096-2021-MINAM (of Peru's National Adaptation Plan [NAP]):

<https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minam/normas-legales/1955977-096-2021-minam>

Peru's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan:

[http://siar.minam.gob.pe/puno/sites/default/files/archivos/public/docs/documento\\_de\\_trabajo\\_sobre\\_avances\\_del\\_nap\\_gobiernos\\_regionales.pdf](http://siar.minam.gob.pe/puno/sites/default/files/archivos/public/docs/documento_de_trabajo_sobre_avances_del_nap_gobiernos_regionales.pdf)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RBZTDATG\\_A3lwZFGHvB8ER-HqPCQiBbC/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RBZTDATG_A3lwZFGHvB8ER-HqPCQiBbC/view)

Law no. 30,884 - Law governing single-use plastic and disposable containers:

<https://sinia.minam.gob.pe/normas/ley-que-regula-plastico-un-solo-uso-recipientes-envases-descartables>  
<https://spij.minjus.gob.pe/spij-ext-web/detallenorma/H1242205>

Framework Law on Climate Change:

<https://spij.minjus.gob.pe/spij-ext-web/detallenorma/H1204922>

National Observatory on Environmental Research:

<https://investigacion.minam.gob.pe/observatorio/inicio>

National Integrated Waste Management Plan 2016–2024:

<https://sinia.minam.gob.pe/documentos/plan-nacional-gestion-integral-residuos-solidos-2016-2024>

Supreme Decree no. 023-2021 (approval of the National Environment Policy for 2030):

<https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/2037168/D.S.%20023-2021-MINAM.pdf.pdf>

National Environment Policy for 2030:

<https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/2235168/Resumen%20Ejecutivo%20PNA15.09.2021%20VF.pdf.pdf>

<https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/2037169/POLITICA%20NACIONAL%20DE%20L%20AMBIENTE%20AL%202030.pdf.pdf>



The case of the Bilingual, International and Sustainable (“BIS”) educational modality of Mexico’s Technological Universities and Polytechnics deserves a special mention. An expert from the Secretariat of Education mentioned that “the PA-EFE Program is considered as an external motivator that has driven the need for the BIS to carry out a formal review and to have evaluations and results reports in order to measure the impact of the training of professionals with an environmental profile at these universities.”

### 3.5 International Relations

International relations is a factor that increases the level of importance of environmental sustainability and the laws, programs, and plans designed and implemented by the countries, since it involves commitments. This is in addition to the interest of non-government stakeholders to contribute to environmental initiatives.

The Pacific Alliance member countries have an active, environmentally responsible international scope of action. Each country has commitments that have arisen from their membership with international organizations and from bilateral and multilateral treaties.


A few examples are listed below that illustrate the importance of the international agenda of Pacific Alliance member countries, and the positive impact on its national actions:


- The Environment and Green Growth Technical Group (GTMACV): This formal working technical group was formed in 2016 with the objective of “creating a space for dialogue among the governments of PA member countries and the private sector, for the development and implementation of an agenda that drives sustainability and gears its actions towards green growth, considering the specific characteristics and circumstances of each country.”
- In 2021, within the framework of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Colombian ministry of mining and energy signed agreements  “[...] with important industry associations in the electrical, hydrocarbon, and gas sectors, with our largest company (Ecopetrol), focused on more quickly implementing the sectoral Climate Change Plan” (Expert/Specialist, Colombia).
- Peru is the first South American country to approve its National Adaptation Plan (NAP).  “[...] The NAP is the document that enables the implementation of the adaptation measures to which Peru has committed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)” (Designer/Implementer, Peru).

- Among the environmental sustainability standards implemented in Mexico, two major ones are NOM-141 by the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), whose focus is especially on environmental protection, and NOM-001, whose main objective is for water to be returned to conditions in which it can be used for other purposes.

“[...] Based on the T-MEC, standards are adopted or adapted from the ones from other countries where they are in use. This is the advantage of international treaties, but these standards have actually been developed in accordance with the Mexican setting and are being applied (Designer/Implementer, Mexico).

- In the case of standard NMX-AA-162-SCFI-2012 (“Environmental Auditing”), it was pointed out that some of the key themes for its implementation are:

 “[...] Mexico’s international environmental agenda (SDGs, post-2020 targets, Agenda 2030, Nagoya Protocol, Escazú Agreement, Paris Agreement)’ (Expert/Specialist, Mexico).


 The design of Chile’s National Mining Policy 2050 included a Strategic Environmental Evaluation. This is an international tool that allows for environmental considerations on sustainable development to be incorporated into the formulation process of the policies and plans of a general regulatory nature that have an impact on the environment and on sustainability. Since the instrument is international and cross-cutting, it lends legitimacy, continuity, and trackability to the process.

### 3.6 Institutional Challenges and the Environment as a Line of Action

The government is the primary entity responsible for ensuring the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of the environment and its natural resources; it must also foster the benefits of these measures among the private sector and its citizens.

The designers and implementers of the laws, policies, plans, and programs around sustainability in the extractive sector have identified a few challenges that impact the execution of their tasks and the dynamics of their internal processes; a few of these are detailed in this section.

Financing is a fundamental component for the execution of any policy, so its availability needs to be ongoing. However, because of all the administrative processes required for the government’s allocation of funds, in the case of Colombia, financing needs to be done within a limited timeframe.

 “In the best-case scenario, it’s six months. In the worst case, we’ve at times had to invest all of the funds from a single year, in four months.” (Expert/Specialist, Colombia).


In the case of Mexico, the environmental sector has been undergoing staff turnover, and, in a few areas, a reduction in staff, which affects its technical capacity. In addition, the change to the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources’ (SEMARNAT) internal regulations in 2022 led to changes in the institutional structure, causing a modification to

the functions and competencies of each of the departments, so the implementation of an environmental policy will need to be adapted to the new regulations.


Due to the nature of the activities carried out in the extractive sector, it is essential that the government and companies work together. Both parties' resources are limited (both financial and human) but this relationship needs to be strengthened in order to successfully implement environmental sustainability measures.

The approach taken by the government to foster sustainability will determine the interest and type of response from the private sector. In Mexico's case, the environmental auditing experts recognize that industries must develop action plans to update their production equipment and service provision, as well as improve the maintenance of their facilities. The challenge is having the companies not look at these actions as an expense, but rather as an investment that will return more economic, social, and environmental benefits.


The industry's overall perspective has been clearly captured in the following testimonial:

 “[...] when we started back in 2016, climate change was basically seen as an environmental restriction [...] and, clearly, for companies, this translates to more obligations that don't bring them any profit.” (Expert/Specialist, Colombia).


In that sense, the Colombian case is paradigmatic because of the modification made to the messaging from the government and the structure of its policy.

 “What the Climate Change Plan itself seeks is to boost competitiveness in the sector, addressing the threats of climate change in terms of reducing emissions or in terms of these new threats of a changing climate.” (Expert/Specialist, Colombia).

As such, the Comprehensive Climate Change Management Plan for the mining/energy sector (PIGCCme) has been adopted by the private sector to the extent that there are corporate climate change plans that are aligned with the PIGCCme. In this sense:

 “It is expected that by 2024, all companies will reference the PIGCCme when developing their plans” (Expert/Specialist, Colombia).

One of the more recent and ambitious examples, in terms of level of importance of the environmental component, is Chile's National Mining Policy 2050; one of the most notable aspects of this policy is the shared responsibility between the government and industry.

 “The policy was structured into four pillars. One of the pillars is Environment, which has ambitious targets in terms of water, waste, tailings, climate change, and pollution. We [the government] are not forcing [the industry]; we are saying: “we all have to contribute to more sustainable mining.” (Designer/Implementer, Chile).

The Ministry of Mining is undergoing an organizational adjustment in order to implement the policy and ensure it is duly followed through on.

The individuals interviewed agree that: a) the design of strategies linked to the institutionalization of gender and b) ongoing technical training are two of the most important strategies for ensuring continuity and improvement of the policy or best practice. It should be noted that most of the individuals interviewed are from the government, and in other cases, from the private sector.

The inclusion of environment as one of the lines of action is a commitment taken on by the governments, the private sector, and civil society in an increasingly necessary and urgent manner. While each country has made progress and is showing strength in terms of the integration of best practices and policies to ensure sustainability in the extractive sector, they are also facing several challenges in this development and implementation; some of the challenges recognized by the participants were agreeing on concrete actions among all stakeholders and achieving synergy.

These challenges need to be addressed to develop best practices and policies that enable the country's policies to be focused on sustainable development and contribute to international agreements related to countering the effects of climate change, preservation of ecosystems, and responsible consumption (to name a few). The social side also needs to be integrated into each of the PPs and BPs to be implemented, since the environmental aspect tends to be recognized in the application of best practices, but as has been mentioned in this report, the environmental aspect enables a cross-cutting approach around environmental sustainability.

# ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES

## Recommendations



This section summarizes the recommendations that emerged from the online questionnaires and the interviews during the participatory systematization phase. The information has been organized by country and relates to the policies shown in Table 2.

As can be noted, there are some policies or best practices with more recommendations, and some with fewer. This is because some [interviewees](#) provided more ideas and some provided fewer. ***This is in no way a selection or imposition by CICA.***

The recommendations have been organized by country and by policy or program so they can be seen by the sectors to which they are directed, and they are meant as suggestions; they can therefore be used by the teams leading the development of public policies, as one of many tools, as they deem it appropriate or relevant.

#### 4.1 Chile

Coordination within the institutions and with the different government agencies is a very important component for any initiative. The participation of all stakeholders will be made easier when there is a common vision. Communication around the project at hand must be clear.

The implementation of the best practices or policies must take into account the budget and human resources of the competent ministry or agency. Subsequently, the topics to be prioritized must be selected and then addressed.

For any project to be successful, it must be planned, coordinated, and implemented such that it includes the participation of relevant stakeholders (government and non-government) and change management.

The public consultation stage is important because it lends transparency and contributes to the technical/social process under discussion; it also reduces speculations, fears, and misunderstandings by the population. All of these stages are headed by the government.

#### 4.2 Colombia

The National Circular Economy Strategy has been mandatory since 2021 and states that it is obligatory to meet the reuse targets set out in the standards. It has been estimated that by the end of 2021, 200,000 tonnes of waste had been reused, of which 65,000 are plastics.

The target for 2030 is to reuse a minimum of 30% of waste from containers and packaging; this translates to one million tonnes. To do this, it is recommended to continue implementing this strategy.

Ongoing financing is essential to the execution of the best practices and policies around environmental sustainability in the extractive sector. One task that is indispensable for strengthening this type of measure is to reduce to the greatest extent possible the amount of time required to grant the funding, so the institutions can carry out their work consistently and confidently throughout the year.

The analysis of the information must include the greatest number of variables possible, so decisions can be made based on evidence (for example, emission reduction, economic and financial variables, energy reliability, social variables).

### 4.3 Mexico

Inter-institutional coordination ensures that the initiatives that are proposed and planned for implementation are aligned with the responsibilities and competencies of each participating area, it enriches the actions that are already underway, it prevents duplication of efforts, and it considers the capacities, in terms of financial and human resources, of the government agencies charged with implementing and following up on the environmental policy.

The government, whether using its own funds or through international cooperation, must provide direct financing to the companies who wish to voluntarily implement a self-regulation program (such as environmental auditing) and that do not have the financial solvency to make the necessary upgrades. It is suggested to grant microcredit to small and medium companies.

Similarly, self-regulation should be encouraged, and citizenship should be properly informed so they can effectively participate in the decision-making process on environmental matters.

A risk analysis enables a better evaluation of the safety conditions of water dams and tailings dams. Greater oversight is required for these projects, so risk analyses need to be set as requirements for new projects and for those that have anomalies.

In the specific case of NOM-141-SEMARNAT-2003 (tailings ponds), and from a technical standpoint, it is recommended to store the waste as solids or slurry.

### 4.4 Peru

The participation of the different stakeholders is necessary for the formulation of public policies, so they can be involved and take ownership of the commitment to implement them.

It is important that the formulation process for the public policies be multi-level, multi-stakeholder, and multi-sector, and that it contains inclusive aspects as cross-cutting themes, such as gender, intercultural, and intergenerational aspects. In this way, representation will be ensured, both from the technical and planning side.

It is recommended to strengthen the coordinated work for the development of tools to enable the implementation of the intercultural aspect in the measures for adaptation to climate change.

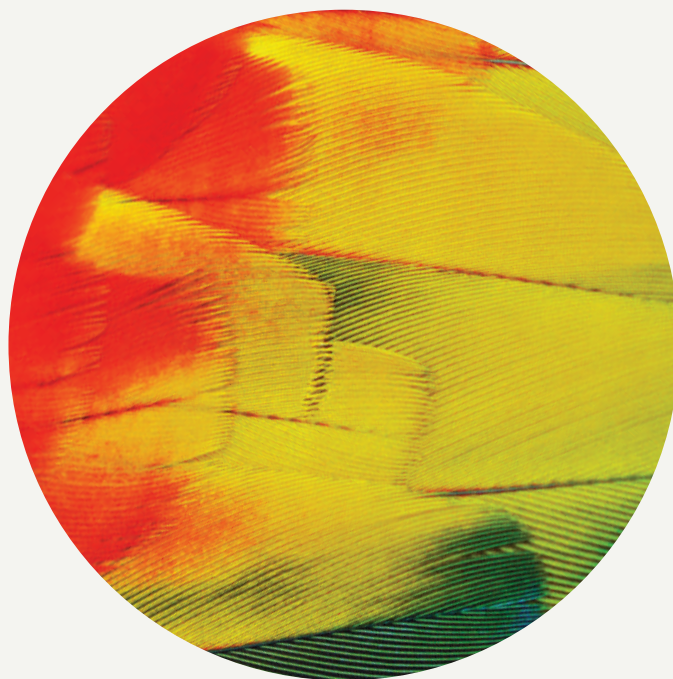
Greater detail should be provided around the technical criteria and procedures for implementing the policy, including financing details.



# ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES**

## 5. Conclusions



This section presents the conclusions that emerged from the policies identified in the environmental forum and the policies proposed by the people who participated in the systematization process; this report is therefore an instrument that summarizes the results and conclusions, as well as recommendations and best practices described by the participants. As such, this document can be used as a tool by its users and readers.

Each member country of the Pacific Alliance (PA) has environmental policies that commit them to promoting, caring for, regulating, putting in order, and minimizing environmental impacts, fostering environmental education, and more, in order to further their economic and social development, by managing their natural resources in a more sustainable way.

This commitment comes with several challenges, including the development of public policies (PPs) that include environmental sustainability, which must be handled by the persons responsible for the design, implementation, and monitoring of environmental policies and best practices in all sectors of the government. In this sense, all PA countries have driven the strengthening of legislation and environmental policies from a governmental point of view.

The participatory process enabled the participants to recognize the importance of internal communication in its ministries and government agencies for implementation, and to identify concrete actions to be executed by government officials, who add their experience from their roles in the PP. The users'/beneficiaries' perspectives on these actions also provided added value.

The importance of PPs in environmental sustainability, as well as their ongoing evaluation, was recognized by the individuals taking part in this process. In addition, they concluded that each step of the life cycle of a policy needs to be participatory and inclusive, among the government, society, and academia, since all parties are involved in the care, use, and protection of the environment.

They also highlighted that the creation of multidisciplinary and international working spaces provides a way of making recommendations and suggestions for strengthening dialogue, which enables the formulation and implementation of environmental policies aimed at minimizing environmental problems and contributes to compliance with international agreements, and helps in seeking economic and social development, all with an approach based on the sustainable use of natural resources, aimed at the sustainable development of each PA country.

The next step for the work described in this report was to hold in-person workshops called "Design and Implementation of Policies from the Standpoint of Environmental Sustainability"; these took place in September, October, November, and December of 2022, and they were directed at officials from different ministries/secretariats (environment, mining, education, foreign affairs, and more) from the four PA countries, in order to contribute to strengthening ministries' competencies in the inclusion of environmental sustainability as a fundamental part of the implementation of public policies.

# ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

IN THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE COUNTRIES

## 6. References



## **Pacific Alliance**

<https://alianzapacifico.net/>

## **United Nations**

Sustainability:

<https://www.un.org/es/impacto-acad%C3%A9mico/sostenibilidad>

Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>

Report: *Making Peace with Nature*: <https://www.unep.org/es/resources/making-peace-nature>

## **Chile - Advisory Council**

<https://mma.gob.cl/participacion-ciudadana/consejo-consultivo-del-medio-ambiente/>

## **Acknowledgments**

On behalf of Colleges and Institutes Canada and the entire Pacific Alliance Education for Employment (PA-EFE) team, we value and appreciate the support given by everyone who participated in the systematization process and contributed detailed information for the preparation of this report.



PACIFIC ALLIANCE  
EFE PROGRAM

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE  
EXTRACTIVE SECTOR OF THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE

