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CHAIR LETTER

Dear delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC-SFLS! I'm Helen Wei, and I am excited to be serving as your Chair for the Organization of American States (OAS). Climate change poses a pressing and complex challenge for Latin America. This vast and diverse region is disproportionately affected by the impacts of a warming planet, especially where many people rely on natural resources for their sustenance. With imminent extreme weather events, dwindling biodiversity, resource scarcity, and so much more, you will be grappling with the future and safety of all nations.

A little bit about me: I am a fourth year at the University of Chicago double majoring in Biological Sciences and Public Policy on the pre-med track, and I'm originally from Chicago. I have always been fascinated by international affairs, both historic and contemporary, so I am excited to see where you all will take this committee. Besides chairing ChoMUN, I am the Chief Operating Officer for MUNUC, UChicago's high school MUN conference, and compete on UChicago's travel MUN team. Outside of MUN, I am the President of Bridge to College, which helps make the college application process more accessible for Chicago Public School students, and I conduct research in a cancer immunology lab on campus. In my free time, I love to cook, run along Lake Michigan, and play racket sports with my friends (like tennis and squash!).

Through this committee, we hope that you will come together to tackle, create, and solve internationally relevant issues regarding our quickly warming world. I encourage you to bring creative and unique ideas as you learn more about the world around us, but above all else, have fun! I look forward to getting to know you all throughout the course of the conference weekend. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Helen Wei

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HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Organization of the American States is not only one of the most reputable regional organizations, but it is also the oldest of these, as well. The organization has its roots in the mid-20th century, with the Charter of the OAS being officially signed in 1948.[1] If its title was not sufficient in highlighting the group's recognition of regional cooperation, its treaty and purpose further hints at this fact. The OAS is deeply committed to promoting cooperative action in the face of economic, social, and political issues that may be perceived as either domestic or regional.[2] Of course, this is done respecting each of the 35 members' sovereignty, but nevertheless, the organization has set a standard of upholding peace and security while working to eradicate some of the region's greatest issues (e.g. systemic poverty) in the hopes of allowing all member nations to develop successful democracies.[3] Thus, it is no coincidence that OAS prides itself on surrounding its work around the following four main pillars: democracy, human rights, security, and development.[4] For the inter-American system, the OAS has proven to be a successful mediator in disputes between member nations, indicating its commitment to peace, but it has also been successful in granting the most vulnerable populations, such as indigenous groups or women and children, a voice in these dialogues.[5]

[1] OAS. "OAS - Organization of American States: Democracy for Peace, Security, and Development." Text, August 1, 2009. http://www.oas.org/en/about/who_we_are.asp.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Ibid.
[4] OAS. "OAS - Organization of American States: What We Do." Text, August 1, 2009. http://www.oas.org/en/about/what_we_do.asp.
[5] Ibid.

TOPIC: THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Statement of the Problem

Introduction to the Problem

Of the number of pressing matters that global society must confront, the United Nations proclaims that climate change is one of, if not the most, urgent area of concern.[6] The effects of global warming are becoming undeniable, with irreversible changes such as ocean acidification and extreme weather conditions piling up on one another which devastates the most vulnerable populations.[7] The reality of the situation, however, is that the model of "**exponential consumption**", which influences a large portion of world leaders' decisions, is mostly to blame for this evolving catastrophe, as put by global systems analyst Rodrigo Castro.[8] The problem with this philosophy of governing is that "we live in a finite world," but act as if the earth's resources are infinite.[9] Thus, immediate decisive actions must be taken to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate by developing systems that operate sustainably.

When it comes to conversations on human relationships to natural resources, Central and South America become titular characters. Their resource-rich land is home to nearly half of all tropical forests, a third of all freshwater reserves, and a quarter of all arable land, along with other diverse ecosystems.[10] However, due to this wealth in **biodiversity**, this region has also fallen victim to foreign **extractivism** that leaves countries economically dependent on foreign entities while having fewer resources to distribute to their own citizens at national and even local levels.[11] Even then, extreme resource extraction activities have left this region responsible for nearly a third of carbon

[6] "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019." Text. Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.un-ilibrary.org/economic-and-social-development/the-sustainable-development-goals-report-2019_55eb9109-en.
[7] Ibid.
[8] Castro, Rodrigo, Peter Fritzson, François Cellier, Safa Motesharrei, and Jorge Rivas. "Human-Nature Interaction in World Modeling with Modelica," 2014. https://doi.org/10.3384/ECP14096477.
[9] Ibid.
[10] "Environmental Governance in Latin America | Fabio De Castro | Palgrave Macmillan." Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137505712.
[11] Ibid.

emissions, increasing rates of resource degradation, and huge losses in biodiversity.[12] In recent decades, these changes in climate have generated great risks and hazards for the most vulnerable and exposed populations in Latin America and the Caribbean.[13] And due to economic interdependence on a global level, these hazards have created a web of effects in the economies and societies of these countries that are now nearly inescapable. The effects felt by climate change are only projected to get worse in the coming years.[14]

Biodiversity & Environmental Degradation

Heraldo Muñoz, a United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, proclaims that "Latin America and the Caribbean have one of the greatest endowments of natural capital in the world."[15] Six of the most diverse ecosystems in the world- Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela- are housed in this region.[16] This makes the environment one of the richest areas of contribution to the economies of the countries in this region in more ways than one. Tourism and visitations to national parks in the region, of which there are plenty, constitute one of these sources of revenue for countries. For example, Mexico gains at least $3.5 billion USD a year solely from visitations to its Protected Areas.[17] The agriculture sector of this region is also one of the major contributors to these economies and it is evidently reliant on the abundant natural resources available.[18] Nevertheless, this commodification of the environment has had drastic side effects.

[12] Ibid.
[13] Climate and Development Knowledge Network. "What's in It for Latin America." Accessed August 7, 2020. https://cdkn.org/resource/whats-in-it-for-latin-america/.
[14] Ibid.
[15] UNDP. "UNDP Report: Latin America and Caribbean Are 'Biodiversity Superpower.'" Accessed August 8, 2020. https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2010/12/02/amrica-latina-y-el-caribe-superpotencias-de-biodiversidad.html.
[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Ibid.

While the politics and economies of Latin American and Caribbean countries have seen dramatic shifts within the past few decades (such as rising trends in **democratization** and **left-wing** establishments), their governance over the environment has taken a contradictory turn. On the one hand, activities to redistribute wealth and alleviate poverty in countries have gained significant progress since the start of the new millennium.[19] In Venezuela, poverty rates halved between 1999 (16.6%) and 2011 (7%) since the election of Hugo Chávez.[20] Argentina saw drastic drops in urban poverty between 2003 (54.7%) and 2011 (6.5%).[21] In Bolivia, Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, who is the executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, stated that within the past decade, the wealth gap between its richest and poorest constituents has narrowed.[22] However, this economic and social progress has been fueled by cultivating revenue through even more drastic practices of resource extraction.[23] Thus, while Latin American countries

[19] Hogenboom, Barbara. "Depoliticized and Repoliticized Minerals in Latin America:" Journal of Developing Societies, June 29, 2012. https://doi.org/10.1177/0169796X12448755.
[20] Klein, Naomi. This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate. Simon & Schuster, 2014.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Ibid.
[23] Ibid.

have agreed to several international initiatives to protect the environment, they continue to prioritize social and economic development over the degradation of its natural resources.

As renowned author and social activist Naomi Klein puts it, the toxic mentality that global systems undertook as extractivism fueled economic growth was the idea of nonreciprocal taking.[24] Capitalism and industrialization work hand in hand to deplete the earth of its coal, forests, and streams for the sake of never ending economic expansion. However, in this system where there is an extractor, there also exists land and people who live in these **sacrifice zones** and are exploited of their resources, which is a practice that is undeniably intertwined with imperialism.[25] Thus, in regions especially such as South and Central America, power and progress come at the expense of these sacrifice zones and represents the harmful mentality that has built the contemporary world. Environmentalists and politicians alike must work to dismantle this mindset.

Impacts on Health and Well-Being

The development of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals shifted global conversations on our changing climate towards emphasizing the need for solutions that integrate health as an indispensable right for all.[26] Goal 3 states the intent and aim to provide good health and well-being for people of all ages.[27] Increasing rates of **El Niño events** (generally: a dramatic reorganization of the atmosphere which leads to climatic shifts and triggers extreme weather events) due to climate change is continually posing the greatest barrier towards achieving these goals.[28] What's worse is that there is evidence that these events, which are bound to see disastrous socioeconomic consequences, will double in occurrence within the coming years if changes are not made.[29]

[24] Ibid.
[25] Ibid.
[26] "About the Sustainable Development Goals." United Nations Sustainable Development, 2020. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Cai, Wenju, Simon Borlace, Matthieu Lengaigne, Peter van Rensch, Mat Collins, Gabriel Vecchi, Axel Timmermann, et al. "Increasing Frequency of Extreme El Niño Events Due to Greenhouse Warming." Nature Climate Change 4, no. 2 (February 2014): 111–16. https://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2100.
[29] Ibid.

Climate change and the extreme weather events (EWEs) that are triggered by it should raise concern because of how intimately they are directly and indirectly affecting both social and environmental health determinants.[30] These include basic access to clean air and water, as well as secure access to food and shelter.[31] The WHO estimates that global warming and EWEs are expected to trigger an annual increase in over 250,000 deaths from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress between 2030 and 2050.[32] The most vulnerable nations, for example those in the Latin American and Caribbean region who are already ill-equipped with the proper health infrastructure, will suffer the most dire consequences despite contributing the least to climate change in comparison to industrialized countries.[33]

The health impacts of the changing climate on Latin American countries are influenced by a web of factors that can be described by a model known as the Drivers-Vulnerabilities-Actions model.[34] In a broad sense, this model describes the extent of health impacts on a population based on a variety of factors. The model demonstrates clearly how this system of interactions between the environment and society is driven by both external (uncontrollable variables like EWEs) and internal (controllable variables and values like policies on human safety and investment in health infrastructure) factors.[35] The vulnerability of a population is also demonstrated in this model based on the geographic exposure of a person and the **adaptive capacity** of a person.[36] All in all, these drivers and vulnerabilities shape the decisions that are made at the local and national level to impact health.

It is evident that the environment has a huge impact on the socioeconomic processes of a population, which is why there are concerns for the stability of this entire interrelated system if measures are not taken to mitigate the effects of our changing climate. Researchers have determined that countries in this region who have suffered the least from direct impacts on human

[30] "Climate Change and Health." Accessed August 9, 2020. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Ibid.
[33] Nagy, Gustavo J., Walter Leal Filho, Ulisses M. Azeiteiro, Johanna Heimfarth, José E. Verocai, and Chunlan Li. "An Assessment of the Relationships between Extreme Weather Events, Vulnerability, and the Impacts on Human Wellbeing in Latin America." International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 15, no. 9 (September 2018). https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15091802.
[34] Ibid.
[35] Ibid.
[36] Ibid.

health and well-being are also those who had higher expenditures on public health, particularly Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, and Mexico.[37] This is not to say that higher investments in health infrastructure lead to fewer impacts on health, as Honduras and Nicaragua demonstrate, since these impacts are also driven by uncontrollable factors such as geographic location and their exposure to EWEs.[38] However, it is safe to say that the health impacts of climate change have the potential of only getting worse in coming years, especially for those populations who have the least power to control it.[39] While developing solutions to this crisis, it is important to keep in mind that there are two sides of risk management: reducing the vulnerabilities of populations and at the same time increasing the ability to adapt to disasters.

Current Situation

It is no question now that governments in the Latin American and Caribbean region are often ignoring the consequences, both economically and socially, of its reliance on extractivism on its people. From dire health consequences to economic disempowerment, the situation brought on by humans exploiting Earth's resources is escalating quickly and without remorse. Altogether, these unsustainable actions have triggered tense social conflicts in the region.[40]

Resistance has risen in the form of protests and initiatives against national governments and large corporations who repress the dialogue between the public and those in power, thus harming the process of local democracy.[41] For example, in Rio de Janeiro, the Environment Institute (INEA) attempted to remove certain areas of the population (a process called **zoning**) from their homes in an attempt to reduce the risk of disasters.[42] Several homeowners refused to evacuate and others

[37] Ibid.
[38] Ibid.
[39] Ibid.
[40] "Environmental Governance in Latin America | Fabio De Castro | Palgrave Macmillan." Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137505712.
[41] Ibid.
[42] Esteves de Freitas, Leonardo, Annita Vicente Neves, Sandro Schottz, and Ana Luiza Coelho Netto. "Conflicts After the Tragedy in the Mountains of the State of Rio de Janeiro in 2011: The Relationship Between Residents of Córrego d'Antas and the Zoning of Evacuation Areas for an Adaptation to Climate Change." In Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America: Managing Vulnerability, Fostering Resilience, edited by Walter Leal Filho and Leonardo Esteves de Freitas, 387–98. Climate Change Management. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2018. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-56946-8_23.

similarly protested the establishment because these decisions were made without any public input.[43] In the Amazon, tensions and violent conflicts over oil have arisen between extractivists and indigenous groups as indigenous land is being exploited of its resources and populations are being left vulnerable to displacement, poverty, and water contamination.[44] These are only a few of the countless examples of resistance from rural communities, indigenous groups, and environmental activists in the region who are urging to safeguard their people and their land. The calls and pleas of these groups must be heard. Urgent action must be taken to eliminate these practices of exploitation and protect the environment and its inhabitants from the changing climate for the sake of global security.

[43] Ibid.
[44] Vasquez, Patricia I. Oil Sparks in the Amazon : Local Conflicts, Indigenous Populations, and Natural Resources. University of Georgia Press, 2014. https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt46n84z.

History of the Problem

Indigenous Origins

Centuries before colonization, South and Central America were populated by a diversity of distinct cultures that built intimate relationships with nature. The knowledge that these original populations held about the rich ecosystems that surrounded them carefully shaped their societies, technologies, and even their beliefs.[45] These vast groups developed complex, sophisticated, and what we would label today as 'sustainable' societies by making the most of the various land and water resources available in these areas due to their ecological diversity.[46] That is, until this was all destroyed by the implementation of what political ecologist Héctor Alimonda radically puts as an "economy of robbery" ("economía de rapiña") which has become increasingly popular since the early twentieth century.[47] Fittingly, American anthropologist Eric Wolf referred to this period as the "Great Dying."[48] These labels invite a glimpse into this period of both acquisition and exploitation of Latin American resources and populations that remains unparalleled in scope nor in cruelty.

The ramifications of these actions were insufferable, and on a basic level, they are still being felt today by modern society. As a result of the arrival of European **conquistadores** around the 1500s, the numbers of native populations in the Americas dropped by nearly 80%.[49] This merciless depopulation of native societies, which resulted from the introduction of infectious diseases and various methods of resource exploitation (mining), generated dramatic ecological and demographic changes in the region.[50] Resource extraction expanded in multiple stages. First, silver and gold mining expanded and was made possible by new mining techniques in regions such as Potosí (in Bolivia), Zacatecas (in Mexico), and Minas Gerais (in Brazil).[51] Later, countries began to export other commodities such as sugarcane, coffee, rubber, oil, and more, all for the benefit of other global

[45] Alimonada, Hector. "La Naturaleza Colonizada. Ecología Política y Minería En América Latina." Accessed August 16, 2020. http://www.clacso.org.ar/libreria-latinoamericana/libro_detalle.php?id_libro=638.
[46] Ibid.
[47] Ibid.
[48] Europe and the People Without History. Accessed August 16, 2020. https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520268180/europe-and-the-people-without-history.
[49] "Environmental Governance in Latin America | Fabio De Castro | Palgrave Macmillan." Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137505712.
[50] Ibid.
[51] Ibid.

economies while their own populations were left with pollution, environmental degradation, and displacement of native communities.[52]

Despite such destruction, resistance to these economies rose and many reactionary environmentalist movements became increasingly popular as the effects of this extraction began to hit the communities in this region even harder. Environmentalist movements from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) distinguish themselves from movements in other countries because of their loyalties to its roots as they draw from and respect the sustainable ideologies of indigenous populations.[53] The survival of indigenous knowledge, even in the face of industrialization, gave environmentalists a foundation upon which to resist unsustainable practices. While these are the voices and ideas that can inspire progress away from environmental abuses, they were not always the voices heard by governments until the late 1900s.[54]

Regional & International Agendas

By the second half of the twentieth century, efforts to make environmental practices more sustainable surged on an international and regional level. On an international scale, the 1972 U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm proved to be a significant turning point in global environmentalism.[55] The conference resulted in the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), of which the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean became an active body responsible for acting "as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment".[56] Nearly a decade later, inspired by this movement towards sustainable development, LAC governments and universities implemented the Environmental Education Network, which sought to "green" out research and teaching practices by promoting a sustainable understanding of the environment in

[52] Ibid.
[53] Ibid.
[54]Ibid.
[55] Gray, Mark Allan. "THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME: AN ASSESSMENT." Environmental Law 20, no. 2 (1990): 291–319. https://www.jstor.org/stable/43265919.
[56] Environment, U. N. "Our Work in Latin America and the Caribbean." UNEP - UN Environment Programme, October 24, 2017. http://www.unenvironment.org/regions/latin-america-and-caribbean/our-work-latin-america-and-caribbean.

education.[57] Despite these strides, national sentiments towards environmentalism remained focused on finding a balance between implementing sustainable yet expanding economies.

While national governments in LAC maintained their priorities in alleviating poverty via economic expansion, they also started to manage their natural resources strategically by implementing new programs and laws that promoted a concept known as **ecodevelopment**. This understanding of the economy was guided by the idea that any aims for development must also be integrated with the intent to respect the natural ecosystems that house diverse, local societies.[58] In the 1970s and 1980s, this idea inspired several officials and academics to rethink the economic and social policies of LAC countries. Furthermore, Article 30 in the UNEP Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of the States (implemented in 1974) also pushed countries to take responsibility for their carbon footprint by reminding them that "The protection, the preservation and betterment of the environment for current and future generations is the responsibility of all States.".[59] In the coming decades, LAC countries participated in producing and agreeing on more treaties such as the Convention on Climate Change and Convention on Biodiversity, both of which were signed in 1992 to control carbon emissions and protect biodiversity.[60] While these efforts proved to be historic, they were met with great criticism from opposing movements who believed the actions of LAC countries were not urgent nor demanding enough.[61]

Rise of Reactionary Movements

Popular environmentalism, or environmentalism for the poor and indigenous, gained momentum in reaction to LAC governments' ecodevelopmental ideas.[62] Most of all, popular environmentalism is a movement that aims to reject extractivism at its roots, which requires completely opposing the idea

[57] Guni Network. "Higher Education, Environment and Sustainability in Latin America and The Caribbean," May 12, 2015. http://www.guninetwork.org/articles/higher-education-environment-and-sustainability-latin-america-and-caribbean.
[58] "OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms - Eco-Development Definition." Accessed August 16, 2020. https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=710.
[59] "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States - Main Page." Accessed August 16, 2020. https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cerds/cerds.html.
[60] Unit, Biosafety. "Climate Change and Biodiversity," August 14, 2020. https://www.cbd.int/climate/.
[61] "Environmental Governance in Latin America | Fabio De Castro | Palgrave Macmillan." Accessed August 7, 2020. https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137505712.
[62] Ibid.

that LAC countries must provide their resources for the good of the global economy (this is known as the **commodification** of resources).[63] In general, this movement is guided by indigenous communities and allies (such as NGOs and activists) who often insert themselves directly into local conflicts with the aim of either halting or gaining justice for environmental damages.[64] For example, these groups protect sacred lands (rivers, monuments, hills, etc.) by fighting for territorial rights, halt extractivist activities (such as mining), or they seek reparations for any damage inflicted on indigenous lands.[65] Modern activities of these groups include creating networks of information for environmental justice movements around the world and regionally. Such networks include those found at the Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts (OLCA), the Movement of People Affected by Dams in Brazil, the Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin America, and so on.[66]

Nevertheless, the ideologies of popular environmentalism (from the indigenous and poor populations) and eco-developmentalism (from the governments) seemed to be on opposite sides of a spectrum of environmentalism. **Ecosocialism** is a set of ideas that critiques both of these movements. This movement grows from similar sentiments as its environmentalist predecessors while promoting the ideology of ***buen vivir*** which originates from a Andean indigenous principles that aim for coexistence with nature.[67] The Bolivian and Ecuadorian constitutions indoctrinated the concept of *buen vivir* as an ecological aim, though the actual implementation of this ideal has proven to be difficult for these countries.[68] Nevertheless, ecosocialism and its embrace of *buen vivir* has found a legitimate place in the defenses of several climate justice movements, leading to campaigns for international proposals that protect LAC's natural resources and will steer LAC countries away from its dependence on capitalism.[69] Thus, environmentalism in LAC has been influenced by a few powerful economic and social theories, most of which aim to find an alternative to extractivism in the hopes of protecting its diverse lands and people.

[63] Ibid.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Foran, John. "Notes on Transition Towns, Degrowth,Buen Vivir, Ecosocialism and How to Get There," 2020.
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ibid.

Past Actions

Global Discourse

Even though scientists have long been aware of the effects of large-scale greenhouse gas emissions, it was not until the early 1980s that the international community began to feel the urgency to legally address global warming.[70] Since then, a remarkable evolution of the international legal climate change regime has developed, meaning that as the situation has evolved, global responses to this situation have also evolved accordingly. In the mid-1980s, the efforts of a few Western scientists to get climate change on the international agenda began to pay off.[71] That and the growing public concern about environmental issues catalyzed the intergovernmental cooperation efforts to address this issue, which is represented by the UN General Assembly's statement in 1992 that climate change is "a common concern for mankind".[72]

All of these events culminated in the development of a new treaty that established the initiation of international cooperation in environmental issues. In 1990, the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** began planning for a **Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC),** which was eventually adopted in 1992 at the Rio UN Conference on Environment and Development.[73] Essentially, the FCCC became known as a 'constitution' for the international regime on climate change, but all it did was set a precedent for the future agreements.[74] While the convention established a basic framework for future work that included some plans on the financial and implementation mechanisms of these agreements, it also failed to resolve any differences that countries may have had due to the convention's ambiguity.[75]

The FCCC required much more elaboration and substance than it initially had. Therefore, the convention was substantiated by the provisions of the **Kyoto Protocol,** which set requirements for

[70]Bodansky, Daniel, and Lavanya Rajamani. "The Evolution and Governance Architecture of the United Nations Climate Change Regime." SSRN Scholarly Paper. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network, November 14, 2016. https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2168859.
[71] Ibid.
[72] Ibid.
[73] Ibid.
[74] Ibid.
[75] Ibid.

industrialized nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.[76] The protocol provided a settlement of several differences among countries, as its strictness of limitations was accepted by the U.S., its flexibility in mechanisms (how these limitations were enforced) was accepted by the EU, and developing countries agreed because they were largely exempt from these limitations since they did not contribute a large proportion of emissions in the first place.[77] Since its adoption, the Kyoto Protocol has seen a significant downturn of commitment as it has lost support from several developed countries such as the U.S.[78]

Thus, following the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (around 2012) the international community began its negotiations to extend the second commitment period of the Protocol through 2020, but this time, with less international cooperation or support.[79] However, it was also agreed that the Kyoto Protocol's commitment period would not be extended past 2020, which meant the international community had to come up with a plan to address climate change past this time frame. Discussions around these plans, which began in 2015, led to the development of the ambitious **Paris Agreement** under the FCCC. This agreement includes legally-binding commitments for *all* countries, along with a mechanism of transparency to keep these countries accountable to their obligations.[80] This means that countries will be required to give progress reports on their emission reduction commitments every five years.[81] In short, the Paris Agreement shifted the climate change regime and has created a new precedent for future intergovernmental agreements.

Regional and National Progress

Early on in intergovernmental discourse, some recurring patterns in negotiations become evident in the international climate change regime. One of the patterns that was most common was that there

[76] Ibid.
[77] Ibid.
[78] Ibid.
[79] Ibid.
[80] Ibid.
[81] Gabreldar, Bushra. "FUELING HUMAN PROGRESS: Climate Change and the Future of Renewable Energy." Harvard International Review 39, no. 2 (Spring 2018): 18. http://proxy.uchicago.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=129196180&site=eds-live&scope=site.

was an evident division between developed (industrialized) and developing countries over the responsibilities that should be taken by each as they address climate change.[82] Developing countries such as those in LAC believe that industrialized nations should bear most of the responsibility for dealing with global warming since they produce the majority of greenhouse emissions.[83] On the other hand, developed countries such as the U.S. believe that developing countries cannot be completely exempt from partaking in the solutions to combat climate change.[84] While developed countries are responsible for a large portion of greenhouse gas emissions, LAC (and other developing nations) must play their part in this universal struggle, even if their approach looks different than it may for industrialized countries.

In the same way that international cooperation has seen great progress in recent decades, regional cooperation among Latin American countries has also facilitated a shift in environmental policies. There currently exists a large system of regional laws and regulations that are necessary to ensure coordination in environmental protection efforts, especially with the hopes of holding these countries accountable for implementing the terms of ratified international agreements.[85] These regional systems allow countries to regulate the usage of natural resources such as water, forestry, and mineral resource extraction.[86] Also, these systems aid in punishing nations who fail to comply with the terms of their agreements.[87] From this, it is evident that some LAC countries implement regional environmental plans more faithfully than others. To manage the success of implementation, legal provisions including mandatory environmental impact assessments (EIAs) that are an evaluation of the environmental consequences, both good and bad, of a plan, policy or program, have been introduced to keep nations in check.[88]

[82] Bodansky, Daniel, and Lavanya Rajamani. "The Evolution and Governance Architecture of the United Nations Climate Change Regime." SSRN Scholarly Paper. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network, November 14, 2016. https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2168859.
[83] Ibid.
[84] Ibid.
[85] Mata, Luis, et al. "Latin In America.: IPCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change." Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Contribution of Vulnerability, January 1, 2001, 693–734.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.
[88] Ibid.

While national and regional legal mechanisms are in place to protect the environment, these governments still require the direct and indirect support of NGOs within their countries to push towards progress in developing sustainable policies. Some NGOs have worked to pressure Latin American countries into protecting the earth by putting stricter bans on toxic waste and certain harmful pesticides, eliminating incentives for deforestation activities, and even forming new national parks and reserves (Ex: Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, Pesticide Action Network).[89] The actions of these organizations has led to a shift in the attainment of funding and loans from international banks. For example, Brazil could not gain access to loans or the global market without explicitly agreeing to curbing deforestation in the Amazon.[90] Other NGOs, such as Conservation International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, have become directly involved with more local environmental organizations by providing financial and technical assistance on projects dealing with land conservation and preventing further environmental degradation.[91] Despite such regional progress, these historic efforts generally simply provide 'patch up' solutions that fail to address the true underlying and complex causes of extreme resource degradation: systemic poverty and the unsustainable development of the economy.

Alternative Solutions from Locals

On the surface, every country in LAC has progressed in its public promises to promote more sustainable development. However, beneath the surface, it is evident that several LAC economies are becoming dependent on a global market that has forced dramatic changes in these nations' territories, particularly due to an increase in foreign investment dedicated towards natural resource extraction.[92] Indigenous and peasant communities, those who directly see and experience the destruction caused by these activities, have reacted to these powerful entities by forming powerful and important initiatives to protect their lands and livelihoods.

Often, local initiatives directly counter the large-scale institutional policies that are imposed upon them by creating alliances of solidarity among one another so that they can create spaces for

[89] Kaimowitz, David. "The Political Economy of Environmental Policy Reform in Latin America." Development and Change 27, no. 3 (1996): 433–52. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7660.1996.tb00598.x.
[90] Ibid.
[91] Ibid.
[92] Barkin, David, and Blanca Lemus. "Local Solutions for Environmental Justice," 257–86, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_11.

themselves and be heard.[93] These groups have proven capable of offering alternative approaches to governance that allow for truly sustainable engagement with the land and resources around them.[94] These indigenous initiatives, which "stem from state repression" (in the words of the director of Central Intelligence), will intensify and prove to be one of the central challenges that national governments must face in the coming decades.[95] Indigenous communities will soon also be protected under international law, which includes the acknowledgment of their territorial rights and self-determination under the OAS's draft of the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.[96]

These movements are not particular to any single country in this region as they have arisen throughout LAC. In Mexico, the activities of indigenous groups have increased gradually and several of their efforts have focused primarily on their rights to control and have access to water resources.[97] This has included attempts to oppose any large-scale construction of dams that impede access to water for local communities along with the implementation of water-saving technologies that are

[93] Ibid.
[94] Ibid.
[95] Ibid.
[96] Ibid.
[97] Ibid.

low-cost but innovative.[98] The Mexican government has reacted by prohibiting the use of some of these technologies, most likely due to their fears that these communities will become too self-reliant. In South America, there has been a growth in collectivization movements that promote strategies inspired by *buen vivir*. Such efforts include the Landless Workers Movement of Brazil, the Mapuches in Chile, the Network of Environmentally Affected Peoples, and more, all of which help protect these lands and communities from foreign encroachment.[99] It is through engagement with these types of local efforts that environmental governance might find greater success in the future.

[98] Ibid.
[99] Ibid.

Possible Solutions

Introduction

Climate change demands an approach to environmental governance that is cross-sectoral and that involves collaboration among multiple groups and countries in this region. The issue at hand is already so complex, and the solutions to address it will require more than just setting up protections and mitigation strategies. It will take a transformation of society itself, because every human activity affects the earth in one way or another; society and nature are inherently interdependent.[100] Nevertheless, both short and long-term, as well as global and local-scale approaches will need to be taken to address this rapidly evolving situation.

Disaster-Risk Management

The situation for certain LAC countries is evolving rapidly, so at the same time that we address the need for long-term systemic changes in our interactions with the environment, it is also necessary to begin to implement short-term solutions to protect the most vulnerable populations from extreme weather events. This may take the form of developing disaster-risk management strategies and plans. The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 13 directly addresses this by urging the need to "strengthen [the] resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters".[101]

[100] Kronik, Jakob Verner, Dorte. Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Directions in Development - Environment and Sustainable Development. The World Bank, 2010. https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-8237-0.

[101] "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." Accessed August 24, 2020. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication.

There are a variety of approaches that can be taken by LAC nations to protect their most vulnerable. Researchers Gustavo J. Nagy and his collaborators led a study in which they analyzed the relationship between several Latin American communities and the extreme weather events they may experience.[102] In their report, the researchers urge the adaptation of a variety of short-term solutions that will aid these populations in building resilience against climate disasters. Firstly, they encourage LAC countries to work to identify which populations are at the greatest risk to these disasters.[103] This can be done by improving the capacity of healthcare facilities so that they are prepared to take in victims of climate disasters, or countries can also aim to spearhead large-scale public information campaigns that acknowledge the inequalities present in health and social systems.[104] Secondly, the approach that these countries then take to address the vulnerabilities of these populations should be integrated. This means that their approaches should aim to consolidate the resources they have available. For example, governments should create partnerships between

[102] Nagy, Gustavo J., et al. "An Assessment of the Relationships between Extreme Weather Events, Vulnerability, and the Impacts on Human Wellbeing in Latin America." International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 15, no. 9 (September 2018). https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15091802.
[103] Ibid.
[104] Ibid.

meteorological and health departments in order to maintain a strong forecasting/early-warning system against extreme climate disasters.[105] Nagy and his collaborators also allude to what was mentioned in earlier paragraphs, which is that these efforts must be accompanied by changes at the structural level, particularly in terms of the need for investments in public health systems, greater health insurance coverage, and addressing systemic poverty in general.[106]

Biodiversity-Based Mitigation Strategies

The biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean is abundant, covering a range of different ecosystems that each demand different kinds of adaptation in the wake of climate change. Some ecosystems may demand protections against climate change, while others will require maintenance due to their contributions to carbon emissions.

A major type of area that requires stronger mitigation rather than protection efforts is mainly agricultural systems. Agricultural ecosystems are abundant in LAC countries, although, in general, these systems also contribute around 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions.[107] Thus, it is urgent to promote activities that will help reduce emissions from these areas. These activities can include: improving the efficiency of fertilizers, restoring any degraded agricultural land, and ensuring that soils are managed well enough to improve their carbon sequestering potential (to reduce the amount of carbon that is released).[108]

Some of the ecosystems that require stronger protections rather than mitigation efforts include dry and sub-humid ecosystems, forests, and island ecosystems. Dry ecosystems are vulnerable particularly to changes in rainfall patterns, which may lead to water scarcity, the introduction of invasive species, and even the threat of destruction via wildfires.[109] Several populations located in the Southern hemisphere like those in LAC countries are highly dependent on these lands, so these systems should focus on integrating sustainable management practices of their water resources.

[105] Ibid.
[106] Ibid.
[107] Unit, Biosafety. "Climate Change and Biodiversity," August 24, 2020. https://www.cbd.int/climate/.
[108] Ibid.
[109] Ibid.

Forest ecosystems are similarly vulnerable to fires and invasive pests. The **conservation** of forests is essential because of the carbon-holding capacity of the vegetation present within them. Deforestation and land-clearing activities have already devastated forest ecosystems. To protect, and perhaps even reverse these activities, adaptation options that should be considered in these areas include **reforestation** (replanting and seeding land that has been deforested) efforts, preventing the creation of plantations, and practicing less intense forestry.[110] Finally, species and populations living in island ecosystems face the greatest threat of extinction due to their vulnerability to climate disasters and a rise in sea level.[111] More cost-effective protections for these lands include conservation efforts of the vegetation (e.g. coral reefs) around islands and coastal regions, as these species offer natural protection against the extreme weather conditions that are instigated by climate change.[112]

All of the policies mentioned above must be done in consideration of the workers and locals, who have gotten used to working in specific ways. Hence, when thinking about these policies, it will be important to think of all stakeholders who will be affected by the decision taken by the committee.

Moving Towards Green Economies

The Latin American region consists of a wide range of economies, as some countries are finding better success than others in the global market. Nevertheless, LAC countries collectively experience a great vulnerability to climate change, as we have discussed in previous sections. Several LAC countries have become more intertwined in and dependent on the global market, but these international economic activities have left the region degraded of its natural resources. This leaves countries needing alternative approaches to their economies, and one of the proposed ideas is to introduce the concept of a **circular economy** within the region.[113]

[110] Ibid.
[111] Ibid.
[112] Ibid.
[113] "New Publication: Climate Strategies 2020 | Climate Technology Centre & Network." Accessed August 24, 2020. https://www.ctc-n.org/news/new-publication-climate-strategies-2020.

A circular economy is a model that aims to reduce waste by regenerating and reusing resources.[114] This is in contrast to a traditional economic model that ends its cycle by discarding rather than reintroducing materials.[115] A circular economic approach would greatly benefit the economic progress of LAC countries as much as it would benefit the workforce.[116] Research conducted in other countries has indicated that this model will provide substantial savings for the nations involved.[117] Shifting towards a green and circular economy will require intergovernmental assistance and support in order to help LAC countries and their businesses in their plans for converting to a more sustainable economic model. The Climate Technology Centre & Network is one of the leading programs under the UNFCCC that has begun to provide this assistance for countries in the region.[118] This shift towards green economies will be gradual, but it will provide long-term benefits for the environment.

Supporting Local Sustainability

The institutional and legislative actions of LAC national governments can only be so effective. The success of these broad-ranged solutions is directly dependent on the concerted efforts of both formal institutions and local-level participants, particularly indigenous groups.[119] The very identities and social structures of indigenous peoples in LAC are based on an intimate connection to the environment. The knowledge of these groups is invaluable to understanding natural systems.[120] Thus, their participation in the development, negotiation, and implementation of sustainable solutions is essential, and is the key to ensuring true progress.

Adaptation measures that consider indigenous knowledge must adopt certain strategies to strengthen the protection of these local communities. These strategies should aim to build local resilience, and may take multiple forms. Indigenous representatives must be included from the initial

[114] "The Circular Economy In Detail." Accessed August 24, 2020. https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/explore/the-circular-economy-in-detail.
[115] Ibid.
[116] Ibid.
[117] Ibid.
[118] Ibid.
[119] Kronik, Jakob Verner, Dorte. Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Directions in Development - Environment and Sustainable Development. The World Bank, 2010. https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-8237-0.
[120] Ibid.

stages of designing new sustainable policies.[121] Then, political institutions must provide technological and technical support for indigenous communities as they aim to implement sustainable practices.[122] This includes ensuring that local communities have access to resources that will aid them as they shift towards more sustainable modes of production. Of course, the trade-off for indigenous communities offering their knowledge must be that they will be ensured by their governments their rights to social capital and land.[123]

[121] Ibid.
[122] Ibid.
[123] Ibid.

Bloc Positions

Overview on Economic Stances and Theories

As you develop an understanding of the positions that your country takes in this committee, it is important to keep in mind that LAC countries are at a crossroads in this crisis in which several economic theories are gaining prominence, all of which have different approaches to environmental governance. Thus, it's inevitable that out of all the topics that the leaders of the OAS member nations may discuss, the topic of changing and regulating the economy will be one of the most divisive in the region.

Countries Heavily Reliant on Resource Extraction (Unsustainable Economic Models)

To some degree, the economies of several developed countries in the LAC region have become dependent on excessive resource extraction, but there are certain countries that have exploited this opportunity more than others. In South America, several countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Ecuador, export large volumes of physical exports from their environments, yet these exports are barely able to pay for the imports they require.[124] The United States and Canada similarly benefit from these practices, which leads to their overwhelming contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions. Fossil fuel and oil exploitation from these countries are largely to blame for these consequences.

Two of the largest oil producing countries in the LAC region are Brazil and Venezuela. Venezuela annually exports approximately 120 million tons of oil.[125] In the Spring of 2014, there was a three month period in which Brazil had an alarming **trade deficit** of around US$6,072 million, which was

[124] Martinez-Alier, Joan, and Mariana Walter. "Social Metabolism and Conflicts over Extractivism." In Environmental Governance in Latin America, edited by Fábio de Castro, Barbara Hogenboom, and Michiel Baud, 58–85. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_3.
[125] Martinez-Alier, Joan, Michiel Baud, and Héctor Sejenovich. "Origins and Perspectives of Latin American Environmentalism." In Environmental Governance in Latin America, edited by Fábio de Castro, Barbara Hogenboom, and Michiel Baud, 29–57. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_2.

taken as an indicator that their natural resources were severely depleted.[126] Popular resistance to these practices of extraction should not be completely seen as attacks on those politicians or corporations in power, but instead, they should be seen as opportunities for shifts in environmental governance policies that will promote sustainability..

Countries Demanding an "Ecological Debt"

In a letter to the UN General Assembly from 2008, Bolivia clearly stated its intent to demand "direct compensation from developed to developing countries" for the amount of LAC resource exploitation happening in global markets.[127] Bolivia refused to support any involvement in the global carbon market on the basis that this market allows for developed countries to exploit the most vulnerable developing countries in the LAC region. Instead, Bolivia spearheaded the formation of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (consisting of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nicaragua, and Venezuela) which completely rejects any participation in the carbon market, while advocating for alternative strategies for reducing emissions.[128] Thus, these countries are also strong advocates for involving civil society in the process of creating strategies for environmental governance, which is supported by their commitment to environmental justice movements.[129]

Approaches to Reducing Deforestation and Degradation

Governments in Latin America have also taken a few approaches to implement forest-climate policies that aim at reducing deforestation and forest degradation. There are two main strategies (apart from the resistant countries just discussed above) that are being pursued in the LAC region.

[126] Martinez-Alier, Joan, and Mariana Walter. "Social Metabolism and Conflicts over Extractivism." In Environmental Governance in Latin America, edited by Fábio de Castro, Barbara Hogenboom, and Michiel Baud, 58–85. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_3.
[127] Aguilar-Støen, et al. "Forest Governance in Latin America: Strategies for Implementing REDD." In Environmental Governance in Latin America, edited by Fábio de Castro, Barbara Hogenboom, and Michiel Baud, 205–33. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_9.
[128] Ibid.
[129] Ibid.

The "assertive strategy," which is characteristic of Mexico, and Guyana, is an approach to forest-climate policies that aims to take their own national legal frameworks and plans and shape them so that they are meeting globally negotiated standards.[130] The second most common strategy, which is referred to as the "accommodating strategy," takes a slightly different approach. Countries such as Costa Rica, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Suriname, are all proponents of this strategy which instead of using existing frameworks, these countries simply adhere to the global guidelines for forest governance and aren't as interested as implementing these guidelines into their national frameworks yet.[131]

Sustainable Consumption in the Water-Energy-Mining Complex

Capitalistic aspirations towards high levels of economic growth have led to significant demands for water and energy, but these aspirations can become dangerous in the context of sustainable growth in LAC. Water and energy are essential to human production, and together, they fuel the process of industrial mining, thus making the overuse of these nonrenewable resources a controversial topic in environmental discussions in the region.[132] In studying the multisectoral approaches to the water-energy-mining complex, environmental researcher Cristián Parker and his colleagues found that there are two main discourse models that appear from LAC government representatives who participate heavily in this type of resource extraction.[133]

First, less progressive nations believe in the significance of mining to the development of a nation, but they also emphasize that this practice should be performed responsibly by advocating for greater regulations.[134] This model surrounds itself around the idea of efficiency. Past Argentinian and Chilean environmental consultants have advocated for this idea, and call for either the state or private companies to take into account the environmental costs of these activities by providing clear rules for the extent of these practices.[135] A more progressive model, which is supported by countries

[130] Ibid.
[131] Ibid.
[132] Parker, Cristián, et al. "Water-Energy-Mining and Sustainable Consumption: Views of South American Strategic Actors." In Environmental Governance in Latin America, edited by Fábio de Castro, Barbara Hogenboom, and Michiel Baud, 164–85. London: Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_7.
[133] Ibid.
[134] Ibid.
[135] Ibid.

such as Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico, takes a stronger stance on the negative consequences of mining for health and for the environment.[136] Nevertheless, this model still sees mining as a necessary activity. The difference between this more progressive model and the previous more moderate model is that these countries call for a more direct involvement from the state in setting sustainable policies for these practices.[137] More notably, these countries also advocate for shifts towards renewable energy and for public participation in developing more sustainable policies.[138] Countries pushing for these various models must maintain their commitments in perspective to those of their neighbors, and should seek to recognize their differences while searching for common ground.

Countries with the Most Vulnerable Populations

Central American (such as El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Panama) and Caribbean countries (such as Grenada, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Haiti, and Saint Lucia) are much less developed than the countries discussed earlier, yet often, these are the countries that experience the greatest vulnerability to climate disasters.[139] The priorities of these countries are twofold. These countries, who are affected the most by hurricanes, floods, and other climate disasters, must advocate for both short and long-term solutions with the support of developed countries. First, they should prioritize developing mitigation strategies (such as evacuation plans and weather prediction mechanisms) that will allow their most vulnerable populations support in the case of environmental emergencies.[140] Secondly, these countries should also advocate for systemic changes that address the underlying social and economic forces that lead to the inequality which perpetuates poverty and leaves these populations vulnerable in the first place.[141] It is up to each delegates' discretion to which of these policies are specifically advocated for during the conference, keeping in mind your individual country's position.

[136] Ibid.
[137] Ibid.
[138] Ibid.
[139] Castro, Fabio de. "Introduction: Environment and Society in Contemporary Latin America." ResearchGate. Accessed August 30, 2020. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-50572-9_1.
[140] Ibid.
[141] Ibid.

Glossary

adaptive capacity: The ability for an entity or group to respond to damage

biodiversity: The diversity of organisms and life within an ecosystem

***buen vivir*:** Translates from Spanish to "good living" ; represents a progressive ideology that stems from indigenous knowledge and promotes a balance and harmony between the environment and humanity

circular economy: An economic model which is based on the idea of completely reusing and regenerating all resources used

conquistadores: The "conquerors" or colonizers from Spain and Peru which occupied several South and Central American countries

conservation: The act of preserving natural life and resources

commodification: The transformation of natural resources into commodities or objects of trade

democratization: The introduction of democratic principles

ecodevelopment: A theory of development that is centered around respecting both social and environmental diversity

ecosocialism: A movement which promotes the idea of *buen vivir* and opposes the system of extractivism

El Niño events: A weather phenomenon that leads to warmer sea surface temperatures and even extreme weather events

exponential consumption: The capitalistic idea in which societies extract and utilize resources without regulation or concern for the consequences

extractivism: The act of removing natural resources and making a profit off of them in a global market

Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC): An agreement adopted in 1992 which became known as a 'constitution' for the international regime on climate change policy

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC): A committee put together in 1990 to develop the FCCC

Kyoto Protocol: An international convention adopted in 2005 which set the precedent for the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

left-wing: The more liberal or socialist governments

Paris Agreement: A convention under the FCCC, which came into effect in 2020, that legally binds countries to fulfill their climate obligations

popular environmentalism: Environmentalism for the working class/poor and indigenous

reforestation: The process of replanting or seeding land that has been severely degraded

sacrifice zones: Lands that are exploited for their richness in natural resources

trade deficit: A country is importing (buying) more than it's selling

zoning: A method of forcefully removing specific populations from their land

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